



The Franklin High School Prom 2022 was held again this year at Tessentee Farms Event Center this past Saturday. The students and their guests played games like corn hole and jenga, and enjoyed snow cones and refreshments throughout the evening. After dark, the DJ cranked up the music and students took to the floor to dance the night away. For more photos, see page 12.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

## Pickin' on Square going to biweekly

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

The town of Franklin's annual concert series held Saturdays from May to October will feature a reduced lineup this year as Pickin' on the Square will be held biweekly instead of every week and will be held at an earlier time.

"The schedule is changing to a biweekly Pickin' on the Square beginning on May 14 and running through October 15 with music beginning one hour earlier at 6 p.m.," said Franklin Town Manager Aime Owens. "The Town has received requests for other events to take place at the Gazebo during the summer and had to decline due to it always being scheduled for Pickin'. This change will allow for additional offerings to be held downtown at varying hours which would have overlapped with Pickin'."

According to Owens, the board's decision to scale back Pickin' was also made due to the cost associated with hosting the concert series, which for many years has been organized by Donnie Clay.

"We are still utilizing Donnie Clay to coordinate the performances and provide the sound system and have a contract for him to do so," said Owens. "We (the Town) have received feedback that the event was not as well attended as it has been in the past and citizens, visitors and merchants wanted a change. Rather than eliminate this offering, we chose to scale it back to hopefully assist in regaining its popularity and interest once again. The cost of the event was \$32,000 in 2021. When looking at that expense for approximately 100 hours of time, and looking at employees who work 2,080 hours in a year and don't make near that amount; fiscally, it was a consideration."

For nearly three decades the Town of Franklin has hosted this free event at the Gazebo on the Square in Downtown Franklin from May through mid-October. This year's Pickin' on the Square will be held every other Saturday from May 14 to October 15 at the Gazebo on the Square in Downtown Franklin. Performers will range from bluegrass to country and oldies to gospel. The public is invited to bring a lawn chair and enjoy an evening of family entertainment during Pickin' on the Square.

"The Town is still keeping Pickin' as a free, family-friendly activity, but providing opportunities for other activities as well," said Owens. "The difficulty is to balance the familiar with the potential of the new. There will be some who are not happy with this decision and some who will be. The hope is that we are able to have successful events in Franklin, and still keep some of the traditions."

Lisa and the Boys will kick off the first Pickin' on the Square Saturday, May 14, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Gazebo in downtown Franklin. Watch *The Macon County News* to see who is performing or visit [townoffranklinnc.com](http://townoffranklinnc.com) for a complete schedule.

## Candidate profiles: Clerk of Superior Court

Early voting across North Carolina is under way with the Primary voting day set for May 17. Leading up to the primary, *The Macon County News* is publishing candidate profiles for local offices. Scheduled this week was Part II of the sheriff's candidate profiles, but no responses were received from candidates Chris Browning or Brent Holbrooks.

Following are the candidates for Clerk of Superior Court. Candidates were asked to provide a short bio and respond to the same questions.



Mike Trammel



Shawna Thun Lamb



Justin Stamey

### Justin Stamey

Justin Stamey is "a proud Maconian" who graduated from Franklin High School in 2008. He attended Southwestern Community College before transferring to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Stamey graduated in 2013 with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Criminal Justice, making him the first member in his family to graduate from a four-year school. That same year, Stamey was nominated by Macon County's current Clerk of Superior Court Vic Perry, and was appointed by the Chief Superior Court Judge, to become the state's youngest Magistrate Judge at the age of 23. "For more than eight

years, I have had the honor and responsibility to serve the citizens of Macon County as both a Criminal and Civil Magistrate," said Stamey. In that time Stamey has acquired more than 30 judiciary certifications, seven of which are job specific for Clerk of Superior Court. Those certifications are Estates, Incompetency, Guardianship, Adoptions, Chapter 49 Foreclosures, Name Changes and Legitimations. Stamey also has direct experience from the judge's bench hearing and adjudicating more than 400 civil cases.

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# CANDIDATES

Continued  
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Stamey is married to Erika Stamey and together, they have one son, Aaron Stamey, born last December. Stamey and his family attend Discover Church and enjoy being involved in multiple community outreach opportunities which include helping local foster families and children, the Pregnancy Care Center, CareNet and REACH. Stamey is also a Rotarian with the Franklin Rotary Club and has volunteered in years past as a Little League Baseball coach.

"This community has always been home and I am dedicated and committed to the citizens of Macon County," said Stamey. "I am running for this position because I want to provide the citizens of Macon County with a more efficient and effective Judiciary for which they deserve. I have the knowledge and experience to be your next Ex Officio Judge of Probate and I am day one ready to move the docket of cases the elected clerk hears and adjudicates forward. These cases include estates, incompetency and guardianships, adoptions, foreclosures and legitimations just to name a few. I will also have my staff day one ready for the new Odyssey Case Management System when it goes live in 2024. My staff and I will work hard each and every day to provide a high quality experience to the citizens of Macon County. You should vote for Justin Stamey because I have the necessary education and experience to bring the Clerk of Court office into the 21st century."

## Michael (Mike) Trammel

Michael (Mike) Trammel has been married to his high school sweetheart Dawn for 35 years this June. Together they have three children – Kellie, who is the Children's Ministry Director at Cowee Baptist Church; Eric, who is a C-17 Air Force crew chief; and Jennifer, who works at Macon Program for Progress. The couple also have two grandkids. Trammel is retired from full-time service with the Macon County Sheriff's Office in 2016 where he served as lieutenant over the courthouse and civil process. Trammel was the second deputy in Macon County to reach a full 30 years of service and after a month of separation, he returned in a part-time capacity in the court system. Trammel currently has more than 35 years of service to the citizens of Macon County, 25 of them in a management/supervisory setting. Trammel is a graduate of Franklin High School and Southwestern Community College Basic Law Enforcement with certificates of advanced law enforcement certification (highest level of recognition through sheriff's standards, based on education, training, and years of service), Advanced Civil Process,

First Line Supervision for Criminal Justice Personnel, North Carolina Department of Justice Interaction Management, Federal Bureau of Investigation Police Supervision, and numerous other law enforcement criminal and civil process courses of instruction and legal updates.

"I am running for office because I saw a need and as a result of my supervisory experience and being a public servant for over half my life, I knew I was the best suited to meet that need," said Trammel. "As the lieutenant over the courthouse and civil process, I saw firsthand how much work still needed to be done to meet the minimum of care. For instance, building bridges of communication between our law enforcement agencies and citizens, as well as being able to carry on difficult conversations, advocating to County Commissioners about safety concerns (our courtrooms are filled beyond capacity, and the hallways are lined with defendants, their victims, and witnesses.), and everything in between. I pledge to provide a fresh perspective and a great love for people. My combined knowledge of how the courts work, my ability to interpret both civil and criminal laws, and my life experiences serve as indispensable qualities that make me the best candidate for this position."

## Shawna Thun Lamb

Shawna Thun Lamb and her husband Jimmy have two children, Kilee and Kehler. After graduating from Franklin High School, Lamb attended Southwestern Community College, obtaining two Associates Degrees in Criminal Justice and Computer Information Systems with various certificates of achievement and completion including Cyber Security. While in college, Lamb completed internships with the Clerk of Court office, community service program and probation office.

Lamb has worked in the Macon County Clerk of Court office for more than 21 years with experience in criminal, bonds, jury, civil, juvenile and DSS matters/cases, but mainly in District and Superior Criminal court. Lamb has a strong work ethic and uphold the laws of the State of North Carolina.

"I see this as an opportunity to better myself and provide quality service to the people of Macon County," said Lamb. "My background in the judicial system and the working relationships that I've established give me knowledge and perspective that will aid my ability to perform as Clerk. With my training, certifications from the State, and years of hands-on experience, I'm confident that I know the job and can make positive improvements for our community and office."

