

# The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

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August 18, 2022 • 24 Pages

Volume 40 Number 14

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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To celebrate its 60th birthday, the Macon County Art Association presented its first ever ArtFest this past weekend at the public library with painting demonstrations, hands-on activities, movies and mini-workshops of all kinds. The event culminated in a benefit concert featuring Blue Jazz to raise money for arts in schools. For the full story and more photos, see page 6. Photo submitted

## IN THIS ISSUE



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Ceremony honors high school equivalency grads

## Board of commissioners approve contract for schematic design for new Franklin high school

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

During the August meeting of the Macon County Board of Education, commissioners approved a contract with LS3P Associates for the completion of schematic designs for constructing a new Franklin High School building on the same property as the current location.

Prior to deciding to construct a new high school building on the same property as the exciting campus, Macon County Board of Commissioners as well as the Macon County Board of Educa-



An LS3P associate addresses commissioners at a recent meeting.

tion evaluated other possible sites throughout the county. While specifics of properties that were considered by either board were discussed in closed session and kept private due to North Carolina General Statute as the properties would be considered "material terms" under the state's open meeting law, general considerations and references have been made concerning several properties and the reasons they were ruled out.

Dating back to 2017, property

See SCHEMATIC page 2



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Scenes from "This Night of a Thousand Stars"

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## SCHEMATIC

Continued  
from page 1

located on the Georgia Road was identified as a potential location for a new high school facility. While the recommended average of 50 acres was available for purchase, other considerations were made in ruling out the potential property. The location off of a very busy highway would have significant issues in terms of ingress and egress, and would result in a process that would both be exceptionally lengthy and cost prohibitive. The location off the highway and the lack of infrastructure to handle the traffic associated with 900-plus students and another 100-plus teachers was also a factor. The road upon which the high school would be located is already considered the deadliest road in the county, making it a poor choice to add 300 daily student drivers to the traffic.

As Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin noted to the Franklin Rotary Club last week, a parcel in the South Macon area was considered, however the price associated with just acquiring the property and preparing it for construction was not a viable option. The property itself was listed at \$7 million and early estimates reported an additional \$7 million in grading costs just to prepare the property for construction.

Another significant cost issue considered at various sites in

the county was the cost of bringing infrastructure to the potential properties. As Macon County Commissioner Gary Shields noted during the meeting last week, a property in the Cowee area was identified early on. In addition to the property being located on a two lane road, and not readily equipped to handle the additional vehicles the new school would bring, the remote location had limited access to infrastructure access to things such as water and sewer, and adequate internet access.

When considering property in specific locations of the county such as Iotla or near the Parker Meadows Recreation Park, the county considered the significant history of the locations as they related to former Native American settlements in the county. Generally speaking, properties that are located near a water source, such as a creek would be relatively easy when considering water and sewer access, however, when factoring in Macon County's history of early Native American settlements, properties located near water were likely former settlements, therefore are protected when it comes to development. For already developed sites, the same preservation laws are not in place as existing sites have already been disturbed.

With the schematic design contract approved by commissioners last week, once a design proposal is completed by LS3P Associates, a public meeting will be held, tentatively in mid to late October to unveil the proposed designs before moving forward with the project.

## BOE requests new scanners

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Macon County Board of Elections will be hosting public demonstrations of potential new voting equipment. Out of the 100 counties in North Carolina, Macon County is one of five counties that currently uses the 20 year-old software, with three of the five counties, Macon, Graham, and Swain, all being in Western North Carolina.

"We are looking at new scanners," said Thibault. "Our scanners are almost 20 years old. There will be a day soon when the vendors will no longer service our current scanners because they do not make them anymore. We will still have paper ballots. In North Carolina, paper ballots are required for use in elections. This is why we are urging everyone to come out so there are no questions unanswered at the time the vendors are here."

The new equipment, which would be 24 new machines, is expected to cost around \$250,000.

North Carolina requires several steps be taken before new voting equipment is employed, the first step being to witness demonstrations of the potential voting equipment and the demonstrations must not only include a demonstration of the current vendor's system, but also a second certified voting equipment vendor.

The public demonstrations of the voting equipment are scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 23, and Tuesday, Aug. 30, both at 6 p.m. Aug. 23 will be a demonstration of ES&S systems, which is the county's current vendor, and Aug. 30 will include a demonstration of HART systems. Both systems are widely used in North Carolina along with the Clear Ballot system. The demonstrations will take place at the Robert C. Carpenter Building in Franklin.

Following the public demonstrations, the Macon County Board of Elections will then return to the Board of Commissioners with a recommendation on which system to purchase.

After a vendor is selected, a stimulated election would have to be held to test the equipment. Thibault said ideally, she would like to see the equipment purchased in time to be used during a municipal election, which typically sees fewer voters than in a general election.

The new equipment will be an upgrade but will not change the process for voters. The new voting equipment does not connect to the internet in any way.

## Volunteers needed for Statewide Litter Sweep

The N.C. Department of Transportation is looking for volunteers for the Adopt-A-Highway Fall Litter Sweep, Sept. 10 – 24.

Each April and September, the department calls on volunteers to help remove litter from roadsides. Volunteers from local businesses, schools, non-profits, churches, and community groups play an important role in keeping North Carolina's roads clean.

"North Carolina is a wonderful place thanks to the thousands of volunteers who donate their time every year," says David Harris, State Roadside Environmental Engineer. "The Litter Sweep is a great opportunity to get outdoors with family and friends and work alongside NCDOT to ensure North Carolina remains a beautiful place to live and work."

Volunteers can request gloves, safety vests, and bags from their local county maintenance office during the sweep. People looking to participate should contact their local litter management coordinator. In Macon County, call Bradley Pyle at (828)524-2517.

Visit the Litter Sweep webpage at [ncdot.gov](http://ncdot.gov) for more information.



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# Internship offers on-the-job experience

A paid summer internship program at Western Carolina University pairs students with local nonprofits and community organizations in a partnership that helps each of them succeed and benefits the community at large.

Interning with Circles of Jackson County this summer, Grace Chastain, of Sylva, a senior majoring in English, said she gained work experience in a variety of communications roles. Chastain helped run a blog, rewrite web pages, post to social media and create newsletters, brochures and other materials for the local nonprofit, which works with volunteers to help Jackson County families escape poverty.

"It was a great experience," Chastain said. "My supervisor put me in a lot of positions where I was actively learning but still able to serve the organization well at the same time. It's the first time I was able to take all the things I've been learning in the classroom and legitimately apply them outside of that."

Alexa Lockhart, a senior from Wake Forest majoring in sociology, interned with Center for Domestic Peace, a nonprofit in Sylva that works to end interpersonal violence through prevention, intervention and public education.

After completing a 20-hour training that allowed her to help with direct client work, Lockhart helped answer a telephone hotline, talk to clients, collect incident data and help connect people with service providers. "I was doing a lot of things," she said. "It was very hands-on, which I liked."

Chastain and Lockhart are two of 20 students at WCU who participated in the State Employees' Credit Union Public Fellows Internship Program this summer.

The SECU Foundation started the program in 2015 as a way to connect talented undergraduate students with local nonprofits and community groups. The goal is to give students on-the-job experience that contributes to local communities and strengthens their nonprofit capacity and reduces talent drain from rural regions in North Carolina.

WCU has participated in the internship program since 2017. The program is now offered in all UNC System universities, and more than 1,000 students have completed internships in 60 North Carolina counties. The SECU Foundation supports the internship program, as well as other scholarship and grant programs, thanks to the collective impact of \$1 monthly foundation contributions that SECU account holders elect to make.

WCU receives \$100,000 annually from SECU Foundation to offer the 20 summer internships. The funding facilitates paid internships many nonprofits would struggle to be unable to provide on their own.

"We focused our program on students who don't necessarily have a clear or linear career path — students majoring in the humanities or social sciences who can do lots of different things with their degrees, but don't know yet what they want to focus on after graduation," said Theresa Cruz Paul, director of the Center for Career and Professional Development at WCU.

"Another goal is to try to help students see these nonprofits and think about them as career paths, to build communities, but also to stay in North Carolina after they graduate."

Students who are accepted into the internship program work 30 hours a week for 10 weeks and are paid \$5,000. They also participate in bi-weekly meetings as a group with Center for Career and Professional Development staff.

Discussion topics in those meetings can range from workplace professionalism and culture to leadership and ethics. WCU staff also help the students identify and develop their strengths.

"That was a really cool piece of the program I enjoyed a lot more than I thought I



Alexa Lockhart, a senior from Wake Forest majoring in sociology, interned with Center for Domestic Peace in Sylva.

would," Chastain said. "It asked us to do a lot of reflection on our internship while it was happening, and what we were learning, with other people going through similar experiences."

Chastain and Lockhart said they recommend the program for any students who are looking for summer internship opportunities. The internship is paid and provides valuable work experience. And it helps students explore potential career opportunities while contributing to a good local cause.

"I knew people in my academic program commonly work in nonprofits, but I didn't know what that would look like. Getting the professional work experience and seeing what a career path could look like was super helpful, as someone who just didn't know," Chastain said.

Learn more at <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/academic-enrichment/ccpd/students/secu-public-fellows-internship-program.aspx>

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# New parking fees announced for Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park has announced it will adopt a "Park it Forward" parking tag program, meaning visitors will have to pay to park for the first time in the park's history. The new program will also increase camping fees beginning March 2023.

"Today marks a significant milestone in the history of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and I'm honored to be a part of it," Superintendent Cassius Cash said. "I have been incredibly encouraged by all the support, from across the country, and especially here in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina, for the opportunity to invest in the future care of this treasured park. We take great pride in being the country's most visited national park, but that distinction comes with tremendous strain on our infrastructure. Now we will have sustained resources to ensure this sacred place is protected for visitors to enjoy for generations to come."

The parking rates are \$5 for a daily parking tag, \$15 for a parking tag for up to seven days and \$40 for an annual parking tag, according to the park's release. All revenue will stay in the park to provide sustainable, year-round support focusing on improving the visitor experience, protecting resources, and maintaining trails, roads, historic structures, and facilities.

GSMNP said the use of all park roads will remain toll-free, and parking tags will not be required for motorists who pass through the area or who park vehicles for less than 15 minutes.

The tags will not guarantee a parking spot at a specific location, according to the park. Parking will continue to be available on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the park.

The park said it will eliminate unsafe roadside parking at specific areas to enhance the visitor experience by improving motorist and pedestrian safety, increasing traffic flow and protecting roadside resources.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited national park. Over the last decade, visitation increased by 57% to a record 14.1 million visits in 2021.

The park initially announced the Park it Forward and camping fee proposal in April, and the public was encouraged to submit its comments.

The invitation generated 3,677 correspondences from all 50 states, and a total of 15,512 independent comments were identified, categorized, and assessed as part of the review process, according to a release.

