

# The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

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independent  
weekly*

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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Thousands of people descended on Main Street for the annual Hometown Heritage Festival last Saturday. Vendors of all kinds lined the streets with arts and crafts and food offerings accompanied by a variety of live music featured throughout the day. The festival was sponsored and supported by Streets of Franklin Heritage Association, the Tourism Development Authority, the Tourism Development Commission and the Town of Franklin. For more photos, see page 12. Photo by Betsey Gooder

## Murder suspect last seen in Atlanta area

The Macon County Sheriff's Office provided an update on Solomon Ramos-Santos who is wanted for the murder of his estranged wife in Dekalb County, Georgia, on the Sunday evening of July 11.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office, along with the US Marshals, have confirmed the suspect made it back to Atlanta area last week and a large scale search was conducted. An individual identified him as being at a home in the Atlanta area.



Solomon Ramos-Santos

"While he may have been in Atlanta, he still has connections to friends and family in Macon County and the possibility of him coming back is very high," said Sheriff Robert Holland.

## County moving forward on library for Nantahala

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

In 1941, Macon County librarian Lassie Kelly used state funds to purchase new books and a bookmobile to visit rural areas of the county. The bookmobile was a 1936 Chevrolet truck converted with shelves to hold 280 books. The truck was purchased for \$186, shelving cost just shy of \$7, and other miscellaneous costs brought the total cost to \$197.70. In 1941-1942 the bookmobile cost \$22.09 to operate and travelled 910 miles around the county, specifically to reach areas such as the Nantahala Community.

It wasn't until 1986 when a library branch staffed by volunteers, was started in the Nantahala Community Building to offer better library service to the residents of the remote portion of Macon County. The Nantahala Community Library joined the Fontana Regional Library system, which

was established by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in 1944 to provide library services for its workers on the Fontana Dam.

By 1998, the Nantahala Community Library was preparing to move from the community center to a new facility which was owned by Macon Program for Progress at the time. The facility was situated on the Nantahala School property which the library has occupied ever since.

Now, nearly 25 years later, the Macon County Board of Commissioners are moving forward with renovations to a building on White Oak Lane that will house both the library and a community center located on White.

The need for renovations for the current 1,800 square foot Nantahala Community Library has been a consistent

See LIBRARY page 2

### IN THIS ISSUE



Page 16

Artist repurposes items to create art objects

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THE GATLIN BROTHERS**  
AUGUST 26 • 7:30PM

# LIBRARY

Continued from page 1

conversation over the last decade. Macon County provides Fontana Regional Library with about \$1 million a year in operation costs for all three libraries in the county. In addition to the operating budget, Macon County pays the utility bills on the facilities, as well as the maintenance on the buildings. In the past, as the Nantahala Library has needed repairs, funds have been provided out of the county's maintenance budget, in addition to the operation dollars provided to Fontana Regional Library.

Commissioners have grappled with issues surrounding the Nantahala Library dating back to 2018. The library, a double-wide trailer on the property of Nantahala School, has been in operation since 1999. In September 2018, Nantahala resident Ed Trask spoke to commissioners about a survey that was conducted seeking input from Nantahala residents on the future of the Nantahala library location.

Commissioners cast a split vote to purchase the White Oak property in April 2021 on a motion made by Commissioner Paul Higdon. The vote to purchase the property was split because at the time of the purchase, the library nor its community stakeholders had been consulted about moving to the new property.

When asked where community residents would like to have a new library, the White Oak Flats area received the most responses. However, almost as many residents requested that the library stay at the existing location, citing

centralization, easy accessibility, convenience and safety. "When the library board learned that the county had made an offer on the building on White Oak Lane, they were surprised," said Fontana Regional Library Director Karen Wallace. "They had not been previously approached by the county about this as a possible location for the library. The library board then notified the county commissioners of their

board for a decision about the library's continued presence on the campus (did they welcome the library or not)? The school board never gave the library board a response to that question."

The White Oak building is 2,400 square feet and commissioners voted during the July Board Meeting to continue moving forward with building renovations with the intent for the library to occupy half of the space with the other half being used as a community building. The shared space will give the Nantahala Community Library 1,200 square feet, a decrease in size compared to its current 1,800 square foot space. While decreasing library services and offerings to fit the new space is not ideal for the library, Wallace said the board acknowledges that the new White Oak building will be the best option to get the desperately needed facilities.

"Although not our first choice – first choice being to remain on the school campus – we felt that this was the best opportunity for us to relocate the library in that community," said Wallace. "It's unlikely that the county commissioners will agree to purchase another piece of property and fund a new library when they've already purchased this building. It's unlikely that the school board will agree that we're welcome on the school property (in a new building). But we can't

stay in the building we're in because it's deteriorating."

Macon County's July vote moves forward with architectural design solicitation to develop the building to house both the library and a community building for residents of Nantahala.



The Nantahala library is currently located in a doublewide trailer near the school. Because of the state of the structure, community members sought to implore the county to build a new one. The resulting controversy stemmed from where the library should be built.

preference to remain at the current location (near the Nantahala School). Nantahala School Board member Missy Evans contacted the board of commissioners to let them know she views the public library's adjacency to the school as a security and safety risk. The library board then asked the school

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## Franklin Chamber welcomes Spa Siobhan to the business community

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed Spa Siobhan to their membership with a ribbon cutting celebration.

Located at 807 East Main Street, Spa Siobhan is owned and operated by Barb Holland Williams and Haley Bell, a mother/daughter duo providing cutting edge spa services, best in beauty retail, and boutique clothing. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday, by appointment only.

Their highly experienced Esthetician team provides a broad range of services that includes facials, waxing, microdermabrasion, microneedling, dermaplaning, and our newest addition - laser hair removal. Addi-

tional services include professional event makeup, makeup lessons, skincare consultations, sunless tanning, shiatsu massage chair, and aromatherapy foot soaks.

The store has a large range of beauty brands such as Bare Minerals, Buxom Cosmetics, Dermalogica, Loving Tan, Amika and so many more. Similarly, the boutique is full of on-trend apparel for all age groups, including a wide variety from Flying Monkey, POL, Buddy Love, Kut from the Kloth, and forever expanding - as new items are added to the store daily. Barb and Haley value each and every customer that makes this business a possibility. If you haven't stopped by yet, they hope to see you soon.

## New auto repair shop now open

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce welcomed Franklin Fleet & Auto at a recent ribbon cutting celebration.

Franklin Fleet & Auto is located at 544 W Main Street, Franklin, and is owned and operated by James and Justin Massey.

"We are so excited to be here and offer our services to the community. We are family owned and strive to provide the best customer

service possible. With more than 20 years' experience in the automotive industry, we stand behind being honest, reliable, and fair. From minor auto repairs to large, we have you covered. Give Crystal or Angie a buzz at 828-524-5999 or stop by and see us," said Massey.

A Grand Opening event will be held Saturday, Aug. 6. Stop by for a meet and greet and grab a hotdog and enter our raffles



Franklin Fleet and Auto Repair is holding an official Grand Opening Saturday, Aug. 6, with a meet and greet, hot dogs and raffles. The shop is located at 544 West Main Street, Franklin.

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CARS			
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	BMW	Alpina XB7	536
2022	Chevrolet	Corvette 2LT	201
2022	Edge	Sport	101
2022	Volkswagen	Taos AWD	7,825
2021	Tesla	Model 3 Standard Range Plus	15,196
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2020	Jaguar	XE AWD	5,214
2019	Buick	Enclave	24,669
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan SXT	55,584
2019	Nissan	Sentra	19,622
2019	Nissan	Sentra SV	15,009
2019	Toyota	Corolla LE	11,095
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	53,520
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze	34,692
2018	Cruze	LS	25,170
2018	Focus	SE	44,403
2018	Traverse	LT AWD	95,105
2015	Nissan	Altima 2.5 S	59,261
2015	Mustang	GT	45,724
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	113,152
2014	Ford	Focus SE	84,984
2009	BMW	i28	86,081
2008	Corvette	Coupe	9,007
1990	Corvette		125,701

SUVS			
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	GMC	Yukon XL	53,356
2021	Grand Cherokee	L	13,279
2021	Tahoe	LT	16,432
2020	Cadillac	Escalade Premium Luxury	7,309
2020	GMC	Acadia AT4	28,261
2020	Grand Cherokee	Trailhawk	26,226