*What do you see as being the primary function of the Clerk of Court and how are you best suited to fulfill that function?*

Stamey: "The elected Clerk of Superior Court has many roles that they must do and oversee in both the courtroom and in the clerk's office. As far as overseeing the office, there are six divisions the Clerk of Superior Court is responsible for. Those divisions are Bookkeeping, Estates, Civil, Criminal, Juvenile and Special Proceedings," said Stamey. "The elected clerk is the Ex Officio Judge of Probate. This means they hear matters involving the estate of a loved one after they pass away. They also hear incompetency cases, guardianship cases, adoptions, Chapter 49 Foreclosures, legitimation cases just to name a few. In total there are 46 different types of cases the elected Clerk of Superior Court has jurisdiction to hear and adjudicate. The elected clerk is a comptroller. They are responsible for receiving, investing and distributing millions of dollars from court fees, fines and traffic citations. In Macon County approximately \$2.9 million has come through the office this fiscal year. As a magistrate I have handled hundreds of thousands of dollars from bonds, marriage fees and wildlife citations. I take pride in knowing that after every audit that has been conducted, my books have balanced every year for the past eight years and they will continue to do so when I am elected. The elected clerk is a custodian of records. They are responsible for the integrity of each and every case that is filed. I ensure that the integrity will be continuously met both in paper filings and in digital filings with the new odyssey case management system. Elected Clerks are administrators. From streamlining the issuing summons to court to docketing every criminal and civil case to compelling witnesses to court, this is another important function of the office. The elected clerk of Superior Court should be knowledgeable in all of these areas because above all they are a leader. I choose to lead from the front. I will be out front with my staff working either in the courtroom, the office, or as the Ex Officio Judge of Probate to provide the citizens with the most efficient and effective judiciary for which they deserve."

Trammel: "The Clerk of Superior Court has five main responsibilities: Judge of probate, Records keeper, Administrator, Comptroller and Leader," said Trammel. "It's important that the voters understand and realize that the Judicial Branch in North Carolina established these and from there it is broken down into subtopics. Why this is important to understand is because, this allows and requires that everyone in the state of North Carolina has the access to information and receives the same level of care across the state. Therefore, the only difference that separates the candidates is who they are and their leadership experiences. I have over 25 years of service to the people of Macon County in

See CANDIDATES page 4

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2022	BMW	Alpina XB7	536
2022	BMW	530	240
2022	Chevrolet	Corvette 2LT	201
2021	Kia	K5 LXS	4,963
2021	Tesla	Model 3 Standard Range Plus	15,196
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2019	Nissan	Sentra SV	15,009
2019	Buick	Enclave	24,669
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	53,520
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze	34,692
2016	Dodge	Journey	91,004
2015	Nissan	Altima 2.5 S	59,261
2015	Mustang	GT	45,724
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	113,152
2008	Corvette	Coupe	9,007

### SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2021	Chevrolet	Suburban	388
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	Chevrolet	Equinox Premier AWD	16,427
2020	Grand Cherokee	Trailhawk	26,226
2020	Cadillac	Escalade Premium Luxury	7,309
2020	GMC	Acadia AT4	28,261
2020	Subaru	Crosstrek Limited	14,430
2020	Hyundai	Palisade	34,462

2019	Chevrolet	Equinox Premier AWD	34,109
2019	Chevrolet	Tahoe LT	46,162
2019	GMC	Yukon XL Denali	63,696
2019	Land Rover	Range Rover Sport HSE Dynamic	37,751
2019	GMC	Terrain	63,316
2018	Chevrolet	Tahoe	84,386
2018	Ford	Explorer	69,517
2018	Kia	Soul	58,573
2018	Jeep	Compass	46,974
2017	Nissan	Rogue	122,708
2017	Toyota	RAV4 LE	83,441
2017	Volkswagen	Tiguan Wolfsburg Edition	59,132
2015	Chevrolet	Equinox LTZ AWD	107,485
2015	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited Altitude	39,030
2014	Ford	Explorer 4x4	68,342
2013	Ford	Escape SE AWD	89,455
2013	Mazda	CX-5	94,754
2012	Chevrolet	Express 2500 VAN	160,946
2005	Mazda	Tribute	162,869

### TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss	651
2021	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	10,842
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	5,822
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	435
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	16,244
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	8,432
2021	Jeep	Gladiator	2,054
2021	Ram	2500 Tradesman	3,647

2021	Toyota	Tacoma TRD Off-Road	8,507
2021	Toyota	Tacoma 4WD	4,746
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	36,463
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado	31,506
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado	52,944
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500 HD High Country Diesel	23,536
2020	GMC	Sierra 1500 AT4	15,588
2020	Ram	2500 Longhorn Diamond	23,286
2019	Toyota	Tacoma TRD 4x4	43,577
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	30,903
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500 HC Dually	45,535
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	44,359
2019	GMC	Sierra 1500	18,811
2019	Nissan	Frontier SV 4x4	60,592
2019	Toyota	Tacoma SR5	43,420
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado W/T	52,560
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado Z-71	23,542
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	31,379
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	44,668
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 Denali	25,059
2017	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	61,657
2016	GMC	Canyon	92,073
2016	GMC	Sierra SLT	61,530
2016	Ram	Diesel Crew 2500	60,495
2016	Toyota	Tacoma	127,336
2015	Chevrolet	Colorado	95,530
2015	Toyota	Tacoma	98,618
2012	GMC	Sierra 2500 Diesel	192,749



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# CANDIDATES

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a leadership role. A role that required me to tend to a variety of people, one that was in the political arena, and a role that required me to get the job done and done with excellence.”

**Lamb:** “The primary function of the Clerk of Superior Court is to maintain all clerical and record-keeping functions,” said Lamb. “In addition, to provide public access to court records and provide copies. I am best suited for this position because I am the only candidate that has direct experience within the clerk’s office. I know the changes that need to happen, and I intend to improve customer service and the public’s access to judicial records.”

### What is your five-year vision for the clerk’s office?

**Stamey:** “My five-year vision is simple. Bring the Clerk of Court office into the 21st century,” said Stamey. “I will do this by providing cross-training opportunities to both deputy and assistant clerks and utilize that knowledge for the benefit of the public. Also, implement the new Odyssey case management system and educate the public on the workings of the judiciary and how to file and receive judgments digitally.”

**Trammel:** “My initial priority is going to focus on improving customer services and ensure that we provide all services available through the clerk’s office to the citizens of Macon County. There’s been a lot of discussion about the new Odyssey program that’s supposed to be coming out in the next few years and I am definitely a fan of the services that it would bring,” said Trammel. “It would be especially beneficial for the Highlands and Nantahala area residents. The benefits of sitting at your home or office and answering a few questions online, preparing court documents (such as absolute divorce, name change, small claims or summary ejectment— to name a few), or pay a ticket, ask for a reduction, compliance or dismissal. We are already way behind schedule with this program and even at a more basic level, the care we offer our community. There are many other issues such as safety and more that need to be addressed and handled properly.”

**Lamb:** “My five-year vision in the office would be to obtain more public service computer terminals so that the public has better access to come in and look up court records. Continually improve service to the public. I want to accomplish my plan by creating better transparency, accountability, simplicity and consistency within the office.”

### What improvements can be made to bring the Clerk’s office in Macon County forward in the digital age?

**Stamey:** “We are moving away from the archaic paper filing system that we have used for decades and implementing the new Odyssey case management system by 2024,” said Stamey. “The new system is set to digitalize all the filings and judgements for the office. It will also streamline cases by moving away from paper files to digital files in a cloud base system. The Administrative Office of the Courts is currently updating all the hardware in the courthouse to ensure an easy transition when the time comes. When I am elected I will be on the front lines educating the public on how to use this new technology. My staff and I will provide a quality experience to ensure your filing is done right. We work for you!”

**Trammel:** “As mentioned before the Odyssey program is an

all in one case management system BUT, we have to get the proper infrastructure established as well. This will require proper internet access and computer systems to provide this function,” said Trammel. “I will be lobbying locally and even in Raleigh if needed to ensure that we get these services. There is no excuse or reason that we cannot provide the same level of service and care that you would receive absolutely anywhere else. We, as the citizens of Macon County, deserve better.”

**Lamb:** “In what can be called a challenge and hopefully a future solution as well, is the new statewide computer system that’s currently in development,” said Lamb. “While it hasn’t launched at this time, I have great hopes that once it’s up and running it will streamline some processes and provide more services and online information to the public. With any upgrade comes challenges and I have plans to focus on training and support for the Clerk’s staff to ensure a smooth transition. This represents just another way we strive to continuously improve service to the public while integrating technology and reducing paper, whenever possible.”

### Additional details or information

**Stamey:** “The next Elected Clerk of Superior Court should have the necessary education and experience to serve the citizens of Macon County,” said Stamey. “I am the only candidate in this race with a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and a Minor in Criminal Justice and over 30 Judiciary Certifications. Also, I am the only candidate with over eight years of firsthand experience from the judge’s bench to be your next Ex Officio Judge of Probate. It is not oblivious to me that each judgment that is rendered has real world impact to our community and extends beyond than the courthouse step. A vote for Justin Stamey is a vote for Experience, Fairness and Dedication to serving you, the citizens of Macon County.”