North Carolina Senator Kevin Corbin was among state leaders who spoke out against the proposed fees, encouraging the park to continue allowing access to the park free of charge.

Overall, 85 percent of responses expressed either strong support or included constructive ideas to improve the program, according to GSMNP. None of the responses voiced opposition to the fee itself.

About 41 percent and 16 percent of all correspondence were from Tennessee and North Carolina residents, respectively. Support from the six counties bordering the park



The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited national park in the country, boasting 14.1 million visits in 2021, an increase of 57% over the last decade.

varied with 82 percent of Blount County (Tenn.), 73 percent of Sevier County (Tenn.), 90 percent of Cocke County (Tenn.), 60 percent of Graham County (N.C.), 60 percent of Swain County (N.C.), and 85 percent of Haywood County (N.C.) residents who submitted feedback expressing either support or neutrality for the new parking fee, according to a release.

The most prevalent comment regarding tag duration was support for an annual tag, according to the park. In response, the director

of the National Park Service authorized permission for the park to offer an annual tag, which will allow parking throughout the park from the date of purchase.

The park said any visitor can purchase an annual parking tag, but the approval for this option was sought by park leadership specifically for local residents who are more likely to visit multiple times throughout the year.

*Brittney Lofthouse contributed to this article.*

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# SCC ceremony celebrates high school equivalency graduates

Like every other graduate at Southwestern Community College's High School Equivalency commencement ceremony, Calbert Christian navigated a unique road on his way to receiving his diploma earlier this month.

His journey just involved a few more years – and miles – than most anyone else.

"I'm from Jamaica, and I didn't have an opportunity to go to a nice school growing up," said Christian, who recently turned 68 and currently resides in Sylva. "I came here to live in 2015. I was looking for a job, but everyone wanted a high school diploma. So my wife (Arlene) encouraged me to take (High School Equivalency classes)."

He initially started taking preparatory classes elsewhere, but didn't feel confident enough to continue until meeting with Crystal Snover – SCC's College and Career Readiness Director.

With her support, he gave Southwestern a try. When the time came, he sat for the exam and came tantalizingly close to a passing score.

"I failed math by one point, and I decided to not go back," he recalled quietly, fidgeting with the blue mortarboard in his hands. "But my wife kept encouraging me. She said, 'It was only one point.' So I went back. The teachers at SCC were so helpful. They would sit beside me and go over and over and over each lesson until I got it."

With his wife's encouragement and his instructors' assistance, Christian was successful on his second exam attempt – and he flashed a wide smile after receiving his diploma Aug. 2 on SCC's stage.

"Calbert was a police officer in Jamaica," Snover said. "He's very quiet, but he's been very determined. We're extremely proud of him."

A very different path led Bonnie Williamson of Sylva to follow Christian onto SCC's stage on the same night.

Williamson was raised in Mississippi but dropped out of school before high school because her family needed her to work.

"I always wanted to be a doctor, but I grew up poor," Williamson said. "I have a great family, and they tried their best to take care of me, but when you grow up with nothing, you have to work. Nothing was ever handed to me. I had to go out and do things myself."

After working in the fast food industry for a few years, she had a daughter (Isabella) at age

19. She joined a fire department in Haywood County and completed all the necessary coursework for her EMT Basic and Firefighter 1 & 2 certifications – but she couldn't get her official certifications or become a paramedic without her high school diploma.

All of that made the commencement ceremony particularly sweet for Williamson.

"I never had a prom or a graduation ceremony before, so it really felt like a huge success for me – especially now that I can officially earn all of the firefighting certificates I already completed," said Williamson, who serves on the Lake Junaluska Fire Department's force. She also volunteers with the Sylva Fire Department.

"The instructors and staff at SCC have been amazing," Williamson added. "They are so friendly and willing to help any way they can."



These students earned their High School Equivalency diplomas through SCC's College and Career Readiness department. Bottom row, from left: Malia Little of Cherokee, Mary Hilburn of Sylva, Stephanie Crawford of Franklin, Araceli Velasco of Franklin, Caitlin Lambert of Cherokee, Athena Melvin of Bryson City and Kaitlyn Lopez of Franklin. Second row: Kyle Herndon of Bryson City, Crystal Franks of Franklin, Shania Mathis of Cherokee, Bonnie Williamson of Sylva. Third row: Jonathan "Jack" Parisi of Franklin, Justin Shell of Cherokee, Caleb Cannon of Highlands, Calbert Christian of Sylva and Miguel Camarillo of Whittier.

Another graduate, Shania Mathis of Cherokee, is excited to put her High School Equivalency to use by pursuing a Nurse Aide certificate through SCC's program. Her long-term goal is to get into the college's Nursing program.

"I dropped out of high school because I had a child, but I am pretty proud of myself for finishing so fast," said Mathis, a Cherokee resident who just turned 20. "Melanie (Phillips, SCC's College and Career Readiness Coordinator) helped a lot getting everything scheduled, and the instructors were very encouraging. They told me I could do it no matter what happened."

For more info or to get started on High School Equivalency classes at SCC, contact Donna Wilson at 828.339.4272 or d\_wilson@SouthwesternCC.edu.

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# Macon County Art Association's first ArtFest deemed a success

**Deena C. Bouknight**  
Contributing Writer

Macon County Art Association (MCAA) celebrated its 60th anniversary by putting on the first-ever ArtFest Aug. 11-13, at the Macon County Public Library. Artist and organizer Carol Conti expressed that the event was a "success," with "enthusiastic parents, children, and individuals coming back all three days." MCAA determined that approximately 300 attended the three-day event that started with a Saturday night fundraiser celebration at Tartan Hall featuring local musical trio Blue Jazz. Monday raised will go to support Macon County arts programs and teachers.

The three-day ArtFest was a free event for children and adults that included art demonstrations, classes, workshops, and films.

"They were impressed with the variety of choices and the quality of artwork being demonstrated. Thursday was the main day for children's activities with six art teachers participating, as well as two, 8-year-old children as 'Kids Teaching Kids,'" Conti said.

She explained that one popular activity was squeegee art, with around 70 attending the activity offered by local art teacher Jessica Moschouris. Programs such as painted clay pieces with Jeff Marley from SCC Heritage Arts Program and marbling with Jessica Carpenter also drew crowds. "Debra Carroll had over 40 attendees between two sessions of paint projects. And there were always long lines



At left: For the fundraising event of the ArtFest, Carol Conti dressed up as famed artist Georgia O'Keeffe, while her artist friend, dressed as artist Frida Kahlo. Around a dozen people dressed as artists such as Grandma Moses and Vincent Van Gogh.



colorist from Hiawassee. Art themed movies for children and adults were also offered throughout ArtFest.

"On Thursday evening, 'Loving Vincent,' the first ever animated film, was viewed by 30 attendees who enjoyed it immensely and clapped at the end!" she said.

"Friday was slower paced with fewer children's activities but still busy with around 100 people," said Conti, pointing out that demonstrators included Jon Houglum, Maryellen Tully, John Sill, and Terrie Prestia, with Saturday featuring outdoor spray painting with Jesse Dallas and much more. Local artist Poané shared an acrylic paint presentation.

"It seems attendees really loved the variety of the visual arts offered," said Conti. "All in all, the ones who attended as well as the artists themselves, were enthusiastic and very happy that they came. We [MCAA] are definitely discussing making this an annual event, but considering opening it up to other types of artists in the community, such as writers, musicians, and more."

for face painting!" said Conti.

Conti added that there were numerous hands-on activities, with encouraging and skillful art presenters, such as Verlee Jones, and 81-year-old water-



Local Artist Carol Conti presents her original painting "Smoky Mountain Fall," to Mary Murray of Franklin, the winner of a raffle to raise money for art programs in Macon County Public Schools.

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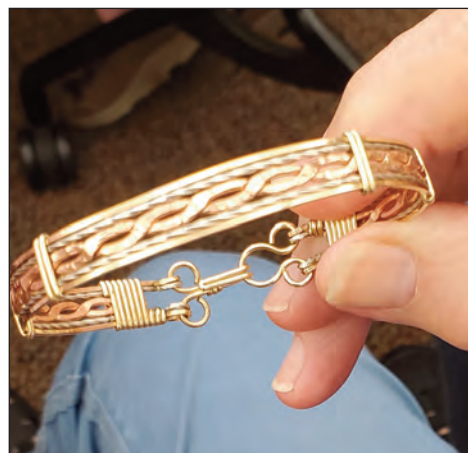
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## Mental Health crisis real in Franklin

**Clint Kendall**  
Angel Medical Center CEO

It's summer! It's hard not to love this season of flowers growing, warm days, afternoon showers, and beautiful, cooler nights that only those of us lucky enough to live in the mountains get to enjoy.

Summer also finds me restless for the weekend anticipating fun activities — and I know I'm not alone. We're programmed to look at the next

step, and often evaluate it quickly, labeling it as a positive or a negative. I've tried to build a hopeful outlook and tend to lean toward being positive, but it's also common to dwell on the negative. Unfortunately, many people don't see hope on the path ahead, especially when significant life stresses or an issue like depression is present.

Unfortunately, the mental health crisis is real, and a major issue across the U.S. and right here in Franklin. Some cope by using drugs, and they are all around us. Even though we may not hear their collective cry for help, it's there. We must realize that the addiction crisis and the mental health crisis are also intertwined.

Rather than judging those who struggle with addiction, it's important to understand that there's almost no one who hasn't been affected somehow by the drug crisis. According to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), more than 28,000 North Carolinians died from drug overdoses between 2000 and 2020. Each of these represents a tragedy for families and loved ones. Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic led to increased drug misuse and abuse as more people felt hopeless and lost sight of their value.

The Centers of Disease Control (CDC) states that overdose deaths have risen by a staggering 30% in just 2020, and an additional 15% in the following year, 2021. Across the country, 107,622 overdose deaths were reported for that period.

Though the solutions to this overwhelming problem are complex, we have to turn the tide, through better treatment, destigmatizing addiction and seeking mental health services, and meeting those struggling where they are, with compassion and hope.

International Overdose Awareness Day is Aug. 31, and when I consider the types of dangerous drugs we're dealing with now, it makes my growing up in Western North Carolina seem tame in comparison. The only illicit substances we were aware of then were tobacco, alcohol and maybe a certain tree seed pod, which were said to give those who chewed them a "high" feeling. Like how trees can grow almost anywhere, there's no household that's immune to the risk of addiction.

I hear many people express relief that our community isn't affected, but this couldn't be further from the truth, sadly. The NCDHHS reported overdose deaths rising by a startling



**Clint Kendall**

37% in 2020 across the state. In 2021, Macon County experienced a rate of 44.5 deaths per 100,000 people, significantly higher than the state average of 33.5.