2019	Chevrolet	Equinox Premier AWD	34,109
2019	Chevrolet	Tahoe LT	46,162
2019	GMC	Terrain	63,316
2019	Kia	Sedona EX	40,858
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox LT	23,569
2018	Chevrolet	Tahoe	84,386
2018	Ford	Explorer	69,517
2018	Forerunner	TRD Sport	65,055
2018	Kia	Soul	58,573
2018	Nissan	Murano	53,903
2017	Rogue	SV	58,866
2017	Toyota	RAV4 LE	83,441
2016	Land Rover		61,419
2016	Lexus	RX 350	72,919
2016	Sorento	LX	112,933
2016	Toyota	Sequoia	96,869
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	2500	High Country	10,050
2022	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss	651
2022	Ram	2500	5,273
2021	2500	LT 4x4	16,442
2021	Chevrolet	1500 4x4	10,243
2021	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	10,842
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	5,822
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	8,432
2021	Colorado	Z-71	12,912
2021	F-150	Crew 4x4	32,251
2021	Ford	F-150 SuperCrew Cab	32,251
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	Silverado	52,944
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	GMC	Sierra 1500 AT4	15,588
2020	Ram	2500 Longhorn Diamond	23,286
2020	Silverado	1500 Regular Cab	21,430
2020	Toyota	Tacoma SR	12,448
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	30,903
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500 HC Dually	45,535
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	44,359
2019	Colorado	WT 4x4	6,261
2019	GMC	Sierra 1500	18,811
2019	Nissan	Frontier SV 4x4	60,592
2019	Toyota	Tacoma SR5	43,420
2019	Toyota	Tacoma TRD 4x4	43,577
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado Z-71	23,542
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	31,379
2018	Colorado	ZR2	36,012
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	44,668
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 Denali	25,059
2017	F-150	Reg Cab	113,305
2017	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	61,657
2016	Chevrolet	1500 LT Crew	118,872
2016	GMC	Sierra SLT	61,530
2016	Ram	Diesel Crew 2500	60,495
2016	Toyota	Tacoma	127,336
2015	Chevrolet	Colorado	95,530
2014	Ram	1500 Sport Crew 4x4	107,828
2012	GMC	Sierra 2500 Diesel	192,749
2008	Avalanche	LTZ	66,581
2006	Chevrolet	2500 Diesel	194,159



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# Local farmer is community-minded and education focused

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Time magazine featured an article a few years ago announcing “Small American Farmers are Nearing Extinction.” And, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports continuing declines in farms throughout the country.

But Malcolm Banks wants to change all that. He considers himself a modern-day diversified farmer. On a plot of land just off Clark’s Chapel Road, for his Yellow Mountain

Garden business, he plants and harvests produce, sells starter plants, and much more.

As a 34-year-old African American, Banks is distinct as a new generation farmer. He grew up in Georgia and pointed out, “My granddaddies and great-granddaddies were farmers since the 1800s, but the latest generation has not farmed. Instead, they have mostly moved to cities and taken other types of jobs. But I was around farming when I was younger, and it’s important to me to continue farming and educating younger people about farming.”

He started out farming at 26 years old and continues to glean ideas, input, wisdom, and more from other farmers. Plus, he shares what he has learned.

Besides selling all that is offered through Yellow Mountain Garden, including hand-made soaps, CSA (Community Shared Agriculture) seasonal produce boxes, houseplants, farm-raised meats, and much more, Banks is community-minded and education-focused.

“We grow food, give food away, make items, and partner with groups like ASAP (Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project),” said Banks. Children’s play dates are offered at the farm as well. In fact, anyone can contact Yellow Mountain to set up a time to see the farm.

“This is more like a community farm,” he added. “We want children to see a farm and see how foods grow ... provide as many farm events as possible. It’s a lot of stuff, but I really want to teach the next generation that they can eat local produce and even grow their own food. There are not very many farmers these days, and I’m hoping to inspire next generations.”

For August, Yellow Mountain Garden offers a late summer/fall CSA box that includes lettuces, radish, corn, beans, zucchini, peppers, and more. But Banks also encourages individuals to try growing a garden this time of year “anything in the brassica family [broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage ...], brussel sprouts, greens ... anything that can tolerate the cool weather of the early fall. The last frost is between Sept. 17 and into October. So you have to get the plants into the ground, and some of these plants can tolerate cold weather.”

Yellow Mountain Garden is a family affair, with Malcolm’s wife, Hannah, handling business aspects, and the couple’s three children, ages 2, 7, and 13 years, involved



On land just off Clarks Chapel Road, Malcolm Banks and his family grow a variety of vegetables for their Yellow Mountain Garden business.



Working on the Clark’s Chapel Road farm is a family affair for Malcolm Banks, his wife, Hannah, and their children, Noemi, Malik and Lucy.

in various capacities, especially during the summer months. “They have helped with chickens, the compost piles, building fences ...,” said Banks.

“The best part of being a farmer is listening to the birds, learning about the soil, meeting other people, and caring for the planet for the next generation.”



Smoky Mountain **PREGNANCY CARE** Center **Light In The Darkness**

**Summer Benefit Concert**

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July 21, 2022  
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# Discover hosts concert to benefit SMPCC

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Many services are offered at Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center, and a benefit concert Thursday, July 21, will help ensure that services will continue in Franklin. Discover Church is hosting the concert featuring recording artist, Steventhen Holland.

Holland is not only a recording artist but also a worship leader, author, and an inspirational, motivational, and national pro-life speaker. He also founded Broken Not Dead Ministries in an effort to encourage others as a result of his personal life – his 18-year-old, mentally-challenged, homeless mother was gang raped and conceived Holland. He was placed in a foster care, where he was later adopted, but he was eventually reunited with his birth mother.



A benefit concert at Discover Church, Thursday, July 21, will feature recording artist Steventhen Holland.

Along with the concert of music, Holland – who travels and performs nationwide – will share his story, as well as how he found hope and restoration

for brokenness due to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The 7-9 p.m. concert is free; however, donations to the Pregnancy Care Center are encouraged. Discover Church is located at 47 Macon Center Drive in Franklin.

The Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care

Center offers a host of services, including counseling, pregnancy testing and ultrasounds, and a toll-free live chat “option line.”

# New 988 number is now available for people in mental health crisis

Starting Saturday, people in mental health crisis can dial 9-8-8 to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and get immediately connected to trained crisis counselors 24/7. The new three-digit number provides a faster, easier way to get the help already available at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

“Help is available to those experiencing a mental health crisis,” said NC Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. “Our goal is to make 9-8-8 a household word that North Carolinians know they can access from wherever they are to get the help they need. This resource will literally save lives.”

Since 2012, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has partnered with REAL Crisis Intervention Inc. in Greenville to operate the NC Suicide Prevention Lifeline call center. In addition to providing trained crisis counseling, the call center connects also callers to help in their local community based on each caller’s specific needs. As the number changes to 9-8-8, the call center is also adding 24/7 chat and text re-



sponse.

North Carolina’s call center is one of the most responsive in the country. In May 2022, 98% of calls were answered in less than seven seconds, the second-best rate among the 50 states. The new 9-8-8 number is expected to bring up to 30% more calls per year, because it is easier to remember and access. The call center is adding more staff to make sure it is ready to handle the additional volume

“The 9-8-8 number is a big step towards making it as easy as possible for people to reach out for help,” said NCDHHS Deputy Secretary for Health Mark Benton.

NCDHHS in collaboration with many community, local and state partners, has been preparing for the launch of 9-8-8 and received a \$3.3 million federal grant in April to transition to the new number. Additionally, \$1.3 million in recurring funds to support the call center was included in the budget that was passed by the NC General Assembly and signed into law by the governor. For more information on the NSPL, visit 988lifeline.org.

## What makes a local bank “local”?

Ask Tim Hubbs,  
CEO, Nantahala Bank & Trust

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# SUMMER COLORS



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## FINE ART SHOW

Saturday, July 23 & Sunday, July 24, 2022, 10 - 5

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### ALHC

[www.artleaguehighlands-cashiers.com](http://www.artleaguehighlands-cashiers.com)

## New hospital approaching completion

Clint Kendall  
Angel Medical Center CEO

Our community has good reason to take great pride in receiving an extraordinary state-of-the-art hospital at a time when rural healthcare facilities face the risk of closing. This is due to unprecedented financial challenges that imperil their ability to provide advanced care and operate optimally, much less thrive and grow.

I'm thrilled to report that over the next few months we will be finalizing everything to be able to open the new Angel Medical Center (AMC) in September.

I want to provide our community with up-to-date, accurate information to help guide conversations about the new facility, dispel any misconceptions, and best of all, share why we should celebrate this new chapter in Franklin's ability to grow economically, while ensuring that excellent care can be delivered close to home.

This column will allow me to provide the answers to some of the top questions I have received over the months about our new facility, and I felt that a Q&A format would be appropriate.

**How big is the new facility compared to the current one?**

The current facility is approximately 125,000 square feet in size. The new facility is about 88,500 square feet. Despite the difference in square footage, the level of care that we will be able to provide this community won't be compromised in any way. Rather, it reflects the fact that we will be able to deliver care more efficiently. Contrary to the idea that "bigger is better," size isn't as critical as having a space that is smartly designed, making the best use of space. It allows our healthcare providers to move and work more easily and seamlessly, and our patients will be more comfortable, whether they are in a waiting area or receiving care.