**Trammel:** “As a Christian and Republican, I hold to conservative values. I have been a Republican for over 35 years and have changed nothing about myself to try and win the voter’s favor. I see myself as a public servant, not a politician,” said Trammel. “I am motivated by a strong desire to serve the citizens of Macon County in the role of Clerk of Superior Court and I pledge to attend to the needs of the people over the demands of politics, retain an approachable stance, and treat all interactions with the public with total confidentiality. I’ve heard the phrase ‘experience matters,’ and I believe that, but it has to be the right kind of experience. This is a leadership position that requires invaluable leadership experience to serve all of Macon County. I am not seeking this position for political gain or any kind of ‘power,’ I simply want to help you and am committed to serving you to the best of my abilities. I would implore you to consider me, Mike Trammel, to be your next Clerk of Superior Court.”

**Lamb:** “My roots are here in Macon County and that’s a large part of what motivates me to serve our community. From my grandparents, the late Chief Ernie Wright and Gladys Wright, to my parents, Charles and Gloria Thun, I was raised to appreciate hard work and the rewards that come from service,” said Lamb. “For the last 21 years I have worked with the public and within the court system and currently hold the position of Assistant Clerk of Superior Court. My goal is to listen to the people of Macon County and provide a positive and effective Clerk’s office. It would be an honor to further that goal as the elected Clerk of Court.”

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## Board disburses \$75K to nonprofits

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

The Macon County Board of Commissioners approved \$75,000 in funding to nonprofits serving the needs of citizens within the county during its April board meeting. The funding, which the board allocates annually to the Community Funding Pool, is intended to fill funding gaps for nonprofits that provide services that otherwise might not be available to citizens in Macon County. A Community Funding Pool task force, with members chosen by commissioners, consider applications and make recommendations to the board who make final funding decisions.

– The Bascom in Highlands was approved for \$311 for a newly established partnership with Macon County Schools STEM Program. The funding will support an annual Macon STEM Fair where Macon County students will be invited to learn about the Bascom's Photography Artist in Residence and participate in hands-on photography exercises. The funding will be used to purchase supplies, a software subscription, and travel. The Bascom also received funding in 2021 to support the photography program.

– The Franklin Amateur Swim Team applied for a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to cover the cost for swimmers and coaches to attend the Junior Olympics that will be held in Greensboro this summer. The funding will cover the cost of the team's registration to AAU to participate in the swim meet as well as a swim cap, hotel, and gas money. According to the grant application, \$5,000 would not cover the total financial need, but would provide assistance to allow more swimmers to participate. With additional funds available within the Community Funding Pool, the task force voted to increase the swim team's grant amount to \$6,905.

– The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust requested \$3,500 to support the "Kids in Nature" environmental education program for children and families. The total program budget is \$37,500 and the HCLT has already received \$20,750 from other grant sources. The funding will be used to cover operating costs such as the salary of the program's Education and Outreach Coordinator. With additional funding available, the board voted to increase HCLT's grant amount to \$5,404.

– The International Friendship Center located in Highlands requested \$10,000 to be used for the pantry which supports residents in need on the Plateau. The organization's largest expenses are staff salaries and purchasing food for distribution. While the pantry partners with MANNA FoodBank for many food supplies, the pantry regularly depletes that resource and needs additional supplies to help those in need in the community. The International Friendship Center was granted \$6,571.

– Macon County Care Network requested \$2,000 to help support food costs associated with the organization's hunger relief facility. The organization's food costs are expected to exceed \$70,000 for 2022, as the need for food distribution increased during COVID19. The

task force increased CareNet's grant allocation to \$3,905.

– Appalachian Animal Rescue requested grant funding to complete the renovation of the old shelter in order to expand the facility's capacity by including an intake facility. The overall cost of the renovation is projected to be \$100,000 which included a new roof, new flooring, refurbished kennels and additional new kennels. The task force provided AARC with a grant for \$5,238.

– The Macon Medication Assistance Program requested \$10,000 to cover costs of medication for residents as prices continue to rise. MMAP is anticipating a \$22,849 increase in expenses in the coming year, largely attributed to the increase in medicines as well as nearly doubling the number of people the program is anticipated to serve. MMAP serves residents in Macon County who meet income guidelines to provide life saving medications that might otherwise be out of reach. The MMAP was provided \$5,095 in grant funding.

– The Macon Program for Progress Parents as Teachers Program was approved for a \$10,000 grant to assist in operational costs to carry out the program. The majority of the funds will be utilized for direct client services through group connections and home visitations.

– REACH of Macon County was approved for a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to support direct client services. The funds will not only be used as a vital matching tool, but used to ensure that REACH is able to provide direct client services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

– Read2Me of Macon County requested \$5,000 to continue providing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for children from birth to age 5 in Macon County. The program sends one book each month to all enrolled children in Macon County. The average cost to provide the program is \$30 per child. Currently around 1,000 children in Macon County are enrolled in the program and the funding from the Community Funding Pool will cover the cost of 166 children in the program. The board increased Read2Me's grant \$6,905 to expand the program.

– The Special Liberty Project requested \$10,000 from the community funding pool for veteran spouse support equine retreat services. The funding would be used to cover the cost for special trained staff and equine care and training for an entire year. The program is offered to veteran spouses in Macon County to address needs of underserved areas of mental health and focused care. The board approved \$5,333 in grant funding for the program.

– Teen Challenge of the Smokies, a 12-month addiction recovery program, was awarded \$9,333, just shy of its \$10,000 grant request. The funding will support automotive vocational training, which provides training to students in the recovery program. The funding will cover the cost of a mechanic to supervise the program, which serves an integral part of the students' recovery journey.





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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Last Thursday I went to Asheville to participate in a round table moderated by North Carolina Attorney General, Josh Stein. The Attorney General came to Asheville to assess the state of healthcare, especially to see how the 2018 sale of Mission Healthcare to HCA was progressing.

There were about 40 participants at the round table. State elected officials like Senator Julie Mayfield and Representative John Ager were present. Senator Mayfield played a key role in organizing the meeting. There were other mayors present including Ester Mannheim from Asheville, Maureen Copelof from Bevard. Former doctors from the Mission system participated as well the president of the Mission Nurses Union. A representative of Blue Cross attended, and a number of representatives of nonprofits in the health and social welfare fields participated. There were representatives from HCA also.

I did not go to the meeting to complain about our hospital or bash HCA. Frankly, I believe our hospital has good leadership and is making improvements in serving our community. While I acknowledge there are issues throughout the Mission system, I have also received feedback from some friends who have had good outcomes at Mission. Nevertheless, feedback from the doctors, nurses and stakeholders about HCA/Mission was problematic and sobering.

Stein opened the meeting with a review of his approval of the sale of Mission to HCA. During the approval process Stein negotiated some important concessions and commitments from HCA. Nevertheless, he pointed out that under North Carolina statutes his approval authority was limited. He stated that more of these large healthcare mergers will continue throughout the country, as well as in North Carolina. He is asking everyone to support legislative changes to the statutes where he and future attorneys general will have more authority in approving these mega mergers.

He also emphasized that when these mergers take place, costs to patients increase at least 12.5% while services tend to diminish. He stated the Mission HCA merger was done very fast, and not enough time was given for public and stakeholder input. Many people at the round table agreed with the attorney general's observations.

Continued on page 15

## Letters to the Editor

### Inflation hurts consumers, but not corporations

Is your family's budget being stretched at the pump and the grocery store? When you have to pay higher prices at the checkout, remember that much of these higher costs are the result of huge corporations controlling the market and raking in larger and larger profits.

Sure, there are other factors affecting the economy such as supply chain issues and restrictions due to the war in Ukraine. But when markets are competitive, corporations have to keep their prices as low as possible to attract customers. And when manufacturing costs rise, corporations can absorb them instead of gouging their customers with higher prices.

It's no big news that the price of chicken, beef and pork has soared. Did you know that four giant meat-processing companies (Cargill, Tyson, JBS SA, National Beef Packing Co) control 55-85% of the meat market? And when these corporations control that much of the market, they can control the price. Consumer prices go up and corporations record profits. In this case, these four corporations reported a 120% collective jump in their gross profits since the pandemic.

What about toilet paper? Three corporations (Proctor & Gamble, Kimberly Clark and Georgia-Pacific) produce 80% of toilet paper. These corporations reap record profits and workers who do not receive wage increases or retirees on fixed incomes are hit the hardest.

