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Saturday, Dec. 3 • 5 to 8PM



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Clear blue skies and moderate temperatures were in the forecast for Franklin's Annual Christmas Parade held last Sunday afternoon. Floats, classic cars, jeeps, dancers, the Franklin High School Band and Santa were among the participants for the procession down Main Street, around Porter Street, left on Palmer Street and ending at the Highlands Road. Kids of all ages dove for candy as various organizations handed out sweets throughout the parade route. For more photos of the parade in Franklin, see page 12.

Photo by Ellen Randall

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Community effort keeping school children warm

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Even though the official first day of winter is close to a month away on Dec. 21, regional temperatures have been below freezing several mornings; and, Christine Drake, who drives buses for South Macon Elementary, noticed children struggling with the cold.

Drake's sister is Patty Raby, owner of Kaylee's Closet, which donates clothing and other necessities to foster and adoptive parents. Raby began providing Drake with extra gloves and hats to make them available in a basket for students to pick up as they entered or exited her bus.

Raby and Drake soon began discussing how some children on other buses must need gloves and hats as well.

"We felt we should make enough to fill all of the South Macon Elementary buses," said Sheryl Burns, a local teacher of and provider of hand-dyed and knitted goods, who decided to assist with the effort.

The volunteer effort has been dubbed "Warmth on Wheels." Area knitting and seamstress volunteers



Carol Young and 2-year-old Jack get together once a month and make hats on the hat maker.

See WARMTH page 2

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WARMTH

Continued from page 1

were called upon to craft mittens and hats for children.

“We created mittens kits, which are cut-out sections of fleece, as well as the pattern to make them,” said Burns. Volunteers have been picking up the kits at A Stitch in Time at 23 Macon Center Drive just off 23/441 in East Franklin, making the mittens, and then returning them to the store.

“So far, the community has made over 200 mittens,” said Burns, who also has been knitting hats with volunteers.

Burns explained that people can also purchase new hats and mittens to donate, and they can be dropped off at A Stitch in Time, Silver Threads, or Kaylee’s Closet. Each week, the items fill baskets on the buses and students can take them for themselves and/or siblings – no questions



A basket of mittens and hats are placed on the buses and children can help themselves as needed, no questions asked.



From left is Barbara Macfarlane, Carol Young (who came up with the name - Warmth on Wheels), and Sheryl Burns.

asked.

“This has really been a group effort with Patty at Kaylee’s Closet; Christine Drake, coordinating and helping us get them on buses - she sparked the idea by putting a basket on her bus; A Stitch in Time, helping get it out to her customers, making kits and accepting drop offs; and Silver Threads and Golden Needles as a hat drive and drop off location. Carol helped brainstorm and came up with the name and Barbara and Carol have donated tons of yarn for hat making as well as a tremendous amount of time making many hats,” relayed

Burns.

“It just saddens me that kids might be cold,” said Burns. “And one thing that’s great about this small town is that people do what they need to do to make sure everyone has what they need.”

Burns said she expects the effort to continue every year. “We want it to grow so that we can also supply students riding Macon County middle and high school buses.”

For more information about volunteering for Warmth on Wheels, leave a message through Kaylee’s Closet website or Facebook page.



A bin was placed at A Stitch in Time as a drop-off for mittens and hats.

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Annual Cowee Christmas spreading holiday cheer, creating memories

It's that time of year again to think about the holiday season and wonder how to spread a little Christmas cheer while creating meaningful memories.

The 8th Annual Cowee Christmas event being held this Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center, 51 Cowee School Drive, Franklin, checks all the boxes for getting the community in a festive mood with one-stop shopping for decorations, gifts, activities/crafts for the kids, photo opportunities and live entertain-

ment by local musicians. This free event along with the 5th Balsam Bee, will be sure to offer fragrant gift selections. Beginning at 10 a.m. and lasting until 3 p.m., activities will be both inside the school and on the outside grounds.

Inside the Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center, these artisan tenants will be open to find that special gift or learn more about the culture of our historic area:



The 8th Annual Cowee Christmas features area crafts from local artisans, along with live music, refreshments, homemade soups and more.



Handmade wreaths are always a popular item.

- Cowee Textiles - Weaving, Needle Felting and Hats by Teresa Bouchonnet
- Jon Houglum Fine Art & Painting Studio - Oil Landscapes & Painting Lessons
- The Mountaineer Woodworking and Leather - Handcrafted Woodworking, Leatherworking and Soaps
- Cowee Pottery School - Wheel-thrown and Hand-built Studio Pottery & Classes
- Alarka Expeditions - Outdoor Excursions & Cultural Events
- Down Memory Lane Toy Museum - Extensive toy collection that spans decades
- Cynthia Kinard Portrait Legacies - Oil & Watercolor Paintings and Portraits
- Dance Arts Co-op - Demonstrations at 12:15 & 1:15 pm
- Cherokee Room - Kathi Little-

john/Storytelling

Plus, other vendors/crafters will be scattered throughout the campus to offer handmade items for purchase:

- Brenda Garner - Christmas Stockings and Wood Bowls
- David and Sylvia Pruitt - Another Place in Time
- Kathy Tinsley and Krista Skrede - Woven and Felted Goods
- Dennis Deitz - Artist with Paintings
- Laura Craig - Shade Tree Soaps
- Nancy McKoviak - Earrings from Decorative Tins
- Smoky Mountain Quilters
- K and K Enterprises

