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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Joe and Debby Eger stop to listen to “The Shifty Sisters” playing and singing on the clock tower square in downtown Franklin. The group plays blues, oldies, indie, original compositions and more. Members are (L-R) Melody Lowery, Diane Chermer and Melinda Pennington. The Sisters were performing “Green Paper Money” written by Chermer. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Commissioners debate fire tax increases

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

As part of the annual budget discussion for Macon County, local fire departments submit their own individual budgets. Each of the 11 fire districts in Macon County has its own respective fire tax rate and if a department has a budgetary need in any given year, they must request a change to its fire tax rate during the budget process.

Some years, none of the 11 fire districts request a change in their fire tax rates, while other years, multiple departments may have needs and make a request in the same year, which was the case this year when four fire districts requested increases to their fire tax rates.

Addressing questions from Commissioner Paul Higdon regarding why four departments out of 11 are requesting tax rate increases and the other six are able to “make do” a representative with the Otto Fire Department explained that not every department requests increases each year. Prior to the increase for the building Otto made last fiscal year, the department had not received an increase since 2016.

Fire departments in Macon County are primarily manned by volunteers, however, some departments have paid staff who handle the day-to-day operations. For fire districts such as Franklin, which are responsible for a much larger

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Countryside holds successful Rev It Up for Vets

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INCREASES

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population area, several paid employees are needed to ensure adequate coverage and protection within a district. In addition to money for paid staff members of various departments, fire departments have a minimal payment that volunteers receive per call — on average about \$15 for every call to which a volunteer responds. Fire departments also need money for operational expenses such as electricity, rent or mortgage payments on their buildings, gas to operate the fire trucks, necessary equipment, and arguably the most expensive expenditure for a department, the actual trucks required to operate a department.

While community fire departments host fundraisers throughout the year to help cover the cost of operations, the majority of a department's funding comes from the fire rate tax collected within each respective district on real property items such as homes and vehicles.

In this fiscal year budget, the Franklin Fire District requested a tax rate from .0545 to .07 in order to generate an additional \$252,694 annually. Franklin Fire and Rescue Chief Ben Ormand said the increase request is two-fold. Part of the increase would be used to fund three full-time firefighters and the other half to

purchase new equipment. Prior to this year's request, the Franklin Fire & Rescue Department's tax rate had remained flat since 2017 — when it was increased from .0445 to .0545. Prior to 2017, the department had not received an increase since 2015 when it was increased from .03 to .0445. The department had been at the .3 tax rate since 2009.

To generate an additional \$119,609 annually, the Burningtown-Iotla Fire Department requested an increase in the department's tax rate from .1056 to .1596 during this budget cycle. Prior to this year, Burningtown had not received a tax increase since 2019 when it was increased to .1142 from .1103. Before that, the department's tax rate was .0867, which it received in 2015 when it was increased from .069. Prior to that dating back to 2009, Burningtown had a tax rate of .059. Fire Chief Mike Shuler told commissioners the increase is needed this year for facility repairs to the department's main station, built in the 1980s as well as to upgrade equipment and provide salaries to part-time employees.

To generate an additional \$75,785 annually, Cullasaja Fire and Rescue is requesting an increase from .0557 to .0720. Cullasaja Fire & Rescue's last tax rate increase was in 2019 when it was increased from .0537 to .0557. Cullasaja's .0537 rate was established in 2015 after an increase from the department's .042, which it had dating back to 2009. According to Jack Baird, Cullasaja Fire and Rescue needs

the additional funding is needed to construct a new substation, purchase a new fire truck, and add a new paid firefighter position to the department while also increasing the stipend for paid firefighters.

To generate an additional \$95,752 annually, Otto Fire and Rescue requested to increase the department's tax rate from .1 to .1192. The Otto Fire & Rescue Department's request was for the second half of the request made last fiscal year. Commissioners approved an increase last year, but it was only half of what the department requested in order to fund a new fire department. Last year's increase brought Otto's tax rate from .0684 to .1. Otto received the .0684 tax rate in 2019 — an increase from the .0650 tax rate the department had from 2016 through 2018. The Otto tax rate was .049 in 2013 and 2014 and according to county records was .042 dating back to 2009.

In 2021, Otto Fire & Rescue was the only department to receive a tax rate increase. There were no tax rate increases in 2020. However in 2019 10 of the county's 11 fire districts received a tax increase, with Franklin Fire & Rescue being the only department that did not receive one. There were no fire tax increases in 2018 for any of the 11 departments. In 2017, Franklin Fire & Rescue and the Burningtown-Iotla Fire Departments were the only two districts to receive a rate increase. Otto Fire & Rescue was the only department

to receive an increase in 2016 and in 2015 all 11 districts received an increase. In 2014 two departments, Mountain Valley and Clark's Chapel received increases, and in 2013, three departments, Otto, Burningtown, and Cowee each received a small increase to their tax rates. Only Mountain Valley received an increase in 2012 and in 2011 only Nantahala received an increase. There were no increases in 2010.

The four departments requesting an increase for the 2022-2023 fiscal year pled their case for their respective tax increases on Tuesday, June 7, during a budget work session with the Macon County Board of Commissioners.

Speaking to Chief Shuler with the Burningtown-Iotla Fire Department, which was the first of the four departments to present to the board, Commissioner Paul Higdon, who lives within the Burningtown District said that he would be voting against all four tax increase requests based on the principle that he doesn't support increasing taxes in general.

"I can't personally, and I say this probably every year, I just can't support tax increases for anything," said Higdon. "It is time for us to buckle down. I think our role is to lead the direction of publicly funded agencies and that is to learn to live with what you got."

Commissioners Josh Young and Ronnie Beale noted that the increase Burningtown was requesting would equate to about a 30 percent increase, and considering the



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economic climate, neither commissioners were comfortable with approving the initial request from Burningtown. Beale motioned to award the fire department half of their request — however, his motion failed to pass. The Board of Commissioners then voted to provide a one-cent tax increase, which would provide an additional \$22,152 per year for the department’s operating budget and increase the department’s tax rate to .1156. On a \$300,000 house that would mean an additional \$35 per year in fire taxes. The one-cent tax increase proposal was preliminarily approved by a vote 3-2 with Young and Higdon voting against it.

Higdon praised the Cullasaja Fire & Rescue Squad for their budget numbers, referencing their cost per call and low tax rate, and assured them while he would not be voting to give them their requested increase, he did appreciate their work. Cullasaja’s increase request will provide an additional \$75,785 a year which would be around \$57 for a \$350,000 home. Commissioner Jim Tate said to be consistent with the stance he took on the Burningtown Fire Department request, he would like to see increases kept to a minimum. According to Macon County Finance Director Lori Hall, a penny increase for Cullasaja would be an additional \$46,494 per year. The board approved Cullasaja Fire & Rescue’s full increase request by a vote of 3-2 with Tate and Higdon voting against it.

Tate noted that he fully supported the increase request made by the Franklin Fire Department because the Franklin Town Council first approves that request before commissioners consider it. Commissioners voted to grant the full request made by Franklin Fire by a vote of 4-1 with Higdon voting no.

Young noted that he lives within the Otto Fire District and appreciates the work they have done, which includes responding to multiple fire calls on his property. Commissioner Gary Shields noted that Otto Fire and Rescue’s tax rate increase was largely due to the need for a new building. While the new building would better serve the Otto Fire District, Shields noted that it is also essential to house equipment from broadband providers that are currently partnering with the county to expand broadband services to Otto residents. That project is currently under way and the county has allocated more than \$500,000 for it, however, according to Shields, without a new fire department to house the needed equipment, the project would not be possible and those funds would be wasted.

Beale said he would be more comfortable approving a one-cent increase, which would provide around \$50,000 in additional revenue to the department. Beale’s motion for a one-cent increase passed by a vote of 3-2 with Young and Higdon voting against it.

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Taste of Scotland and Celtic Festival back and better than ever

After two long years of no pipe bands, heavy athletic contests, Scottish music, coos or border collies, clans, and vendors, the Taste of Scotland and Celtic Festival is back June 17-19, Father's Day weekend. The Taste of Scotland Society has enlarged the offerings to townspeople and tourists alike, and Saturday, June 18, the festival will be at the Macon County fairgrounds.



On Friday, June 17, at 6 p.m., a short parade, in which spectators are invited to join, will commence from Main Street to the Rathskeller on Stewart Street to a ceilidh. A ceilidh (kay-lee) is a party with music, song, and fellowship. Rainbow's End will start the evening, and then other singers and musicians are invited to join in for a Celtic jam. In Scotland, a Ceilidh has no paid musicians or singers. Folks around the area take turns entertaining the crowd. Attendees are invited

get up and dance to the music. A Ceilidh is a true enjoyment of life. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

Saturday will be a fun-filled day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Macon County fairgrounds. The pipe band will start the processions of clans, into the fairgrounds at 9 and then visiting pipe bands will play throughout the day. There will be two stages for music and storytelling, and Scottish country dancing. Children will have a chance to try some athletic contests geared for them, and fun activities such as a Harry Potter Trivia contest.

Another addition is The Atsila Anotasgi (Fire Builders) Cultural Specialists from The Museum of the Cherokee Indian who will do some demonstrations, storytelling, and more. The eight Cultural specialists are: Jarrett Wildcatt - Storyteller, Singer, Flutist, Woodcarver, Twine weaver, Potter; Nola Teesatuskie - Cherokee Fingerweaver, Storyteller; Dylan Morgan - Rivercane Basket Maker; Stephen Walkingstock: - Weapon Maker, Potter; Lou Montelongo - Painter, Beadwork; Darius Lambert - Woodcarver, Weaver; Jimmy Harlan - Carver, Weapon Maker; Emmy Taylor - Cherokee Fingerweaver, Basket

Maker

Also on the schedule is the registered heavy athletic games. This year will be different in that they are no longer demonstrations of Highland Games. The Southeast Highland Athletic Group under the direction of Scott Medlin will be competing for points. Two men's groups and one women's group will be competing in nine of the 11 Highland Game contests.

The heavy athletic contests also include the Open and Braemar stone throws, heavy weight for distance, lighter weight for distance, hammer throw, caber toss, and for height or weight over bar.



A program will be available for visitors to use to plan where they want to be during the day.

Due to the increase in the cost of performers and musicians, a \$5 charge will be charged for Saturday's events at the fairground.

One more new addition to the festival is a 7-9 p.m. ticketed performance from Tuatha Dea from Tennessee, Wild Blue Yonder and the Jacobites by Name. Attendees are asked to bring a lawn chair.

On Sunday at 9:30 a.m., the Kirkin' O' the Tartans will be held at First Presbyterian Church.

The Arts Council closes the Taste of Scotland Festival with a 3 p.m. concert. This year award-winning violin virtuoso Andrew Finn Magill will play a program of Scottish and Celtic music in the First Presbyterian Chapel, 26 Church Street, Franklin.

Submitted by Merrilee Bordeaux, Taste of Scotland Society



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23rd Annual Taste of Scotland & Celtic Festival

FRIDAY, JUNE 17 - SUNDAY, JUNE 19

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

in Downtown Franklin

6pm Clan Parade - Starts at Town Hall in downtown Franklin and proceeds west on Main Street to Phillips, south on Phillips, and then east on Stewart to Rathskellar Coffee Haus and Pub.

6:30pm until? - Ceilidh featuring **Rainbow's End** and other musicians in a Celtic Jam in the parking lot behind the Rathskellar at 58 Stewart Street in Franklin. There is no cost for the Ceilidh, but food and drinks will be available for purchase.