If you have an Amazon Prime membership, then prepare to pay 16% more this year. Amazon says it's because of increased costs and inflation. In 2021, Amazon reported gross profit of \$197.48 billion. That is \$197,480,000,000 in profit – in just one year. And it's a 29.3% increase over profits reported for 2020.

When is enough profit enough?

Huge corporations are raising prices because they can, because they have no competition; they use "Inflation!" scares to raise prices and gouge consumers. These same huge corporations are reporting higher and higher profit margins than ever before.

Jean Wright – Franklin, N.C.

### A sickness in ourselves and in our land

Most of us become aware of just how sickness affects what was once a healthy active body. It becomes apparent that we who even in the best of youthful health, over time have to deal with the aging process that in our youth thought was impossible, but then becomes more realized than ever imagined. Sickness, pain and that of aging seems no one escapes. We see its evidence viewed daily as we share life's journey.

But the question of why does a lingering disease or the pains of life have to be there in the first place? Many come to despair and lose faith in what faith they had, seeing humanity has forever been asking this daunting question of pain and suffering since time's beginning. Science and medicine have made great strides in lessening pain and suffering, to what seems many will face. Many question if there is a God, why does he allow such things? Why, if the simple need of rain is withheld for the survival of innocent children, why would God ignore such a need as this?

Whether the pain of death comes quickly or seems a long enduring process, it is one we all must face. I myself understand, yet do not fully understand why this is. God deals with our brokenness, and makes Himself known even in the midst of brokenness. But a question that seems ignored but must be asked is why man places suffering and pain on his own mankind? Why does he go to such great lengths with corrupt manipulation and evil desires to get what he wants, why does this come with such ease when doing good towards others is the better, rewarding road? If through our DNA and the evolutionary process we are to better ourselves through millions of years, we seem no better than mans earliest recorded beginnings. So DNA nor evolution has given us a better human being, if man has evolved any it would seem in today's world he has regressed to yet a even more corrupt nature.

We struggle mentally and physically when we see loved ones suffer pain and sickness through no fault of their own. But it's the pain and suffering imposed by man himself that I struggle with the most. Especially as here in America, as in no other nation before, sought out a direction for all its people to strive and seek justice, freedom, equality and a peace that all humanity has hungered for. This was a far reaching goal with many setbacks, but if never strived for it would also never be realized. This goal is what all mankind wants, but at the same time is more often corrupted by man himself in the evil pursuit of selfishness and pride. This seems most evident today than ever before, and we feel the tentation and uneasiness throughout the world over.

We have no answers for our children nor for generations to come, except in hope man will become something better than he is now. I know many reject God and their reasons are many, but within one of the oldest books in history, the Bible, has fortold all of history in the pain and suffering of both the physical and the internal, past, present and future. So really all of what we live, is no surprise, we just wish it was different. And this difference is what the Divine God wants for each of us. It basically falls under: do we want to empower ourselves and self pride and get more of what we currently have or do we want to give ourselves to God and find His peace, justice, equality and a love that yet can not be fully explained, but yet realized? This would be a renewed beginning of healing of the "Sickness in Ourselves and in Our Land," where else do I turn?

Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

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**Step 2: Reorganizing the Narcotics Unit**

**Step 3: Focus on recovery and rehabilitation**

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- Bring back MCSO's cadet program to build relationships, trust, and respect

- Increase patrol coverage in Nantahala, Highlands, Otto, and Burningtown
- Move K9 Unit under Narcotics Unit for additoinal manpower and expertise

- Increase rehabilitation programs within the jail
- Build additional partnerships with new organizations for resources post release



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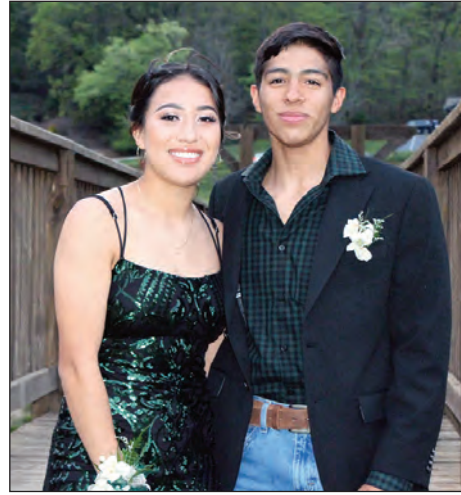
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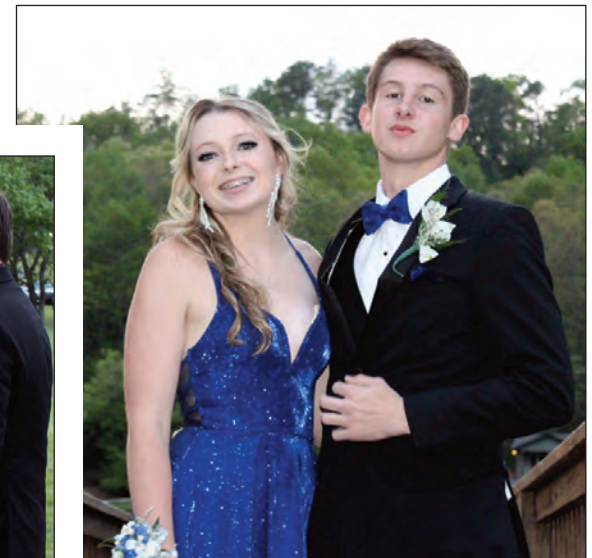
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# Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests April 21 - May 1. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

April 25

Johnnie Ray Arch, was charged with failure to appear. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

April 26

Chelsea Briana Heaton, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jiglaou made the arrest.

April 27

Caleb Scott Tallent, was charged with failure to appear.

Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Clarissa Anne Smith, was charged with failure to appear. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

April 28

Kevin Allen Johnson, was charged with injury to personal property. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Jason Robert Mock, was charged with probation violation. Costin Jiglaou made the arrest.

Tony Albert Floyd, was charged with probation violation. Deputy Lydia Belavance made the arrest.

Matt Dillan Laws, was charged with assault on a female, assault on a child under 12 years of age and assault on another person in the presence of a minor. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

April 29

Samantha Rose Hendrix, was charged with offenses committed in jurisdiction. Sargent Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

Kayla Nicole Woods, was charged with failure to appear. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Travis James Gregg, was charged with larceny. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Dennis Boyd Durandetto Jr., was charged with assault on a female and assault inflicting serious bodily injury. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

April 30

Austin Lee Connally, was charged with driving while impaired. Deputy Cody Tiger made the arrest.

Andrew Hesselbirg, was charged with assault on a female, breaking and entering and injury to personal property. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

May 1

Anthony Blake Sanders, was charged with trespass, communicating threats and injury to personal property. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

April 22

Scott Lynn Marchant, was charged with second degree trespass. G.D. Hovis made the arrest.

April 24

Rafael Carrasco Ferral, was charged with driving under the influence. E.D. Kirkland made the arrest.

April 27

Wilburn Wesley Holt, was issued a warrant for arrest for false report to police station and resist/obstruct/delay. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Tonya Touvouli Lee, was issued a warrant for arrest for filing a false report to police station and resist/obstruct/delay. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

April 28

Jonathan Andrew Hunt, was charged with driving under the influence. E.D. Kirkland made the arrest.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

April 21

Traci Lynn Mathis, 43, of Grindstone Knob Rd., was charged with misdemeanor larceny, obtain property by false pretense, possession of stolen goods/property and felony larceny. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Patrick Gerald Gunter, 41, of Bidwell Rd., Whittier, was charged with resisting a public officer, conspire to commit felony larceny, possession of stolen firearm, possession of stolen goods, larceny of a firearm, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering and failure to appear for driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$150,000 was set.

Christopher Brooks Gammon, 44, of Country Club Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with resisting a public officer, possession of drug paraphernalia, trafficking in methamphetamine by transportation and traffic in methamphetamine by possession. A secured bond of \$150,000 was set.

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**arts4all@dnet.net 828-524-ARTS**

## Red Day all about community service

Each year on the second Thursday of May, Keller Williams agents, leadership members and associates step away from daily business duties, donning their red KW gear and venturing into their communities with three goals in mind: Renew, Energize, Donate.

Widely known as Red Day, this annual service took shape in May 2009 in celebration of Keller Williams vice chairman Mo Anderson's birthday. Fourteen years later, Red Day 2022 will take place on Thursday, May 12, throughout the world.

Making a difference in the lives of others is a core part of the Keller Williams culture.