**How many beds and operating rooms does the new Angel Medical Center have compared to the current facility?**

The new hospital will be equipped with 30 large patient care rooms and two operating suites. AMC currently has more bed spaces, but not usable rooms. As a critical access hospital, we can only have an average of 25 acute care beds occupied over the course of a year.

The other five rooms are for overflow when needed, hospice inpatient patients, and what are known as swing beds (a setting where patients who are transitioning from acute care to a skilled nursing facility can stay).

The two operating suites are twice the size of a traditional operating room, which will allow us to increase surgery services significantly.

**When will the new facility be completed?**

The unpredictable nature of new construction projects, and delays are the norm. The construction phase of the project should be



Clint Kendall

completed by the end of July.

If you have driven by the site lately, you may have noticed that the fencing is down, the road is being widened, there is landscaping going in, and the lights are on.

The completion of the construction phase starts a new phase of getting approval from the NC Department of Health and Human Services. This consists of a series of surveys that ensure that we meet the code required for a

medical facility, and that we have created plans and policies that will continue to allow us to provide safe care.

Our first day of serving patients is slated to be in September.

**I keep hearing the term "state-of-the-art" and talk of new equipment, but how will these things actually affect the care I will receive?**

We will be getting all new equipment for the new facility, and this is important. Without the latest technology available to our community, the care we would provide would not be as advanced and sophisticated.

Some of the exciting new facility features include, but are not limited to, screening technology for breast care, new MRI machines, the latest CT scan technology, and all new laboratory, endoscopic, and surgical equipment.

**Will you be reducing services?**

No. With the new technology, we are actually bringing other services to the community that we have not previously had the technology or capacity to offer, another huge plus for our community members' ability to get the care they need, close to home.

**What is being placed directly beside the new hospital?**

This is another piece of great news for the community. MAMA (Mountain Area Medical Airlift), Mission Health's medical transport helicopter, has a home base in Asheville and here in Franklin, so a new helipad is being constructed directly next door. I am proud that we offer a landing site for MAMA, as well as quarters for the crew who take care of her.

I am sure that there are many more questions regarding the new AMC, and as they come up, I will ensure that we get answers out to the community.

The unveiling of the new AMC is a rare and extraordinary opportunity, and I want community members to join me in celebrating the new facility, as well as participate in our upcoming tours and open house events. These will be scheduled for late August with more details later. Everyone here is thrilled to invite the community in to see everything going on "behind the scenes" to make the facility superior from Day 1. We have much to be grateful for!

Clint Kendall, FACHE, MBA, MSN, BSN, RN, is Chief Executive Officer/Chief Nursing Officer of Angel Medical Center.

## School of Nursing incorporating learning with community service

A makeshift clinic of folding chairs and folding tables, separated in clusters by curtains and canvas tents, has been set up inside a steel girder building in Clarkston, Ga., a community resting in the shadow of Atlanta.

Clarkston is home to a sizeable community of international refugees, enough so to sometimes be referred to as the "Ellis Island of the South." This is where, more often than not, the process of assimilation begins for these immigrants. The new residents come with hopes for a new life.

They also come with basic human needs.

Which provides an opportunity for volunteers from the School of Nursing at Western Carolina University. For five nursing students, one faculty member and two alumni, the day has been given over to assisting Great Faith Vision, a national Christian mission group, in operating the pop-up medical clinic, which for the time being will offer free vision care for young and old.

The building has become a functioning optometry office, staffed with three optometrists and 40 volunteers. There will be vision and glaucoma tests, lens prescriptions and providing frames and lenses as needed, as well as other general health screenings.

Cheryl Clark, an adjunct assistant professor, helped organize the trip. "Today we'll primarily see people with origins in Thailand," she said. "This community is home to a resettlement program that has accepted over 40,000 displaced persons, from so many backgrounds and I think about different 50 countries. Some speak English or have some insight into American culture, in all its many forms. But many don't. For our nursing students, this is another way of learning and growing professionally, giving them the sort of hands-on experience (that) Western is known for."

Kirsten Mabe of Kernersville, a rising senior, asked patients about their medical history taking blood pressure and pulse rates.

"I love working with children," she said, as she patiently and playfully kept a rambunctious 5-year-old's attention. "I wish I was able to speak all their languages, to be able to quickly and easily communicate with them, but seeing all these smiles says a lot."

WCU's School of Nursing is nationally ranked, with undergraduate and graduate programs offered at the main campus in Cullowhee, the Biltmore Park instructional site in Asheville and online. For more information, go to nursing.wcu.edu.



WCU nursing student Maddie Parker gets height - and other stats - of a young patient.

## Therapeutic massage info session offered on July 27

On July 27, Southwestern Community College's Therapeutic Massage program will offer an information session on career opportunities for current and prospective students.

The presentation is designed to give students an introduction into SCC's Therapeutic Massage program, and allow them a chance to view the clinics that SCC offers. This also gives currently licensed therapists a chance to explore Continuing Education in the classroom setting.

After walking through the clinics, High Hampton representatives will give a presentation about potential job opportunities for licensed massage therapists and the tuition-assistance program that they offer for current and prospective students.

The info session will begin at 10 a.m. in the Health Sciences Center lobby on the Jackson Campus. Lunch will be provided once the presentation is complete.

For more information, contact Jennifer



SCC Therapeutic Massage instructor Jennifer Burgess (R) offers guidance to student Ashley Hinson of Waynesville on proper massage techniques.

Burgess at j\_burgess@SouthwesternCC.edu or 828.339.4289.



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Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

My call for stakeholders to propose compromises concerning STRs [short term rentals] underscores the community stalemate on this combative issue. I asked stakeholders to publicly put forth any proposed compromise. I wanted the community to see if there was any common ground.

Some interpreted that call to mean I was going to sit down with opposing groups and negotiate a compromise. With the town facing a current lawsuit over the issue and potential legal actions ahead, for me or any board member to negotiate a compromise settlement is not an option. Our legal representatives might be able to enter negotiations, but only if the board directs them to do so. No such directives have been given, and I don't see that circumstance on the horizon, especially since the planning board will soon be reviewing two draft proposals for amending the town ordinances pertaining to STRs.

With that said, let me throw out a hypothetical compromise and then point out its pitfalls.

The compromise would allow STRs in R1 and R2 on a limited basis. Let's say in R1 any home owner could do short term rentals for 30 or 40 days out of the year. In R2 short terms rentals could be done for 76 or 80 days per year. These limitations would prevent both residential zones from being nothing more than year round "Ghost Hotel" districts, and curtail the commercialization and corporatization of these neighborhoods. Sound good?

Now my critique. Those folks who do not want STRs in their R1 neighborhoods would say short term rentals would be allowed 10 or 15 weekends during the high peak of the Highlands season. In R2 even more times, 30 weekends or more could be done. They would point out that the tendency under this compromise formula would be to rent on weekends to folks coming to attend weddings and other party events, exactly the activities that cause their concerns.

Folks who are for STRs would contend that the town is imposing limitations on their property rights, and that they should be allowed to short term rent their property as they see fit. As one top, outspoken realtor has put it, any restriction on the use of residential property is a violation by the town of property rights, and it is also Communistic! I might add this position seems to question the validity of zoning in the most basic terms. As Commissioner Hehn suggested at the July 14th Special Highlands Board meeting, homeowners on average can make \$40,000 a year doing STR. Why would they be willing to compromise only to see their income levels fall to what can be made doing long term rentals at best?

The Highlands Planning Board will make their recommendations in the coming weeks and the Town Board will consider those recommendations and implement amended STR ordinances. Regardless, I suspect people in black robes will have their say also. The courts may or may not be where a compromise takes place.

## Letters to the Editor

### Letter gets quick response from AG Stein

Thank you for the "honor" of being published last week in your newspaper (7/7/22). Hope inflation does not hit our ink and paper costs.

I sent the same letter to North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein. He answered me quickly, also by letter. I feel compelled to share his letter with the folks of Macon County since it is my humble opinion that "We the People" are going to have to insist that this sale be rectified, modified or let the lawsuits line up at the courthouse.

I have also included my heartfelt response letter to him. Folks it's time to pray and stand and cowboy up!

Dear G. M.:

Thank you for taking the time to write to my office.

I appreciate you sharing these concerns so our office can look into them. We will review the information you shared, and as appropriate, refer your letter to the relevant party or take action directly.

I am committed to ensuring that HCA Healthcare complies with the agreement I negotiated during the Mission/HCA transaction. I am also working to ensure that Mission fully discloses its charges to patients and explains its charity care and uninsured patient policies. In April 2020, HCA updated me about modifications it made to its billing practices as a result of the consumer complaints filed with my office.

Finally, whenever we receive complaints about substandard quality of care, we are sharing those complaints with our colleagues at the Department of Health and Human Services.