SATURDAY, JUNE 18

at Macon County Fairgrounds - \$5 Admission - Bring your own lawn chair
1436 Georgia Road, Franklin, NC 28734

9am Festival gates open

9am-4pm Highland Games throughout the day - bring a chair

9am-4pm Children's Games & activities - Children's Area

9:30am Demonstrations by **Cherokee Eastern Tribe** - Main Stage

10am Opening ceremonies and parade featuring **Jamestown Pipes and Drums**

11am Music by **Rainbow's End** on Main Stage

11am Demonstrations by **Cherokee Eastern Tribe** - Stage Two

11:30am Sheep herding demonstration with **Border Collies**

12pm Music by **Jacobites by Name** on Main Stage

12:30pm Demonstrations by **Cherokee Eastern Tribe**

1pm Music by **Tuatha Dea** on Main Stage

1pm Music by **Norma Jean** on Stage Two

1pm Lecture and demonstration of Scottish clothing by **Mr. Charlie Rhodarmer**

1:30pm Sheep herding demonstration by **Border Collies**

2pm Music by **Jacobites by Name** on Main Stage

2pm Music by **Rainbow's End** on Stage Two

2:30pm Sheep herding demonstrations by **Border Collies**

3pm Music by **Tuatha Dea** on Main Stage

3pm Demonstration of Scottish country dancing by **Clare Suminski with Daniel Lawton**

4pm Fairgrounds close

Celtic Music Concert at Macon County Fairgrounds

(Please note that **NO ALCOHOL** is permitted on the fairgrounds)

\$10 Admission - *Bring your own lawn chair*

Food and drinks will be available for purchase

5:30pm Gates Open

6pm Wild Blue yonder

7pm Jacobites by Name

8pm-9:30pm Tuatha Dea

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

at First Presbyterian Church

26 Church Street, Franklin NC 28734

10am Kirkin' of the Tartan

(9:30 for banner carriers)

3pm Irish Fiddler **Andrew Finn Magill** - Free concert in church chapel courtesy of the Arts Council of Macon County

Note: The schedule during the day Saturday is subject to change so please check back frequently if you are concerned about the timing for a certain event.



PLEASE JOIN US AT THE
O'NEAL FAMILY REUNION
 SATURDAY JUNE 18, 2022

Come O'Neals, come Coleys, come Carters, come all!
 We invite the descendants of Hezekiah & Sarah Coley O'Neal
 to share in a day full of history, photographs, memories, and family fun.

LOCATION: Old Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
 4727 Macedonia Rd, Adolphus, KY 42120

TIME: 11:00am - 5:00pm

RSVP @: onealfamilyhistory@gmail.com



*This is an outdoor event that will include open air shelter.
 We will follow local & state guidelines concerning Covid-19.
 In addition, we ask that attendees practice social distancing.



American Legion commemorates Flag Day

American Legion vice commander Sherry Newton (R) and American Legion Auxiliary president Jan Stough visited local businesses on Flag Day Tuesday, June 14, handing out American flags, decals and a pamphlet explaining the code by which to display and respect the American flag. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day and on Aug. 3, 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

The ARTS Council Presents

Traditional Scottish-Celtic Music



Award-winning fiddle virtuoso Andrew Finn Magill,

with a visual arts exhibit by
 Uptown Gallery artists and
 Three Rivers Review unveiling!

Sunday June 19 - 3:00

Doors open at 2:30

First Presbyterian Chapel

Corner Church Street at Harrison Avenue, Franklin
 Handicap access from Church parking lot.

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The Arts Council serves Macon County as a presenter, promoter, and resource for artists, cultural organizations, and schools working to meet their goals.

arts4all@dnet.net 828-524-ARTS

NCDHHS advises caution to prevent heat related illnesses with rising temperatures

Temperatures are climbing this week as summer arrives, and public health officials with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services are advising North Carolinians take precautions to protect themselves and their children from heat-related illness as temperatures across the state rise.

Prolonged exposure to heat can lead to dehydration, overheating, heat illness and even death. The N.C. Heat Report shows 787 emergency department visits for heat-related illness from May 1 to June 13, with the most frequent heat-related diagnosis being heat exhaustion. Visits to emergency departments frequently increase with spikes in the heat index. It is important to pay attention to the weather if spending time outside working or participating in activities outdoors.

Parents are advised to never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, not even for a few minutes; temperatures inside a car rapidly increase and can reach dangerous and fatal temperatures in as little as 10 minutes. In the U.S., approximately 38 children under the age of 15 die each year from heatstroke after being left in a vehicle.

Individuals should stay wary of signs of heat-related illness. Symptoms include muscle cramps, fatigue, weakness, dizziness, fainting, headaches, nausea and vomiting. Children, adults 65 and older, those without access to air conditioning, outdoor workers and those with chronic health conditions are most vulnerable.

To reduce the risk of heat-related illness:

- Increase fluid intake.
 - Take frequent breaks in cool and shady or air-conditioned places if spending extended time outside.
 - Reduce normal activity levels.
 - Speak with your physician about how to stay safe if you take medicines that make you more vulnerable to heat, such as tranquilizers or drugs for high blood pressure, migraines, allergies, muscle spasms and mental illness.
 - Check on neighbors, and if working outdoors, check on your co-workers.
 - Never leave children or pets unattended in vehicles, especially during warm or hot weather, as temperature levels inside a car can reach a deadly level in a matter of minutes.
- If you or someone you know experiences heat-related illness, move to a cool place, drink water, place cold cloths on the body and seek medical attention. Additionally, there may be cooling assistance available for those who are eligible:
- The Crisis Intervention Program is a federally funded program that assists individuals and families who are experiencing a heating or cooling related crisis. Check eligibility and apply by contacting your local Department of Social Services until June 30, 2022.

- Operation Fan Heat Relief is a summer program intended to provide a more comfortable living environment and reduce heat related illnesses for older adults and adults with disabilities. The program runs through Oct. 31, 2022. For more information, call your local Area Agency on Aging.

SCC holds pinning ceremonies

Occupational Therapy
On Wednesday, May 11 Southwestern Community College's Occupational Therapy Assistant program held a pinning ceremony for 13 graduates in the Burrell Conference Center on the Jackson Campus.

Damon Salvatore of Sylva, Brionna Swanson of Cullowhee, Krystle Pittman of Sylva, Mariah King of Cullowhee, Abigail Jones of Whittier, Xylon-Ralph Knope of Glenville, Elicia Montelongo of Cherokee, Lexia Crapse of Murphy, Tanya Jones of Lake Junaluska, Lauryn Longworth of Franklin, Charis Stanfield of Franklin, Courtney Tippett of Otto and Jasmine Cline of Kingston have been prepared by the program to work in hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, extended care facilities, sheltered workshops, schools, home health programs, and community programs.



Macon County graduates of Southwestern Community College's Occupational Therapy Assistant program are, from left to right: Lauryn Longworth of Franklin, Charis Stanfield of Franklin, and Courtney Tippett of Otto.



Macon County graduate, Ethan Elliott of Franklin, of SCC's Physical Therapy Assistant program.

Bryson City, Jamika Lewis of Franklin, Kendra Hall of Cullowhee, Taylor Carrigan of Waynesville, Amanda Couch of Whittier and Cydney Iamaio of Sylva have been prepared by the program to work in hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices, nursing homes, education, industry and home care.

For more information about the programs SCC offers, visit www.southwesterncc.edu, call 828.339.4000 or stop by your nearest SCC location.

Physical Therapy

On Friday, May 13 Southwestern Community College's Physical Therapy Assistant program held a pinning ceremony for 9 graduates in the Burrell Conference Center on the Jackson Campus.

Autumn Reese of Marshall, Laura Green of Canton, Casey Gilbert of Hendersonville, Linnsey Stier of Brevard, Sydney Elliott of Murphy, Sarah Westendorf of Asheville, Ethan Elliott of Franklin, Andrew Eastep of Asheville, and Brent Glidden of Blairesville, Georgia have been prepared by the program to work in hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, extended care facilities, specialty hospitals, home health agencies, private clinics, and public school systems.



Macon County graduates, from left: Leanne Downs of Franklin and Jamika Lewis of Franklin, of Southwestern Community College's Respiratory Therapy program.

Respiratory Therapy

On Thursday, May 12 Southwestern Community College's Respiratory Therapy program held a pinning ceremony for 8 graduates in the Burrell Conference Center on the Jackson Campus.

Leanne Downs of Franklin, Kristin Farmer of Canton, Tamra Nations of



CHEROKEE/ SCOTTISH HERITAGE CELEBRATION

JUNE 18, 2022 · 10AM - 2PM
DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN

- 10am - Cherokee/Scottish Heritage Celebration Opening Ceremony (Town Gazebo)
- 10:30 - Music: John Mohr MacKintosh, Pipes & Drums (Town Gazebo)
- 11am - Cherokee/Scottish lecture by Barbara Duncan (Outdoor 76: Rock House Lodge)
- 11:30 - Music: Wild Blue Yonder (Town Gazebo)
- 11:45 - Cherokee lecture by Freeman Owl (Outdoor 76: Rock House Lodge)
- 12pm - Scottish Shortbread Contest (Kitchen Sink, Inc.)
- 12pm - Music: John Mohr MacKintosh, Pipes & Drums (Town Hall Entrance)
- 12:30 - Music & Lecture: Gaelic Scotland & North Carolina by Nancy Gaines (Town Gazebo)
- 1pm - Highlands Dress History by Breacan Clann (Outdoor 46: Rock House Lodge)
- 1:15pm - Music: Wild Blue Yonder (Town Gazebo)
- 1:45pm - Music: John Mohr MacKintosh, Pipes & Drums (Rathskeller Coffee Haus & Pub)



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Inaugural August Art Fest in planning stages

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Local artist Carol Conti is overseeing a three-day art event coming up in August at the Macon County Public Library. Conti is a member of the Macon County Art Association (MCAA) which manages the Uptown Gallery on Main Street in Franklin. Along with Conti, plenty of visual artists in the community are volunteering their time and efforts to make the first-time event a reality.

“It’s the 60th anniversary this year for the Association, and the Art Fest is just about getting individuals and families familiar with art and artists,” said Conti. “I became an artist because as a child an artist came through our school and she did a demonstration on watercolors, so it was in third grade I decided to be an art teacher. I was a teacher for 40 years. You just don’t know who will be touched ... a child who might have their eyes opened or an adult who has an artistic skill but doesn’t have confidence in their ability. This event will provide information about all that art is and what possibilities are open to people who decide to focus on art.”

The Aug. 11-13 event will not only provide workshops, lectures, demonstrations, movies, and exhibits, but will raise money for educational art programs in Macon County. In fact, local musical trio Blue Jazz will cap off the weekend celebration Saturday night, Aug. 13, with a 7 p.m. Tartan Hall concert to benefit art programs in Macon County Schools. The event will include a silent auction, refreshments, and a raffle for an original painting by Conti.

“If it takes off and we get a good response, I would love the Art Fest to involve all the arts: song writers, theater performers, photographers ...,” said Conti. “Art of all kinds is so important to the cultural health of a community. By focusing on art education in Macon County schools, we hope to develop more artists and art enthusiasts for the future.”



Artist Carol Conti is overseeing plans for an August three-day Art Fest, to be held at the Macon County Library.

In May, the Town of Franklin issued a proclamation allowing for the upcoming Art Fest. Conti and volunteers are working to fill out the full three-day schedule of events and activities with local artists and art educators and more.