This year, agents at Keller Williams Realty Franklin chose to dedicate Red Day to providing for those less fortunate by placing a new "Free Little Pantry" with non-perishable and toiletry items at the Community building on the Georgia Road along with care packages for No Wrong Door, supporting individuals and families struggling with substance use disorders and mental health challenges. Patrons at the Senior Center will likely see KW agents helping with Meals on Wheels and other activities on that day.

For those who would like to help by donating items or money to purchase for the "Free Little Pantry" and No Wrong Door bags, drop items off at Keller Williams, 1573 Highlands Road, Franklin.

### Needed Items

- Gallon zip lock bags
- Travel size shampoo and conditioner
- Wet wipes
- Travel Kleenex
- Canned food with pop tops such as:
- Vienna sausage, tuna, and chicken



### Snack food:

- Sandwich crackers
- Pop tarts
- Raisins or other dried fruit
- Granola bars or cereal bars
- Single serve applesauce or fruit
- Trail mix
- Bottled Water
- Travel size soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste
- Feminine products
- Shaving items
- Baby diapers

For questions, call (828)524-0100



## Project SEARCH interns helping out

Project SEARCH interns were at the Southwestern Community College's Macon campus to judge door decorations for the "Cultural Fusion" event. The theme was "Everyone is welcome at the table," incorporating all manner of equity and geographic heritage. Pictured are (front row, L-R) Autumn Farmer, job coach; CJ Philips, Devonnie Jimison, lead teacher; Dustin Pheasant; and Luke Burkhart; (back row) Tristan Pullen, John Beaulieu and Brandon Stogner. Project SEARCH is a one-year program at SCC for young adults with differing abilities transitioning from school to work that combines classroom instruction and career exploration. To find out more about Project SEARCH or to apply for the 2022-23 school year, contact Jimison at 339-4486 or devonnej@southwestncc.edu.

Photo by Patri Cabe



### World Music Program Sunday May 8 in Franklin

The Ubuntu Choir of the Great Smoky Mountains, directed by Tom Tyre, will perform a program of uplifting music from around the World on Mother's Day Sunday, May 8, at 3:00 p.m., in the First Presbyterian Chapel in Franklin. Founded in 2009, the Ubuntu Choir joyfully sings a cappella music from diverse traditions and cultures. Sunday's program features songs from many foreign countries, plus ample opportunities for audience members to sing along.



Ubuntu is a worldwide movement open to all people who share a passion for harmony singing. The local Ubuntu group is a member of the Worldwide Ubuntu Choir Network, and is composed of members from Macon and Jackson Counties. Director Tom Tyre received Ubuntu training in British Columbia and is a member of the Natural Voice Network in the United Kingdom.

Admission is by donation; \$5 is suggested. The Chapel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is on the corner of Church Street and Harrison Avenue; wheelchair access is from the First Presbyterian Church parking lot. This event is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County, 828-524-ARTS or arts4all@dnet.net.

### Highlands 'Season of Song' starts Saturday

For the first time, a bagpipe duo will herald in the season in downtown Highlands.

The live performance by Highlands Bagpipers takes place this Saturday from 4:30 to 5 p.m. at Town Square on Main Street, the first in a series that will happen the first Saturday of each month through Oct. 1. Highlands Bagpiper musicians Margaret Tooke and

Glenn Morris have previously performed as part of the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting events.

The performances honor Highlands' heritage, which includes settlers and laborers from Scotland and Ireland as well as a history of serving as a cultural center for artists and musicians. The traditional folk instrument found its footing in Scotland in the 1700s.

Beginning May 13, free outdoor concerts will be held downtown each Friday and Saturday nights. "Friday Night Live," which showcases traditional mountain music and local talent, takes place at the Town Square on Main Street. The Johnny Webb Band kicks off the series May 13 with country music spanning the decades.

Highly-recognized 80s tribute band The Breakfast Club kicks off "Saturdays on Pine" on May 14 at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park, which will also culminate the "Meander in May" festival. "Saturdays on Pine" will feature a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians. All Friday and Saturday night concerts take place from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

The bagpipe performances, "Friday Night Live" and "Saturdays on Pine" are organized and hosted by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

For more information about these or other events, go to visithighlandsc.com, call 828-526-2112.



## Deaths & Funerals

### Mary Alice McLaughlin

Mary Alice Archer McLaughlin, 88, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 23, 2020, in Boise, Idaho, at the home of her daughter, Carol McLaughlin, with family by her side. Born May 15, 1931, in Knoxville, Tenn., Mary Alice always considered Western North Carolina her home, living briefly in Andrews and being raised in Franklin. She was the daughter of She was an excellent student, valedictorian of her high school class, and a lifelong voracious reader. She instilled a love of reading and curiosity in all of her children. She graduated from Franklin High School. She attended Meredith College before graduating from Wake Forest College in June of 1953.



Mary Alice McLaughlin

She moved to Washington, D.C. to pursue a career with the National Security Agency, where she met her future husband, Charles McLaughlin. After their wedding in May 1956, they were posted to Nuremberg, Germany. There, friendships were formed that lasted a lifetime. Returning to the U.S., she devoted herself to raising a family and serving in the communities they lived, including Severna Park, Md., Omaha, Neb. and Seoul, Korea. She returned to Franklin in 1985 after Charlie's retirement.

She was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, a member of the Nantahala Hiking Club and Friends of the Greenway, volunteered at Friends of the Library bookstore and Meals on Wheels. She was an avid gardener. Along with being a member of numerous garden clubs, she always grew vegetables and flowers wherever she lived. She studied weaving under Sally Kesler in Cartoogechaye.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Charles Thomas McLaughlin, and a brother, Dr. John Milton Archer III of Charlotte, N.C.

She is survived by her three children, John McLaughlin of Annapolis, Md., Carol McLaughlin of Boise, Idaho, and David (Cathy) McLaughlin of Chester Springs, Pa.; six beloved grandchildren, Andrew, Keith and Sara Dixon, and Corie, Kate and Jack McLaughlin; nieces and nephews, Mary Catherine (Bobby) Chesney of Charlotte, Virginia (John) Hawley of Virginia Beach, Va., Katie (Paul) Harris of Bear, Del., John Milton Archer IV and Charles (Kelley) Archer of Charlotte, Grant (Amy) McLaughlin, Seminole, Fla., and Reid (Tonya) McLaughlin, Houston, Texas.

Many thanks to her caregivers, Valerie, Allison, Alisa, Alma, Taylor and the staff of Signature Hospice of Boise, Idaho, who made her last months peaceful and comfortable.

A service will be held Saturday, May 14, at 11 a.m., at First Presbyterian Church of Franklin. Reception to follow in Tartan Hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St., Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

# EATING OUT

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## Deaths & Funerals

### Robert Donald 'Don' Bell

Robert Donald "Don" Bell, 92, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at home on April 23, 2022.

He was born April 25, 1929, in Culberson, N.C., to the late Robert T. Bell and Laura Chastain Bell. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served in the Korean War. He was a member of the Hominy Masonic Lodge in Candler, N.C., a member of Burningtown Baptist Church, and a member of the American Legion where he served on funeral detail. After retiring from Lowe's, he worked several years as a jailer for the Macon County Detention Center.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carolyn Holbrooks Bell; a son, David Donald Bell of Greensboro, N.C.; a daughter, Robin Bell Doolittle (Mark) of Franklin; a granddaughter, Jordan Pickens (Daniel Reid) of Franklin; grandsons, Cade Doolittle (Leela Boatright), of Phoenix, Ariz., and Chase Doolittle (Sloan Shawgo), of Franklin; a great granddaughter, Delaney Reid; a brother, Jake Bell, of Candler; a sister, Ruth Bell Shaffer, of Candler; a special niece, Lucy Shaffer; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Norman E. Bell.

A service was held on Wednesday, April 27, at Burningtown Baptist Church cemetery with Rev. Charles Stevens officiating. Military honors were provided by the American Legion post 108 and the VFW post 7339. Pallbearers were Chase Doolittle, Cade Doolittle, Daniel Reid, Jeff Barrett, Wastel McClure and Eddie Simonds.

Memorial donations may be made to the Burningtown Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Eddie Simonds, 279 Edwards Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

### Gloria Oliver Franklin

Gloria Oliver Franklin, 75, of Franklin, N.C., went home to walk with Jesus on Thursday, April 21, 2022.

She was born in Macon County to the late Gene Oliver and Lois Oliver Lathrop.