I remain in continued contact with HCA to learn more from them about their response to the concerns I raised with them last year, as well as the concerns and experiences that you and other North Carolinians have shared with my office since. As we continue to learn more, we will share this information with the people of western North Carolina.

Again, thank you for your letter. Hearing from people across our state helps me better do my job as your Attorney General. I hope you will continue to share your thoughts with me in the future.

Sincerely,

Josh Stein  
Attorney General of North Carolina  
JS/GS

July 6, 2022  
North Carolina Attorney General  
Josh Stein  
9001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001

Re: Mission Health/HCA Sale

Dear Sir;

I am in receipt of your letter referencing my "Heart Attack" letter. Thank you for your time and attention to this very serious matter.

Being the sixth generation born and raised on the historical Newton Plantation and now having the responsibility of the administration thereof, it was an emotional and financial burden for me to move my life and voter registration to Franklin/Macon County, N.C.

I felt I had no choice but to do so because of my husband's medical condition, and hence our acquisition of property here. Therefore I shall stand and do everything possible to garner the attention of those in office who will help to correct this "monopoly seizure" of our medical services by way of corporate raiders. I have seen the carnage of these practices before. Franklin folks are my neighbors now. This is my home!

I am aware that there are two lawsuits pending judicial review challenging your negotiated sale contract between non-profit Mission Health and for-profit HCA Healthcare. I pray that you will stop and consider all the information concerning the sale to HCA, follow the money and broken promises.

We must not allow more people to suffer life and death issues when we can correct this. I am ever mindful of Hebrews 12:1 "Where we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses." You and I and the "folks" have the obligation to right this wrong. I hope you will stand steadfast with "We the People" of Western North Carolina.

G.M. Newton – Franklin, N.C.

### Express thanks for libraries and staff

Thank you to each staff member of our libraries for your cheerful welcome, your commitment to helping us find information in myriad forms, your patience in dealing with our limited skills with computers, your shared joy as we look forward to a new book.

It saddens me to read the rantings of ignorance among our elected officials and others in the community. Perhaps these folks need to actually visit a library, initiate some research, and open their minds to scientific data and valid accepted truths.

Meanwhile, next time you visit one of our libraries, thank the staff or volunteers who work there. Put at least a dollar in the donation box so we can insure ourselves access to knowledge going forward.

Beaupré Preston – Franklin, N.C.

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**Pressure of culture, not science, influencing society**

Not all that long ago, science, culture, and society in general were in total agreement that the two basic make ups of humanity was that of a man and a woman which made up the beginnings of a family. Marriage was between a man and a woman and in the reflection of their love would often come children. This would show itself in science as the parents having separate DNA and their offspring sharing about 50% DNA from both parents, yet the offspring have their own specific DNA which makes up either male or female. This is the “biological” make up. Gender identity is what one feels one wants to be and is mostly carried by outside forces that help further the pursuit in the question of what one wants to be. As far as we know there is no DNA that makes any more distinction besides male or female and a reflection of parents. So it's the pressure of culture that's in pursuit of change, not science.

I'm total appalled and dismayed that school unions and even our libraries promote and display life styles towards children within the earliest grades, I would even take this a step further in asking, why do they do this at all? Something to this extent should only involve the parent or guardian of the child, not “any government agent.” If trying to make any sense of this, those who agree with this type of promotion needs to ask of themselves, is there “any point,” where culture goes too far? This becomes more pop culture, otherwise this would have been a normal cycle centuries ago, and we all would be in agreement. Modern culture says it's part of our DNA just as in Critical Race Theory (CRT) saying racism is inherent within the white races' DNA, if this were the case how did President Obama get elected twice? Obviously, the majority of whites voted for him. If we have opened the flood gates of what is not true or scientific at what point do you say enough? Is promoting sex with animals accepted? If things such as this meets gratification, shouldn't one have a right to pursue it? Sex education now includes pornography in demonstrations of various sexual acts. It's getting to the point where sex trafficking is tolerated, we hear this daily at our border yet turn a blind eye to what we and government allows, and innocent lives are destroyed. Yet pop culture says we have a right to do so and no one has the right to say stop, because we have no foundation and everything is clothed in, “I have a right.” G. K. Chesterton once stated, “before you remove a fence you better find out why it was there to begin with,” or else you may be sorry and may never get back what has been lost. We have no fence, many want to remove our history, government wants the right to do to your children as they please, and they will try silencing the parent, for the parent is the enemy against their agenda. Much of America's voice has been silenced through our corrupt governing systems, along with the media which carries their message. They no longer speak for “We the people,” and pop culture will gladly take us down the broad path that leads to destruction if allowed. The evidence is overwhelming in our culture and innocent children becoming more confused and not sure just where they belong or who they are, because the culture “stands for everything” and in doing so, “we stand for nothing.” People seem more depressed, and there seems little hope, and most is the result of the devaluing of human life and its binding structures. The LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning) can do as they please, but to bring this to our children for me is unacceptable. If having to borrow from the rest of society, at least allow a grown adult to make their own choice and not sway the innocent minds of children! I, myself, have a cousin with this type of background, I love them deeply, even while not agreeing with the life they live. The truth of peace, love, justice, is what all mankind wants, but its very foundation comes from the Divine God which this image is upon us all. It's our choice to pursue or reject the foundation that brings truth in “Life.” For your children, where else do you point where truth for living comes from?

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

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Photos by  
Betsey Gooder





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# Arrest Report

*The Macon County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests July 2 - 15. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

## Macon County Sheriff's Department

July 8

Wesley Preston Crone, was charged with fugitive from out of state. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

July 10

Joseph Matthew Swafford, was charged with probation violation. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

July 11

Jeffery Scott McAlpine, was charged with assault on a female, assault and battery and communicating threats. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Alicia Ann Price, was charged with larceny by an employee, embezzlement and obtaining property by false pretenses. Costin Jiglaun made the arrest.

William Jason Cochran, was charged with failure to appear. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Harold Andrew Williamson, was charged with possession of a stolen firearm, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, assault on a female, possession of methamphetamine, injury to personal property, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, breaking and entering, driving while license revoked, failure to report accident and fictitious/concealed/revoked registration card/tag. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

James Cowart Jr., was charged with failure to appear and communicating threats. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

July 12

Edgar Ernesto Molina, was charged with trespass of real property, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer, burglary/breaking and entering and assault causing physical injury to law/probation officer. Sergeant Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

Samuel Ray, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Travis Jerome Stafflebach, was charged with flee/elude arrest. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

July 13

Dennis Charles Martino, was charged with breaking and entering and trespass. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

July 14

Travis Jerome Stafflebach, was charged with injury to personal property, larceny, possession of stolen goods/property. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Angel Chavez-Zalapa, was charged with failure to appear. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Kayla Nicole Woods, was charged with failure to appear. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Laura Margit Hartmann, was charged with possession of cocaine, conspire to sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance and possession of a schedule I controlled substance. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

July 15

Jason Robert Mock, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Davin Lane Eldridge, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering and possession of stolen goods. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

## SCC's Project Search a 'life-changing' program

For most of his life, John Beaulieu hardly spoke.

Years ago, a neurologist diagnosed him as having a frontal lobe that didn't develop all the way – and he struggled with human interaction. His mother, Cynthia Reed spent countless hours, days, weeks and months searching the Internet for a program that could help.

Then came Project SEARCH. Beaulieu enrolled last fall, spent a year in studies and internships at Southwestern Community College's Jackson Campus then graduated in May. He recently landed a job washing knives at Creekside Oyster House & Grill in Sylva.

No one noticed the change more clearly than his mom.

"It's been a total personality transformation," Reed said. "You couldn't get him to say a word before, but now I can't get him to shut up – and it's wonderful! He's very outgoing now, and he's always looking for ways to help others."

Launched in 2014, SCC's Project SEARCH program allows men and women from ages 18-30 with disabilities to gain marketable employability skills through hands-on internships matched to their individual interests, strengths and abilities.

The program has a limited number of openings for this fall, and admission is free. Reed said it's by far the most-effective

option for helping improve her son's life.

"With all the obstacles John's had in his life, he loves his life and has been happy," Reed said recently. "He's been in so many programs over the years, but unfortunately none of them were useful ... until Project SEARCH."

In addition to becoming more comfortable in social situations, Beaulieu credited the program with helping him improve his time-management and organizational skills.

"What helped me the most at the start was just diving in head-first and getting it all situated in my head," he said. "Project SEARCH has helped me in a lot of ways that I really don't have words for."

Devonne Jimison oversees the program at SCC and said last year's interns looked up to Beaulieu.

She also said his versatility and ability to adapt to changing situations foreshadowed his success out in the real world.

"Leadership is one thing we saw in him that he seemed surprised about," Jimison said. "If I needed to place someone at the last minute in the café, or if there were other jobs that came up at the last minute across campus, I knew I could count on him – even if I couldn't be there with him. That kind of flexibility really makes for a good employee."