- Nita Lipan - Knit Items
 - Teresa Taylor - Pottery
 - Jenny Pitts - Hope Filled Candles
 - Deb Bryant - Weaving and Textiles
 - Lindsay Ciufo - By Grace Jewelry
 - Jerry Stanley - Furniture Making
 - Noah Alicea - Walking sticks
 - Linda Smith - Sewn Goods
 - Jennifer and David Algers with "Hersey Star"
 - Cindy Dietz and the Macon Goat Club
 - Christine Barnes the "Bread Lady"
 - Elwoods Elemental Dog Treats
- Children and families will have an opportunity for free hands-on crafts and activities such as evergreen swag making,

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cookie decorating with Grandma's Kitchen, sewing a little bag with Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild, making simple tree decorations with the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County (FHAMC), selecting free books from Read2Me, painting a wooden holiday tree with Cliftany, creating a wax bowl with Macon County Honey and Bee Co., crafting an ugly sweater wooden decoration/snowman ornament with Linda Smith, and rolling wax candles with K & K Enterprises. Don't miss Santa's arrival on the Cowee Fire Dept. Fire engine at 11 a.m.



Past Cowee Christmas events have featured cookie decorating.

ferings of sights and sounds of Christmas at the event, don't overlook the senses of taste and smell. The Women's History Trail (a project of FHAMC) will be selling festive homemade cookies and hot drinks to benefit their annual student scholarship and fresh Balsam pillows and swags will also be available for purchase which will benefit Cowee School.

At the Silent Auction Table will be a queen size quilt donated by Susan Roper, an

Photo opportunities featuring the Franklin Fire Department antique engine, Cowee Fire Department engine and antique cars by Wayne English and friends are sure to produce smiling faces. To complete the holiday enchantment, these local musicians will be performing: Wyatt Duvall (Banjo), The



Lady and the Tramps will play dulcimer music at Cowee Christmas.



Wyatt Duvall will be performing on the banjo.

Adirondack Lawn Chair donated by Jerry Stanley and a Cowee School Gift Basket.

Home cooked soups by Roland Mock of Southern Fusion Catering at The "Fraser Fir Cafe" which will be serving lunch on-site from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. (or until gone). After 2 p.m., left over soup will be sold in quart containers at the front entrance of the school (Nantahala Chicken and Rice, Tellico Tomato Basil, Wayah Potato, Cowee Chili).

For more information about Cowee Christmas, contact event organizer Claire Suminski (828) 342-9071, email Claire@dometrics.com or visit Coweeschool.org, or follow this event on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CoweeSchool>.

Submitted by Theresa Ramsey

White Sisters (Vocalists/Trio), Lady and the Tramps (Dulcimers) and Richard Tichich (Fiddler) and everyone is invited to join the Holiday Music Sing-a-long at noon! Also, from 10 a.m. until noon, and Face Painting sponsored by the Arts Council of Macon County.



Local favorites The White Sisters will be performing at Cowee Christmas.



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WCU cadaver K9 training program wins professional development award

Western Carolina University's human remains detection cadaver dog training program was recently awarded the 2022 University Professional and Continuing Education Association award for special populations at the UPCEA South Conference in Atlanta.

This award recognizes outstanding professional development programs offered by universities across the southeast, from Virginia to Texas.

WCU's HRD cadaver dog program, which is under the direction of Lisa Briggs, director of WCU's emergency and disaster management program, has been offered at WCU since 2011.

HRD K9s are a specially trained group of search dogs who specialize in locating missing people in criminal investigations, suicides, overdoses, lost persons, natural disasters and structural collapses such as the twin towers on 9/11, and most recently the flood victims in Haywood County.

"Once thought of as a pseudoscience, understanding how canines can be effective and reliable as tools in human remains recovery is being accomplished at WCU through interdisciplinary relationships in the College of Arts and Sciences and WCU's Forensic Osteology Research Station," said Briggs.

In addition to directing the programs at WCU, Briggs also serves as a search and recovery specialist for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and is on the State Bureau of Investigation Human Remains Task Force, as well as a member of the Department of Homeland Security Reunification Team.

"One can only imagine for a moment their own family member being missing and unable to locate them to understand the significance of our work," Briggs said.

She understands how important it is to have specially trained K9s to locate the missing and is appreciative of the resources, relationships and support from the university for such an important area of specialization.

"It is crucial that HRD K9s be trained on actual human remains and not placenta or

pseudo corpse," Briggs said. "One should not expect a K9 to be effective unless they are actually trained on that which the K9 team is searching for. There are very few locations in the country, or the world for that matter, who provide access to those who have donated their bodies to science like we have here at WCU."

Handlers and their K9s come from countries all over the world and the nation to train in WCU's program where Briggs and other experienced law enforcement K9 officers and trainers lead with first-hand experience in the recovery of human remains.

The Division of Educational Outreach facilitates the trainings that happen on campus throughout the year.

"Once the program began, word quickly spread and we saw surging demand from K9 handlers all across the United States and abroad who wanted to bring their dogs to Cullowhee for training," said Bobby Hensley, associate director of continuing education in Educational Outreach. "Lately, the classes fill to capacity in about seven minutes from the time they are opened to law enforcement, fire, and search and rescue personnel. It is wonderful that our program received recognition from such a prestigious organization and to be selected the best program for special populations in the southeast is quite an award."