This data weighs heavily on my heart. Angel Medical Center (AMC), along with our community partners, see and feel this reality every day. It also pains me to hear people declaring that, with regard to these drug casualties, "they are not that person," that they'd never get

caught up in the spiral of addiction, or worse still, that if someone loses their life through an overdose, they somehow deserve it.

CDC data reflects that a full 83% of deaths by overdose were not intentional. In 2021 alone, N.C. lost 1,600 to heroin, 800 to cocaine, and 1,800 to commonly prescribed household medications. Failing to secure prescription medications or using medications for any purpose other than what they were prescribed for is a leading cause of overdose deaths.

I want to encourage our community to embrace those with mental illness and addiction challenges, lock up your medications and discard any unused ones, and to do all you can to support those struggling. It might mean volunteering for a local community organization, or supporting a friend as they discuss a problem. On Oct. 29, AMC will hold its Crush the Crisis drug take back day. More information to come on that event.

Now for some positive news: AMC nominates four people annually who have shown outstanding pride and work for the hospital and this community. In the Excellence in Nursing Category, we chose two outstanding Emergency Room nurses, Patricia "Janie" Key and Duane McHan. Both provide excellent care and demonstrate the compassion that make Angel such a special place.

In the Frist Humanitarian Award category, we chose Gay Todson, a long-time volunteer with a heart for the staff and people that come to seek care at Angel. She has accumulated more than 12,000 volunteer hours, and is such a help and blessing to our team.

Rick VanGilder has been nominated for the Innovators Award for his special talent of finding ways throughout the pandemic to bring a smile to the faces of staff and patients.

Congratulations to these four outstanding employees. It's hard to nominate just a few when there are so many passionate people serving the healthcare needs of our community with such dedication.

Finally, a new facility update! We are still slated to open on Sept. 18, at 6 a.m. We will have a time for the community to come out and see the facility and get the exciting behind-the-scenes tour. This is a great step and enhances our ability to provide excellent care, close to home, to this special community.

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

## Wound Care Center is now open at Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital

The Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital Wound Care Center is now open, with a new, multi-disciplinary care team. Erlanger welcomes providers Dr. Andrew Beeghly, Dr. Wendy Corso and Dr. Mark Gilbert.

As a comprehensive wound center, the Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital (EWCH) Wound Care Center treats wounds of all kinds but specializes in those that are difficult to heal or are complicated by other health conditions. Types of wounds treated include diabetic ulcers, arterial and venous ulcers, pressure sores, skin lacerations, radiation burns, post-operative infections, trauma injuries, and more. To expedite wound healing, the center offers advanced wound care methods when appropriate, such as negative pressure wound therapy, tissue growing therapies, total contact casting, debridement, and referrals as needed for overall health improvement.

"We're very proud to be able to offer this service to our community once again," said EWCH CEO Stephanie Boynton. "This new team of providers is a great addition to the EWCH family, and I look forward to seeing wound care services continue to grow in Western North Carolina."

Previously serving as EWCH's Medical Director of Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine, Dr. Beeghly returns to EWCH after military deployment. He is a board-certified emergency medicine physician who specializes in wound care and hyperbaric medicine. Dr. Beeghly will serve as the EWCH Wound Care Center medical director. He began his medical career as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and Army medic in 2000, and

he continues to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves. He received his medical education at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, Fla. Dr. Beeghly's wound care and hyperbaric medicine experience began when he served as a Navy-trained dive medical officer for the 5th Special Forces Group. In 2017, he began working with Mission Hospital Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Center in Asheville, followed by a move to the EWCH Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center in 2018.

Dr. Corso is a board-certified family nurse practitioner who received specialized training in emergency medicine. Prior to joining Erlanger, Dr. Corso worked as an EMT-paramedic in Murphy and as a nurse in east Tennessee. She later received her master's degree in family nursing from Middle Tennessee State University and a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Dr. Gilbert is board certified in emergency medicine with nearly 30 years of medical experience. Dr. Gilbert attended the University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa, Fla. He specializes in wound care and hyperbaric therapy. Dr. Gilbert previously served as the Chief Medical Officer at EWCH and the medical director of the EWCH Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center before its closure.

The EWCH Wound Care Center is located in the hospital annex, which is the former site of the nursing home. For more information, call (828)837-7166 or visit [erlanger.org/westencarolina](http://erlanger.org/westencarolina).



**Dr. Andrew B. Beeghly**



**Dr. Wendy Corso**



**Dr. Mark Gilbert**

## Gov. Roy Cooper lifts North Carolina's COVID-19 State of Emergency with executive order No. 267

Governor Roy Cooper has ended the state's COVID-19 State of Emergency. With vaccines, treatments, and other tools to combat COVID-19 widely available, and with new legislation now providing the requested flexibility to North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and health care providers to continue to respond, the state is poised to continue comprehensive pandemic response without the need for the State of Emergency, reads a statement from the governor's office.

Many of the state's public health measures combatting the pandemic had previously been lifted, but the State of Emergency continued to allow the distribution of vaccines and tests and regulatory flexibility to ensure staff capacity in the state's healthcare system. Following legislative changes made in the budget signed by Gov. Cooper in July that allow NCDHHS to continue to respond to the pandemic, the State of Emergency can be lifted.

"The pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to our state and people now have the knowledge and the tools like vaccines, boosters and therapeutic treatments to keep them safe," said Gov. Cooper. "Executive orders issued under the State of Emergency protected public health and helped us save lives and livelihoods. ... My administration will continue to work to protect the health and safety of our people."



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*Pickin' on the Square is fun, free entertainment most Saturday nights throughout the summer. Main entertainment starts at approximately 6:00 p.m.*

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Due to health issues, we are changing bands for Saturday August 20th. We have the J.W. Band stepping in to cover, who are a Pickin' favorite.

Be sure to bring your lawn chair! These summer concerts are given to you by the town of Franklin, free, no admission. We start at 6:00 p.m. at the gazebo in downtown Franklin. See ya there!!

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor

Tonight (Thursday), is the August meeting of the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners. It will be at the Highlands Community Building which is located next to the ball field. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. with public comment at the top of the agenda.

The agenda is rather short, but there will be a number of reports that will update the community on impending projects and initiatives. Several agenda items will be for "discussion only." For instance, an update on property revaluations that the Macon County Tax Assessors Department will be conducting this coming year will be of great interest to many homeowners on the plateau.

The board will also review several items related to the STR [short term rentals] issue, but no final actions will be taken. On the agenda is a review and discussion of the March 3 letter that the attorney who represents the Save Highlands group sent to the town attorneys.

The board will also go into closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss a letter the Institute of Justice sent the board concerning proposed STR amendments. This letter was not a surprise to the board and the attorneys representing the town. The Institute to Justice weighing in on the STR issue was anticipated.

The agenda also includes proposed procedures for conducting the Aug. 25 public hearing concerning the proposed ordinance amendments that the Highlands Planning Board reviewed, as well as the recommendations that they developed. The procedures that I will present are the same ones used in the first hearing that was conducted on Feb. 24.

The STR public hearing will begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25, at the Highlands Community Building. Folks wishing to speak can sign up as they enter the building. Each speaker will have three minutes to make remarks addressing any of the proposals that the planning board reviewed. One proposal is basically the same as the original one that the town board adopted. Another proposal drafted by the town attorneys includes the amortization provision. The planning board rejected both proposals and developed their own recommended proposal. All of the proposals have been posted on the town website, as are the procedures that will be followed at the hearing.



Patrick Taylor

Continued on page 11

### Victim of house fire grateful for community support

Losing my home was an experience I hope none of you ever have to endure and I thank God that I am here. I also hope that if you have such a tragedy that everyone will be as good to you as all of you have been to me.

As all the donations poured in, I kept a record of each one with intentions of sending "thank you" notes to each person who donated, but it soon became apparent that it was just too overwhelming.

There were a lot of anonymous donations. I didn't want to leave anyone out or hurt anyone's feelings.

I don't even know where to begin. Thank you doesn't seem to be sincere enough to cover the overwhelming love and caring that has been shown to me.

If you donated clothing, food, automobile, jewelry, made BBQ, bought BBQ, sent gift cards, made monetary donations, or just hugged my neck and cried with me, just know it meant the world to me.

A big shout out to Highlands Fire Dept., Scaly Fire Dept., and Cullasaja Fire Dept. for being there when I needed you and for diligently searching for my sweet Lucy and giving her a resting place.

Thank all of you so very much. You are forever in my heart and I love you all.

God Bless!

Mary Lee Simmons – Highlands, N.C.

### Republican party has shattered public confidence

There was an ancient adage spoken frequently during my youth and promoted throughout my Navy career, asserting "It's amazing how much you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit." It has occurred to me in recent years how far our nation has deviated, how far we have strayed, from that antiquated axiom.

Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), following Barack Obama's election to the presidency in 2008, stated (and not in a roundabout way) that his aim in life was to make Obama a one-term president. That is the undisguised antithesis of proper governing but the GOP seems to have embraced brazen obstruction practices as the foundation of party doctrine.

Unwilling or unable to govern, the Republican Party clings precariously to power through chaos, dysfunction and building barriers, willingly surrendering their honor, sacrificing democracy and relinquishing our nation's global standing and reputation in the process.

Senator McConnell has also gained the dubious distinction of bestowing on the Republican party control of the Supreme Court, that branch of government which, since its creation by authority of the Judiciary Act of September 24, 1789 and its organization on February 2, 1790, was intended to be, and most Americans presume to be, above politics.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (appointed by President

Ronald Reagan in 1981), in a lecture on "Public Trust as a Dimension of Equal Justice" stated, "We all rely on public confidence and trust to give the courts' decisions their force." The Republican Party has shattered that trust.

As the House January 6 Committee continues to reveal alarming details on former President Trump's coup attempt, a new analysis provided to Common Dreams by the watchdog organization Accountable.US, shows that corporate trade groups and Fortune 500 companies donated more than \$819,000 to Republican members of Congress who voted against certifying the 2020 election results. Accountable.US has been tracking corporate contributions to the so-called "Sedition Caucus" (a group of 147 Republican lawmakers who voted to overturn the 2020 election results).

Accountable.US also unveiled that since January 6, 2021, corporate trade organizations and the political action committees of top individual companies have donated a total of \$21.5 million to Sedition Caucus members including House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX).

An updated donation tracker by Accountable.US discloses that the National Beer Wholesalers Association PAC, the American Bankers Association PAC, Home Depot's PAC, the National Automobile Dealers Association PAC and Boeing's PAC have been the top contributors to seditious Republicans since the January 6th attack.

Not that it matters to Trump loyalists or the Republican base but patriotic, thinking Americans (especially veterans who remember and value what the oath we took, the uniform we wore, and truth stand for) want to see businesses detached from corrupted politicians and more engaged in the defense of democracy and the redeeming of our national integrity.