From a parent's perspective, Reed said one aspect of the program she appreciates the most is how accessible Jimison and the other instructors are.

Asked how she feels about Project SEARCH, Reed paused briefly before answering: "The fact I'm tearing up right now should say it all. It's life-changing. It really is. It has changed John's life for sure."

For more information about Project SEARCH or to start the enrollment process for this fall, contact Jimison at devonnej@SouthwesternCC.edu or 828.339.4486.



SCC's Project SEARCH Director, Devonne Jimison (left) stands with recent graduate John Beaulieu outside Creekside Oyster House & Grill, where Beaulieu now works.



John Beaulieu shows off his diploma after Project SEARCH's graduation ceremony on May 17 at SCC in Sylva.



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# Discarded, antique, and miscellaneous items find new purpose in art objects

**Deena C. Bouknight**  
Contributing Writer

Marcella Massung does not consider herself an artist. She has no formal training, but she “must” create daily and her innate artistic expression presents itself in ways she cannot predict. Her Treasures at-home shop is proof. Densely displayed are art objects galore – everything from wind chimes, to stained and fused glass, to decoupage, to clothing, to shadowbox collages, and more.

For many years Massung, 90, has envisioned a new purpose for discarded, old, cast-off items.

What looks like organized chaos on the ground floor of her home is actually a series of work spaces: a sewing machine and stacks and stacks of fabrics in one area, kilns and paints and molds in another, and then miscellaneous and sundry costume jewelry, time pieces, small

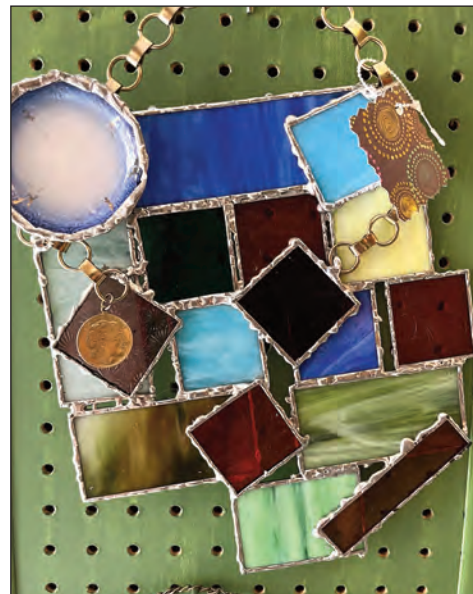


empty bottles, key chains, utensils, and much more in still another.

“I had always done something crafty, even when my (five) children were small, like making handbags and sewing, and about 17 years ago I took some stained glass classes at Fire & Light Glass Studio (on Georgia Road). I just began to see something in the various pieces and then something new would come together. A silver teapot, for example, might not have a use because people don’t serve tea very often any more. So I decided to cover one with bits of lace and jewelry and beading ... to give it new life and make it something that someone might want to decorate with.”

Massung finds the pieces for her artwork at the Goodwill Outlet in

**Marcella Massung, 90, has been creating art from found and discarded items for many years, working on projects daily.**



(L-R) Massung’s at-home shop is a treasure trove of her created, repurposed art. A stained glass class 17 years ago at Fire & Light Glass Studio led Marcella Massung to craft distinct collage type pieces. Timepieces are a common theme in her artwork. An old silver teapot becomes a decorative accessory sporting all sorts of miscellaneous elements.

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Asheville, where customers can purchase by the pound, as well as at yard sales and flea markets.

"I work on projects every day," she said. "I have to ... it's a must. I might go to different stations and work a little bit on one thing and then a little on another, depending on what stage it's in or if glue needs to dry. I like completing pieces, and some I really feel good about how they turned out." In fact, if she likes the finished product, she said, "I feel a real sense of accomplishment."

Massung's line of repurposed clothing might marry embroidered handkerchiefs with lace and crocheted elements. "They get a new life," she explained. "And they are unique."

One special piece is a large, folding, privacy screen on which she has decouped various historic letters, magazine clippings, business cards, receipts, and more mostly from the 1800s and 1900s.

She has created shadow boxes and memory bottles and other items for people who might have a collection that they would rather not put away in a box.

"It's a creative way to display history and things that have meaning," she said.

As a half-century resident of Franklin, she has displayed her work in various shops downtown, but since her husband of 53 years died 20 years ago she transformed part of their garage into a store of sorts. Although she pointed out that one of her children has something of an artistic bent, Massung is hoping at least one of her 11 grandchildren or 14 great grandchildren or four (almost five) great-great grandchildren will carry on the making and selling of repurposed art, especially since she has enough of an inventory of elements to fashion many more pieces.

Anyone interested in perusing Massung's artistic creations at her Treasures at-home shop can call her at (828) 524-7578.



## Caribbean Cowboys at Concerts on the Creek

The 13th season of Concerts on the Creek at the Bridge Park in Sylva continues Friday, July 22, with a performance by Steve Weams and the Caribbean Cowboys from 7-9 p.m.

Steve Weams & The Caribbean Cowboys Band have been entertaining audiences for more than 30 years. They perform primarily in Western North Carolina but have traveled from Key West, Fla., to New York City and through the British Virgin Islands. The group provides a wide variety of music from Jimmy Buffett to the best of Classic Rock & Southern Rock, Rhythm & Blues, Reggae, Beach Tunes, Country & more.

Bring a chair or blanket. These events are free but donations are accepted. Dogs must be on a leash. No smoking, vaping, coolers or tents allowed in the park. Food vendors on site.

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

For more information, call 828-586-2155, visit [www.mountainlovers.com](http://www.mountainlovers.com) or Concerts on the Creek's Facebook page.



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# Increase flowers with a bit of deadheading; how to manage garden pests

Melinda Myers – Columnist

Keep your garden looking its best with a bit of deadheading. Removing faded flowers can promote repeat bloom on some plants, encourage fuller, more compact growth, and tidy up the garden.

Use a bypass pruner or deadheading snips to remove faded flowers. These tools have two sharp blades like scissors. This results in a clean cut that closes quickly, leaving your plant looking its best.

The type of flower will influence how and where to make the cut. In general, remove the stem of faded blooms back to the first set of healthy leaves or nearby flower buds.

Deadhead flowers like salvia, veronica, and snapdragons by removing faded flowers to encourage more blooms. Make cuts below the faded flower and above a set of healthy leaves or new flower stems.

Encourage additional blossoms and improve Shasta daisy's appearance by removing faded flowers. Prune back just above a set of healthy leaves.

Cut the flowers of Armeria, coral bells and other flowers back to the base of the flower stems that arise from the foliage. This improves the appearance and encourages more blooms on some of this type of flowering perennial.

Plants like daylilies and balloon flowers require a bit different care for a tidier look. Remove the individual blooms as they fade. Once bloomed out, you can cut the flower stem back at the base. Allowing the faded flowers to hang on the stem until it is all bloomed out won't hurt the plant, it just detracts from the plant's overall beauty.

Removing fading flowers of fuchsia and lantana will prevent the plants from going to seed and encourage more blooms. Remove any berries that do form to keep these plants flowering.

Some plants like impatiens, cuphea and calibrachos are self-cleaning. Old blossoms fall off the plants as new flowers form, eliminating the need for deadheading.

Deadhead heavy seeders like columbine to reduce the number of seedlings and contain the spread. Or allow some seeds to develop if you have space to fill or want lots of seedlings to transplant to new garden beds.

Allow seedheads to develop on coneflowers, rudbeckias, and other plants that provide winter interest and food for the birds.

Remove flowers as they appear on coleus to promote more compact growth. Late blooming, flowerless varieties and self-branching coleus hybrids reduce or eliminate time spent on this task.

Consider skipping the deadheading of late blooming perennials. This allows them to prepare for winter and form seedpods for a bit of winter interest.

Improve the appearance of leggy plants with long stems and few leaves with a bit of pruning. Cut back further into the leafy stem when deadheading to encourage fuller growth as well as more flowers.



Removing the individual blooms of balloon flower as they fade will keep this plant looking its best. Photos courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

Make deadheading part of your regular garden maintenance. Investing time throughout the season will help keep your garden looking its best.

## Managing garden pests with pollinators in Mind

Every garden season is filled with beautiful and tasty surprises along with a few challenges. One challenge gardeners face each year is managing insect pests while keeping the pollinators safe. Fortunately, only a very small percent of insects in our landscapes are harmful. The rest help pollinate plants, feed upon or parasitize bad insects, or help decompose plant debris.

Proper identification of the plant-damaging culprit is the first step in managing problems. Often the insect that is most visible is not the one causing the damage. You can find lots of helpful information and images online. Look for websites hosted by your local University, extension service or botanical garden. They often provide timely tips on pests in your area.