Food trucks will be present outside the library during the Art Fest.

The three-day Art Fest is free, but tickets for the fundraiser concert on Aug. 13 may be purchased at MCAA’s Uptown Gallery beginning July 1. Pre-event price is \$25 per ticket; price at the event is \$35 per ticket.

Scots-Celtic fiddle music in Franklin June 19

Award-winning violin virtuoso Andrew Finn Magill will play a program of Scottish and Celtic music Sunday, June 19, at 3 p.m., in the First Presbyterian Chapel, 26 Church Street, Franklin, to close the Taste of Scotland Festival.



Magill grew up studying Irish, old-time and bluegrass music with some of the world’s best fiddlers at Asheville’s Swannanoa Gathering, and has been performing it worldwide ever since, playing Olympia Hall in Paris, Disney World, Celtic Connections, and Malawi’s Lake of Stars Festival, among others. In addition to Finn’s music, the event will feature a visual art exhibit by artists from Franklin’s Uptown Gallery, plus the rollout of the Arts Council’s Three Rivers Review “River of Words,” a sampler of excerpts from the published works of two dozen Macon County writers.

Finn Magill has been featured on NPR, TEDx, and MTV-U, and was a Fulbright Fellow, North Carolina Arts Council Fellow, and South Arts Emerging Traditional Artist. He has taught traditional and old-time music at fiddle camps across the U.S., Scotland, Canada, Brazil, and France. Finn is fascinated by how the fiddling traditions of Ireland and Scotland, and their American musical cousins old-time and bluegrass, are connected, and will shed some light on the topic. While performing steadily, he has always composed and is now creating film scores. Learn more about him at andrewfinnmagill.com.

The historic First Presbyterian Chapel has wheelchair access from the Church’s parking lot. Doors will open at 2:30. This pay-what-you-can event is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County. For information, phone 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

Annual trek in search of native camellia June 25

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Camellias are native to Eastern and Southern Asia - most notably China, Japan, Korea, India and Indonesia. And most people are familiar with these flowering small trees or shrubs, which are evergreen and are from the family Theaceae, thriving in warm weather Southern states, such as South Carolina and Alabama.

However, there is such a thing as mountain camellia, but in order to find them, you have to know where to go and what to look for as well as be willing to tromp through the backcountry to view them.

Local biology specialist, Jack Johnston, who has led many educational, nature-oriented trips for children and adults, will oversee a trek to find the wild mountain camellia along the Chattooga River, Saturday, June 25, at 10 a.m. Johnston will share information about the rare blossoms, which are available to view during only a short window in late spring.

To sign up for the educational tour, visit www.alarkaexpeditions.com.



Arnold Hill Band at Concerts on Creek Friday

The 13th season of Concerts on the Creek continues Friday, June 17 with an appearance by the Arnold Hill Band, who will perform from 7-9 p.m.

Arnold Hill is an alternative rock trio based out of the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina. Identified by their lyrical storytelling, rich three-part harmonies, and dynamic instrumentation, Arnold Hill brings presence and energy to every stage they play.

Arnold Hill released their first original LP, “Back To Life,” in 2019. As a follow-up to the success of their first album, Arnold Hill has released their second album, “How To Run” in 2021. Both albums can be found on all major streaming platforms.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. These events are free but donations are encouraged and welcomed. Dogs must be on a leash. No smoking or coolers allowed in the park.

These concerts are organized and produced by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Sylva and



Arnold Hill Band

the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, call the chamber at 828-586-2155, visit www.mountainlovers.com or Concerts on the Creek’s Facebook page.

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We are excited to have in concert, The Cowboy Whiskey Band, on Saturday June 25. A great variety band that plays modern country, great oldies, and the music that you like. So bring your chair, come early (6 p.m.), and be prepared for a good time at the gazebo in downtown Franklin, Saturday, June 25. Remember these concerts are given to you free of charge by the Town of Franklin. See ya there!!

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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The Legislative Review

N.C. Rep. Karl Gillespie



Karl Gillespie

Following Memorial Day, The House returned to Raleigh on Tuesday, May 31. The House Judiciary I Committee convened and heard several bills. The House held a non-voting session Tuesday morning.

On Wednesday, various House Committees met, including: Judiciary II, Rules Committee, and the Education, K-12 Committee, which held a presentation on school safety in North Carolina.

The House of Representatives convened for a voting session at 3 p.m., Wednesday afternoon and voted on several bills, including:

– SB455, Conform Hemp with Federal Law, would conform North Carolina hemp laws with federal law by permanently excluding hemp from the State Controlled Substances Act. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 85-26.

– HB1006, Amend Prison Pilot Deadlines, would modify the deadlines for the Prison Software Management Pilot Program (Prison Pilot Program), as recommended by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 104-8.

– HB1099, Judicial Retirement/Survivor Benefits Parity, would change the death benefit structure of the Consolidated Judicial Retirement System to bring the structure in line with that of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System. I voted in favor and the bill passed 108-4.

The House reconvened Thursday afternoon to consider various legislation, including:

– SB448, Amendments to Schedule VI of the CSA, would automatically allow a prescription drug approved under federal law and classified as a Schedule VI controlled substance in North Carolina, to be lawfully used. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 95-7.

– SB347, Captive Insurance Amendments, would make various technical and substantive changes to the laws governing captive insurance companies in the State. The bill passed unanimously, 102-0.

– HB1005, Organized Retail Theft, would do the following:
• Increase the penalties for organized retail theft. • Provide additional penalties for damage to property or assault of a person during the commission of organized retail theft. • Provide additional recovery to retail establishments for loss due to organized retail theft. • Regulate high-volume third-party sellers operating on online marketplaces. The bill passed unanimously, 102-0.

Once session adjourned, the House concluded its business for the week.

See GILLESPIE on page 11

Letters to the Editor

The Colors of the LGBT Rainbow

For the many people pursuing acceptance, I find very few seek understanding. If the journey to understanding comes through knowledge that interferes with our ability to accept or feel comfortable with our reality, we often choose to stop the process of growth in our education. I feel this relates greatly to our perception of what we think our duty is as critics of a "utopian society." Has it become our duty, our law, to promote all men's beliefs? If so, who has set this standard?

For many the goal of earth preservation, political agendas, religion, is to bring us together in a unified state of mind. When I see the colors of the LGBT rainbow I am reminded that for many there is a dream at risk, there is a goal at heart. But who creates the rules? Who decided that forced acceptance was the key to happiness, the key to unity, the key to peace? Perhaps we forget that the influence of this idea is from politics, from organizations with a goal, from Hollywood and some new-age organizations.

But acceptance and approval are two different things. What if, instead of immediately agreeing with the fads, we analyzed the intent and then put our efforts to making things safer in our world, rather than worrying about the egos of infuriated individuals? We fear the response of the individual more than we fear the movements that parade our streets. People used to be more reasonable, despite the lies that we hear in movies, there was a time when people used to respect each other more; before you were accused of hate crimes for just voicing your opinion.

If we are going to celebrate "Pride Month," we need to be more informed on the meaning. The LGBT movement is not a necessarily a healthy movement. I say that without addressing it from a religious standpoint. The help of religion is that it often promotes a moral code for those that follow it, sometimes sustaining a consistency of intellectual and physical preservation, perhaps even spiritual stability, if you believe in that. But for those that are not religious, for those that don't find their direction in the rules of a God who has designated boundaries, it's still good to be informed. If you're going to support gay pride month you need to know what you are promoting so that you can either do it well or choose to walk counter-culture.

The fact is all humans are faulty, all humans need some kind of direction to maintain balance. Left unchecked humanity and culture can be driven by its lusts which inevitably lead to self destruction. We don't need to look far into history to find that this is a fact backed up by tons of evidence. Complete cultures disappeared off the map because of their self-destructive behavior. You see homosexuality is usually the beginning of the end for some civilizations. Why? Well for many reasons, but a prominent one is the open door to unquenchable sexual hunger and moral aban-

donment which leads to the "anything goes" worldview and all kinds of "anti-nature acts," such as bestiality.

I find that sexual confusion is not labeled for what it is: Sexual confusion and identity crisis. It's interesting to note that people now find their identity in their sexuality. I know that in America it wasn't always like this. What caused this? Perhaps it has been a slow fade over the years, from the "anything goes" worldview of the 1920s to the kids' movies of the '80s that promoted pornography, or the "I kissed a girl and I liked it" cherry bomb ideas of the '90s and early '20s. We've been taught that love is merely sexual activity, and sexual attraction or the way we dress defines us. And we wonder why divorce rates have skyrocketed. But if you really care about people, you learn their stories, and if you research statistics you'll discover what the LGBT movement doesn't want you to know: That the great majority of people who ended up with doubts about their identity, were actually molested, grew up with pornography, had an absent parent, were from divorced parents, or had a parent that was active in sexual abuse or marital unfaithfulness. But whether or not you support the LGBT movement you need to realize that these people are not getting the emotional help that they need.

If people who are mentally confused about their gender were really cared for by the LGBT movement they would find support in getting counseling for mental and emotional illness, but notice that this is just unheard of, and in some cases banned. In other words, mental illness is greater in our country than we imagine. And I feel sorry for those who sweep this stuff under the rug, and say people are born a different gender than their biology or make up. It's not true. We have a minority of people that want us to join forces with them to create a sexual confusion movement. We are being shamed into it, we are being forced into it. The movement has hit our schools, it has hit our entertainment, and it has in some cases even hit religious establishments. It is mental brainwashing to tell young people that they can choose their gender, that they are not what body they were born into, that they owe nature no credit but can surgically modify their sacred bodies to become whatever they want to become. This has lasting emotional ramifications, and is anti-family.

Truth is being sexually confused is truly a shame for many people. But they have been told to embrace their confusion and allow it to snowball until they come to a state of comfort. For most it never actually happens. They're never truly satisfied. That deep hurt, that broken home life, that lack of attention that they never recovered from ... it is the root of their desire to connect with the LGBT community. They want to belong, they want to fit in somewhere. This even leads to same sex marriages, where people try to start their own families, only to recreate the cycle of one absent parent. Because scientifically the healthy child needs both a Dad and a Mom.

What you're not seeing is the consequences of this movement. The fruit of this movement is broken hearts, child abuse, tortured bodies, depression, suicide, and marital unfaithfulness. It is in seeing these consequences that I was

See LETTERS on page 11

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LETTERS

Continued from
page 10

convinced of the fake rainbow. Now the LGBT rainbow stands for the stranger that we warned our kids about taking candy from. He stands at the street corner ready to seduce the young, with colorful clothing and bright trinkets. He sings in a cheerful voice, making promises of acceptance, approval, and purpose. But in reality this movement is but a perverse clown looking to rape our children of their joy and destinies. Will we stand back and let them be carried into the van or will we see it for what it is? A death angel masquerading as minister of light.

Pride Month was crafted with the same goal of the LGBT movement, it looks so colorful, so lovely to the eye, but it is nothing but a scam carnival vendor, offering you a chance to win, but stealing your freedom. Actually the LGBT movement is trying to brainwash your children to become gay before they are even adult enough to know what it means to be a man or a woman. Much of the gay identity crisis comes from molestation. The movement wants to take all your kids, not some of them. The movement will not tolerate your straightness, it wants more than to be accepted, it wants to be the new norm. And trust me, it's doing a good job. If you go to the local schools you'll discover that the majority of students are gender confused. It's already creating chaos in our own town.