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

### What's on your mind?

Email Letters to the Editor to  
maconcountynews@gmail.com

*The Macon County News letters page is a public forum open to a wide variety of opinions as a right guaranteed in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Letters are neither accepted nor rejected based on content. Letters must be signed and contact information provided. Views expressed are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of publisher, editor or staff. Writers are asked to refrain from personal attacks against individuals or businesses.*

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## Tyranny on the horizon in rural America

In response to the continual letters wrongly depicting January 6, many people wonder why the Left is still foaming at the mouth and not concerned with voter fraud? The answer lies in that the Socialist Left does not care about the 1st Amendment or rule of law and instead desires to punish anyone who disagrees with them by demonizing and censoring them. The Left (perhaps sometimes unwittingly since many of them simply lack knowledge of the bigger picture of American ideals) wants one set of arbitrary rules for themselves and a different set of rules for everyone else.

The goat rodeo of the January 6 hearings has been nothing short of mere grandstanding and distracting from the real issue of voter fraud in the 2020 election. While many of us in the conservative/libertarian camps are not huge fans of Donald Trump for reasons other than why the Left hates him, the vast majority of real Americans strongly support election integrity. It was to uphold election integrity that January 6 even took place. No intelligent person actually believes the unarmed protesters on January 6 were trying to overthrow the government and stage a coup like the CIA and other global elites did in Ukraine in 2014 when they overthrew a democratically elected government that was pro-Russian....

The patriots (many of whom have been illegally held without due process) were in Washington DC on January 6 to protest the very obvious corruption of the 2020 election. Wasn't it 2016 that the Left was screaming about "election integrity" and "Russian collusion" that proved to be false? Why did they care about the sanctity of elections then, but not in 2020? The answer lies in that they are continually deceived by anti-American indoctrination that spews from a lunatic agenda. For a lie to be accepted, it only has to be repeated over and over as the Left has done by destroying genuine truth and so many of America's foundational principles. If things had been the other way around in 2020 and it was the Democrat that had been screwed, the Left would be rioting, burning, and murdering in the streets with no accountability whatsoever the same way they did in the summer of 2020.

Below are just a few of the many, many unanswered questions lingering from the 2020 election, which will never be addressed because the Left does not want to know truth; they instead revert back to barbarian human nature and crave absolute power at all costs just like the Nazis and Communists. They live life on superficial emotion instead of objective facts. Full disclaimer to the Bob Scotts and David Snells of the world – I do not have a patent on these burning questions since countless millions of other Americans want answers.

1. Why did vote counting delays and mysterious boxes of ballots suddenly appear only in swing states?
2. Why were election observers barred from access only in swing states?
3. Why are any voting machines connected to the internet for any reason?
4. Why did an independent audit expert find that 74k more votes were counted in Maricopa County, Arizona than were actually mailed out?
5. Why did hundreds of election staffers from swing states sign sworn affidavits under the penalty of perjury stating that they witnessed massive voter fraud and illegal tampering?
6. Why did a circuit court judge in Wisconsin rule that the Wisconsin Election Commission had run the 2020 election in an illegal manner?
7. Why have voting machine companies refused to comply with subpoenas from state officials in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin?
8. Why are more than 300k ballot transfer forms missing in Georgia's 2020 election?
9. Why was there widespread destruction of election records ... again, only in swing states?
10. Why is a federal judge in Georgia refusing to release a report by a cybersecurity expert who found electronic vot-

ing machines are vulnerable to hacking and manipulation of data?

11. Why would votes from 30 states be processed by a foreign firm and need to be sent overseas for "processing" and "tabulation" purposes?

12. Why are so many of the electronic voting machine companies owned by shell companies from foreign countries?

These are not conspiracy theories; these are genuine questions that are ignored by the Marxist Left and the smug, self righteous liars in mainstream media because they care nothing for rule of law. If they continue to destroy America, it will certainly lead to violence brought about by their destruction of the Constitution. Fortunately, the tyranny has not fully reached rural America yet, but it is on the horizon. If good men do nothing, it will certainly come to our doorstep exactly as the COVID charade and destruction of the economy/individual freedom did recently. A nation of sheep will be ruled by pigs. Now is the time for each lover of freedom to re-examine what it means to proclaim truth, uphold justice, and defend righteousness while opposing federal overreach. A proper understanding of the 10th Amendment and civil disobedience is extremely important. May we freedom lovers in WNC unite to keep our region apart from the complete nonsense of what is happening in Socialist Democrat controlled States because people in blue States are fleeing in droves to better pastures of red States that have prospered from low taxes, limited government, free markets, and plain ol' common sense.

For further reading, please visit [www.mises.org](http://www.mises.org) and [www.lewrockwell.com](http://www.lewrockwell.com) where you can gain understanding of the real state of affairs in America as we have seen injustice, systemic corruption, and immorality accelerate in just the last 30 years of intense criminal activity in Washington DC. It was John Adams who said, "Liberty, once lost, is lost forever." Never, ever give up your guns.

**Jim Gaston – Franklin, N.C.**

### The call of good within a world of evil

Within the quiet of early morning's light, looking out at the valley and mountains before me, watching the misty fog rising from deep within the forest floor and rising slowly while drifting to unknown places, brings to each of us something deep that speaks to us personally. The clear, starry nights brings the mind and soul of wondering what lies beyond this earth which seems to hold us captive.

The laws that hold all things together and the wonder and awe that we experience in intricate workings of blending the complexity of what we see hear and experience, shows within itself that this is not a mistake or a haphazard random design. Science now more than ever confirms this, yet speaks of this softly, because there's nothing outside of man that we give credit to. There's something behind what we experience and see. Life takes on a new meaning when we realize we are not alone and there's something we need beyond what man offers or thinks he can invent. Yet many seek to ignore the obvious, even when it's in front of each of us.

If our world shows us anything it shows man has failed miserably in satisfying the deepest understanding of life. Yet humanity will do anything trying but never satisfying the thirst of getting what it wants. This shows itself daily. It seems leadership is always in question of selfish and corrupt motives. But if viewed in honesty we ourselves are a reflection of what we've allowed leadership to be. All humanity wants the best of what life offers, but the best is often the worst of what we have become. We all want peace, but it's an outward peace in hopes of bringing internal peace; we want justice for ourselves, yet we ourselves are not just. We slander, judge, and hate, we never forgive or seek unity

## TAYLOR

Continued from  
page 10

As with the first hearing, there will be the option for people to submit written comments to the proposals. Those written comments must be limited to 500 words or less. They will become a part of the hearing record along with the oral statements.

At tonight's (Thursday's) meeting I will request the board to follow the procedure of the first hearing by taking no final action at the end of the hearing meeting. After the hearing, the board will need to schedule one or more work sessions with town staff to address specific details of any amendments prior to taking a final vote. These work sessions will be open to the public.

The meeting will be on YouTube by way of the town website. Also, new speakers have been added to critical areas in the meeting room and I am hopeful these new speakers will improve the sound for people at the meeting and for those who are streaming remotely.

because we want what "we want." We seek lasting loving relationships but only if we get what we want.

Life is a reflection of the two universal powers that we all must realize and face. It's not hard to see the forces of evil that are all around us. You are in total darkness if you don't see this. Humanity cries for unity, direction of purpose, the understanding of self within the confused world we live. We live in evil yet, as in all of us there's always a Hope of something better, a good that can be seen and realized, a final destiny that we each can call our own. You may be blinded by the realities of life, but there's a choice in what we want, the Divine calling for each of us to find what we seek in a pure love, justice, truth, and unity with us allowing God being the center of each of us, or the selfish easy destructive road of evil. These differences are night and day. Looking within a misty mountain or a star lit night, you're hearing the call of good within the world of evil, where do you choose to live? Re-thinking life,

**Deni Shepard – [nds13@frontier.com](mailto:nds13@frontier.com)**

## Franklin seeking TDA applicants

The Town of Franklin Town Council is accepting applications to fill three vacancies on the Franklin Tourism Development Authority (TDA). The TDA is responsible for overseeing how room occupancy tax dollars are spent to promote travel and tourism in Franklin. The Tourism Development Authority board consists of nine members. The TDA meets the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room.

Applications should be submitted no later than Sept. 23, for consideration. Applications are kept on file for one year. Openings are as follows:

- One vacancy for an individual who collects occupancy tax within the Town limits
- Two vacancies for individuals who promote tourism or who are in a tourism-related business within the Town limits

The term for these positions is three years and will begin on Oct. 10, 2022 and run through Oct. 31, 2025.

Applications are available online at <https://www.franklinnc.com/boards-authorities-franklinnc.html> or can be obtained at Town Hall, 95 East Main Street, Franklin. For more information, contact Town Manager Amie Owens at (828)524-2516 or via email at [aowens@franklinnc.com](mailto:aowens@franklinnc.com).



# 'Night of a Thousand Stars'

The Overlook Theatre Company presented "On This Night of a Thousand Stars: A Dessert Cabaret" for two sold-out shows last Friday and Saturday at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. The Troupe performed a program celebrating the golden age of Broadway featuring songs from legendary composers Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Rogers & Hammerstein and more along with a delicious dessert all served live on stage.

Photos by Betsey Gooder & Adam Drake







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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 August 4 - 14. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

### August 9

Derald Fredrick Queen, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, violating domestic violence protective order, injury to personal property and larceny. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Austin Henry Posey, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, domestic violence protective order violation, simple assault, assault and battery or participates in simple affray and communicating threats. Jay Wright made the arrest.

### August 10

Lenor Lenoka Wilson, was issued a true bill of indictment. Costin Jiglaun made the arrest.

Luis Leonardo-Damian Meja, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, probation violation and driving while intoxicated level 5. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

William Dale Sheffield, was charged with true bill of indictment. Costin Jiglaun made the arrest.

### August 11

Callie Elizabeth Rogers, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, trespass, possession of drug paraphernalia and breaking and entering. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

William Cory Rogers, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, trespass, possession of drug paraphernalia and breaking and entering. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Alejandro Reyes-Cruz, was charged with sexual battery. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Jessica Myraah McCoy, was charged with larceny. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Andrew Parker Casto, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jiglaun made the arrest.

Justin Messer, was charged with violating a domestic violence protective order. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

### August 12

Edward Carl Austin, was charged with offenses committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Kevin Dwight Tallent, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

### August 13

Nathan Dean Hession, was charged with driving under the influence. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

### August 14

Kimberly Marie Cates, was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle and possession of stolen motor vehicle. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

### August 6

Bryan Scott Garringer, was charged with breaking and en-

tering a motor vehicle and larceny of a motor vehicle. J.A. Riles made the arrest.

Scott Lynn Marchant, was charged with second degree trespass and larceny of a motor vehicle. G.D. Hovis made the arrest.

### August 7

Brach Alan Brasier, was charged with trafficking fentanyl by possession, possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. R. S. Dula made the arrest.