Once identified, you will need to decide if control is needed. Some insect damage is just cosmetic meaning the plant's health and longevity are not adversely affected it just looks bad. In these cases, control is for us not the health of our plants. Consider tolerating the damage and masking it with nearby plantings or garden art.

In other cases, the damage is done, and the insect is no longer present. Revenge spraying may make you feel better but does nothing to fix the problem. Make a note on next year's calendar to watch for and manage the pest if you feel control is really needed. Finding pest problems early makes hand removal easier and may be all that is needed.

Often when we see the damage on our plants, control will not help. Many galls, unusual growths on plants, are caused by insect feeding. When we see the gall, the insect is either safely living inside the gall or it has fled to complete another stage of its life. At that point, control will not work and in most cases, this is a cosmetic issue and control is not needed.

Work with nature to help manage pest problems. By tolerating some damage, you provide the food that attracts nature's pest controllers to the garden. Watch for aphid eating lady beetles and green lacewings that eat hundreds of these pests each day. Invite songbirds to your landscape with seed and berry producing plants and a clean, fresh source of water. Ninety six

percent of terrestrial birds feed their young insects. And then there are those non-stinging, parasitizing wasps that lay their eggs in other insects. When the eggs hatch the young feed on the host. Avoid pesticides and provide water and shelter to attract and support insect eating toads and frogs.



An ecofriendly way to manage small populations of Japanese beetles is to knock them into a can of soapy water.

Enlist help from the youngsters in your life. Try the pluck, drop, and stomp method. Teach young gardeners to identify problem insects, pick them off the plants by hand, drop them to the ground and stomp. What a great way to teach kids about nature and help them burn off some of their excess energy.

Handpicking or knocking insects like Japanese beetles into a can of soapy water is a great way to manage small populations of pests. A fellow horticulturist uses a small hand vacuum to capture Japanese beetles. Just be sure to empty the insect filled vacuum contents into a can of soapy water before storing.

If you decide you need to lend nature a hand managing garden pests, look for more ecofriendly options. Barriers of floating row covers – fabrics that allow air, light, and water through – can keep cabbage worms, onion maggots, Japanese beetles, and some other insects from laying their eggs on their favorite plants. Cover the plants with the fabric at planting, anchor the edges and leave enough slack for plants to grow. No construction is needed.

Covering squash plants at planting until flowering begins can help reduce the risk of squash bugs and squash vine borers. Covering cucumbers at planting until ten days after flowering begins helps reduce the risk of cucumber beetles infecting these plants with the bacteria that causes wilt. The row covers also prevent birds from dining on the seeds and seedlings.

Cover late plantings of susceptible plants as needed this season. Then make a note on next year's calendar to enlist this method for controlling these types of pests for your first planting next year.

Enlist the help of the naturally occurring soil bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) to protect plants from certain pests. Different strains of this bacteria control different insects. Bt kurstaki only kills true caterpillars. Using this on members of the cabbage family won't harm other butterflies since these plants only attract the cabbage worm moths. Bt galleriae will control Japanese and other beetles.

Use a strong blast of water to dislodge mites and aphids. These pests suck plant juices and secrete a clear sticky substance called honeydew. Extensive feeding can cause distorted growth, speckling, yellowing, and browning of the leaves.

If more control is needed, look for help from one of the organic contact insecticides. These products kill the insects they contact but leave no residue on the plants that can harm beneficial insects that visit the plants later.

Whenever using any product, even natural and organic, be sure to read and follow label directions. This will ensure the best control and least negative impact on beneficial insects and the environment.

Take a few notes on pests you encounter, any management strategies used and the results. This will help when encountering problems in the future. With minimal time and a bit of creativity you can keep your garden looking good all season long.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, and her website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



# Deaths & Funerals

## Martha Ann Lind

Martha Ann Lind, 68, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, June 19, 2022. A native of Lakeland, Fla., she was the daughter of the late Colleen and Vernon Lind. She was a compassionate nurse who took care of her parents during their golden years. She also had a great sense of humor and was known as "Aunt Martha" by all of her beloved nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews. She loved music and often enjoyed singing and playing her guitar. She served as executive director at Angel Hospice in Franklin. She practiced nursing for 40 years.



Martha Ann Lind

She is survived by her sisters: Myrta Lind Giunta of Tampa, Fla., Mary Lind Cohen of Oregon; brother, Bill Lind of Charlotte, N.C.; and several nieces, nephews, grand nieces and grand nephews who remember and were touched by her fun and youthful ways.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Franklin Hospice House, 1710 Underpass Way, Suite 300, Hagerstown, MD, 21740.

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

## Richard William Coan

Richard William Coan, 79, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, July 7, 2022.

Born in Washington, DC, he was the son of the late James Norman and Angela Splendora Coan, one of five children. He proudly served his country in the Navy during the Vietnam Era. He enjoyed painting, reading, and listening to music, especially classic rock. He was a Christian, and his faith was very important to him.

He is survived by two children, Richard Gerard Coan of Raleigh, N.C., and Jennifer Barrett of Naples, Fla.; three grandchildren, Kyle, Ashley, and Chad; and numerous nieces and nephews.

No services are currently planned.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the VVA Chapter 994, 249 Sloan Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

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



Richard William Coan

## Ella Mae Nix Wilson

Ella Mae Nix Wilson, 91 of Highlands, N.C., passed away Thursday, July 14, 2022. She was born June 16, 1931, in Rabun County, Georgia, to the late Frank Nix and Leona Reed Nix. She was a home maker and enjoyed working in her flowers. She was a member of Clear Creek Baptist Church and previously served as a clerk, treasurer, Sunday School teacher, pianist and sang in the choir. She was a loving wife, sister, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She will be missed by many.



Ella Mae Nix Wilson

She is survived by her children, Roger Lee Wilson (Anna), Edwin Wilson (Lisa) and Janice Allmond (Jimmy) all of Highlands; five grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her husband, Clarence Wilson; two sisters, Clara Owens and Louise Owens; and four brothers, Claude Nix, Clyde Nix, George Nix and Dewey Nix.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 18, at Clear Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Rusty Wolfrey, Rev. Mike Wilson and Rev. Jim Kinard officiating. Burial followed at the Clear Creek Church cemetery. Pallbearers were Jimmy Allmond, Jason Woods, Paul Bradham, Steve Nix, Charles Reed, Matthew Wilson and Chris Fisher.

Memorial donations may be made to the Clear Creek Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Joan Hicks or Roger Lee Wilson, 612 Wilson Gap Road, Highlands, NC 28741

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Wilson family. Online condolences can be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

## Nell Waldroop Ray

Nell Waldroop Ray, 89, died on July 4, 2022. She was born in Franklin, N.C., on Oct. 5, 1932, the daughter of the late Charles A. and Kate Setser Waldroop. She graduated from Franklin High School in 1950 and attended Blanton Business School in Asheville, N.C. She met her husband, Charles, while working at Biltmore Forest Country Club. They resided in Fletcher, N.C., for the rest of their happily married lives. She continued her business career working at Northwestern Bank and Fletcher Motor Company.



Nell Waldroop Ray

Her great love, other than Charles and their home, was cooking for her extended family especially at Christmas when she and Charles would host a party for the nieces, nephew and all their children. Aunt Nell's Christmas Party (and coconut cake) remains a favorite family memory. She was an adventurer at heart and enjoying traveling with Charles. After his death, she continued her adventures, once rafting the Nantahala River, taking a hot air balloon ride, traveling to New Orleans to hear jazz on Bourbon Street and sailing off Peaks Island, Maine.

She is survived by nieces, Kathy Tinsley (Dan) and Christine Slagle (Robert Martin); stepsister, Martha Rickman; stepbrothers, Lonnie, Sam and Mark Crawford; great nieces, Angela Tinsley Cash, Mary Rae Ruchti, and Katie Martin; and great nephews, Bryan Tinsley, Carl Slagle, Jake Slagle, and Sam Ruchti.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles W. Ray; sister, Nina Rae Waldroop Slagle; brother-in-law, Siler Slagle; and nephew, Al Slagle.

Her graveside service and burial was held Saturday, July 16, at West Memorial Park, 40 Roberts Street, Weaverville.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a favorite charity in her memory.

Condolences may be offered to the family at [www.WestFamilyFuneralServices.com](http://www.WestFamilyFuneralServices.com).

## Frank Ramsey

Frank Ramsey, 86, of Macon County, North Carolina, passed away on Thursday, July 14, 2022.

He was born in Macon County to the late Floyd and Ethel Ramsey on July 9, 1936. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Sue Ramsey.

He was of the Baptist faith and a member of the Tellico Baptist Church. He worked at Belden as a supervisor for 27 years. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. He loved NASCAR and was a huge fan of Dale Earnhardt. He was a people person and always welcoming to others.