She was a very caring wife, mother, and grandmother and always thought of others before herself. She enjoyed camping at Standing Indian and working on crafts.

She is survived by her husband, Hugh Franklin; daughter, Lori Franklin Sanfilippo; granddaughter, Kylie Sanfilippo; brothers, Jerry Oliver (Sharon) and Randy Oliver (Brenda); niece, Shannon Oliver Hamrick; and nephew, Ryan Oliver.

A service was held on Sunday, April 24, at Holly Springs Baptist Church. Rev. Donnie Seagle and Rev. Brandon Breedlove officiated.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Robert 'Don' Bell



Gloria Oliver Franklin

### John 'Paul' Rondel

John "Paul" Rondel, 58, went home to be with Jesus on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, while visiting his home country in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Born in Christchurch, New Zealand, he was the son of Robert Rondel (Lesley) and Fay Holmes Gray (Philip) of New Zealand. He was the competitions director for United Sprint Car Series; and a retired Macon County Paramedic, who served faithfully for 24 years. While growing up in New Zealand, he enjoyed Rugby, Cricket, Rugby League, and running. He even completed a marathon. He had a very special love for people, especially his family and his racing family, and a love for animals.

In addition to parents, he is survived by his wife Kim of Hampton, Ga.; daughters, Chantelle Rondel and Sarah Rondel of Franklin; brother, Michael Rondel; sisters, Vicki Holt and Deborah Rondel; stepbrother, Wayne Hawtin; and a host of other family members, nieces, and nephews from New Zealand, Australia, United States and Japan. He is also survived by his stepchildren, Josh, Joseph, Tyler, and Michaela; and grandchildren, Aspen, Lacey, and Corbin.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, May 5, at 6 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home with Darryl Jamison officiating.

The family will greet friends following the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be given to his daughters to help them go to New Zealand and visit their dad's final resting place.

Online condolences can be left at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



John 'Paul' Rondel

### Gwenda Sue 'Gwen' Mason

Gwenda Sue "Gwen" Mason, 69, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, May 1, after a period of declining health.

Born in Macon County, she was the only child of the late Frank H. and Rebecca Ledford Mason. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by an "adopted" nephew, Mike Ledford. She was a member of the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. She enjoyed shopping and being with her family and friends.

She is survived by her loving and caring family, which includes special cousin, Joyce Ledford of Franklin and her children, who Gwen considered her "adopted" nieces and nephews, Larry Ledford, Bobby Ledford (Christa), Ronnie Ledford (Brandy), and Barbara Stiles (David); and great nieces and nephews, Mallie, Bradley, Sarah, Delaney, Gage, and Grayson, all of Franklin; along with numerous other cousins and friends.

Graveside service will be Thursday, May 5, at 3 p.m., at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church cemetery. Rev. David Williams will officiate. Her family and friends will be pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Online condolences can be left at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

### Grover Lee Anderson

Grover Lee Anderson, 70, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, April 23, 2022.

Born in Washington, he was the son of the late George and Katherine Nichols Anderson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three siblings, Cleveland Anderson, Georgia Mae Anderson, and Jeanie Myers.

He lived most of his life in Macon County. He was known to be an avid outdoorsman and for his love of fishing. He enjoyed flea marketing and antiques, but what he cherished most was time spent with family and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Mariam Parker Anderson; four children, Clint Anderson (Kandice) of Winder, Ga., Cleveland Anderson of Washington, Anna Green (Mitchel) of Franklin, and Elizabeth Cooper (Cody) of Easley, S.C.; six grandchildren, Kaitlyn, Gracie, Gabriel, Jezabell, Audree, Chevelle, and Levi; three sisters, Shirley Baron (Gary), Libby Mitchell (Phillip), and Brenda Anderson, all of Washington; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, April 26 at Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Gary McCoy officiating.

Online condolences can be left at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com). Macon Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Grover Lee Anderson

### Joan Nel Hatch

Joan Nel Hatch, 65, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Wednesday April 27, 2022.

She was born on March 13, 1957, in Conneaut, Ohio. She is preceded in death by her parents, Daniel and Joanne Hommes; brother, Daniel Hommes and sister Janette Eland.

She was a member of the Catholic Church her whole life. She taught CCD for 25 years and owned an accounting business for 16 years. She enjoyed helping others and loved tending to her garden. She was known by many and loved by all.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Bill Hatch; her sons, Jason, Joseph and Brandon Hatch, all of Franklin; grandchildren, Emily, Madison, Zachary, Jacob, Eli, Matthew, Kiah, and Blake; brothers, Mat, Mark and Mike; sisters, Linda Karen and Jackie all from Ohio; and many nieces and nephews.

A service will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Franklin on Thursday, May 5 at 11 a.m., with Father Tien Duong officiating. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Jason Hatch, Joseph Hatch, Brandon Hatch, Mike Hatch, Zack Hatch, Nat bumbace and Van Rice.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center or St Francis Food Pantry/General Fund at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Gen. Fund, 299 Maple St., Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com). Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Joan Nel Hatch

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# Deaths & Funerals

## Claude 'Ed' Edmond Moses Sr.

Claude Edmond Moses Sr., "Ed", 77, of Franklin, N.C., passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

Born in the Walnut Creek Community of Macon County, North Carolina, He was the son of the late Clyde Moses and Alice Dills Carter, who survives. He was preceded in death by his stepmother, Bessie Moses.

In his early years, he traveled the east coast working in tunnels before retiring from Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1974 due to a Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis at the age of 30. He was a fighter; he fought every day with a positive attitude. He loved people and never met a stranger. He had a loyal breakfast crew at the Normandie Restaurant where he gathered regularly with his friends, and favorite waitresses Shelly and Valinda. He was quick witted and the king of "one-liners." He enjoyed music, he never missed Pickin' on Square, loved gathering at the Cartoogechaye Community Building, and would plan back porch pickin'-and-grinnin's. His greatest love was his children and grandchildren. An avid 50-year softball fan, he lived to watch his granddaughter play softball. He spent his last day at the softball field.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mary Lou Holbrooks Moses; a brother, Larry Conley and a sister Betsy Conley Angel.

In addition to his mother, Alice Dills Carter, he is survived by a son, Eddie Moses (Michelle); three daughters, Gina Moses (Sharon Lamb), Tonda Jenkins (George), Guindy Stewman (Rusty); three sisters, Carmie Pruett (Tom), Connie Corbin (David), Charlene Norton; brother, Sid Carter; sister-in-law, Doris Stamey; six grandchildren, Anna Thompson (Matt), Ashley Moses, Wayne Jenkins, Eddie Moses (Megan), Kennedy Stewman, Olivia Stewman; six great grandchildren, Elizabeth, Lillie, Jordan, Logan, Max, and Emily; Special niece, April Chastain and nephew, Brent Holbrooks; special caretaker, Karen Tallent; and 15 nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 12:00PM – 1:30PM at Macon Funeral Home.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 4, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Frank Rodriguez and Rev. Roger Stewman officiating. Burial was at Carson Chapel Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Tom Pruett Jr., Brent Holbrooks, Tracy Chastain, Joshua Corbin, Mike Ramsey, and Mark Pruett. Honorary pallbearers were Dearn Ledford, Willard Barrett, Jack Dockery, Bryan Daves and Gary Elders.

Online condolences can be left at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

## Paul Miller Haggar

Paul Miller Haggar, 62, passed away April 26, 2022. A brother, father, grandfather and friend that will be missed.

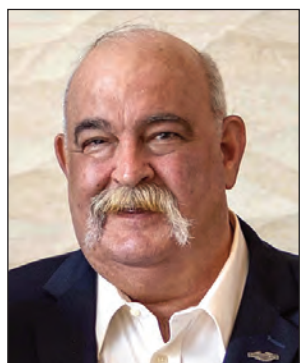
No local services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to the family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfunerals.com](http://www.moffittfunerals.com).



Claude Edmond Moses Sr.



Paul Miller Haggar

## Richard Lee Whitman

Richard Lee Whitman was born on Jan. 31, 1938, in Webster, Fla., to C.W. and Alice Whitman. He passed from this life on April 28, 2022, being preceded in death by his parents and his six siblings, along with his daughter, Tracy Whitman.

He is survived by his high school sweetheart who was the love of his life, his wife of 63 years, Sandra Whitman; and sons, Mark Whitman and Daniel Whitman.

After graduating high school, he enlisted in the United States Army and was a member of the 101st Airborne. Later, he was one of the original members of the Long Range Patrol formed in West Germany in the early 60s. He served in Vietnam in 1968-1969 where he received the Bronze Star. Following his service in Vietnam he became a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces.