But what's the problem with kids being gay or transgender, you might add? They have the choice to be whatever they want to be. We're encouraging not only gender confusion and a false reality we are encouraging them to be educated early about how to have sex so that they can easily participate in the LGBT movement at an early age. But if you study, you'll discover that those that are over sexualized at a young age don't grow up healthy. One thing leads to another. Encourage our kids to be led by their lusts, and they'll destroy themselves and this entire planet. "Love who you want to love" is a motto of the LGBT movement. But guess what, our children are being taught nothing about what love really means. They're being taught to think with their genitals and be led by their feelings. If you feel like a boy, you must be a boy. If you're a girl and want to make out with a girl - it's not only accepted now, it's promoted.

So go ahead and fly your rainbow flag, go ahead and support the LGBT movement. Just know the consequence is the moral and physical destruction of our race. We're lying to people, telling them that they are men when they're really women and that they're women when they're really men. I find that interesting since not but 13 years ago being gender confused was considered mental illness. If you're fighting for this movement you're making a bad choice, it's not about freeing the repressed, it's about supporting sexual confusion. Most of these people want help but they are only offered one solution, to accept that they're a different gender than you were born into this world as, and/or join the worldview of the LGBT movement.

Instead of giving kids the tools they need to stand up for themselves, and fight for their minds, bodies, and futures, we're giving them the tools to slavery. The way the media paints it, is that gays have been in hiding from the beginning of time, and are poor tortured souls. Don't believe everything you read. This has nothing to do with freedom, but everything to do with promoting a movement that will bring our nation into greater sexual confusion and chaos.

Where there is no moral standards, where there is no truth, a race will perish. If you want to know who you are, don't look to the rainbow. You try to leave the clutches of the LGBT movement they'll rip you of your coat. It's a cult, an identity crisis and a sexual revolt. Don't for one minute think that you're supporting poor tortured souls be their true selves. It's not the truth.

Angelica Childs – Franklin, N.C.

GILLESPIE

Continued from
page 10

The House reconvened for a no-vote session on Monday June 6, 2022. Various committees met on Tuesday, including House Finance, House Health, and House Banking. Tuesday's session was administrative and no votes were taken.

On Wednesday, I met with several liaisons and constituents to discuss pending legislation. My colleagues and I met during caucus just prior to the start of the afternoon session. Wednesday's session consisted of votes on several bills, including:

- HB1046, Expand Aviation Sales Tax Exemption, would broaden the sales and use tax exemption for parts and accessories used in the repair or maintenance of aircraft to extend to all aircraft with a maximum take-off weight of two thousand pounds and above. This would align the sales tax exemption for parts and accessories with the existing exemption for labor performed on aircraft. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 96-5.

- HB1057, Mitchell County Occupancy Tax Revision, would authorize Mitchell County to levy an additional 3% room occupancy tax and would make administrative changes, bringing the legislation into conformity with the statutory uniform provisions for occupancy tax and the House Finance Guidelines for Occupancy Tax. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 93-7.

- HB1008, Clarify Sex Offender Registration, would make clarifying changes to the sex offender registration process, as recommended by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 99-1.

The House concluded its business for the week with a Thursday voting session. We considered several bills, including:

- HB219, Amend Environmental Laws, would amend various environmental laws, such as: Setting a deadline for reversion for certain directed infrastructure projects. • Expand the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) authorization for use of river debris funding. The House voted 95-0 to not concur with the Senate Committee Substitute.

- SB671, Virtual Education/Remote Academies/Virtual

Fulfill the Second Amendment

In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and yet another mass shooting in America I am trying to make sense of the second Amendment. It states: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." It is difficult to disagree with those words if we study them and determine what they mean.

Still, three words beg for clarity: Militia, regulated and infringed.

By definition a militia is a military force that is raised from the civilian population to supplement a regular army in an emergency. Please don't tell me that gun owners in America today are a form of militia. I own five firearms. Still, I have no connection to any organization that makes up a legal militia as referred to in the Second Amendment. I do not belong to the U.S. Navy Reserve or the National Guard. Who would call me to duty in an emergency?

How are firearms regulated at all today in the spirit of the Second Amendment? I contend they aren't "well regulated." I also contend that the United States Congress must act soon to develop a formal militia rather than continuing to allow individuals to believe they belong to a militia that doesn't even exist.

How could a militia be well regulated?

- Register all firearms with the newly established militia.
- Ban new sales of assault weapons.
- Disable privately owned assault weapons or store them in a legal armory.

Charters, would do the following:

- Repeal the sunset clause for the statute permitting limited virtual instruction during emergency conditions.
- Allow schools that provided full-time virtual instruction in the 2021-2022 school year to continue providing full-time virtual instruction in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, authorize public school units to establish remote academies that meet certain requirements.
- Transition the schools in the virtual charter school pilot program from pilot status to a 5-year charter, with eligibility for renewal upon expiration. The bill passed, 73-22.

Did You Know?

North Carolina Has Fifth Fastest-Growing Economy in U.S. A new study ranking states by economic growth has North Carolina fifth overall. The study ranked North Carolina by calculating states with increases in population and employment growth. This expanse of more people who work and create businesses contributes to the Gross Domestic Product.

NC House Page Program

I had the honor of welcoming Callie Barnett from Macon County to the state legislature to serve as our House Page for the week beginning May 30. Callie attended several committee meetings, assisting our Sergeant-at-Arms in ensuring the efficiency of the meetings. She also served during House session, providing assistance to Members of the North Carolina House. I am grateful for Callie's service to the State and I know she has a very bright future ahead.

Do you have a suggestion? Concerned about a particular issue? Contact my office and we will assist you in any way we can. E-mail: Andrew.Bailey@ncleg.gov; or Telephone: 919-733-5859



- Levy taxes on firearms (much like vehicles are now).
- Require gun owners to insure each firearm.
- Require all firearms sales to be recorded with the appropriate agency.
- Develop/enforce stringent background checks.

As we begin to fulfill the letter and spirit of the Second Amendment there may be other steps we decide to take. Clearly, this will address the term "infringed." That definition is: to break off, break, impair, violate.

The Second Amendment is established law. It provides the right to bear Arms. It also paves the way to establish a Militia. And, it requires the Militia to be "well regulated."

Congress, do your job!

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

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Countryside Chevy holds successful Rev It Up for the Vets



Countryside Chevrolet held its annual Rev It Up for the Vets Cruise In and Car Show this past Saturday. Postponed from its usual date in May because of forecasted bad weather, General Manager Joe Alvarez says this event was the most successful in recent years. The car show had 110 entries for the most ever participants since Countryside first began holding the event. First place went to to Jeremy Selders for his 1973 Chevy Camaro; second place went to Rich Larkin for his 1962 Chevrolet Corvette; and third place went to Danny McClure for his 1928 Model A Ford. Proceeds from the event went to Vietnam Veterans services.

Photos by Betsey Gooder





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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 June 6 - 12. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

June 6

James Brooks Ramsey, was issued a true bill of indictment. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

James A. Metcalf, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

June 7

Matthew Dakota Shuler, was issued a true bill of indictment. Costin Jiglaun made the arrest.

Jessica Conway, was charged with failure to appear. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

James Marcus George Jr., was charged with possession of fentanyl and possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

June 8

Amanda Wheeler Crowe, was charged with simple assault. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

June 9

Hailey Madison McCall, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

June 10

Isreal Mendoza-Mendoza, was charged with statutory rape of a child less than or equal to 15 and sexual exploitation of a minor. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Gregory Allen Lytle, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz and possession of drug paraphernalia. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

June 5

Jacqueline Miller, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance fentanyl, felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance MDMA, misdemeanor for maintain a vehicle for a controlled substances, possession of drug paraphernalia, rear lamps violation and no operators license. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

June 8

Brian Loren Thomas, was charged with felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance. G. D. Hovis made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

June 7

Steven Michael Rollins, 30, of Little Rock Circle, was issued an order for arrest for probation violation. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Brittany Angeline Burchfield, 34, of Lewis Cove Rd., Whittier, was charged with simple assault and injury to personal property. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Colby Derrick Bean, 28, of North Ann St., Asheville, was charged with misdemeanor larceny, possession of stolen goods/property, financial card theft, resist a public officer, flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle and possession of stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

James Brody Clayton, 49, of Dollar Ridge, was charged with simple assault and communicating threats. No bond was set.

June 8

Jason Allen Thompson, 40, of Race Path Church Rd., Ellenboro, was charged with possession of a controlled substance on jail premises and simple possession of a schedule III controlled substance. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Clinton John Tutolo, 36, of Tuts Terrace, was charged with identity theft, obtain property by false pretense, financial card fraud and financial card forgery. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Joshua Clifford Marks, 43, of Nutmeg Lane, was charged with violation of court order. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Hugo Tomas Alvarado-Lozano, 29, of Puma Trail Rd., Tuckaseegee, was charged with failure to appear for reckless driving to endanger, driving while license revoked, expired registration card/tag, expired/no inspection and driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$7,000 was set.

Shauna Jackson Teesatuskie, 44, of Bradley Dr., Cherokee, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set.

June 10

Eddie Columbus Taylor, 45, of Dillsboro, was charged with failure to appear for fictitious information to officer and child support purge. A secured bond of \$21,253.40 was set

Kristen Danette Jones, 43, of Chipper Curve Rd., was charged with driving while license revoked, operating a vehicle with no insurance and expired plate. No bond was set.

June 11

Virginia Sue Standingdeer, 47, of Standingdeer Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. A bond of \$1 was set.

June 12

Colby Derrick Bean, 28, of North Ann St., Asheville, was charged with break or enter a motor vehicle and larceny of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Rachel Jewel White Urrutia, 40, of Windbrook Lane, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass and resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Marcus Thad deVillie, 27, of Cullowhee, was charged with first degree trespass and enter/remain and breaking and entering. No bond was set.

Stephanie Renee Watson, 43, of Sylva, was charged with first degree trespass enter/remain and breaking and entering. No bond was set.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Manna Food Bank is now at Bethel United Methodist Church. To reserve a food box, call (828)634-1116 and leave a message with the following information: your first name and last initial; phone number to confirm pick-up time; number of people in your family; allergies in the family; and any specialty items you might need, like diapers, etc. Pick up is at Bethel UMC, 81 Bethel Church Road, off Highlands Road.

Macon County Art Association is requesting applications from Macon County veterans or their families for the 2022 MCAA Veteran's Portrait Project. Now in its 10th year, the program involves volunteer artists who paint portraits of veteran to be presented to the veterans or their families on Veteran's Day. Applications may be picked up at the Uptown Gallery at 34 E Main Street, or may be requested by email to karen@programservices.org. The deadline for applications is July 1.

Silver Striders Walking Group meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m. year-round for easy walks and light hiking at different venues. For more information, call Jack Blake at (828)421-5661 or email acb3937jb@gmail.com.

Prentiss Church Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2 to 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane. For more information, call (828)369-3885.

Valley River Arts Guild Classes for Introduction and Intermediate Zentangle Class for Youth ages 13 to 17, on Saturday, June 18, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Murphy Art Center. Class is appropriate for ages 13 to 17. at Murphy Art Center. Classes are open to the public. For more information, call (828)360-3038.

Aging in Place and Making it Fun will be held on Friday, June 17, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room, 149 Siler Farm Rd. Occupational therapist Becky Harrold will share on "Productive Again: Helping Your Home Stay User-Friendly as Your Needs Change" a program on restoring individuals' needs, and helping them returning to their safe and independent selves regarding self-care. For more information, call (828)524-3600.

Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center Graduation will be Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m., at 336 Living Hope Way, Franklin, with worship, a message, a short video and our graduate giving his testimony. Refreshments and reception will be held after. For more information about our program, go to www.livinghopeway.com or call (828)524-2157.

Uptown Gallery Childrens Art Classes will be held during June and July. Children ages 3-5 are Wednesday 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., for Mommy and Me Art activities and ages 6-14 are Wednesdays 1 to 3 p.m. Participants will explore the processes of painting, clay, weaving, assemblage, watercolors, drawing and mixed media. Adult workshops are also offered. Free painting in the classroom Mondays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The gallery is at 30 E. Main St. Contact mtully1001@gmail.com for more information.

Macon County Republican Women's Club will meet on Tuesday June 21, at 11:30 a.m., Fat Buddies BBQ. The guest speaker will be Hal Weatherman, founder and president of "Electoral Education Foundation." This non-profit organization is dedicated to NC's election integrity. All Republican ladies are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, June 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. The church is located at 86 E. Hickory Knoll Rd. For more information, call the church at (828)369-9300 or Jannie at (813)305-9433.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, June 22, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the signs. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

Mountain Voices Summer Concert will be held on Thursday, June 30, at First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Ave. Admission is free. For more information, call (828)524-3644.

Uptown Gallery Childrens Art Classes will be held during June and July. Children ages 3-5 are Wednesday 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., for Mommy and Me Art activities and ages 6-14 are Wednesday afternoons 1 to 3 p.m. Participants will explore the processes of painting, clay, weaving, assemblage, watercolors, drawing and mixed media. Adult workshops are also offered. Free painting in the classroom Monday's 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The gallery is located at 30 E. Main St. Contact mtully1001@gmail.com for more information.

Appalachian Animal Rescue Center Fill the Van with donations of food and supplies will be held on Saturday, July 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Tractor Supply Co., 3077 Georgia Rd., in Franklin.

Historic TM Rickman Store at 259 Cowee Creek Road is now open for visitors on Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Discover unique items and listen to local musicians. Parking is limited with additional parking available at Cowee Arts and Heritage Center a short walk from the store.

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Meetings are held Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd.; Sunday, 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave.; Tuesday, 8 a.m., and Thursday, 12 noon at St. Agnes Episcopal Church on 66 Church St.; Wednesday, 7 p.m. at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd. On-line meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org. To speak with a member of A.A., call (828)349-4357.

Dorothy and John Crawford Senior Center is now offering limited in-person classes at the Robert Carpenter Community Building. A variety of exercise classes and a writing group are offered in the afternoons for adults over 50. For more information, call (828)349-2058.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church will be holding Sunday Service June 19, at 10:30 am., Sunday School for all ages will be held at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Evan Jensen will be speaking on 1 Timothy 4. Sacred Sounds will be performing special music. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next door to Trimont Christian Academy).

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, Sunday, June 19th, 11 AM, Doug VanOrsdall will share a special Father's day message. Monday, 6 p.m. all levels yoga class, No cost to attend. Wednesday a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and then out to eat afterward. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

Seventh Day Adventist Church meets on Saturday, with Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m. Masks are optional. The church is located at 71 Brendle Rd.

All Saints Episcopal Church, Franklin Services are held Rite I, 8 a.m. without music and Rite II, 10:15 a.m. with music, every Sunday. First and third Sundays at St. Agnes Chapel, 66 Church St. and second and fourth Sundays at St. Cyprian's Chapel, 216 Roller Mill Rd. Sunday 10:15 a.m. services can be viewed live on the website: www.allsaintsfranklin.org and past Sundays can be viewed on YouTube search "All Saints Franklin".

Olive Hill Church Services are held on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Pastor is Keith McWhite. The church is located at 2389 Olive Hill Road.

Lifespring Community Church is holding Sunday services beginning at 10 a.m. Brian Lamb in the pastor. The church is located at the intersection of Cheek Road and Addington Bridge Road.

Tellico Baptist Church is now having in-person Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. inside the church building with the Reverend L. E. Angel. Everyone is welcome.

West Franklin Church services are held on Sunday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The church is located on Sloan Rd. next to the Forest Service Office.

Mountain Synagogue in Franklin conducts services the first Friday and third Saturday of each month. For information, visit the website at mountainsynagoguewnc.com, email us at mountainsynagogue@gmail.com, or call (828)634-1312.

Memorial United Methodist Church Worship Services in person and on Facebook at 11 a.m. every Sunday. They have communion the first Sunday of each month. The church is located at 4668 Old Murphy Rd. (across from Loafers Glory). The pastor is Evan W. Hill. For more information, call (828)369-5834.

Email church events to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

6	5	2	8	1	9	3	7	4
4	9	7	3	6	2	5	8	1
1	8	3	5	7	4	2	9	6
2	7	1	4	8	5	6	3	9
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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Nominations sought for Heritage Awards

The nomination period is now open for the annual Mountain Heritage Awards, which recognize contributions to Southern Appalachian history, culture and folklore.

Presented by the Mountain Heritage Center, recipients are honored during ceremonies at Mountain Heritage Day on Saturday, Sept. 24, at Western Carolina University.

Honorees are selected by a committee comprised of regional and campus representatives. The awards recognize an individual and an organization for distinguished service, accomplishments, influence or expertise in maintaining the cultural viability of the region.

Nominations should be five pages or less, with a list of the nominee's accomplishments, awards and recognition; information about the nominee's influence in the relevant field of expertise, such as crafts, music or or-

WCU Chancellor Kelli Brown presents the 2021 Mountain Heritage Award to Dr. William Turner, author of "The Harlan Renaissance."

ganizational cause; or information about the nominee's role as a teacher, advocate, leader or curator of mountain culture. Include a website address if applicable; the mailing address of the nominee; the founding date for organizational nominees.

Recent recipients include author and educator William H. Turner of Harlan, Kentucky, and Tried Stone Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville.

Nominations should be delivered no later than Friday, July 15, to the Mountain Heritage Center, located in Room 240 of WCU's Hunter Library; mailed to Mountain Heritage Center, 1 University Drive, Cullowhee N.C. 28723; or email pameister@wcu.edu.

Book launch Saturday at City Lights

Bat Cave, N.C. author, Mindi Meltz will visit City Lights Bookstore on Saturday, June 18, at 3 p.m. She will present the final book in her After Ever After Trilogy, "The Queen's Rain." Book III entwines the threads of animal and human, feminine and masculine, city and wild, future and past, to integrate that forbidden magic that the heroines first encountered in Book I, then faced more deeply in Book II. Now they must heal their children's traumas and return this magic to their kingdoms and queendoms, in the hopes that their peoples will evolve and unite, rather than condemn them.



Mindi Meltz



In addition to the After Ever After Trilogy, Meltz is the author of two more novels, "Beauty and Lonely in the Heart of the World," all published by Logosophia Books.

Originally from the coast of Maine, she lives in an off-grid home in the mountains of Western North Carolina with her husband, cats and goats. To reserve copies of her books, call City Lights Bookstore in Sylva, at (828)586-9499.

Cemetery decorations set Sunday, June 26

With the help and cooperation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the North Shore Cemetery Association will be hosting decorations at Bone Valley and Hall Cemeteries on Sunday, June 26, with the first boat shuttle leaving at 8:30 a.m. and the last boat leaving at 10 a.m. from the Cable Cove Boating Access Area off of NC 28 near Fontana Village. Participants are asked to wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for hiking and outdoor activities as well as foul weather gear. Decorations are held regardless of weather. Participants may bring a dish or two to share with those who "pot luck" or provide your own lunch and drinks. Plates and tableware are provided. Pets are not allowed in accordance with Park rules and regulations.

Participants are asked to stay with the group as some have been left behind after going hiking or exploring on their own and not returning in time for the last shuttle. Lunch will be between the Bone Valley and Hall decorations and return shuttle will begin after lunch.

Because of an anticipated large attendance for these two decorations, people should be prepared to wait up to an hour or more for the shuttles. Bone Valley is six miles up Hazel Creek and Hall is an additional two miles up Bone Valley Creek.

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Deaths & Funerals

Betty Lou Bishop

Betty Lou Bishop, 83, went home to be with her Lord on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. She was born on Jan. 22, 1939, in the Pumpkintown Community of Jackson County, but had been a resident of Macon County for the past 18 years.

She was preceded in death by her father, William Alexander "Alex" Woodard; mother, Bertha Lou (Hyatt) Woodard "Aunt Berthie"; sister, Helen Bowers; brother, Dexter Woodard; and infant twin brothers, Frank and George.

She is survived by her loving husband of 66 years, Kenneth Bishop; two sons, Michael Bishop (Sharon), Maurice Bishop (Laura); a daughter, Maureen Sutton (Scott); grandchildren, Brett Wilson (Becky), Michael Bishop, Christina Bishop (Matthew), Anna Smith (Joe), Matthew Bishop (Kelli), Garrett Sutton and Carrie Sutton; and one great grandchild, Theo Smith; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She worked several years in the textile industry as a seamstress and as a floral designer. After retiring, she was a homemaker where she enjoyed sewing, cooking, gardening, canning, reading, teaching Sunday School and going on adventures with the love of her life, traveling to the Amish country in Ohio, the Outer Banks and all the way to the west coast in their motorhome.

Her family was so important to her. She was a "Daddy's girl" and as a young child, her fondest memory was going to town in the wagon with her father. Later in life, she loved spending time with her children and spoiling her grandchildren and great grandchild. She loved hosting family celebrations and having everyone together making her famous macaroni and cheese and fried potatoes. She was a dedicated Christian and loved studying the Bible daily, a practice passed down from her mother. She and her husband have read the entire Bible every year over the last 30-plus years. She was a member of Windy Gap Baptist Church, a previous member of Zion Hill Baptist Church, where she and her husband Kenneth were recognized for over 50 years of service to the church. One of the greatest passions and joys in her faith was seeing people accept Christ into their lives. From a very early age, she demonstrated God's love by serving and caring for others in so many ways and will be greatly missed by those whose lives she touched.

Pallbearers were her grandsons, Matthew, Garrett, and Michael; and nephews, Steve Bowers, Steve Bishop, and Don Sims. Honorary pallbearers were Brett Wilson, Joey Greene, Joe Smith, Bill Bishop and Howard Bishop.

Funeral services were held at Windy Gap Baptist Church on Monday, June 13. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the cemetery fund for Windy Gap Baptist Church or Zion Hill Baptist Church.

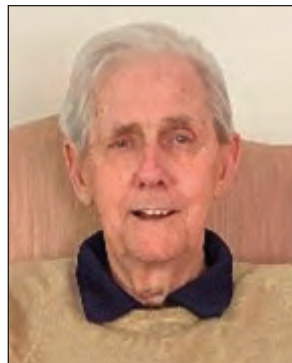
Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.
Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Betty Lou Bishop

Stuart Estaugh Rawlinson 'Mickey'

Stuart Estaugh Rawlinson "Mickey," transitioned into eternal life in Heaven with our Father on May 10, 2022. God blessed his family in being with Mickey in his passing. He was born in Memphis, Tenn., the third in line of five children, born to Dorothy and Jack Rawlinson. He often spoke of several instrumental figures in his life who taught him about salvation and the love and grace of God, and instilled core values of hard work, compassion, honesty, and integrity, including his mother, Dot; his maternal grandparents, Momee and Pops Deucker; and his paternal grandparents, "Daddy" and Ethel. He will always consider 1428 Mamie Road, Memphis, Tenn., home where he and other loved ones often found shelter and safety from stormy seasons of life. He has always been and forever will be known as the OG of the Mamie Road Gang.