For more information about the program, visit hrddog.wcu.edu.



Bobby Hensley (left) and Lisa Briggs (middle) accept the University Professional and Continuing Education Association's award for special populations which was giving to WCU's human remains detection cadaver dog training program.

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2021	Chevrolet	Corvette	5,792
2021	Chevrolet	Spark	82
2021	Kia	Optima EX	20,010
2020	Chevrolet	Camaro	25,641
2019	Camaro		40,428
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan SXT	55,584
2019	Equinox		52,902
2019	Nissan	Sentra SV	15,009
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	53,520
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze	34,692
2018	Traverse	LT AWD	95,105
2017	Dodge	Journey	110,982
2017	Honda	Fit	59,209
2016	Ford	Focus	68,653
2015	Ford	Flex	99,016
2014	Mazda	3	86,680
2013	Hyundia	Genesis 6 SPD	69,381
2013	VW	Beetle Convertible	67,099
2009	Lexus	ES350	113,060

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2023	Chevrolet	Tahoe	257
2022	Jeep	Wrangler Sahara Unlimited	10,539
2021	Chevrolet	Express 2500 Van	39,022
2021	Chevrolet	Tahoe	33,592
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	GMC	Yukon XL	53,356
2021	Grand Cherokee	L	13,279
2021	Jeep	Wrangler Sport	8,094
2021	Tahoe	High Country	28,303

2020	Acura	MDX AWD	46,606
2020	Buick	Encore	34,808
2020	Chevrolet	Trax	7,250
2020	Chevrolet	Trax Premier	28,030
2020	Grand Cherokee	Trailhawk	26,226
2020	Jeep	Wrangler Rubicon Unlimited	24,249
2019	Chevrolet	Blazer RS	45,231
2019	Chevrolet	Tahoe LT	46,162
2019	Chevrolet	Trax AWD	16,288
2019	Honda	Pilot EX	40,801
2019	Jeep	Cherokee 4x4	65,409
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox LT	23,569
2018	Ford	Explorer Sport	57,475
2018	Forerunner	TRD Sport	65,055
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	44,985
2018	Nissan	Murano	53,903
2017	Rogue	SV	58,866
2016	Chevrolet	Traverse LS AWD	62,942
2016	Dodge	Grand Caravan	76,458
2016	Lexus	RX 350	72,919
2016	Sorento	LX	112,933
2016	Toyota	Sequoia	96,869
2016	Trax	LT	20,021
2015	Suburban	LT	92,352

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	Chevrolet	2500 LTZ	4,635
2021	2500	LT 4x4	16,442
2021	Chevrolet	1500 4x4	10,243
2021	Chevrolet	1500 RST	34,026
2021	Chevrolet	Colorado	8,980
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	Chevrolet	Trailboss Crew	22,256
2021	F-150	Crew 4x4	32,251
2021	Ford	F-150 SuperCrew Cab	32,251
2021	GMC	Canyon Elevation	50,934
2021	Ram	2500 Black Widow	13,542
2021	Ram	2500 Tradesman	3,647
2021	Toyota	Tacoma TRD Sport	10,557
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	Toyota	Tacoma SR	12,448
2019	Chevrolet	1500 Trailboss	36,741
2019	Chevrolet	2500 LTZ Crew	38,248
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500 HC Dually	45,535
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	44,359
2019	Colorado	WT 4x4	6,261
2019	Ford	F-150 Punisher	53,682
2019	GMC	Sierra 1500	18,811
2019	Ram	3500 Flatbed	58,192
2018	Chevrolet	1500 LT Crew	28,131
2018	Chevrolet	1500 LT Crew	50,934
2018	Chevrolet	2500 LTZ Crew	56,558
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado Z-71	23,542
2018	Colorado	ZR2	36,012
2018	Ram	2500	101,661
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Franklin Pickleball team defeats Rabun in first-ever tournament

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

The first-ever Battle of the Mountains Pickleball Challenge occurred Saturday, Nov. 12, in Rabun County, Ga. The tournament pitted the Blue Ridge Mountains Pickleball Club of Franklin against the Rabun Pickleball Club. A 20-person team, composed of 10 men and 10 women from each club, squared off in a very hard-fought match with Franklin winning (26 wins to 24). After each tourney the winner takes home the coveted trophy. For now, it is being housed in the Carpenter Community Center. Going forward, the clubs hope to hold this event at least once a year.

Pickleball is quickly becoming more popular across the country as evidenced by how many tennis and basketball courts have been converted or temporarily restructured for the game. A trend is happening toward younger segments of the population participating in the sport. For some time, pickleball has been regarded as the pastime of retired senior citizens who are eager to fill their hours with some indoor or outdoor activity. However, statistics show that in the past two years the average age of pickleballers is somewhere between 38-41 years old, proof of the sport's growing appeal.

George McClure, president of the Franklin pickleball club, has been playing the game since 2018 when he retired to the Franklin area following a career as a history professor at the University of Alabama. McClure likens pickleball to previous sports he has played.

"It has features of tennis and ping pong; the singles game resembles the former, the doubles game the latter. I especially like singles, but play more doubles given the number of players and shortage of courts."

He also pointed out that the group has some "outstanding" players such as Ed Bresnahan, who recently won the championship in singles and as part of a doubles team at the North Carolina State Senior Games Finals.