Kelly William Brasier, was charged with trafficking fentanyl by possession, possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Ivry Jayne Tallent, was charged with trafficking fentanyl by possession, possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

### August 8

Raymond Kyle Ulsh, was charged with destruction/damage/vandalism of property. Kelly J. Fosler made the arrest.

### August 10

Kevin Jacob Holland, was charged with habitual felon. G.D. Hovis made the arrest.

Daniel Edward William Stanfield, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance.

Erik R. Madsen, was charged with attempted second degree force sex offense. Kelly J. Fosler made the arrest.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

### August 4

Jason Anthony Sisi, 61, of Mountain Oaks Lane, was charged with failure to appear for communicating threats. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

### August 5

William Donald Cline, 31, of Jonny Allan Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine and fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Dillon Stone Wilson, 29, of Shake Rag Rd., Hiawasse, Ga., was charged with breaking and entering of a motor vehicle. A secured bond was set.

Clay Harrison Caldwell, 20, of Clayton St., was charged with possession of controlled substance on jail premises. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Jose Angel Graves, 46, of Log Cabin Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses, possession of stole motor vehicle and larceny of a motor vehicle. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

### August 6

Jeremy Michael Gregor, 39, of River Chase Rd., was charged with assault by strangulation. No bond was set.

Tiffany Shandra Sims, 26, of Cullowhee Mountain Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

### August 7

Reyna Mae Owle-Perez, 22, of Arrow Head Lane, Whittier, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Sierra Salone Jenkins, 31, of Levi Mathis Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for identity theft, obtain property by false pretense, possession of stolen goods/property, injury to real property, larceny after breaking and entering and breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$110,000 was set.

James Tyler Griffin, 31, of Cullowhee, was charged with simple assault. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

# Help your kid stay safe online this school year

Attorney General  
Josh Stein



Josh Stein

As our children go back to school, there's nothing more important than keeping them safe whether in person or online. Technology and internet access offer new avenues for students to learn and engage in the classroom, but our increasingly online environment poses risks for children's mental health and safety. The internet exposes kids to dangers like bullying, identity theft, scams, or exploitation. Before school starts, make sure to have conversations with your kids about how to stay safe online.

Start a conversation about internet safety. It's critical that children know the dangers of sharing financial or personal information, clicking on untrustworthy links, or communicating online with people they don't know. Ask your child to tell you when things happen online that make them feel nervous or uncomfortable. Make sure they understand that they won't be punished if they share these experiences with you. If children know the risks and can communicate them with an adult, they can steer clear of trouble online or get help when they need it.

Set up parental and security controls. Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) probably has free parental control tools. Download or activate them to help control what your child has access to on the internet. Parents may also want to download additional apps to help control their kids' interactions online. Age-appropriate search engines can ensure kids don't accidentally encounter inappropriate content on the internet. When seeking additional parental control software, look for recommendations from independent reviewers.

Consider setting limits and alternatives to screen time. While the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended children spend no more than one or two hours on screen per day, surveys show that kids between age 8 and 12 spend an average of more than five hours on screens each day. Too much screen time can affect kids' mental and physical health. Consider using apps to track and limit your child's screen time.

Keep devices in common spaces, especially overnight. When children feel anonymous, they're more likely to take risks. Keeping devices in a common area or with you overnight ensures that you can monitor the amount of time spent on the device and monitor its use. Check in on the content your children access to ensure it's safe and age appropriate.

While the internet and technology offer opportunities for kids to learn and be entertained, it is critical to keep them safe. Being proactive and talking about internet safety can help reduce the risks of engaging online. By following these tips, you can help your kids enjoy a safe and happy new school year. For more information about keeping kids safe online, visit my office's website at [ncdoj.gov/internetsafety/kids](http://ncdoj.gov/internetsafety/kids).



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; if there are 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.

**American Red Cross Blood Drives** will be held in Franklin on Aug. 19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Highlands School, 545 Pierson Dr.; on Aug. 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main St.; on Aug. 29, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Community Bible Church, 3645 Cashiers Rd. All who come to give this month will be entered to win gas for a year and will also receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. Details are available at rcblood.org/fuel.

**Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center Graduation** will be held on Saturday Aug. 20, 10 a.m., at the center, 336 Living Hope Way, Franklin. Worship, a message, a short video and graduates giving their testimonies. Refreshments and a reception after. For more information about their addiction recovery program for men go to www.livinghopeway.com or call (828)524-2157.

**Nantanala Hiking Club** will take a moderate two-mile hike to Rufus Morgan Falls, on Saturday, Aug. 20. They will meet at Westgate Plaza, across from Burger King, at 9 a.m., and carpool to the trailhead, about 13 miles driving distance each way. Bring food and fluids as needed. Visitors and well behaved dogs are welcome to attend. For more information or in case of foul weather, call hike leader David Stearns, (828)349-736.

**Free musical entertainment is offered at Frog Quarters** on Saturday, Aug. 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Musicians this weekend will be Sonia Brooks and Chuck Doring.

**FHS Class of 1968 Class Reunion** will be held on Saturday, Aug. 20, from 2 to 6 p.m., at Holly Springs Community Center, 2720 Cat Creek Rd. Soft drinks, tea, water and paper products will be provided. Bring snacks to share.

**North Shore Cemetery Association** will be hosting decorations for Higdon and McCampbell Gap (Wilson) Cemeteries on Sunday, Aug. 21, first boat shuttle leaves at 8:30 a.m., last leaves at 10 a.m. from the Cable Cove Boating Access Area off of NC 28 near Fontana Village. This will be the last Hazel Creek trip of the year. Bring a dish to share for a potluck or provide your own lunch and drink. Pets are not allowed in accordance with Park rules and regulations. Service animals must have papers and be vested. Check Facebook/NorthShoreCemeteryDecorations for additional information, changes, cancellations, and to message regarding mobility needs.

**Wayfarers Unity Chapel Free Concert** will be held on Sunday, Aug. 21, from 2-4 on the deck at Wayfarers Chapel, 182 Wayfarer Lane, in Dillard, Ga. Bring a chair and hear local favorites, Loose Shoes duo. For more information, call Jennifer Utley at (901)581-2404.

**Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers** whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the signs. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

**Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin** will meet Thursday, Aug. 25, 6:30 p.m., at First Christian Church, 156 Belleview Park Rd, Franklin.

**Smoky Mountains Veteran Stand Down** will be held on Thursday, Aug. 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Rd. Bring your VA ID card or DD-214 if possible. For more information, call (828)349-2151.

**Trout Unlimited Sylva Fall Open Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m., at East LaPorte Park, with a covered dish meal. Bring something to share, a salad, soda, a pie, a bag of burgers or fries. Grills are available but guests should arrive earlier to start the charcoal. The Pavilion opens at 4 p.m. RSVP on the Facebook post or to tu.sylva.373@gmail.com. Rain or shine.

**Historic TM Rickman Store** located 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.

**Gem & Mineral Museum**, located in the Old Jail on Phillips Street in downtown Franklin is now open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 12 to 4 p.m., featuring gems and artifacts from North Carolina as well as all over the world.

**Uptown Gallery Childrens Art Classes** are held on Wednesday afternoons. Adult workshops in acrylic, watercolor, acrylic paint pouring, encaustic, and glass fusing are also offered. Free painting in the classroom Mondays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Membership meeting second Sunday of the month at 3 p.m. The gallery is located at 30 E. Main St. in Franklin. For more information, contact mtully1001@gmail.com.

**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.

**Macon Chips, Franklin's Wood Carving Club** meets on Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. inside the Franklin High School Wood Shop just off McCollum Drive. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (828)342-8126.

**Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Community Services** are open on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to help Macon County residents in need with rent, power bill and a fully stocked food pantry. The church is located at 93 Church St., Suite 212. For more information, call (828)369-9000.

**Habitat for Humanity of Macon/Jackson County needs volunteers** to share skills or gain some experience learning new ones. From carpentry to cleaning, marketing to moral support, computer skills, planning and organizing or just plain common sense, the greatest gift you could ever give is time. Any amount is good. Some great times, lasting friendships and rewarding experiences await. Call (828)369-3716 or (828)371-5442.

**Friends of the Greenway FROG Quarters** is now open Wednesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 573 E. Main. Reservations taken for the Greenway shelters.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

**Churches and believers in Macon County are invited to join a Prayer Walk on Thursday, Aug. 18, at 7 p.m.,** at the following schools: Cartoogechaye Elementary, East Franklin, Franklin High School, Highlands, Iotla Valley, Macon Middle, Mountain View Intermediate, Nantahala, South Macon Elementary, Union Academy and Macon Early College, to unite in the mighty name of Jesus.

**Grace Baptist Church Prophecy Conference** will be held on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 18 to 19, 7 p.m. Speaker will be Pastor Ralph Sexton. There will be special Singing nightly. For more information, call (828)369-2435.

**First Alliance Church** will be holding Sunday Service on Aug. 21, at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages will be held at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Tom Nahlen will preach on "The Gospel", 1 Corinthians 15:1-6. The church is loathed at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next door to Trimont Christian Academy).

**East Franklin Baptist Church Bible School/Cowboy Camp** will be held on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 12 to 4 p.m., 2059 Lakeside Dr. Lunch will be served.

**Spiritual Light Center** on Monday, at 6 p.m. all levels yoga class, No cost to attend. On Thursdays, 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.

**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. Communion is 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.

**Franklin First United Methodist Church Sunday** In-person Worship is held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. or on Facebook at Franklin First United Methodist Church, either live or later on recorded video. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue in downtown Franklin; senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524-3010 or visit us at http://www.firstumcfranklin.org

**Son Rise International Ministries has Christian Fellowship Services** are held on Friday evenings at 7p.m., Wednesday ladies prayer and Bible Study at 1 to 3 p.m. Mens Bible Study Thursday at 7 p.m. The church is located at 462 Depot St. For more information, call (828)369-2465.

Email your church events to maconcountynews@gmail.com

**SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

8	9	1	4	2	3	6	7	9
9	2	6	1	7	8	3	4	5
4	7	3	9	5	6	8	1	2
3	8	5	2	9	4	1	6	7
7	6	1	4	9	2	5	3	8
8	5	2	1	6	3	9	4	7
4	3	9	5	8	7	1	2	6
1	8	9	2	5	3	7	4	6
9	6	2	5	3	7	4	8	1
3	9	4	8	6	1	2	7	5
1	3	7	8	4	9	5	2	6

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

ISLE	GRAVY	CURIA	FOLDER	FOOD	LAYOFF	IMAGOG	POLE	PAM	WOK	ERASER	SCULL	INANE	LOGIN
END	CON	USUAL	RYDELL	GEM	LEK	MAUL	URSA	SH	RICE	RODNEY	DADDY	UMIAK	OWLS
GO	TAD	ALE	R	D	NEED	MULL	GLOBE	ASA	TRAGIC	ROD	ACR	FBI	ANC
LE	V	VA	DER	FO	F	O	LE	N	NICE	ER	L	NE	N





SKA City

## SKA City Band to rock Bridge Park at August 19 Concerts on the Creek

The 13th season of Concerts on the Creek in Sylva continues on Friday, Aug. 19, with a performance by SKA City.