Stuart Rawlinson

He had several loves in his life; first and foremost was his love for God, and to follow was his love for his precious wife of nearly 61 years, Jeanette, the apple of his eye, his daughter Candy, and the princess of his heart, his granddaughter Savannah.

As an adolescent and teen, he worked to help support his mother and siblings and when not working, he was often found swimming, hunting, and playing with the Mamie Road gang down in the swampy bottoms of the Wolf River. As an adult, he made a successful lifelong career as a real estate appraiser, continuing to support his mom, family and friends during their time of need, eventually retiring to the mountains of Western North Carolina in 2012. His favorite activities included any time with family, sun and fun at Pensacola Beach and playing tennis competitively. He was always ready for a fierce card game of Spades, Hearts, etc. In his later years, he looked forward to visiting Starbucks, almost daily, where staff knew him as Stuart, treated him like royalty, and loved on him with hugs and affection.

Mickey, "Daddy," "Paw Paw," "big brother," "Stuart," "Stu," and "Uncle/Cousin Mickey/Mick" will forever be loved and missed until we meet again in Heaven.

He is preceded in death by his mother and father, Dorothy and Jack Rawlinson; his oldest sister, Patsy Hatley; loving grandparents, and many cherished family members and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanette Rawlinson of Franklin, N.C.; daughter, Candace Burton of Franklin; granddaughter, Savannah Metcalf of Knob Noster, Mo.; great granddaughter, Emilia Metcalf of Knob Noster; brothers, Fred and David Rawlinson of Collierville, Tenn.; sister, Mary Hooven of Fredericksburg, Va.; many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, in laws, and friends including closest and dearest friends, "brother Paul Jones" and "sister Anne Jones" of Pensacola, Fla.

A memorial will be held on June 19, at 2 p.m., at Holly Springs Baptist Church in Franklin. Anyone is welcome to come celebrate God and Mickey, this incredible man we will miss so dearly.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Rawlinson family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Julian Herbert Stutz

Julian Herbert Stutz, 81, of Franklin, N.C., passed away June 7, 2022. He was born in New York, N.Y., on Dec. 14, 1940, to the late Sam and Lillian Stutz. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army for four years before continuing working in other segments of government service specializing in communications before retirement. He was an avid Dragster racing fan and enjoyed fishing.

He is survived by his wife Joyce Stutz and numerous friends.

A military graveside service will be held at a later date.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Stutz family.

Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Joan Ann Pinto

Joan Ann Massa Pinto, 79, passed away June 12, 2022. She was born in Long Island, N.Y., to Victor Franklin and Anna Mary Illik Massa who preceded her in death.



Joan Ann Pinto

She loved the Lord. Her Christian faith and relationship with God was her life's priority. She so enjoyed meeting with her girlfriends for Joyce Lundin's Bible study group and was a regular at Trinity Assembly of God's birthday luncheon gatherings.

She had a Bachelor of Art degree and was a textile designer.

She designed for Klopman Mills, a division of Burlington Industries and finished her career with Eaton Corporation in Sarasota, Fla. She enjoyed classical and dulcimer music and always had it playing while she and TobyB, her Shetland sheep dog, made their rounds. She also loved to help seasonally decorate her neighborhood along with her friends.

She cherished her friends and specifically wanted to let them know she loved them and was grateful for them. In no particular order, Tessy Iquierdo, Lexi Arenas Pett, Cecil and Edwina Deas, Elena Carlson, Maria Ploch, Martha Leone Combs, Barbara Phinney, Lois Phillips, Audrey Baldwin, Mary Kastner and Beverly Cook.

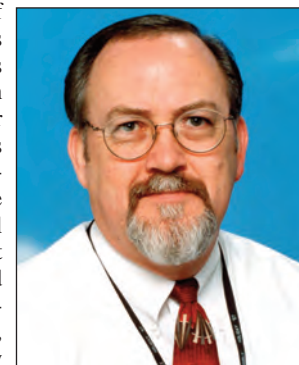
No public services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve.

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfunerals.com.

Martin Roger Smith

Martin Roger Smith, 70, of Franklin, N.C., went to be with his Lord on June 7, 2022. He was born on July 27, 1951, to Martin Luther and Hattie Smith. After graduating from Bibb-Graves High School in 1969, he completed an Associate of Arts degree while serving in the National Guard. During this time, he met his wife of 50 years, Deborah, and began a career in retail. While raising three children (Rod, David, and Daniel), he worked his way into retail management, eventually spending more than 37 years with Walmart Stores, Inc.



Martin Roger Smith

When he wasn't spending time with his family, he enjoyed camping, fishing, nature photography, and gardening. He loved venturing into Cades Cove and the Smoky Mountains looking for bear, elk, and other wildlife. More than anything, he adored his two granddaughters, Olivia and Emily and took every moment possible just being "Papa."

He is survived by his wife, Deborah; his sons, Rod, David (Cara), and Daniel (Chandler); and his granddaughters, Olivia and Emily, all of Franklin; and his sister, Gail Grogan of Lineville, Ala.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Gene, Sara, and Barbara.

The family will be holding a private service and offers their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has reached out and shared their stories of Roger's positive impact on the community.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Joseph (Mule) Tallent

Joseph (Mule) Tallent, 82, passed away on April 9, 2022.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 18, at 2 p.m. at his home, 3347 Georgia Road, Franklin, N.C.

The VFW/American Legion Honor Guard will provide military honors.



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Deaths & Funerals

Rodney Wiley Hill

Rodney Wiley Hill, 79, passed from this life on June 5, 2022. Born in Lake Wales, Fla., on Dec. 12, 1942, he was the only child of Reason Wiley and Clara Robbins Hill.

Rodney and Judy, his wife of almost 59 years, met in high school and quickly became sweethearts. He grew up on a farm, loved raising cattle, and was a proud member of Future Farmers of America. Even though he and Judy were truly opposites, he could depend on his sweet Judy to save a seat for him on the school bus every day.

He was a tax professional for 25 years and co-owned Eagle Tax Breaks with his wife before they retired. He enjoyed riding mud trails on his Polaris 4-wheeler. He loved to hunt and didn't like to fish but went anyway because Judy did. He was a lefty and fit that narrative in many ways.

He had a great sense of humor and was really quite funny with his dry wit. Even though he possessed both knowledge and wisdom, he didn't speak up often, but when he did, people listened. He was a man of faith who loved Jesus.

Left with many wonderful memories is his wife, Judith Branch Hill; his son, Justin Edward Hill (Brenda) of Lake Wales, Fla.; his grandchildren, Preston Hill and Clayton Hill; and three great-grandchildren; his niece, Shirl Marshall; and his nephews, David Corbin, Mark Corbin (Cindy), Scott Corbin, Bobby Tucker (Rose), Kris Mills (Sherry) and his brother-in-law, Max Corbin. He was predeceased by his parents.

No public services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfunerals.com.

Bradley J. Germain

Bradley J. Germain went home to be with the Lord on June 12, 2022. He lived most of his life in upstate New York where he was owner and operator of his own trucking company.

He loved horses and spent much of his time on extended trail rides through the Adirondack Mountains. He was also an announcer for the local rodeo and spent many weekends entertaining the crowd with his contagious sense of humor. He loved working with his hands and spent many hours renovating his home and other carpentry projects.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Fay.

He is survived by his three children, Jason Germain (Susan), Laurie Jay (Steve) and Christine Jason (Rick); 13 grandchildren, and 28 great grandchildren.

A visitation will be held Friday, June 17, from 10 to 10:30 a.m., at Reilly and Sons Funeral Home in Colonie, N.Y., followed by a service at 10:30 a.m.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Rodney Wiley Hill



Bradley J. Germain

Harold Lamar Rayborn Sr.

Harold Lamar Rayborn Sr., 82, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, June 11, 2022.

He was born in Winter Park, Fla., on July 31, 1939, to the late Burie Ezra Rayborn and Martha McDaniel Rayborn.

He was a lifetime member of the P.G.A. He won his first tournament, The National Peeewe Tournament, when he was 8 years old. In 1966, he was the Florida P.G.A. Match Play champion and in 1968, he won a Mercury Montego for a hole-in-one at the Jacksonville Open. In 1984, he was the P.G.A. Professional of the Year for North Florida. He retired and moved to Franklin in 1989 after serving as the Head Professional at the Orlando Naval Training Center and Dubsread Golf Course in Winter Park for 22 years.

He was a member of Higdonville Baptist Church since 1989 and served as the treasurer for many years. He also led music and worship on Sunday Mornings.

He enjoyed bowling, showing his classic cars, and participating in the Macon County Senior Games.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Martha M. Rayborn; children, Hal Rayborn (Helene), Elaine Rayborn, William Rayborn (Deanna) and Jeffrey Rayborn (Donna); seven grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

A visitation will be held Friday, June 17, from 1 to 2 p.m., at Higdonville Baptist Church, 1990 Ellijay Rd, followed by a funeral service at 2 p.m. Rev. Scott Mathews will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Macon County Senior Games.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Harold Lamar Rayborn Sr.

George Thomas Kaye

George Thomas Kaye, 79, a beloved husband, passed away on June 7, 2022, in the Prisma Greenville Memorial Hospital in Greenville, S.C.

He was born in Cohoes, N.Y., to the late Adam and Helen Weglarz Kasupski of Troy, N.Y., on April 7, 1943. After graduating from LaSalle Institute in Troy, he was offered a full scholarship to State University of New York-Binghamton where he graduated with a BA in sociology. He also attended graduate school at Boston University, Boston, Mass.

He had a wonderful enthusiasm for life and was interested in many things. He loved nature, and particularly birds and hiking. Other lifetime loves were jazz music, travel, movies and reading. He was a member of The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, the North Carolina Bluebird Society, a board member of the Franklin Greenway, and an active member of Mainspring. He also lovingly monitored many nestboxes around Franklin for a number of years right up to the time of his illness.

At the time of his retirement, he was working for The State of Florida in Tampa as a Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, counseling and guiding injured workers to return to employment. After vacationing a number of years in the mountains, he settled in Franklin and could not have been happier.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Connie; sister, Adele (Mike) of Chicago, Ill., and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, John Kaye, and sister, Rosalie Nolan.

No services are planned at this time.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Kaye family. Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



George Thomas Kaye

Gail Lyn Dean

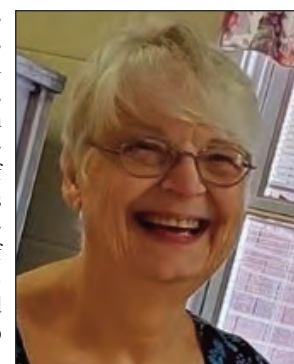
Gail Lyn Dean, 64, of Clyde, N.C., passed away June 13, 2022, at Haywood Regional Medical Center. She was born Aug. 28, 1957, to the late Ralph and Vivian Stephenson Dean. She was a loving mother to Gregory Huggins of Franklin, N.C., Adam Huggins and his wife Christina of Princeton, Iowa, and Robert Huggins of North Carolina. She is also survived by three grandchildren; and her close friend, Debra Estep who was like a sister to her.

She was a graduate of Western Carolina University with a Marketing Degree. After spending several years in the office scene she went on to help the elderly working at Hominy Day Stay of Hominy Baptist Church from which she had recently retired. She absolutely loved doing crafts, reading and fishing. She was friends to all who knew her and will be greatly missed.

No services are planned at this time.