The Blue Ridge Mountains Pickleball Club of Franklin recently won a tournament (left to right): Paul Baik, Asa Walker, David Delaney, Suzanne Mandler, Bill Mandler, Joanne Merkle, Jane Sholine, Barbara Wolfe, Ed Bresnahan, George McClure (club president), Dori Cameron, Steve Cameron, Dana Bresnahan, Wendy Werb, Drew Gretz. Kneeling: Bryan Hummer, Cindy Baik, Holly Wylie, Nancy Falkenstein and Robert Barnable.

The sport has grown steadily since 2010, when only a few people locally were playing regularly. Currently, McClure has about 170 players on his email contact list and points out, "We have a great variety of players, men and women, retirees and 30-year-olds, locals, and transplants ... folks of every professional and political background. [The game] has created a great sense of community."

However, shortages of courts pose challenges for the sport. People can play at certain times on three indoor courts at the Carpenter Community Center or on four outdoor courts at Parker Meadows. Both options are relegated to temporary nets and can only be accessed during work hours. More permanent courts have been on the wish list for some

time and efforts to remedy that shortfall are now being undertaken. Optimism is increasing with the Macon County Recreation Committee and the Macon County Commissioners approving funding for new courts.

According to McClure, "Eight courts will be built on the right-hand side of the girls softball field next to the Wendy's (off Georgia Highway in Franklin)." The field will be slightly reduced and reoriented to the left to accommodate the courts and bathrooms that are already on site will be renovated. McClure also noted, "Our group (Blue Ridge Mountains Pickleball Club) is now raising money to build a pavilion on site. It should be a wonderful center for Franklin pickleball."

Franklin Panthers ball boy Andre McDonald 'best in the business'

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

If you have been to Franklin High School (FHS) varsity football games during the last few years, you have probably seen a young man running on and off the field with such speed that spectators may ask, "Why isn't he playing wide receiver?" It turns out that before Andre McDonald graduated from FHS in 2018, he did just that. While in high school, he spent time on varsity squads during his sophomore and junior years, filling running back, receiver, and cornerback positions.

McDonald was unable to play his senior year due to a torn shoulder injury, which led to his initial request to execute ball boy tasks, in part to remain involved in the football environment on game nights. After graduation, McDonald continued to support Head Coach Josh Brooks' teams by performing ball boy duties.

A ball boy's job is to speedily deliver a dry football to the line of scrimmage while retrieving a dirty or wet ball from the field – all within the 40 or so seconds allowed between offensive plays. Brooks was asked recently about McDonald's dedication to his role.

"Andre has been assisting with all ball boy duties for a number of years," said Brooks. "Numerous opposing coaches have mentioned him because of how fast he gets the ball to the umpire. He is by far the best in the business. It was a pleasure to coach Andre while he was in high school and I really appreciate his service to our



Andre McDonald runs off the field after changing out the football for a new one during a FHS Panthers football game.

football program as the ball boy over the past few years."

This past season, McDonald actually pulled a hamstring while running on/off the football field during the Smoky Mountain game. How much time did he miss from football games or his job? None.

The 2023 FHS football season will be McDonald's last one carrying out ball boy duties. These days McDonald provides similar outstanding support to the Town of Franklin within the Public Works department as a member of the maintenance team for sewer and water. He has now been with Public Works full-time for 10 months and says that he "enjoys working there because his team and co-workers are very encouraging."

Public Works Director Bill Deal, who is McDonald's supervisor, spoke favorably about his employee.

"Andre is a very dedicated individual and takes pride in his job as well as on the football field," said Deal.

McDonald originally started out part-time as a member of the streets' crew. Deal reported that McDonald "regularly helps people go out and repair water/sewer lines, answers repair calls, trouble shoots, works water meter swaps, and more."

So, if you see McDonald at one of next year's Panther football games, or out in town working – or if he shows up to make a repair at your residence or business, be sure to let him know that his hustle and dedication for FHS has been appreciated.

Blue Ridge Conservancy back on the 110 trail

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Beginning in 2021, through a series of about 14 hikes, a group accomplished all 110 miles of the North Georgia to Western North Carolina section of the Bartram Trail. Led by Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy Director Brent Martin, the hikers typically tackled six- to 11-mile sections each month until they completed from Russell Bridge on the Georgia, South Carolina border to Cheoah in North Carolina, beyond Nantahala Lake.

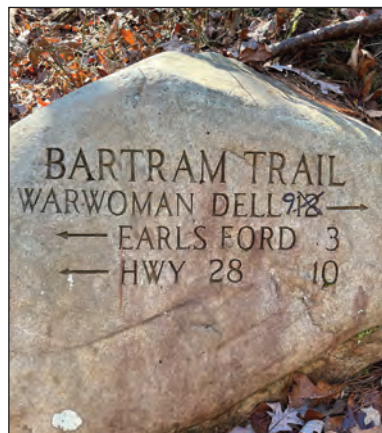
Then, in October, Martin restarted what is dubbed “Walking with Bartram.” Some of the same people have recommitted to hike the 110 route, while much of the group is composed of new people. Martin tries to cap the hiking group at 15 so that along the route, he is able to educate everyone in earshot about tree, plant, and bird identification, landscape history, names of peaks and valleys, and more. Anyone can reserve a spot on the monthly hikes – and to learn about the details of each section – by signing up on the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy website. Although some in the group participate in each monthly hike, individuals who miss the group hike for various reasons will hike the section on their own in order to achieve the 110 miles.