He entered the military as a private. He was selected for and completed Officer Candidate School. Had he chosen to stay in the army, he would have been promoted to major, but instead he chose to exit as a captain. After serving for 14 years, he left the army and always said he felt like he had been on vacation ever since his discharge.

He was very motivated and a hard worker. For many years he worked a full time job on top of farming vegetable crops and building houses. Sometimes he had all three jobs going on at once. He taught himself to build and completed several houses by himself from the ground up – digging the footers, doing the carpentry, masonry, electrical, and plumbing as well as the roofing and shingles.

He was a loyal friend and still kept in touch with some friends he had made in elementary school. He enjoyed growing vegetables and watching old westerns on television. He liked rock and roll from the 50s along with old fashioned gospel music.

He loved his family, and they always came first. He was also an animal lover, domesticated or wild. He could not stand to see anything go hungry. One of his favorite dogs, Buckshot, who died prior to Richard's passing, will be buried with him as Richard directed.

No local services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfunerals.com](http://www.moffittfunerals.com).



Richard Lee Whitman

## Ronnie Edward Clark

Ronnie Edward Clark, 77, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late "T.A." and Alliefair Houston Clark. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, O'Neil Clark, and Eddie Clark.

He loved farming, especially caring for his cattle, chickens, and rabbits. In his later years, he enjoyed coloring in his adult coloring books while passing time. Many of his friends and family will cherish memories of him at the fruit stand on Hwy 28.

He is survived by his sister, Sandra Clark Anderson of Franklin; sister-in-law, Susie Clark of Franklin; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins, who he loved dearly.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 7, at 7 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Randy Drinnon and Rev. Davis Hooper will officiate.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 7 p.m., one hour prior to the service at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Macon Funeral Home to help with the family with Mr. Clark's funeral expenses.

Online condolences can be left at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Ronnie Edward Clark

## Geneva A. Johnson

Geneva A. Johnson, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, May 1, 2022. She was born Sept. 13, 1934, in Macon County to the late Dewitt T. Allen and Lula Buchanan Allen. She retired from Belden after 32 years, and was a member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church. She was an excellent cook, she loved raising a garden and canning. Her greatest love was her family and grandkids.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, William Howard Johnson; sons, Bill Johnson (Sherry) of Franklin; Tommy Johnson (Marie) of Salisbury, N.C., and Eddie Johnson of Franklin; grandchildren, Adam Johnson, Jennifer Harris, Taylor Johnson, Kasey Johnson, Nicholas Johnson, Logan Johnson, Amber Bennett, Cheyenne Bennett and Haily Hamilton; great-grandchildren, Ryan Johnson, Race Johnson, Benjamin Johnson, Sammy Johnson, Brea Harris, Easton Harris, Embree Harris, Tytus Bennett and Harlow Galloway.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Nancy Milstead and Edna Ferguson; four brothers, Cecil Allen, Claude Allen, John Robert Allen and Roger Allen.

A funeral service will be held Friday, May 6, at 3 p.m., at Ridgecrest Baptist Church with Rev. Guy Duvall and Rev. Tommy Fouts officiating. Burial will be in Ridgecrest Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday evening at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Johnson family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).



Geneva A. Johnson

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# Chase Elliott takes home his first win of the 2022 season at Dover

Holly Cain – Nascar Wire Service

NASCAR Cup Series standings leader Chase Elliott earned his first victory of the season in Monday's weather-delayed DuraMAX Drydene 400 at Dover (Del.) Motor Speedway.

Elliott led the final 53 laps of the 400-lapper and pulled away from Ricky Stenhouse Jr. for a 2.577-second victory in an action-packed race that was slowed 12 times for caution periods – including a red flag weather delay on Sunday that necessitated pushing the restart to Monday.

It's the 14th career win for the driver of the No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet and a historic fifth win for the team in 2022. It is the first time in NASCAR history a team has had all four of its drivers win races in the opening 11 races of a season.

The 26-year old Georgia-native Elliott had to work at this one for sure with 17 lead changes among 10 drivers.

"Just had some good circumstances finally" the sport's reigning Most Popular Driver said of his first oval track win since he won the 2020 series championship at Phoenix Raceway. "Just really appreciate [crew chief] Alan [Gustafson] and our entire team for just sticking with it.

"We had some tough races over the last four or five months and just great to get NAPA back to victory lane and great to get Hendrick Motorsports in victory lane. So proud. This means a lot in a lot of different ways. Just appreciate all the effort."

"It's been a fun day and we're certainly going to enjoy this," Elliott continued, after thanking the fans that came out for the Monday race conclusion.

"Like I told them [crew] after the race,



Chase Elliott, driver of the #9 NAPA Auto Parts Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series DuraMAX Drydene 400 presented by RelaDyne at Dover Motor Speedway on May 2, 2022, in Dover, Del. Photos by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

those guys, they've been deserving of one for a while so glad we could get across the line first. We'll enjoy it for a few days and then go to work next week."

He came a few car lengths from victory, but runner-up Stenhouse was nearly as happy as the winner after the race. It marked only the second top-10 of the season – second top-20 – for the driver of the No. 47 JTG Daugherty Racing Chevrolet and was his best showing since a runner-up finish on the Bristol (Tenn.) Dirt Track back in March, 2021.

Stenhouse finished fifth in Stage 2 and ran

among the top-10 for the last 150 laps of the race moving into second place behind Elliott with 51 laps remaining and chasing down Elliott's No. 9 Chevrolet for the remainder of the race.

Last week's race winner Ross Chastain finished third in the No. 1 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet but had some contact with three-time Dover winner Martin Truex Jr. on the final lap fighting for position. The two touched and Truex's No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota spun around. He recovered to finish 12th and the two drivers exchanged words afterward on pit lane.

Asked about the last lap incident and the encounter after the checkered flag with Truex, Chastain smiled and said "we were talking about where we were going finishing next week."

Joe Gibbs Racing driver Christopher Bell was fourth followed by 2021 Dover winner, Hendrick Motorsports' Alex Bowman. His teammate, Kyle Larson was sixth followed by JGR driver Kyle Busch, who led the most laps (103) on the day and was a strong contender for the trophy before getting caught on pit road during a caution period.

Busch and Bowman – who were running first and second at the time – pit on lap 322 only to have a caution come out for A.J. Allmendinger, whose Chevy lost its wheel. The two drivers restarted toward the tail end of the lead lap and still managed to race their forward to the top-10 finishes.

Dover polesitter Chris Buescher finished eighth – his third top-10 showing in the Roush Fenway Keselowski Ford on the year and first in six races. Stewart-Haas Racing's Kevin Harvick and Petty GMS Motorsports driver Erik Jones rounded out the top-10.

It was rough day for former Dover winner Denny Hamlin, who led 67 laps and won Stage 1, but had two major snafus derail what looked like a promising day.

While leading the race, Hamlin's left front tire came off as he exited pit road following a stop. It set him to 29th place. He drove his JGR No. 11 Toyota all the way back into the top-five only to be collected by a spinning Ford driven by Cody Ware just after the race's midpoint.

The damage to Hamlin's Toyota took away any shot for the victory and he finished

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THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
82°/59° 46%	76°/54° 81%	69°/48° 42%	75°/48° 24%	80°/50° 14%

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21st. The perennial championship contender and three-time Daytona 500 winner has only one top-10 – a win at Richmond last month – on the season.

Elliott’s win gives him a 50-point lead on Ryan Blaney in the championship as the NASCAR Cup Series heads to historic Darlington (S.C.) Raceway for Sunday’s Goodyear 400 (3:30 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

**Josh Berry takes home the checkered flag at the Monster Mile**

Josh Berry answered a runner-up finish last year at Dover (Del.) Motor Speedway with a victory Saturday in the A-Game 200 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at the track—holding off his JR Motorsports teammate Justin Allgaier by .604-seconds.

Berry led the final 55 laps of the 200-lap race to claim his first win of 2022 and the third of his Xfinity Series career. His JR Motorsports team claimed four of the race’s top-five positions – the first time any team has done so since 2013. Joe Gibbs Racing’s Ty Gibbs was third followed by JRM drivers Noah Gragson and Sam Mayer.

Allgaier led a race-best 67 laps but was passed by Berry’s No. 8 JR Motorsports Chevrolet with 55 laps remaining. He rallied to his ultimate second-place finish after suffering a setback on a slow final pit stop. Berry returned to track with the lead on that re-start and Allgaier had to race forward from fourth place, getting as high as second but never having a true chance to make a pass for the win.