Smoky Mountain Cremations and Funeral Service of Clyde is caring for the family.

An online register is available at www.smokymountaincremations.com.



Gail Lyn Dean

Mary Josephine O'Malley

Mary Josephine O'Malley died on Saturday, June 11, 2022.

She was born on Oct. 6, 1931, in Miami, Fla., to George and Mary Lacey O'Malley both of whom immigrated from Ireland. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother and sister-in-law, George and Eva Lou O'Malley of San Antonio, Texas.

She graduated from Gesu High School in Miami, Fla., and then went to Barry College on a scholarship. Upon graduating with a degree in Nursing, she moved to West Palm Beach, Fla., and began her long nursing career at St. Mary's Hospital. During the many years she spent at St. Mary's, she worked in several different areas; however, she retired after a very long period in the Labor and Delivery Department.

Upon retiring, she moved to Franklin, N.C., and became active in St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. She spent many years as the secretary of the church and after her retirement at that job, she continued helping to set up for mass and for the different church rites. She was a devoted Catholic who lived her faith.

She is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Ann and Kenneth Bush of Ormond Beach, Fla.; and by many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on Thursday, June 16 at 11 a.m., with burial to follow at Woodlawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church vocational fund, 299 Maple St., Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

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William Louis Trapani

William Louis Trapani, 91, passed away Saturday, May 28, 2022. He was born Oct. 13, 1930, in Huntington Long Island, N.Y., to the late Louis Trapani and Estelle Crewisk Trapani. He was a Union Business Agent in the construction field. He loved his country and was a U.S. Navy veteran serving in the Korean War as a hospital corpsman. He was a member of the VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108. He was of the Catholic faith.

He is survived by daughter, Sherry Taylor of Franklin; two grandchildren, Lori Duncan (Troy) of Martin, Ga., and Derick Janzer (Brooke) of Toccoa, Ga. six great-grandchildren, Cadence Janzer, Raegan Duncan, Kenlie Janzer, Branson Duncan, Addilyn Janzer and Mason Janzer.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Joan Trapani on April 23, 2022.

A private family service will be held.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Trapani family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com.

Ruth Frances Crossan Lightsey

Ruth Frances Crossan Lightsey, 86, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

She was born in Tampa, Fla., to the late James Earl Crossan and Catherine Doris Littel Crossan. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband of 67 years, Regenald Frank Lightsey; son, Richard Benton Lightsey; and sister, Norma Dean Crossan.

She was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church of Crossville, Tenn. She enjoyed quilting, needlepoint, cooking, and canning.

She loved fishing, flower gardens and spending time with her family and was an avid reader. In addition, her late husband's military career in the Marines was an important part of her life. She understood the sacrifice and service to her country as a military spouse.

She is survived by a daughter, Janice Evelyn Benton and husband, John of Franklin; and two sons, James Frank Lightsey and wife, Venita of Livingston, Tenn., and Clayton Neal Lightsey and wife, Cindy-Lou of Crossville; sister, Norma Lou Crossan Johnson and husband, Ricky of Byrdstown, Tenn.; and brother, Aaron Edward Crossan of Smithfield, Tenn.; 14 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, June 26, from 1 to 2 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home followed by a memorial service at 2 pm. Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at <https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com>; the Diabetes Association at <https://www.diabetes.org>; or Four Seasons Hospice, 571 S. Allen Rd. Flat Rock, NC 28731

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Ruth Frances Lightsey



Deaths & Funerals

Betty Jo Tyler Mason

Betty Jo Tyler Mason, 69, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, June 6, 2022.

She was born in Macon County to the late Joseph Tyler and Marie Conley Tyler. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Gary Tyler; and nephew Shane Wickliffe.

She is survived by her husband of 29 years, Robert Keith Mason; daughter, Brandi Patton (Carey) of Franklin; sisters, Wanda Henson of Otto, N.C., and Barbara Wickliffe of Smyrna, Fla.; grandchildren, Ruck Shaw Patton, and Blake McCree Patton; and nieces and nephews, Audrey Calais, Tony Henson, Joe Wickliffe, and Jesse Spivey.

A service was held Saturday, June 11, at Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Davis Hooper officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Otto Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 305, Otto, NC 28763.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Betty Jo Tyler Mason

Muriel Compton Weedman

Muriel Compton Weedman, 83, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, May 22, 2022.

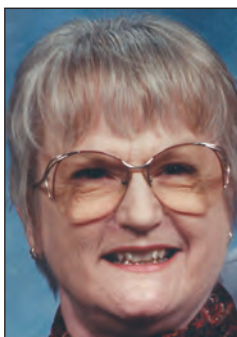
She was born in Dade County, Florida, to the late James Compton and Murrel Holmes Compton. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Robin Irene Whitaker; and husband, Gerald L. Weedman.

She was retired as a secretary from Western Carolina University and then went on to work for Mountain Valley Health Foods in Franklin. She was of Baptist faith and attended Mount Hope Baptist Church. She enjoyed camping, hiking, and traveling with her husband up until his death. She was a member of the Coast-to-Coast Travel Club and Good Sam Travel Club. She was an avid animal lover especially to her cats.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 25, at 3 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 2 until 3 p.m. prior to the service.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Muriel Weedman

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Daniel Suárez wins first cup race at Sonoma Raceway

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

“Win Numero Uno.” Those were the words on the flag Mexican driver Daniel Suárez held out the window of his No. 99 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet as he turned celebratory “donuts” on the frontstretch of Sonoma (Calif.) Raceway Sunday afternoon in the ecstatic first moments of his first ever NASCAR Cup Series victory.

Suárez’s No. 99 Chevrolet pulled away from runner-up Chris Buescher’s RFK Racing Ford in the closing laps to take an impressive 3.849-second maiden NASCAR Cup Series win on the 1.99-mile Northern Californian road course – the third victory of the season for the second-year Trackhouse Racing team whose members rushed over the pit road wall to embrace their driver and celebrate the historic achievement.

With the win, in his 195th NASCAR Cup Series start, Suárez becomes the fifth different driver not born in the U.S. to win in the NASCAR Cup Series; joining Marcos Ambrose (Australia), Juan Pablo Montoya (Colombia), Earl Ross (Canada) and Mario Andretti (Italy). He led a race best 47 of the 110 laps and ultimately took one of the largest margins of victory on the season.

Suárez, the 2016 NASCAR Xfinity Series champion, screamed in joy on his team radio on the cool-down lap and after exiting his car, smashed a piñata.

Congratulations soon came in from across the racing world on social media – including former seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson – all before Suárez had even hoisted his trophy.

“I have so many thoughts in my head right now,” an emotional Suárez said, thanking his team owner Justin Marks, his family, and “all the people who helped me get to this point. So very happy we were able to make it work,” Suárez added, saying of his team, “They believed in me from day one.”

He then offered a message of thanks in Spanish to the large crowd of his “Amigos” - the name of his fan club cheering trackside – and ended it in English by promising, “this is one of many.”

The 30-year-old Suárez, from Monterrey, Mexico, is now the 12th different winner of the 2022 season – and fourth first-time winner.

The top-four finishing drivers Sunday were all looking for their first win of the season. Front Row Motorsports driver Michael McDowell finished third, followed by Stewart-Haas Racing’s Kevin Harvick in fourth.

This year’s Daytona 500 winner, Sunoco Rookie of the Year candidate Austin Cindric was fifth, followed by his Team Penske Racing teammate Ryan Blaney. Suárez’s Trackhouse Racing teammate Ross Chastain was seventh, followed by Hendrick Motorsports drivers Chase Elliott and William Byron.

Buescher’s RFK Racing teammate and team co-owner



Daniel Suarez, driver of the #99 Onx Homes/Renu Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Toyota/Save Mart 350 at Sonoma Raceway on June 12, 2022 in Sonoma, California. Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images



The NASCAR Cup Series has its only “off week” of the season next week but will return to competition on June 26 in the Ally 400 at Nashville Superspeedway. Larson won the inaugural race there in 2021.

Kyle Busch wins 62nd career Truck Series race at Sonoma

Kyle Busch held off Zane Smith in a frantic two-lap push to the finish at Sonoma (Calif.)

Raceway to earn his first NASCAR Camping World Truck Series victory of the year; extending his record career total to 62 series victories and a streak of 10 consecutive years with at least one series win.

Busch led a race best 45 of the 75 laps in the DoorDash 250 at the 1.99-mile road course in California wine country, but ultimately had to beat the young driver Smith, who leads the series with three wins in 2022.

As the Camping World Truck Series’ all-time winningest driver, Busch has prevailed under any number of race circumstances and that all came in handy. There were five leaders and 10 lead changes; a nearly 13-minute red flag in the closing laps and all the pit strategy you would expect in NASCAR’s premier road course events.

Ross Chastain certainly kept Busch and Smith honest until late in the event when an off-course adventure negated any chance for him to pull off any final-lap heroics for the lead. There were five NASCAR Cup Series drivers entered Saturday in the first Truck Series race at Sonoma since 1998.

“This Tundra TRD Pro was awesome today and really proud to drive it. We had a struggle at Charlotte a couple weeks ago but today was really good,” said Busch.

Smith, who methodically worked his way forward later in the race, finished only 1.176-seconds behind Busch and

Brad Keselowski was 10th – his best finish since a ninth-place showing in the season-opening Daytona 500.

For much of the early-going, it looked like Elliott and his Hendrick teammate – defending race winner Kyle Larson – may well decide the win. But both had to overcome uncharacteristic pit stop miscues that allowed Suárez to essentially dominate the closing laps.

Elliott, who led 26 laps, pitted outside his box and had to serve a penalty that put him 34th - last in the field among those still running. His rally to an eighth-place finish was impressive considering the adventurous day.

Larson, the polesitter who also led 26 laps and won Stage 1, had a right front wheel come off his Chevrolet heading into Turn 2 right after a pit stop. His team now faces a mandatory penalty for that infraction that includes a four-race suspension for the team’s crew chief (Cliff Daniels) and both the tire changer and jackman. The defending series champion finished 15th.

On an upside, however, the combined 52 laps led by Elliott and Larson topped the 100,000 all-time miles led mark for Hendrick Motorsports – most in NASCAR history.

With his eighth-place finish, Elliott still holds a 16-point advantage on Chastain in the NASCAR Cup Series championship standings.

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Kyle Busch, driver of the #51 yahoo! Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Doordash 250 at Sonoma Raceway on June 11, 2022 in Sonoma, Calif. Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

conceded his team had to work hard on the truck at every pit stop – ultimately finding the right adjustments to contend at the end.

“Man, I hate finishing second, especially to him,” Smith said, offering a smile and adding, “That last lap was the fastest lap of the race for me. I just wish I was a little closer so I would have had a shot at him.”

Ty Majeski, who won the opening stage, finished third, followed by Chastain and Busch’s teammate Chandler Smith.

Daniel Suarez – who replaced the injured driver Carson Hocevar early in the race, brought the pole-winning No. 42 Niece Motorsports Chevrolet home in sixth-place. It was an amazing run for Suarez and the team, considering the truck lost two laps on pit road with the driver change on Lap 11.

“It was busy man, very busy,” Suarez said, conceding he was disappointed to lose two laps instead of just one on the driver change.

“I was hoping for long runs so I could make up some ground,” he continued. “But I think we did a very good job

and very thankful we were able to get some stage points and finish in the top-six. That was a pretty decent day. I wish we could have won, the truck was capable of winning the race.”

Parker Kligerman, John Hunter Nemechek, Tyler Ankrum and Matt DiBenedetto rounded out the top-10.