On Nov. 28, when a group of about 12 met to complete the second section of the Bartram Trail, from Sandy Ford to Warwoman Dell in Georgia, Martin made available the new map that focuses on Georgia’s Bartram Trail. The Western North Carolina map of the Bartram Trail, which included from the Georgia line up where the Bartram Trail ends in North Carolina, has been available, but the Georgia map was completed recently.

The Bartram Trail, which also has sections in other Southeastern states, is named for 18th-century American naturalist William Bartram, who traveled the southeastern United States between the years of 1773 and 1777. He famously documented species of plants and animals as well as observations of American Indians and early settler life, culminated in his collection of journal entries into his 1791 publication, “Bartram’s Travels.”



A group led by Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy Director Brent Martin is hiking monthly to achieve all 110 miles of the North Georgia and Western North Carolina trail.



The Conservancy was established to educate about and maintain the 110 section of the Trail. Besides monthly volunteer maintainers – through U.S. Forest Service support, and the support and partnership of the Macon County School System’s STEM Program – a six-student youth corps works on trails for four weeks in the summer. Also, a chainsaw-certified group with Southeast Conservation Corps, based in Chattanooga, Tenn., is finishing up a four-month trail maintenance project on the Bartram Trail.

Even though the Appalachian Trail receives national attention due to thousands of thru- and section hikers working to achieve the 2,100 miles from Georgia to Maine, Martin pointed out that accomplishing 110 miles locally on the Bartram Trail is “rewarding” not only for the physicality, but also because of the “historical and natural experience.”



Southeast Conservation Corps workers have been working the past four months to maintain the Bartram Trail.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor

The trout are back in Harris Lake. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has restarted their winter pond stocking program. As a result, Harris Lake has several hundred trout for the public to harvest.

The popular program was started several years ago. The floods on the Pigeon River the summer before last damaged the state hatchery so there were no trout available for stocking this past year. But this year the hatchery had a surplus of fish so the popular winter program is back. The winter stocking makes room in the hatchery for new trout for the upcoming season.

The rules for catching the trout are pretty simple. Adults have to have a North Carolina fishing license. Any bait, live and artificial can be used. The limit per fisherman is seven fish a day. Any size trout can be harvested. Catch and release rules do not apply for this program, but if you do happen to catch a fish that is not trout, please release it. All fish need to be harvested before spring because rising lake temperatures will not support trout.

So, take your children, grandchildren and friends and go fishing right here in town. Please be a good sportsman and remove any trash such as bait cans and snack materials after fishing.

My favorite way of cooking trout is to stuff a whole trout with onions and other herbs and bake it. Fried and smoked trout are great too.

I want to thank the owner of the lake, Terry Potts, for his cooperation with the Wildlife Resources folks.

Let me also update everyone about trash collection for Christmas. The town picks up trash on all holidays except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our holiday collection schedule goes well beyond what most trash collection operations do. Since Christmas is on Sunday this year, there will be no interruption of residential collection. Commercial collection will stop for the Christmas weekend.

Please remember to place all garbage and foodstuff in plastic bags and place them in bear resistant containers. Trash container cannot be over filled to where the lid can't be closed. We all need to work together to keep Highlands beautiful during this special time of the year.

The Christmas season has become one of the most



Patrick Taylor

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

New commissioners admonished to make changes

With a few new changes in our county commissioners, I am wondering whether or not there might be some changes in the county. I'm speaking of changes that do not increase taxes but changes that make living here in the mountains a little more livable.

Since moving to Macon County 12 years ago, I have continually heard that the county does not like change. The Good Old Boy factor keeps things the same, the same as it was 12 years ago when I moved here and probably the same as it was 20 years ago.

I can think of numerous ordinances that would make living here more tolerable, things that I have heard from numerous people who like me, moved here from another state to enjoy the beauty, peace and tranquility of living in the mountains. To state a few things that are common in the other counties around us are: travel any county road and you will find numerous homes surrounded by garbage and junk, unlicensed vehicles, stacks of pallets, what have you.

Another common gripe I have heard is the lack of zoning control and building bylaws that protect property owners from commercial endeavors moving in next door, trailers and mobile homes encroaching on single family residential communities.

Here's a good one I have experienced: Heard about from my neighbors and read about, the firing of firearms at all times of the day and night within close proximity of other homes. They must intimidate their neighbor not to complain. The sheriff seems to care little about the practice where they will fire off hundreds of rounds continually over hours, some are even determined to be fully automatic guns. I'm not against the second amendment, I own weapons too, however, common sense means go to the firing range if you take the notion to act like Rambo.

How about the maintenance of the highway right-of-way, why do our county roads look like garbage dumps, the grass long enough to have it baled, where Jackson County and Rabun County road are always well groomed and clean.

You commissioners, these observations do not cost money or tax increases. It takes some balls by our commissioners to invoke changes for the betterment of the citizens, taxpayers and for the betterment of the county.

Recently I met a couple from Pennsylvania who had decided to move to the Carolinas to get away from the crime and school problems they experience there. They spent time in Haywood County, Jackson County, and their final stop, Macon County. As we sat enjoying a brew at a local brewery, they asked us a lot of questions and offered a lot of comments. They said they were going back to Jackson County to zero in on a home because they thought it offered more controls, was cleaner and offered more on what they were looking for. They commented on one of thy favorite complaints, the number of garbage and dumpy homes along al-

most every road they travelled. (They did say that they had written a letter to the county about their feelings.)