“I struggled a lot on the bottom on the restarts and just kept trying to work to get better. It’s just credit to these guys, the pit crew did a phenomenal job today, they executed when we needed it,” said the 31-year old Tennessee native, Berry. “And we were there when it counted.

“I went toe-to-toe with Justin Allgaier and he’s so freaking good here,” Berry added. “Gosh, I thought he was kind of out of it after that pit stop and then he was right back to second and I thought, ‘here we go again.’”

Allgaier, 35, a perennial championship

**Josh Berry, driver of the #8 Tire Pros Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series A-GAME 200 at Dover Motor Speedway on April 30, 2022 in Dover, Del.**

contender, is looking for his first win since Darlington, S.C. last May. This marked his fifth runner-up finish in that time – but is his best showing of 2022.

“Proud of our team, we wanted to get the car in victory lane but with the string of bad luck, I feel like today was a good day, just a little bit short,” said Allgaier, who had finished 20th or worse in four of the five races leading into Dover.

Gragson’s fourth place finish marked a solid end to a challenging day for the 23-year old and earned him his \$100,000 bonus check in the Dash 4 Cash program.

“What a day for the entire company, four cars in the top-five, and congratulations to Josh Berry for his win,” said Gragson, who added with a smile holding up the giant \$100,000 cardboard Dash 4 Cash winner’s check, “My car was as fast as the Xfinity internet.”

A.J. Allmendinger finished sixth but retains the championship lead by 43 points over both two-race winner Gragson and three-race winner Gibbs.

Mayer’s fifth place finish was impressive considering his eventful day. He won Stage 1 and then had a pit stop situation during the ensuing stop. His No. 1 JR Motorsports Chevrolet lost a left rear tire and he ended up having to make an extra stop and eventually dropping back as far as 19th place before making his way forward again.

Saturday’s polesitter Brandon Jones rallied to a seventh-place finish after pit issues as well.

Richard Childress Racing’s Sheldon Creed was eighth – the highest finishing rookie with Riley Herbst and Ryan Sieg rounding out the top-10.

The series races next week at the historic Darlington Raceway in the Mahindra ROXOR 200 (Saturday, 1:30 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Allgaier is the defending race winner.

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- I will bring back the Domestic Violence Unit to support the victims.

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Macon County Sheriff

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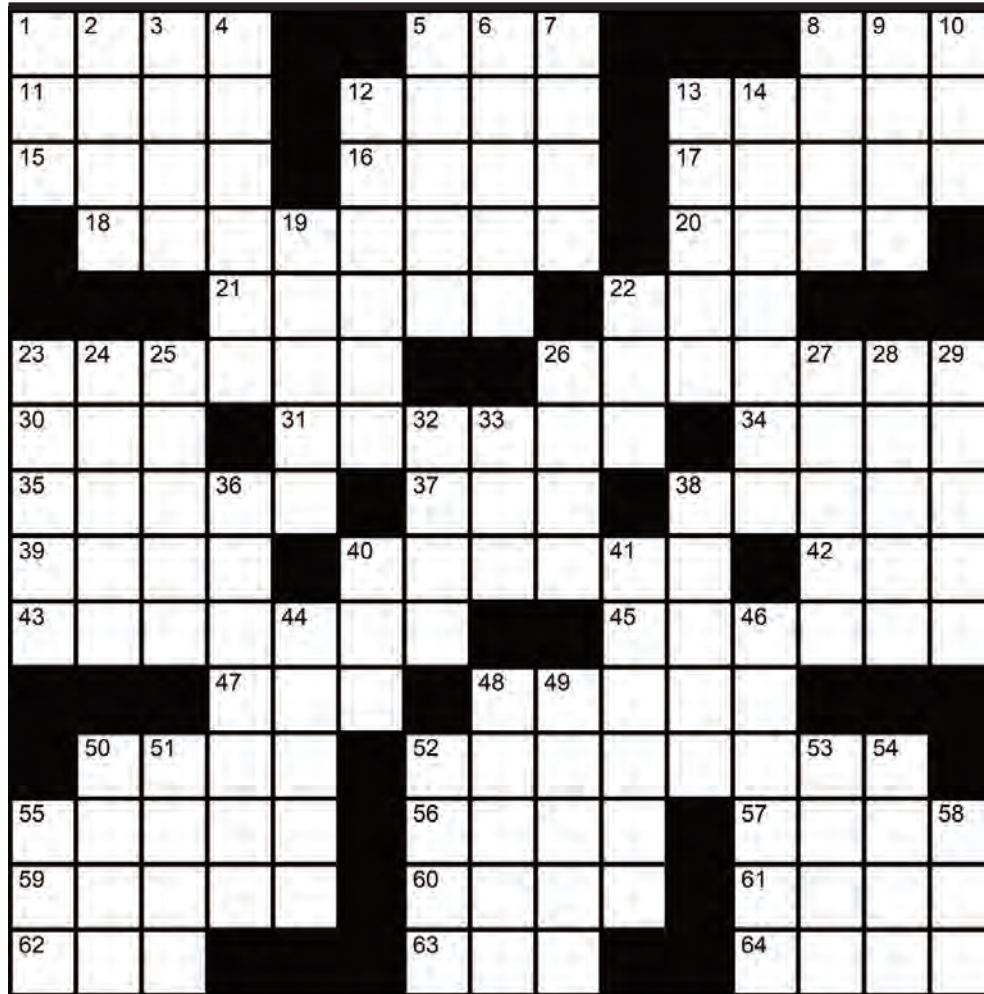
# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: MOTHER'S DAY

### ACROSS

1. Wild onion
5. Standardized testing acronym
8. Accounting degree
11. Hunted by hunter
12. Don Johnson's TV role, 1996-2001
13. Run \_\_\_\_ of the law
15. Mercantile establishment
16. Chemistry Nobel Hahn
17. \*Deborah Guarino's "Is Your Mama a \_\_\_\_?"
18. Manner of controlling yourself
20. Tiny bit
21. Willow twig
22. Nutcracker's distinguishing feature
23. Like a longer route?
26. German white wine
30. \*Mom's little one
31. Bear the expenses of
34. Knock about
35. Dodge
37. "\_\_\_\_ the fields we go"
38. Binary digits code
39. Bear den
40. Northern peat bog
42. Modern address
43. Analyst in a chemical lab
45. Smooth, as in surface of the lake
47. Gangster's pistol
48. Eyelid infections
50. Wafting emanation
52. \*\*Arrangement in Grey and Black, No. 1" portrays this artist's mother
55. Evil one
56. Simmering feeling
57. Prepare for publication
59. Give benediction



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60. Heston's foes in 1968 sci-fi movie
  61. Boundary
  62. Communism or Taoism
  63. P in #1 Down
  64. Do like a model
- DOWN**
1. Dashboard acronym
  2. Kuwaiti or Saudi
  3. \*Maman alternative
  4. Kaa of "The Jungle Book"
  5. French composer Erik Alfred Leslie \_\_\_\_
  6. He made his fortune in fur trading
  7. \*Jord is mom to this hammer-wielding mythic thunder god

8. Chesterfield or ulster
9. Feline-inspired shoe brand
10. \_\_\_\_ mode
12. Not quite a nun
13. Spy's cover
14. \*Popular Mother's Day gift
19. Cast somebody there
22. Almond-induced state?
23. Type of monument
24. Pepsi and Coke
25. Tiny purses
26. Actor Wahlberg
27. Loci, sing.
28. #39 Across, pl.
29. \*Lorelai Gilmore's mother
32. \*How many children does Queen Elizabeth have?
33. Hi-\_\_\_\_

36. \*Daenerys Targaryen's "babies"
38. End of a shoelace
40. \*"How I \_\_\_\_ Your Mother"
41. Knights' breastplates
44. Gridiron measure, pl.
46. In the Land of Nod
48. Guillermo del Toro's "The \_\_\_\_ of Water"
49. \*Amy Chua's "Battle Hymn of the \_\_\_\_ Mother"
50. Rembrandt's paints
51. Regard
52. Sandwich alternative
53. Edible root of taro plant
54. Semis
55. Hoover's agency
58. Casual attire

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	9		4					
3		7	2					
			5			8	1	

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**Misc. For Sale**

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**MASTER GARDENER** Association Plant Sale Saturday, May 7, 9-1, at ERC, 1624 Lakeside Drive. Buy Natives and Visit the Various Beautiful Gardens. Proceeds go to garden maintenance.

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