The top four-ranked drivers in the series are now separated by only 14 points with reigning series champion Ben Rhodes, the Stage 2 winner, challenging Busch up front before a tire problem forced him to pit.

Rhodes earned a series-best eighth stage win and holds onto the championship lead by a mere five-points over Chandler Smith.

The Camping World Truck Series moves to Knoxville, Iowa next Saturday for the Clean Harbors 150 at the famed Knoxville Raceway (9 p.m. ET on FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Austin Hill won the race at Knoxville in 2021.







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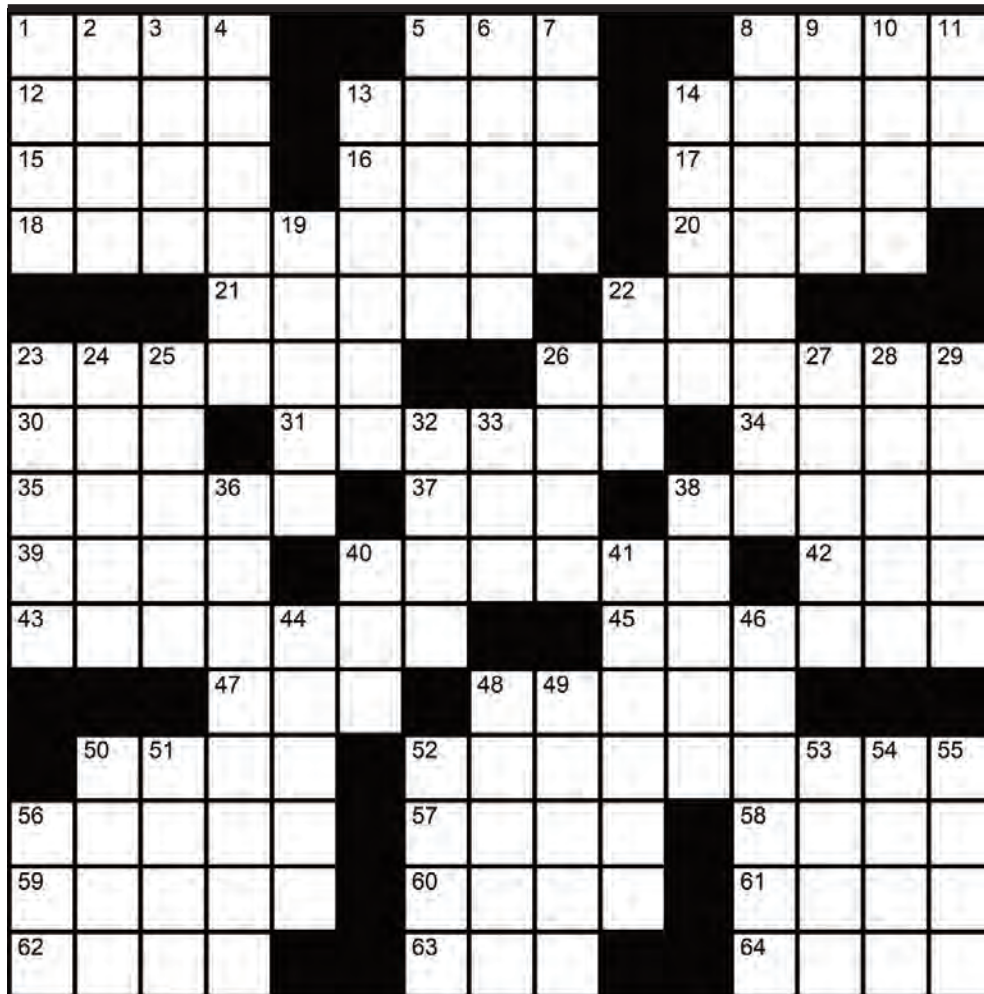
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ACROSS

1. Fountain treat
5. Pharaoh's cobra
8. "___ the Woods," movie
12. Gulf V.I.P.
13. Native American tent
14. Rapper Dogg
15. Hindu princess
16. *Used to alert when driving
17. "___ me, then who?"
18. *Corvette, e.g.
20. Cambodian money
21. *Like Stephen King's Christine
22. "Some Nights" (2012) band
23. *Aston follower
26. State legislature's home
30. 7th letter of Greek alphabet
31. *What I used to step on the gas
34. Lowest brass
35. Salon offerings
37. Exclamation of surprise
38. Fathered
39. Do like phoenix
40. Underarm
42. The Jackson 5's "___ Be There"
43. 3 or 6 in 3+6=9
45. Knit cap
47. Shed tears
48. Winter Olympics participant
50. Embarkation location
52. *Earth traveler (2 words)
56. 2-time NBA Champion Rajon
57. Double-reed instrument





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58. Muscovite or biotite
59. Lopsided
60. Undesirable dwelling
61. Causing pain
62. Like certain military tent
63. Between "ready" and "go"
64. #63 Across, pl.

DOWN

1. J. Lo's ex
2. Wet nurse
3. *Don't cross it when driving
4. Hot dish stand
5. Garlicky mayonnaise
6. Shopping ___
7. Pub offering
8. *Car name that sounds like "unending" synonym
9. Opposite of all
10. Hammer or sickle
11. Choose or select
13. Like a rosebush
14. Maple goo, alt. sp.
19. French city, popular coronation location
22. Like a certain Tuesday
23. First 'M' in MGM
24. Aweigh
25. Turn toddler into an adult
26. Chicken house
27. Home of famous shroud
28. Obelus, pl.
29. Soup server
32. *Car company founded by a Henry
33. Unit of electrical resistance


36. *German luxury car
38. *Driving maneuver
40. Take your pick
41. In the same place, in a footnote
44. Cupid's ammo
46. Smells
48. Expensive fur
49. Type of whip
50. Do like a model
51. Squid's defense, pl.
52. Death, to some
53. Kamala Harris, e.g.
54. Not counterfeit
55. Dose of sunshine, pl.
56. *Car name that also means Aries



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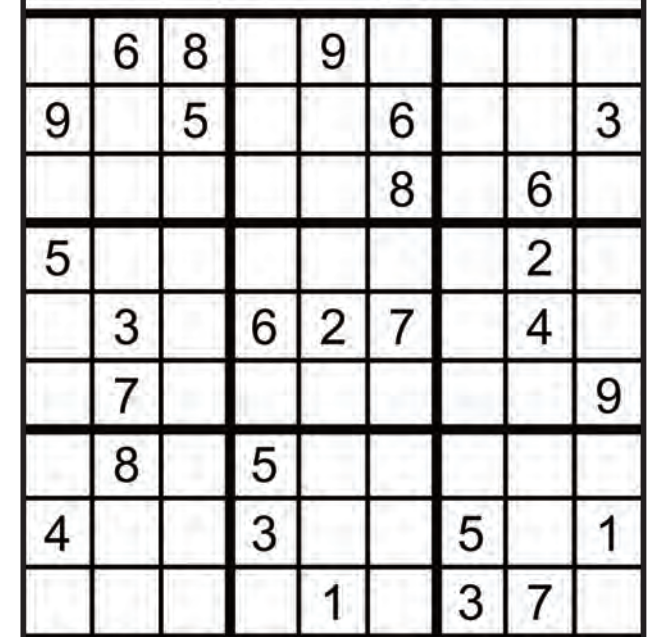
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GRADING, FINISH GRADING Hydroseed, Driveways, Roads, Hauling, Land Clearing, Chipper. Install Septic Systems, Retaining Walls, Rock Work, Boulders, Patio, Perez. (828)524-8650, (828)347-6793 Excellent References.

DIESCHER ELECTRIC Professional service. Reasonable rates. NC Licensed and fully insured. 20+ years experience. (845)807-1326.

PROFESSIONAL KNIFE and scissor sharpening Mon-Sat. Kitchen Sink Inc. 72 E. Main Street, Franklin (828)524-2956.

CRANE BROS. WELL Drilling, 6" Drilled Wells for Farms Homes and Industries, Free Estimates. 248 Crane Circle, Franklin. (828)524-4976.

SQUID'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR & Service, 867 Highlands Rd., by Franklin Flea Market. (828)342-5135.

Community Fundraisers

MEGA SALE with Partial Proceeds going to Cystic Fibrosis, Friday-Saturday, June 17-18 and 24-25, 8am-4pm Daily. Asbury Church Located at 81 Firehouse Rd., in Otto, NC across from the Otto Fire Department. Items will include: Furniture, Home & Garden Decor, Vintage & Collectible Pieces, Pet Supplies, Artwork, Fine Jewelry and So Much More! Numerous Items Only \$1.

APPALACHIAN ANIMAL RESCUE Thrift Store, Open Tuesday thru Saturday, 9am-4pm, 1521 Old Murphy Rd., (828)369-3046.

HABITAT RE-STORE 56 W Palmer St., Franklin. Furniture, Lighting, Plumbing, Building Materials, Doors & Windows, Appliances & More! (828)524-5273. Sylva Re-Store, 1315 W. Main St. (828)586-1800. Hours for both Stores Mon./Wed./Fri./Sat. 10-4pm.

REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow, open Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, Benefits victims of domestic violence in Macon County. Call (828)369-2040.

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MCH has the following employment opportunities:

- RN:** provide medical case management and support to our residents. Offering competitive annual salary and \$1500 sign-on bonus
- Direct Support Professionals:** teach and support residents in their homes. Must be 18 and have high school diploma or GED. CNA not required. Pay range \$18-18.50/hour with \$1500 sign-on bonus

For more information, including specific shifts available, please visit our Facebook page **Macon Citizens Abilities, Inc.**

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COUNTRYSIDE CHEVROLET REGIONAL PRE-OWNED SUPERSTORE



CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	BMW	Alpina XB7	536
2022	BMW	530	240
2022	Chevrolet	Corvette 2LT	201
2022	Edge	Sport	101
2021	Kia	K5 LXS	4,963
2021	Mustang	Convertible	1,519
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	Toyota	Corolla LE	11,095
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Camaro	SS	23,515
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	53,520
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze	34,692
2018	Cruze	LS	25,170
2018	Focus	SE	44,403
2015	Nissan	Altima 2.5 S	59,261
2015	Mustang	GT	45,724
2014	Challenger	SRT8 Core	29,436
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	113,152
2014	Ford	Focus SE	84,984
2009	BMW	i28	86,081
2008	Corvette	Coupe	9,007

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2021	Chevrolet	Suburban	388
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	Tahoe	LT	16,432
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	Buick	Enclave Premier AWD	24,669
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	Forerunner	TRD Sport	65,055
2018	Grand Cherokee	4x4	48,031
2018	Kia	Soul	58,573
2017	Nissan	Rogue	122,708
2017	Rogue	SV	58,866
2017	Toyota	RAV4 LE	83,441
2016	Mazda	CX-5 AWD	56,700
2016	Sorento	LX	112,933
2015	Chevrolet	Equinox LTZ AWD	107,485
2015	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited Altitude	39,030
2015	Suburban	LT	92,352
2014	Ford	Explorer 4x4	68,342
2013	Ford	Escape SE AWD	89,455
2012	Chevrolet	Express 2500 VAN	160,946

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	1500	Diesel	7,386
2022	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss	651
2022	Ram	2500	5,273
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	Colorado	Z-71	12,912
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	2500	30,233
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	Ford	F-250	49,547
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	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
2014	Ram	1500 Sport Crew 4x4	107,828
2012	GMC	Sierra 2500 Diesel	192,749
2008	Avalanche	LTZ	66,581



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