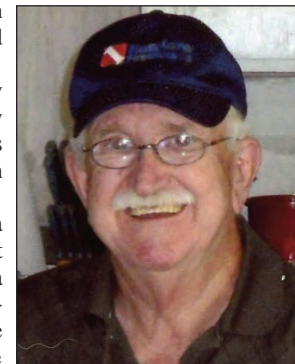
He is survived by his sister, Joyce Ledford; half-sister, Beatrice Humphrey; special friend, Noreen Strange and her daughters; several nieces and nephews; and a loving extended family.

A service was held at Macon Funeral Home, on Sunday, July 17, with Rev. David Williams officiating. Burial followed at Tellico Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Ronnie Ledford, Larry Tignal, Bobby Ledford, Larry Ledford, David Stiles, Bradley Stiles and Gage Ledford.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Frank Ramsey

*Obituaries can be viewed online at:*  
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## Christopher Bell tames Magic Mile securing first win of 2022

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

Christopher Bell has quietly established himself as a New England force over the past three years coming up the NASCAR ranks and on Sunday afternoon, he convincingly earned his biggest triumph to date there, a victory in the NASCAR Cup Series Ambetter 301 and a ticket to the 2022 Playoffs.

Bell led the last 42 laps of the 301-lapper at the one-mile New Hampshire Motor Speedway claiming the trophy – and the traditional lobster hoist in Victory Lane – with a massive 5.767-second victory over last week's race winner Chase Elliott.

It's only the second NASCAR Cup Series win for the third-year driver of the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota but oh, so significant as it launches the 27-year old Oklahoman into a guaranteed Playoff contention. The 14th different winner of the season came into the race ranked last among the top-16 drivers that would advance to the Playoffs. Now he has secured his title run.

"Man, that one was much needed right there," said Bell, who won three consecutive NASCAR Xfinity Series races at the track from 2019-2021 and was runner-up in last year's NASCAR Cup Series race there.

"I tell you what, that was a helluva race from my viewpoint. It was so much fun racing with the 45 (Kurt Busch), the 22 (Joey Logano) and the 9 (Elliott). We were all running different lines. That was a blast. Just so happy to be here at Joe Gibbs Racing and so good to get that 20 car back in victory lane."

"Winning Cup races is hard," he added with a smile, thanking the crowd. "Just seems like we've been close then we had fallen off a little bit last week. I was talking to my best friend and I told him, 'earlier in the year I felt like we were right on the verge of winning. Then the last couple of weeks I felt like we were pretty far away."

"But here we are today."

Elliott, who hasn't finished worse than second in the last four races (including two victories), said he just didn't have anything for Bell at the very end.

"I feel like just a poor run of execution on my end in the last run," said Elliott, driver of the No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet. "It took me a while to get past Joey (Logano) and the 45 (Busch) and I had to run harder than I wanted to."

"Just make a couple mistakes and couldn't get much breathing room."

The string of top-two finishes was of little consolation to the 2020 series champion.

"When you're in position like we've been in, you need to finish it off."

Bubba Wallace, driver of the No. 23 23XI Racing Toyota, turned in a career best day at New Hampshire finishing third – his second top-five of the season but first top-10 since a 10th place at Kansas eight races ago.

"Just proud of the team, proud of myself and proud of everybody at the shop," Wallace said, adding, "It's been hell for me the last month so good to come out with a top-five."

"This sport humbles you so there's really no surprises. Have to keep the task at hand and be mindful of your surroundings and do your job."

Bell's Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Martin Truex Jr. finished fourth followed by Stewart-Haas Racing's Kevin Harvick.

The pole sitter Truex won both stages – his series-leading



Christopher Bell, driver of the #20 Rheem/WATTS Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Ambetter 301 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on July 17, 2022 in Loudon, New Hampshire.

Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images



sixth and seventh of the year – and led a race best 182 laps; including the first 95 consecutively to start the race.

His No 19 JGR Toyota certainly looked like the car to beat, but a two-tire stop for him – and for Harvick – with about 100 laps to go turned out to unsettle the car and he dropped briefly outside the top-10 before racing back to his first top-five since a fifth place at Talladega, Ala. in April.

JGR's Denny Hamlin, Brad Keselowski, Trackhouse Racing's teammates Ross Chastain and Daniel Suarez and 23XI Racing's Kurt Busch rounded out the top-10. Seventh place was Keselowski's best finish of the season in his first year as co-owner/driver of the No. 6 Roush Fenway Keselowski Ford.

With Chastain's 14th top-10 and Ryan Blaney's 18th place finish, there was significant movement atop the championship standings. Chastain has moved into second place, 67 points behind the leader Elliott. Blaney – who is still looking for his first victory of the season – is now third.

Truex, who is also still racing for a Playoff-securing victory is now in the 16th and final Playoff position – 68 points ahead of Harvick, who has not won in 2022 either.

The NASCAR Cup Series returns to action next Sunday at the M&Ms Fan Appreciation 400 at Pocono Raceway (2 p.m. ET, USA Network, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Last year was a weekend doubleheader event with Alex

Bowman and Kyle Busch each winning a race.

Justin Allgaier captures third victory of 2022 at New Hampshire

Justin Allgaier prevailed in an action-packed Crayon 200 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Saturday earning his third victory of the season and a very special birthday present for his wife, Ashley. A race trophy.

The driver of the No. 7 JR Motorsports Chevrolet delivered Chevy's first win at the one-mile track in 15 years. It's Allgaier's third win of the season – coming a comfortable 3.869-sec-

onds ahead of Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota driver Trevor Bayne, who was trying to earn the JGR team its seventh consecutive New Hampshire win.

"We finished second here last year to one (Toyota) and I told these guys I really wanted to win here," said Allgaier, who now has three wins in the last eight races. "This place has been so much fun over the years."

"First of all, it's my wife's birthday, so if I can't be with my wife on her birthday the best thing to do is take home a trophy to her. Just proud of the team."

It was, at times, a dramatic drive for the 36-year old Illinois driver. He had an incident with Julie Landauer's car early – apologizing to her after the race. And although he ran top-5 for most of the day, he didn't actually lead the race until 48 laps remaining – dicing it up with Landon Cassill, who was looking for his first career win.

The two exchanged the lead five times in the closing 60 laps with Allgaier able to pull away for good with 19 laps to go.

Cassill, who led 17 laps, ultimately had his third-place finish disqualified for post-race inspection violations – the rear of his No. 10 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet was ruled too low.

The fourth-place finisher, Allgaier's JR Motorsports teammate Noah Gragson in the No. 9 JRM Chevrolet was also



Justin Allgaier, driver of the #7 BRANDT Chevrolet, and crew celebrate in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Crayon 200 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on July 16, 2022 in Loudon, New Hampshire.

Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images

At left, Allgaier, and Daniel Hemric, driver of the #11 AG1 - Athletic Greens Chevrolet, lead the field to the green flag to start Saturday's NASCAR Xfinity race.

Photo by Tim Nwachukwu/Getty Images

The race included 10 caution periods (including a nearly eight-minute red flag). And there were 15 lead changes among 10 drivers with Joe Gibbs Racing's Ty Gibbs led the most laps (49) on the day.

Both Gibbs and championship leader A.J. Allmendinger were noticeably absent from that group atop the scoreboard. Gibbs' No. 54 JRG Toyota suffered a mechanical problem just after the Stage 2 break and he finished 21st – the second week in a row he's had a sub-20th place showing.

Allmendinger was involved in one of the multi-car accidents, hitting the wall with 58 laps remaining and forced to pit for extensive repairs to his No. 16 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet. He finished one position ahead of Gibbs in 20th place.

The rough day for Gibbs and the good day for Allgaier shook up the points standings with Allmendinger now leading Allgaier by 16 points. Gibbs is now third place, 28-points back, as the series races next in the Explore the Pocono Mountains 225 at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway (Saturday, 5 p.m. ET, USA Network, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Austin Cindric is the defending winner.

disqualified after a failed post-race inspection. His car failed front body inspection heights and was too low. The DQ dropped him from fourth place to fifth place in the season standings, now 99-points behind leader A.J. Allmendinger but safely in the Playoffs with two victories.

The two disqualifications moved fifth place finisher Brandon Brown in the No. 68 Brandon Brown Racing Chevrolet officially into third place in the race results – the best result and first top-5 of the season for the 29-year old Virginian's family-owned team.

It may have been a Toyota victory circle for most of the past few years, but even with the disqualifications to Cassill and Gragson, Chevrolet drivers still made up nine of the top-10 positions on Saturday.

Ty Dillon, Austin Hill, Kyle Weatherman, Mason Massey and Bayley Currey rounded out the top-10. It marked the second top-10 of Weatherman's season and the second top-10 of both Massey and Currey's careers.

We would like to welcome Ty Payseur to our team. Ty enjoys spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Ty has over 30 years of experience in tractor service, please help us welcome him to the team!