SKA City is a British-American nine-piece collective, spreading the music of Ska, Two Tone & Trojan Rocksteady to Asheville, the Western North Carolina region, and beyond. SKA City is one of the scene's leading bands, bringing ska music to life with energy and authenticity. They are a big band with a big sound, that knows how to bring the party, and whether you're new to ska or a life-long fan, this is the band for you.

Concerts on the Creek are held every Friday night from 7-9 p.m. at Bridge Park in

Sylva, from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Bring a chair or blanket. These events are free but donations are encouraged. Dogs must be on a leash. No smoking, vaping, coolers, or tents are allowed in the park. Food trucks will be 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 the chamber at (828)586-2155, visit [www.mountainlovers.com](http://www.mountainlovers.com) or Concerts on the Creek's Facebook page.

## N.C. awards film grants to five new projects

Five more television and film projects are approved to receive North Carolina Film and Entertainment Grant funds, Governor Roy Cooper announced. Altogether, these new projects are expected to produce direct in-state spending of more than \$61 million while creating more than 2,400 job opportunities in the state.

"We are excited to have more cameras rolling across our state," said Gov. Cooper. "Having North Carolina communities as the backdrop for independent and studio-supported projects is a positive multiplier for our talented workforce, our small businesses, and our economy."

The first awardee, "Untitled Please Don't Destroy," is a Universal Pictures feature-length film from the comedic trio Please Don't Destroy. The production is approved for a film and entertainment rebate grant of up to \$7 million, the maximum for a feature-length film, with production being completed in Burke, Gaston, and Mecklenburg counties.

The "Welcome to Flatch" TV series returns to southeastern North Carolina for its second season, continuing its storyline about a small town, particularly its younger population, that is being filmed for a documentary. Production is also already underway in Duplin, New Hanover, and Pender counties, with filming continuing through October. This Fox series from Lionsgate Television has been approved for a rebate grant award of \$6.5 million.

Feature-length film "Site" is approved for a film rebate of \$937,500. The project is shooting in the greater Charlotte area and tells the story of man who, after experiencing a time distortion in an abandoned military test site, begins to suffer traumatic visions of other lives that somehow hold the thread to his own unravelling present.

"Eric Larue" is an independent feature-

length film, with production taking place in the greater Wilmington area, that tells the story of a mother's struggle to cope after her son commits an act of mass violence. The production hails from Big Indie Pictures and has been approved for a grant of up to \$589,105.

The final grant recipient is a made-for-TV/streaming movie "Second Time Around," featuring a pastor whose chance encounter may turn out to be a true gift from heaven, has been approved for an award of up to \$156,250. The project recently completed filming in Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties and will air on the streaming service PureFlix.

These latest projects bring film-related production spending in North Carolina to more than \$241 million while creating more than 13,000 job opportunities in 2022.

"We are excited to have more and more productions creating economic development opportunities in our state," said North Carolina Film Office Director Guy Gaster. "From feature-length films to television and streaming series, to commercials and travel shows, our state is once again proving to be a top choice for production."

The North Carolina Film and Entertainment Grant provides financial assistance to attract feature film and television productions that will stimulate economic activity and create jobs in the state. Production companies receive no money up front and must meet direct in-state spending requirements to qualify for grant funds, which are paid out following the completion of the project and a successful audit. The program is administered by the N.C. Department of Commerce and promoted by the North Carolina Film Office, part of VisitNC and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina.

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<b>Sat</b>	12-8pm	<b>Wed</b>	12-8pm
Live Music Blue Jazz @ 7pm-10pm		Open Mic	
<b>Sun</b>	12-8pm	1st & 3rd Wed of Month @ 6:30pm	

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# Full slate of children's activities at Franklin Area Folk Festival Saturday

The 16th Annual Franklin Area Folk Festival is set for Saturday, Aug. 20, at Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center with plenty of activities for children of all ages.

Kids' activities will be scattered all throughout the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center campus and will be on-going from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Kids' Activity Tent at mid-field

- Old Fashioned Lawn Games: egg races, sack races, tug-o-war
- Milk "Cow" Challenge
- Crafts (check schedule for times): make take home items such as banjos and corn husk dolls
- Activities: Weaving and butter churning

### Other Tents Outside

- Corn Shelling
- Grandma's Wash Day: use a washboard to clean clothes
- Face Painting
- Civil War Re-enactors Camp
- 4-H Craft, traditional toys exhibit / visit with the goats
- Read-to-Me free book give-away
- Back Porch Heritage Photo opportunity: experiment with antique implements, musical instruments, etc.



Tug-O-War, Milk Cow Challenge and Sack Races are just a few of the many activities planned for children at the 16th Annual Franklin Area Folk Festival set for this Saturday.

- Border Collie demonstrations
- Dancing jacks with fiddle music by Richard Tichich
- Learn about bees with Paul
- Many other demonstrators with hands-on activities

### Inside the School

- Smoky Mtn. Quilter's Guild Make-it/Take-it sewing item
- Ornament making in the Cowee Pottery wheel room
- Weaving in the Hall by Cowee Textiles
- Stroll through the Toy Museum
- And more!



Nestled in Cowee West's Mill Historic District at 51 Cowee School Drive in Franklin, the Center is a unique showcase for demonstrating the everyday skills, crafts, and music of our ancestors.



## Free downtown shuttle to Saturday's 16th Annual Franklin Folk Festival

Optional possibilities for transport and parking are available to the Folk Festival.

A free Shuttle Service to Cowee School begins at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20. Shuttles and free parking in downtown Franklin will be located at 17 West Palmer Street (vacant lot adjacent to Appalachian Ace Hardware/below the Lazy Hiker Brewery on the corner of West Palmer and Porter Streets). Shuttles will run every 30 minutes with the last shuttle leaving downtown for the festival at 3 p.m.

For those wishing to drive out to Cowee School, park at Cowee Baptist Church (located at 6301 Bryson City Road right before you get to the school) and take a shuttle down to the school. Handicapped parking will only be at this location as the bus can pick you up at the tent in the parking lot and drive you to the front of the school. Additional parking will be at Snow Hill UMC, 330 Snow Hill Road.

*This month by donation, with proceeds going to benefit the flood victims in East Kentucky*

# COUNTRY BREAKFAST

→ is Back!

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 8AM - 10AM

Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, Hash Browns, Grits, Biscuits & Gravy, Sweet Rolls, Coffee/Juice

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# Harvest, store, preserve herbs from the garden

Melinda Myers – Columnist

Keep enjoying your homegrown herbs all year round. Harvest throughout the growing season and include them in garden-fresh meals. Then preserve a few for the winter ahead.

Snip a few leaves or leaf-covered stems as needed. For the same intensity of flavor, you generally need two to three times more fresh herbs than dried except for Rosemary which has an equally strong flavor fresh or dried. So, if the recipe calls for one teaspoon of dried parsley use one Tablespoon (3 teaspoons) of fresh parsley leaves.

Continue harvesting herbs as needed throughout the growing season. And don't worry about harming the plant because regular harvesting encourages new growth which means more for you to harvest. Just be sure to leave enough of the leaves intact to maintain plant growth.

You can remove as much as fifty percent of the leaves from established annual herb plants. This is about when the plants near their final height. You can remove up to one third from established perennial plants that have been in the garden for several months or more. Harvest when the plant has formed buds, but before they open into flowers for the greatest concentration of flavor. This is the perfect time to harvest herbs you plan to preserve.

Use a pair of garden scissors or bypass pruners for faster and easier harvesting. Make your cuts above a set of healthy leaves to keep the plants looking good. Then, preserve the flavor and zest of herbs with proper storage and preservation.

Store thin leafy herbs like parsley and cilantro for up to a week in the refrigerator. Place the stems in a jar of water, like a flower arrangement, and loosely cover with a plastic bag. Keep basil out of the fridge to avoid discoloration and others on the counter for quick and frequent use.

Wrap dry thicker-leaved herbs like sage and thyme in a paper towel, set inside a plastic bag and place in a warmer section of the refrigerator.

Freeze sprigs, whole leaves or chopped clean herbs on a cookie sheet. Or pack clean diced herbs in ice cube trays and fill the empty spaces with water. Store the frozen herbs and ice cubes in an airtight container or baggie in the freezer for use in soups and stews.

Or bundle several stems together, secure with a rubber band and use a spring type clothespin to hang them in a warm, dry place to dry out. Make your own drying rack from an old embroidery hoop, string, and S hooks.

Speed up the drying process in the microwave. Place herbs on a paper towel-covered paper plate. Start with one to two minutes on high. Repeat for 30 seconds as needed until the herbs are brittle.

Store dried herbs in an airtight plastic or glass jar.

Enjoy these fresh-from-the-garden flavors throughout the remainder of the season. And consider preserving a few for you, your family, and friends to enjoy throughout the winter.

## Create Works of Art with Flowers

Preserve a few memories of this summer's garden or create gifts to share with family and friends. Pounding flowers onto fabric or paper is a fun and easy way to preserve the beauty of garden flowers.

Use watercolor or other rough surface paper when pounding on paper. Purchase ready to dye (RTD) or prepared for dying (PFD) fabric or prepare the fabric yourself. You'll find supplies and directions at most craft stores.

Prepare a space for pounding flowers onto paper or fabric. A large cutting board or piece of wood will protect the furniture below. Or better yet move this project outside onto the sidewalk or other surface that can't be damaged by the pounding.

Cover the surface with wax paper and secure with masking tape to prevent the flower color from soaking through onto the cutting board. Cut the fabric to size and secure it or the paper to the board with masking tape.

Gather a few of your favorite leaves and flowers. You will have great results from thin brightly colored petals and leaves. Consider starting with rose, daisy, geranium, petunia, and pansy petals although any flowers and leaves can work. Remove or reduce the size of the large center of coneflowers, black-eyed Susans and similar blooms so they lay flat on the fabric. Or remove the petals, discard the center, and arrange as



English Thyme growing in the garden. Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

desired.

Remove any stems, sepals, or other plant parts you do not want to transfer. Then place the desired parts face down on the paper or fabric.

Once your design is set, cover with several layers of paper towel or another sheet of watercolor paper. Taping leaves and petals in place on fabric helps reduce the risk of petals moving during the pounding process.

Gently tap the leaves and flowers in place using the flat side of a hammer. Next, evenly hammer from one side of the design to the other, making sure to hit every part of each plant.