So, you new commissioners, are you going to fall into the same old practice and become one of the Good Old Boys and stay with the status quo or do you not think it worthwhile to explore some change?

G. Puckett - Franklin, N.C.

Give holiday donations to charities, not scammers

Each holiday season, people in North Carolina give generously in their communities through charitable donations. Unfortunately, my office sees an increase in charity scam complaints during the holidays. When you donate your money, you want to know that it will go to help others, not line some scammer's pockets.

Give to the charities and causes you support. Telemarketers, who sometimes make commissions on the donations they raise, will call, email, or mail you solicitations for donations. They often use pressure sales tactics to get you to make a financial decision you could later regret. Instead of responding to these solicitations, choose who you want to support and then contact the organization directly.

Watch out for social media and crowdfunding scams. Crowdfunding platforms like GoFundMe help people support local causes they care about. However, scammers can use them to trick people into giving to a sham cause. Before you give, take time to research the organizer. If you can't find them online or if their details don't match up with the post, don't contribute. Only give to a crowdfunding campaign if you know the organizer or have verified their identity.

Make sure the organization you want to donate to is legitimate. If you are unsure, call the attorney general's office or check its license with the Secretary of State. You can also research a charity's ratings and history through the Better Business Bureau's (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator, Charity Watch, or GuideStar.

Never pay with a wire transfer, gift card, or cryptocurrency. Criminals will ask you to use these payment types because they make it difficult to get your money back. A credit card offers more protection against scams. Anyone who refuses to accept payment with a credit card or check is likely a scammer.

The holiday season is a time for each of us to spend time with loved ones and to give back to our community. When you donate, make sure your money supports the cause you care about, not a criminal enterprise. If you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam, file a complaint with the AG's Consumer Protection Division at ncdoj.gov/complaint or by phone at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

Submitted by Attorney General Josh Stein

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Otto Community Development Club is honored with President's Award from WNC Communities

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

An Otto-based community club was one of 64 receiving recognition and a cash reward from WNC Honors Awards, a program of WNC Communities, which spotlights rural community development clubs for innovative ideas and grassroots solutions. According to Susan Garrett, community programs coordinator for WNC Communities, based in Asheville, "These centers and clubs are the backbone of community cohesion running through our beloved mountains."

Communities were recognized Saturday, Nov. 12, with nearly 200 community leaders and volunteers representing 15 Western North Carolina counties as well as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Sixty-four communities received a total of \$50,000 in cash awards. Locally, Otto Community Development Organization (OCDO) of Macon County received the President's Award for 50 years of participation in the WNC Honors Awards.

Current Otto president Thomas Young, said, "It means a lot for us because of the length of time we've been involved contributing to our community."

"Otto Community Development Organization has been involved in the WNC Honors Program for 50 of the 73 years the program has been in existence," explained Garrett. "Each of these years, they have turned in an application explaining what they have done to help their community's residents. In their 2022 application, they reported that there are approximately 1,800 households in their area. One of their volunteer services from the past year included providing space for a candidate forum for candidates running for county commissioner and sheriff. They reported having roughly 100 community members in attendance.

"To show the diversity of their offerings, another example is their volunteer effort to enhance the local economy, wherein they worked to support a local business, ... Their goal was to inform the public about a local business that is young, but established, with the hope that efforts will improve the enrollment levels of the studio."

The OCDO hosts regular community events throughout the year. From Trunk or Treat for Halloween, blood drives, fund raisers and ice cream socials in the summer, the club is truly a cohesive entity bringing community members together either for a common goal or just to fellowship. The group meets in the community center behind the Otto Fire Department just off 441S. The 3,000-foot building is also available for rent for family, civic or religious activities.

The Awards serve to recognize how clubs enhance communities.

"A total of more than 7,100 volunteers [throughout Western North Carolina] invested an impressive 96,158 hours of their time in outreach programs dedicated to feeding people during COVID, recovering from Tropical Storm Fred, and other benevolence projects, education, beautification, health, wellness, and economic development," Garrett noted.

WNC Honors Awards are sponsored through donations



Otto Community Development Organization's current president, Thomas Young, accepts a WNC Honors Award from a WNC Communities representative.

by Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort, Harrah's Valley River Casino & Hotel, Duke Energy, Biltmore Farms, Inc, First Citizens Bank, The McClure Foundation, Wells Fargo, Buncombe County Farm Bureau, New Belgium Brewing, Carolina Farm Credit, and Haywood Regional Medical Center.

Garrett continued, "WNC Communities wants to ensure communities get the support and recognition they so richly deserve. To this end, we celebrate their efforts, give monetary awards, and performance-based awards, and announce what they have done so that all the communities know their wonderful volunteer work is appreciated."

TAYLOR

Continued from page 10

populated and busiest times in Highlands. Our electrical usage spikes to its highest point during this period. Please be cognizant of electrical usage during this period. It used to be that the number of people in Highlands in December was at a yearly low, but now that is just the opposite.

With so many people in town, everyone needs to be mindful of careful driving and posted speed limits. Our police will be patrolling for speeders and dangerous or impaired drivers. We all want to keep the town safe during the holidays.