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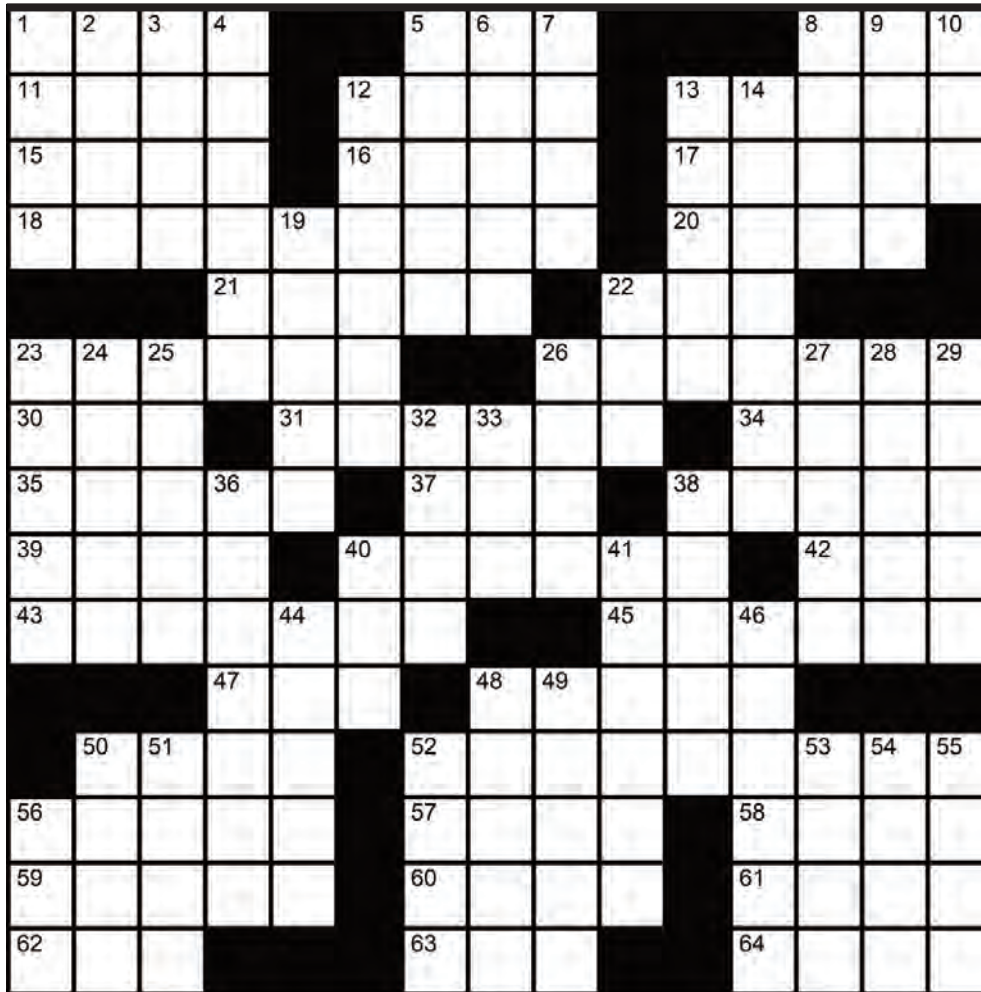
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5. Vietnamese neighbor
8. "Before" prefix
11. Curved molding
12. \*It rings at midnight on Christmas Eve at church
13. Yarn store unit
15. Relating to armpit
16. Criminal's surprise
17. Nephew's sister
18. \*4th of July spectacle
20. 1952 Olympics host
21. 1,000 kilograms
22. Meat sauce
23. Vacation location
26. French painter of "La Danse" fame
30. Menu words (2 words)
31. Lean
34. Wine valley
35. Impertinent
37. \*Annual Assumption tradition blesses it
38. #2 Down, pl.
39. Highest volcano in Europe
40. Puppies
42. Bit of binary code
43. Dean's official residence
45. Small stream
47. Wine quality
48. Bilbo Baggins' land
50. Windsor family's sport
52. \*Popular New Year's libation
56. Stored by bees
57. \_\_\_-de-camp
58. "On the \_\_\_" by Jack Kerouac
59. Make laugh
60. Tear





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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>61. Tibetan priest</li> <li>62. Woolen cap</li> <li>63. Banned insecticide</li> <li>64. Big Bang's original matter</li> </ol> <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bakery serving</li> <li>2. Tangelo</li> <li>3. Scorch</li> <li>4. Regarding this point</li> <li>5. "Live and ___"</li> <li>6. Description for twins</li> <li>7. Auto pioneer</li> <li>8. Banana remnant</li> <li>9. Puerto ___</li> <li>10. Compass bearing</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. "Jane Eyre" author</li> <li>13. Pig part</li> <li>14. *Action under mistletoe</li> <li>19. Like a damaged apple, possibly</li> <li>22. Jam container</li> <li>23. Torn down</li> <li>24. Fill with optimism</li> <li>25. Sweating room</li> <li>26. *Thanksgiving's main event?</li> <li>27. Beauty parlor</li> <li>28. Chiropractor's concern</li> <li>29. Painting holder</li> <li>32. Light gray</li> <li>33. "Wow!"</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>36. *Birthday cake decorations</li> <li>38. Seize the throne</li> <li>40. Kind of humor</li> <li>41. Ready</li> <li>44. Deteriorate</li> <li>46. Just about</li> <li>48. Jumped aside</li> <li>49. Lacked</li> <li>50. Type of cotton</li> <li>51. Female gamete</li> <li>52. *Valentine's Day tradition</li> <li>53. *New Year's resolution weight or savings target</li> <li>54. One in a roster</li> <li>55. Red-encased cheese</li> <li>56. *Graduation flyer</li> </ol> |
|---|---|---|

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# The Classifieds

## Services

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**MURPHY'S PAINTING COMPANY** Interior and Exterior Painting, Sheetrock repair, wallpaper removal, Log Homes, Decks, Insured. Free estimates. (828)524-1391, (828)332-0525.

## Misc. For Sale

**STUDENT DESK** solid wood, 4 drawers, good condition, 30x17 top, \$65. (828)524-8138.

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**FARMERS MARKET** 8-12, Every Saturday. Please Come Out and Support Your Local Farmers Market. Spring Vegetables, Honey, Garden Seedlings, Soap, Wooden Bowl & Spoons, Pastries, Cookies, Preserves, Eggs. 200 Block East Palmer.

## Help Wanted

**CASHIERS COLOR CENTER IS** looking to hire a full-time individual to assist in the paint department. Duties will include mixing paint, assisting customers with color selections and sundry items, stocking shelves and daily cleaning. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. This individual must be dependable, self-motivated, have great customer service skills and be willing to learn. We will offer on-the-job training, so experience is not necessary. For more information, call Derek Taylor @ (828)200-9226, or stop by Cashiers Color Center to fill out an application.

**IF YOU WANT TO WORK** Must Have Reliable Transportation. Call Bob (828)342-5273 after 3 p.m.

**CLARK & CO.** a leader in Landscape Design, Construction and Management for over 30 years has an opening in the Design Department for a full-time Assistant Designer. Applicants should be proficient in AutoCAD (Dynamicscape) and experience in site measuring, grades and site analysis. For more information call (828)369-2505 or send resume to ccls.kim@gmail.com

## Garage & Yard Sales

**MULTI-FAMILY** Indoor yard sale, Saturday, 7/23 8:30-Noon @ Macon county Public Library, 149 Siler Farm Rd, Inside meeting room.

**GARAGE SALE** Saturday, 8-2, 33 Spring St. South past High School, Right on Wilson Ave., Right on Spring. (828)342-7617.

**MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE** Friday & Saturday, July 22&23. 8-1, Carson Community Center, 3001 Old Murphy Rd. Great Variety. Benefits community Projects.

## Animals

**SMALL DEXTER CATTLE** Start you own herd. Starting at \$400 each. (828)349-1156.

**ADOPT A PET** AARC Animal Shelter, 851 Lake Emory Rd., Franklin. Call for an appointment. (828)524-4588.

**VOLUNTEERS & DOG WALKERS** Needed at Macon County Animal Services. 18 years and older. Call Debbie (941)266-7084.

## Community Fundraisers

**MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE** Friday & Saturday, July 22&23. 8-1, Carson Community Center, 3001 Old Murphy Rd. Great Variety. Benefits community Projects.

**DRIVE-THRU SPAGHETTI DINNER** July 23, 5-7 p.m. Memorial United Methodist Church. menu will include spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread and a dessert. Free meal, all donations go towards missions. Information call church office (828)369-5834.

**BENEFIT CONCERT** Saturday, July 23, 1pm-6pm, Cowee School, 51 Cowee School Dr. Local Bands. Food, Vendors, Chili Chompers Food Truck \$10 Donation per person. Benefits Smoky Mountain Veteran Stand Down. Bring lawn chairs.

**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 and Sexual Assault in Macon County. Information call (828)369-2040.

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