Lift the paper covering and remove the crushed flowers and leaves from the paper

along with the tape from the fabric. Allow your design to dry and carefully brush off any remaining plant pieces.

Set the design on fabric using an iron set on the hottest setting without steam. This sets the colors but will not make it washable. Preserve the bright colors of your works of art on paper with a UV protective acrylic spray. Be sure to read and follow label directions and apply in a well-ventilated area.

Pounding flowers is a fun project for all ages. It is a simple way to transfer a plant's natural dye onto paper or fabric to create works of art, greeting cards and more. For more gardening projects visit MelindaMyers.com.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including "Midwest Gardener's Handbook," 2nd Edition and "Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



## Deaths & Funerals

### Gary Lenwood Parrish

Gary Lenwood Parrish, 65, passed from this life on August 14, 2022. He was the son of Charles Rudolph Parrish and Betty Jo Queen Parrish.

He is remembered as being very intelligent and mechanically minded. He liked working on small motors and could repair almost anything that was electrical. While his mother was still living, she and Gary had a yearly tradition of canning tomatoes and he treasured the time they spent together. He also enjoyed the outdoors and especially hunting for deer, and he never saw a tractor nor an antique clock he didn't admire.

He was an avid reader. He was willing to read anything that came his way – cereal boxes, magazine articles, newspapers, or lengthy books. He was known by his friends and family as standing firm in his beliefs. Once his mind was made up, he was not one to waver from what he thought was true and correct.

He will be dearly missed by his family.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Stanton Parrish; his sister, Cheryl Harwood (Bruce); and his nieces, Stephanie Crabtree (Stephan) and Lacey Harwood. He was preceded in death by his parents.

No public services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.



Gary Lenwood Parrish

### Joe Neal Harrison

Joe Neal Harrison, 54, of Lafayette, Tenn., passed away Monday, Aug. 15, 2022 as a result of injuries received in an automobile accident. The Barren County, Kentucky native was a employee of Advance Auto Parts in Lafayette, Tenn.

He is survived by one daughter, Page Marie Harrison, Pittsburgh, Pa.; one step son, Jimmy Watson and wife, Chelsea, Red Boiling Springs, Tenn; his mother, Judy Harrison Caldwell and husband, Jim, Scottsville, Ky.; aunt, Sylvia Birdwell, Fountain Run, Ky.; three step grandchildren, Dameon Watson, Lexi Watson and Kaylee Watson; and four nephews.

He was preceded in death by his devoted companion: Kay Wilder; a step son, Jesse Watson; and two uncles, Dave Harrison and Wade Harrison.

No services are planned.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to Bethany Cemetery. Donations may be made at Goad Funeral Home at [www.goadfh.com](http://www.goadfh.com).



Joe Neal Harrison



View obituaries  
online at

[themaconcountynews.com](http://themaconcountynews.com)





# Deaths & Funerals

## Charles Adolph Conley

Charles Adolph Conley, 86 of Franklin, N.C., passed away Aug. 9, 2022. He was born in Macon County, May 21, 1936, to the late Jesse Karr (Jack) and Hallie Hall Conley. He was married to the love of his life for 59 years, Lydia Conley, who preceded him in death in October 2015. During his life, he served in the United States Army and retired from the U.S. Postal Service. He also enjoyed several years as a dairy farmer. He was a member of Bible Baptist Church where he was a deacon and the Sunday School Superintendent.



**Charles Adolph Conley**

He is survived by his daughter, Linda Holland (Craig) of Franklin; two sons, Dennis Conley (Sallie) and Calvin Conley (Nathalie) of Franklin; seven grandchildren, Jessica Willis (Justin), Stefanie Conley, Courtney Conley, Ryan Conley, Tyler Holland, Samantha Wolfe (Sam), and Kayla Holland; six great-grandchildren, Reid, Kimberly, Alyson, Greenlee, Hartleigh, and Ella; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and wife, he is preceded in death by his brothers, J.L. Conley, Ed Conley, Bob Conley and Frank Conley; and a sister, Marie Tyler.

A funeral service was held Friday, Aug. 12, at Bryant Grant Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. John Raby officiating. Burial followed at the Carson Cemetery. Pallbearers were Tyler Holland, Ryan Conley, Justin Willis, Sam Wolfe, Reid Willis, Bruce Conley, Robbie Phillips, David Rogers and Russell McConnell.

Heaven gained another angel. Not only did we lose a father, grandfather, and great grandfather, we lost the most selfless, strongest man we have ever known. Although our hearts hurt here on earth, what a joyful reunion that took place in Heaven as our Mamaw met him after seven years apart at the gates. Please pray for our entire family in the days to come. Rest in Peace Papaw, we will meet you again someday soon.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that memorial donations be made to the Carson Cemetery Fund, c/o Angie Phillips, 60 Spencer Lane Franklin, NC 28734 or the Macon County Fair, PO Box 446, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

## Michael Lee Stanfield

Michael Lee Stanfield, 51, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022. He was born in Pontiac, Mich., July 21, 1971, to Johnny Stanfield and Carolyn Ward Gosnell. He was a construction worker and was of the Baptist faith. He was a loving son, husband and father. He loved hunting, fishing and the outdoors. He was very outgoing and loved to laugh and have fun.



**Michael Lee Stanfield**

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Christie Stanfield; a son, Christopher Michael Stanfield; one brother, John Delis Stanfield, and his in-laws, Brenda and Sam Delgado.

He was preceded in death by brother, David Sherman Stanfield. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the family.

## Carol Anne Lamb Ball

Carol Anne Lamb Ball, born Feb. 2, 1948, ended a stoic bout with leukemia and other health issues on Monday, Aug. 15, 2022.

She was proudly a "mountain girl" and a graduate of Highlands High School and Western Carolina University. For 20 years she was a stellar, beloved math teacher at Andrews High School in Cherokee County.

A very unpretentious, private person, her main focus in life was her family, whom she loved fiercely. A voracious reader, she also loved books, her tablet, music and flower arranging, especially when assisted by a granddaughter.

She was preceded in death her parents, Floyd and Anne Lamb; a twin brother, Steve, whom she adored; and three older brothers, Jack, Mitchell and Billy Lamb.

She leaves behind her husband, Ken; daughters, Fara Robinson (Doug) of Charlotte, Bonnie Dayton of Highlands and Jennifer Ammons (Randy) of Hayesville. She doted on five grandchildren, Alex, Anna, and Alyson Dayton and Grayson and Fara Ava Rose Ammons.

She took comfort in this verse of a favorite song:

"I cannot tell my daughters  
All the things I am scared of.  
But I am not afraid of that bright glory above.  
Dying is just another way to leave the ones you love."

At her request, no funeral service will be held. Friends and family are invited to drop by the family home at 2236 Dillard Road in Highlands any time between 1 and 5 p.m., on Sunday, Aug. 21, to offer condolences, share memories, and join the family to celebrate her life.

The family wishes to acknowledge Care Partners Hospice and express their gratitude and appreciation to nurses, Lisa and Bonnie Sue.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made in Carol Anne's memory to the Highlands Food Pantry: The Internal Friendship Center, 248 South Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741.

## James Douglas Tallent

James Douglas Tallent, 72, affectionately known as Doug, passed away Monday, July 25, 2022, at his home.

He was born on Aug. 19, 1949, in Gaston County, North Carolina to the late James Harrison Tallent Jr. and Annie Lou Huscusson Tallent. He was a Vietnam veteran, having honorably served in the U.S. Army. He started in insurance sales and went on to work for Wyatt Johnson Buick-GMC for more than 20 years. He was a weightlifting enthusiast and enjoyed body building up until his 50s, and continued to work out in order to maintain his fitness and health.

Survivors include his loving wife, Janet Tallent; children, Jeff (Anne) Tallent, Kacy Metcalf, and Jamie (Beth) Tallent; siblings, Margaret Cafarelli, Mike Tallent, and Patty Johnson; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial service was held Saturday, August 6, at McReynolds-Nave & Larson Funeral Home, Clarksville, Tenn.

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



**James Douglas Tallent**

## Linda Faye Watkins

Linda Faye Watkins, our beloved Nana went to her heavenly home on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022, in the comfort of her home in Franklin, N.C. She was 76 years young, and full of life until the very end of her battle with an extended illness. She was born on July 7, 1946 in Winter Garden Fla., to Martin Luther and Lena (Griffin) Campbell.



**Linda Faye Watkins**

She was a native of Ocoee, Fla. She married Kenneth Watkins in 1963 whom she was blessed to parent her children Brenda and Kenny with. She worked full-time at Eckerd drug store where she was a very talented make-up artist. She was a loving mother who raised her children with discipline, humility, and unconditional love. Though her marriage to Kenneth ended, she was fortunate enough to find love again in Jack Lake. She spent some of her retirement from Eckerd drug caring for her granddaughters Alyson and Erica until they were school-age before moving to North Carolina to be closer to her (late) mother in 2012. She spent much of her time reading romance novels, researching her family lineage on ancestry.com, however, she spent the majority of her time getting her nails and hair done and shopping online. (In fact, she loved shopping so much we are pretty certain packages will continue to show up from shopping she did for Callie Mae in her final weeks of life.)

In the final months of her life she was lovingly cared for by her loving, selfless partner "Grandpa" Jack, and spent time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was able to hold and love on her newest great grandson Graham, hug the necks of those she cherished most, eat at her favorite restaurant Fat Buddies, make strawberry preserves, and peach cobbler, and laugh about old memorable times with her siblings.

Our hearts are absolutely broken over the passing of our nana, but we can rest in the comfort of knowing she is dancing to country music down the streets of gold surrounded by babies, and her dear loved ones. She will no doubt spend her time watching over her "babies" as she lovingly refers to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. If Heaven has shopping, we know without a doubt she's trying to shop for clothes her great grandchildren don't need.

She is survived by her other half, Jack Lake, the love of her life; children, Brenda Abell (Russell) and Kenny Watkins (Robin). She was very affectionately referred to as "nana" by her grandchildren, Christopher Brown (Kari), Brianna Davis (DJ), Megan Mauck, Alyson Abell, and Erica Watkins; and her great grandchildren, Mary and Liam (Christopher), Callie Mae, Maxwell, Mason, Graham (Brianna) and Maverick (Megan). She is also survived by siblings, Diane, Jackie, Ricky, and Marilyn; many nieces and nephews, and several cousins. She is preceded in death by her parents, and her younger brother, Jerry.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Aug. 13, at Watauga Baptist Church.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfunerals.com](http://www.moffittfunerals.com).

## Cherie Anne Aynes Brannan

Cherie Anne Aynes Brannan, 78, passed away Aug. 9, 2022. No public services are planned. Moffitt Family Funeral Care is serving the family.

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## Kevin Harvick doubles up with victory at Richmond

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

Richmond, Va. – Last Sunday at Michigan, Kevin Harvick broke a 65-race drought.