Finally, I want to thank the chamber of commerce for organizing a wonderful town and Christmas Tree lighting this past Saturday evening. I also want to thank all the town employees who worked on putting up the Christmas decorations throughout the town. And the Highlands Fire Department did a great job of getting Santa Claus to the tree lighting.

I hope to see everyone on Saturday at 10:30 a.m., at our holiday capstone event, the annual Christmas Parade on Main Street. I always look forward to seeing all the community organizations that are in the parade.

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Scenes from the annual Franklin Christmas Parade



Photos by Ellen Randall



Winter Wonderland in downtown Franklin



The Town of Franklin will hold its next Winter Wonderland Saturday, Dec. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. with plenty of photo opportunities, a chance to meet Santa, and free carriage rides. Downtown merchants will be open offering great sales, free refreshments and living window displays.

Photos by Ellen Randall and Betsy Gooder



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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department or Franklin Police Department made the following arrests Nov. 12 - 26. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

November 14

Michael Lee Keener, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. William R. Younce made the arrest.
Modesto Nicanor Torres, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

November 16

Stephen Carl Wright, was charged with failure to appear. Jay Wright made the arrest.
Jason Christian Watson, was charged with failure to appear. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Jeanette Lynn Dutton, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense and larceny by an employee. Jay Wright made the arrest.

Melissa Lynn Pruet, was charged with probation violation. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Kevin Allen Johnson, was charged with failure to appear. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

November 17

Joseph Eugene Jones, was charged with offenses committed in jurisdiction. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

November 20

Tyler Elden Deats, was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Mimi Raa Ciarrocchi, was charged with possession of firearm by convicted felon. Robert Young made the arrest.

Dalton Keith Bates, was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Robert Young made the arrest.

November 21

Baltasar Castanon Espinosa, was charged with failure to appear for driving while impaired. Jordan C. Sutton made

the arrest.

November 22

Robert Larry Sawyer II, was charged with warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Steven Edward Bowman, was charged with warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

November 23

Steven Gary Nicholson, was charged with a true bill of indictment. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

Charles Robert Hall, was charged with warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction.

November 24

Jordan Heath Oocumma, was charged with simple assault. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Larry Turner Turlington Jr., was charged with failure to appear. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Nathan Daniel Green, was charged with felony probation violation and probation violation. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

November 26

Kaylan Jo Moore, was charged with breaking and entering and simple assault. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

November 12

Pennie Lynn Jobe, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance. E.D. Kirkland made the arrest.

November 17

Shay Lindsay Janow, was charged with larceny from a merchant and larceny. J.M. Norman made the arrest.

November 23

Dustin Lyn Busby, was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon and driving while license revoked. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

November 24

Bryan Draven Burch, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance. E.D. Kirkland made the arrest.

Health info exchange expands to include inmates

The N.C. Department of Public Safety and the future N.C. Department of Adult Correction have joined NC HealthConnex, North Carolina's state-designated health information exchange (HIE), expanding access to the medical records of incarcerated persons to provide enhanced continuity of care.

Adult Correction, which will become a separate Cabinet agency as of Jan. 1, 2023, signed a participation agreement on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022, with N.C. Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA), a business unit within the N.C. Department of Information Technology which operates NC HealthConnex. The agreement meets a 2018 legislative mandate for correctional facilities to fully participate in the state HIE in order to address gaps in health care.

NC HealthConnex, a secure, standardized electronic system for providers to share important patient health information, will help Adult Correction, as a new department, deliver comprehensive health care services to the approximately 30,000 people in the state's 55 correctional facilities. Adult Correction's health care system is separate from the care patients receive before and after incarceration and often relies on patients' self-reported medical histories, which are difficult to verify.

NC HealthConnex will provide Adult Correction with a more complete view of offenders' health records across providers, as well as their lab results, diagnostics, allergies, medications and more. This will enable correction facility medical providers to better evaluate offenders at the time of entry and more efficiently share medical information with providers in communities after release.

Use of NC HealthConnex is anticipated to allow for a more seamless transition to and from prison by reducing:

- Costs as staff spend less time spent searching for records or calling providers for medical histories
- Unnecessary and duplicative diagnostic and laboratory testing
- Delays in care by not repeating unnecessary tests and other studies
- The burden on corrections clinical staff, with more efficient data access and improved delivery of care

The use of this system promotes the access, exchange and analysis of health information to help improve care coordination, quality of care and enable better health outcomes. To learn more, visit hiea.nc.gov.

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.

Cowee Christmas and Balsam Bee will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center, Hwy. 28N. Arts Council will provide free activities inside and out for all ages with live music. Kids create evergreen swags, sew small gift bags, decorate cookies, and enjoy free face painting 10 a.m. to noon.

Nantahala Hiking Club will hike to Ridge Trail near Coweeta Hydrological Lab on Sunday, Dec. 4. Go behind the wet lab to Dyke Gap. Steep climb to Barker Cove. Get a good view of Albert Mt. Fire Tower at Screwdriver Knob. Come back on the old Gage Trail to Shope Fork and back to the office complex. For reservations and more information, call Katharine Brown (828)421-4178

Family Storytime & Cookies with Santa will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. Macon County Public Library, 149 Siler Farm Rd. Santa will visit the library for holiday stories, list-whispering, photo opps, crafts and snacks. For more information, call (828)524-3600.

Trout Unlimited Sylva Chapter will meet Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at United Methodist Church in Sylva. Chapter members bring a covered dish meal. Great raffles for fishing gear and a lot of fishing gab. Everyone is invited, you do not have to be a member.