Now the driver of the No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford has a two-race winning streak.

Chased by runner-up Christopher Bell and third-place finisher Chris Buescher over the closing laps, Harvick threaded his way through traffic to win Sunday's Federated Auto Parts 400 at Richmond Raceway by .441 seconds.

The NASCAR Cup Series victory was Harvick's fourth at the .75-mile short track—his first there since 2013—and the 60th of his career, tying him with Kyle Busch for most among active drivers and ninth all-time.

Harvick led twice for 55 laps, passing eventual sixth-place finisher Joey Logano for the lead on Lap 334 and regaining it from Denny Hamlin on Lap 353 at the end of a cycle of green-flag pit stops.

"It's like I said last week, the cars have been running good week-in and week-out," Harvick said, "and you see that we have a lot better understanding of what's going on with how we adjusted on the car after the first run and were able to get our car handling a lot better.

"I think as it got dark, the race track really came to our Mobil 1 Ford Mustang."

By pitting one circuit earlier than Logano on Lap 340, Buescher leapfrogged the Team Penske driver and began to chase Harvick, who led the final 48 laps. Buescher got to Harvick's bumper in traffic but couldn't make a run for the lead.

The driver of the No. 17 Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing Ford lost his chance for a serendipitous victory when Harvick lapped Bubba Wallace and Buescher stayed trapped behind Wallace's No. 23 Toyota and fell two seconds behind.

"Just burned the rear tires up," said Buescher, who needs a victory to qualify for the Cup Playoffs. "Ultimately that's on me. Lapped traffic didn't do us any favors, either, but ultimately just got to keep the rears under us a little bit better so we can have a little bit better shot there to get after him for the win."

On 12-lap fresher tires, Bell charged forward, slipped past Buescher on Lap 396 of 400 and closed on Harvick before running out of time.

"Well, I knew he was coming, but I forgot to shift down the front straightaway the last time," Harvick said. "I was not paying attention, and he got closer than he should have. I made a mistake there a couple laps doing the same thing. I wasn't shifting on the back, and I was shifting on the front. There was a lot going on, and made a couple mistakes, let him get too close."

Bell, who already has a victory to his credit this season, seemed pleased with the runner-up result.

"Really, really proud of (crew chief) Adam Stevens, this entire 20 group," Bell said. "The Rheem Camry didn't feel very good at the beginning, and we had our fair share of troubles (including a spin on Lap 250), and the pit crew re-



Kevin Harvick, driver of the #4 Mobil 1 Ford, takes the checkered flag to win the NASCAR Cup Series Federated Auto Parts 400 at Richmond Raceway on Aug. 14, 2022 in Richmond, Va.

Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images



### Chandler Smith dominates NASCAR Truck Series Playoff race at Richmond

RICHMOND, Va. – The first truck off pit road controlled the race.

That was the story of Chandler Smith's dominating victory in Saturday night's Worldwide Express 250 at Richmond Raceway.

Smith took charge of the second event in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Playoff when he won the race off pit road under caution on lap 75—during the break between the first and second stages.

That was the ballgame. Smith led the final 175 laps through two cautions, one for the second stage break and one for an accident in Turn 1 involving Nick Leitz and Playoff driver Carson Hocevar.

With his third victory of the year and fifth of his career, Smith earned automatic advancement to the second round of the Playoffs, joining Grant Enfinger, who won the Playoff opener at Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park.

ally came through at the end there with some blazing stops and allowed us to get in front of the 11 (Hamlin), who was on the same strategy as us and get up there and contend."

In the battle for the last position in the Playoffs, Ryan Blaney widened his advantage over Martin Truex Jr. despite finishing 10th to Truex's seventh. The difference was in stage points. Blaney scored 11 to none for Truex and now leads the 2017 series champion by 26 with two races left in the regular season.

Hamlin came home fourth, followed by Chase Elliott. Logano led a race-high 222 laps, but his No. 22 Ford wasn't as strong in the twilight as it had been earlier in the race.

"Yeah, I think just as the sun went down and the track cooled off, (we) lost some turn on our car," Logano said. "Kevin and some others got a lot better the last couple of runs in the race. When it was hot and slick, that was probably our strength with the Shell Pennzoil Mustang."

The Cup Series heads for Watkins Glen next Sunday for the 25th regular-season race.





Chandler Smith, driver of the #18 Charge Me Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Worldwide Express 250 for Carrier Appreciation at Richmond Raceway on Aug. 13, 2022, in Richmond, Va. With his third victory of the year and fifth of his career, Smith earned automatic advancement to the second round of the Playoffs.

Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images)

“Hell of a job!” Smith exulted after crossing the finish line 2.790 seconds ahead of runner-up and Kyle Busch Motorsports teammate John Hunter Nemechek. “This truck was really good—I’m not going to lie.”

It also helped that the track came to Smith after a first stage dominated by pole winner Ty Majeski, who led 73 straight laps after Smith led the first one.

Majeski won the first stage by more than four seconds, but his jackman, Paul Steele, fell in front of the No. 66 Toyota as he sprinted toward the right side of the truck. Majeski was hard on the brakes to avoid injury to Steele, but the miscue cost him two positions he never regained.

“I saw him trip, and I slammed on the brakes so I didn’t hit him,” said Majeski, who finished third. “He did a great job—he’s actually first-time tonight—he recovered well, really salvaged that pit stop. He rebounded and had a couple great stops. That’s what teamwork is all about.”

Smith’s crew was exceptional. On all three pit stops, the No. 18 team got him off pit road first, negating Nemechek’s advantage of the number one pit stall.

“I feel like the track just came to us there at the very end, especially Stage 2,” Smith said. “My pit crew did a bad-ass job—excuse my language—but they deserve that recognition. They did an amazing job, got me the lead, and we never gave it up.”

Nemechek thought the final caution for the incident in Turn 1 cost him a chance to contend for the victory. During the long green-flag run before the yellow, he had cut into Smith’s lead, and at one point pulled alongside his teammate before the frontrunners cleared traffic.

“I felt I had saved my stuff a little better on that run,” Nemechek said. “I was running him down pretty quick.”

The lead-lap trucks pitted for tires under the caution, however, and Smith pulled away once again after the final restart on Lap 223 of 250.

Enfinger finished fourth in a No. 23 Chevrolet that didn’t have the speed to contend for the win. Non-Playoff drivers Corey Heim and Taylor Gray followed in fifth and sixth, respectively.

Three-time series champion Matt Crafton came home seventh and moved above the Playoff cut line, three points ahead of Hocevar, who dropped to ninth in the standings, despite salvaging a 10th-place finish.

The bottom two drivers in the standings will be eliminated from the Playoff after the next race on Sept. 9 at Kansas Speedway.



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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME:  
BACK TO SCHOOL

- ACROSS**
- \*Beginning of a computer class?
  - Mandela's org.
  - Horned birds
  - Silly and insignificant
  - U.S. counterpart to British M15
  - Inuit skin boat
  - Long oar
  - Acronym, abbr.
  - Movie "\_\_\_ Day Care"
  - \*End of a pencil, sometimes
  - \*\*"Back to School" star
  - Asian restaurant frying pan
  - Anne \_\_\_ of gothic fiction fame
  - \_\_\_ Beesly of "The Office"
  - Cote d'Azur city
  - Opposite of comic
  - Major mountain chain in Russia
  - It launched Columbus, acr.
  - Walk through slush
  - Lindsey Vonn's prop
  - \*Geography class prop
  - Bear in the sky
  - Idealized imaged of someone
  - Reflect deeply
  - Stake driver
  - Dismiss (2 words)
  - Not want
  - Albanian money
  - \*Cafeteria ware
  - Rare find
  - \*Paper holder
  - \*Fictional high school in

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- "Grease"
- Pope's court
  - Barley brew
  - Run-of-the-mill
  - Boat contents
  - Little bit
  - Tale, in France
  - Small island
  - I, to Claudius
  - Terminated
  - Wispy clouds
  - Yemen's neighbor
  - \_\_\_ receiver
  - The Tramp's spaghetti-slurping companion
  - Limit, to some
  - Bovine milk dispensers
  - Increasing
  - Month X
  - Reverberate
  - \*Student
  - Scent, usually pleasant
  - Malaysia native
  - "Keep \_\_\_ and Carry On"
  - \*One at high school reunion
  - Small Asian ungulate
  - September edition, e.g.
  - \*Dry-erase marker predecessor
  - Toy construction set
  - Having the know-how
  - Lament for the dead
  - When one is not oneself (2 words)
  - Joker to Batman, e.g.
  - \*Do this in Math class
  - \*Do this in Speech class
  - Subatomic particle
  - Sable and beaver, e.g.
  - \*Type of exam
  - Like SNL
  - \*Grader's suggestion
  - City in Sweden
  - "A day \_\_\_ and a dollar short"
  - Some special effects, acr.
  - Fall behind
  - Type of Christmas lights

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## Animals

**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.

## Real Estate

**3-25 ACRES** 15 minutes south of Highlands bordering protected Chattooga River headwaters. Amazing views, springs, good road. \$20k/acre and up. Owned by one family for 180 years. First time available as small tracts. (910)689-6177.

## Rentals

**LAKE FRONT COZY** Cottage 1BD/1BA Easy Access, Close To Town, Fully Furnished. Ideal Corporate, Long Term or Vacation Rental. \$1,500/monthly, plus Utilities. No Pets. Franklin (770)757-7500 Sarah Miller.

## Garage & Yard Sales

**RUMMAGE SALE** Aug. 20, 8am-1pm, Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Rd. Breakfast for purchase.

**ESTATE AND YARD SALE** August 19, 20, Coon Hunters Building. Go South 441 to last red light, turn left Prentiss Bridge Rd., Follow Signs to Coon Hunters Building 8:30am-?

## Community Fundraisers

**RUMMAGE SALE** Aug. 20, 8am-1pm, Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Rd. Breakfast for purchase.

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

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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
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2020	Jaguar	XE AWD	5,214
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan SXT	55,584
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
2017	Dodge	Journey	110,982
2016	Chevrolet	Cruze RS	30,685
2015	Nissan	Altima 2.5 S	59,261
2015	Mustang	GT	45,724
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	113,152
2014	Ford	Focus SE	84,984
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	Lexus	RX 350	72,919
2016	Sorento	LX	112,933
2016	Toyota	Sequoia	96,869
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	1500 High Country	17,551
2021	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	10,842
2021	Chevrolet	LT Trailboss	34,069
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	2500 Diesel	8,241
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	Colorado	Ext Cab ZR2	26,842
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
2015	Chevrolet	1500 Ext Cab	68,636
2014	Ram	1500 Sport Crew 4x4	107,828
2012	GMC	Sierra 2500 Diesel	192,749
2007	GMC	Sierra 4x4	115,221



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