Storytelling with Gary Carden will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room. Carden will tell humorous and educational stories about childhood, family, heritage, and local history. For more information, call (828)524-3600.

Franklin Women's Club Christmas Party, will be held on Friday, Dec. 9, 11:30 a.m., at Fat Buddies restaurant in Westgate Plaza. Members are asked to bring a gift for the Chinese Auction. To RSVP, call Brenda Jacobs at (828)421-0411. For more information about the Club, call Linda Ellison at (407)342-9654

Macon County CareNet Drop-off Location through Dec. 9 will be at Edward Jones branch office, 81 West Main St., during regular business hours. Items needed include non perishable canned meats, vegetables, fruits, peanut butter, and more.

Death Cafe will be held on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2 to 4 p.m., at Wayfarers Unity Chapel, 182 Wayfarer Lane, Dillard, Ga. Death Cafe is a group-directed discussion with no agenda, objective or themes and no intent to lead participants to any conclusion, product or course of action. Come have tea and cake and talk openly and confidentially about all things death related. The session is facilitated by Jan Brewer,

M.A., CMT and Teresa Weiser, Ed.D. For more information, call Jan at (510)684-5555 and/or visit www.deathcafe.com

Mountain Voices' Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Ave., Franklin

The 50-voice community chorus and ensembles sing sacred and secular songs of the season. Beverly Barnett directs; Mary Pittman accompanies on piano, along with a variety of instrumentalists. Venue is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call (828)524-3644.

Macon County School Free Developmental Screening for children ages 3 to 5 will be held on Friday, Dec. 9, 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The purpose of screening is to ensure children are reaching developmental milestones. Children will be asked to perform a variety of activities in the areas of pre-academic, language and motor skills. Vision and hearing will be screened. To schedule an appointment call (828)524-8938 ext. 2059.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 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.

MS Support Group of Macon County will meet at the Dorothy and John Crawford Senior Center in Franklin on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. The Senior Center is located at 108 Wayah St.

Franklin Seventh Day Adventist is discontinuing its Community Service Outreach Program at 93 Church Street, Suite 203.

Cullasaja Community Association Christmas Dinner will be held on Monday, Dec. 12, 6 p.m. Bring a covered dish to share. Invite your neighbor to come.

Macon Early College (MEC) is accepting student enrollment applications for the 2023-24 school year. MEC serves grades ninth through 13 and is fully integrated into the Southwestern Community College system. Students have the opportunity to graduate in four or five years with a high school diploma and a two-year Associate's degree with transferable credits to a four-year university. Applications are available at mec.macon.k12.nc.us under the Parent Information tab. The deadline to submit an application for rising 9th graders is Feb. 17, 2023, and for rising 10th and 11th grade students the deadline is March 17, 2023. For more information, call the school at (828)524-2002.

Macon Chips, Franklin's Wood Carving Club meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Macon County Public Library and on Thursdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 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.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church is holding Sunday Service on Dec. 4, at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Bradley Bennett will be preaching the sermon. Sacred Sounds will be performing special music. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next door to Trimont Christian Academy).

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m., will feature the vocals of Tara Saryah. On Thursdays, a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and then out to eat afterward. The center is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

Grace Baptist Church will present a Christmas play "Unto Us a Child is Born, A Night to Remember" Sunday, Dec. 11, with special music at 6:15 p.m., program starts at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 139 Setser Branch Road.

Watch Party with Free Chapel Church and Pastor Jentzen Franklin on Sunday, 11 a.m., 22 W. Palmer St. For more information, call (828)421-6712.

Son Rise International Ministries Christian Fellowship Services are held on Friday evenings at 7 p.m.; Wednesday ladies prayer and Bible Study from 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.

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

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

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>

Prentiss Church of God is holding Sunday worship service in its sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m. Services are also streamed online on the Prentiss Church of God Facebook page. Prayer and Worship service is the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road. Phone: (828)369-3885.

Email your church items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

S	A	S	H	J	O	E	C	U	R	D	T	O	K	E	S	T	A	R
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N.C. governor's mansion hosts holiday open house in December

North Carolina's Executive Mansion, the "people's house," will open its historic doors again for the beloved annual Holiday Open House from Dec. 8 through Dec. 10.

Visitors are invited to tour the home, take in the decorations, and enjoy seasonal musical entertainment by local performing groups. The first floor of the mansion will be decorated with North Carolina-grown Christmas trees, floral and mixed evergreen arrangements and ornate mantle displays.

The hours of the open house are: Dec. 8, 6-8 p.m.; Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free and reservations are not needed or accepted. Visitors should enter at the main gates on

Blount Street. A maximum of 100 visitors will be allowed inside at a time, so wait times to enter may be longer than in previous years.

The fine Victorian-style mansion, home to North Carolina governors since 1891, was once described by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as having "the most beautiful governor's residence interior in America." Built from native materials, the Executive Mansion has been occupied by 30 governors' families. The Executive Mansion is located at 200 North Blount St., Raleigh, NC 27601. Governor Roy Cooper is the 30th governor to live in the Mansion and the 75th governor of North Carolina since statehood.



The North Carolina Executive Mansion is located at 200 North Blount St., Raleigh.



Fiddler Finn plays in Franklin

As part of its Artists in Schools program, the Arts Council of Macon County sponsored violin virtuoso Andrew Finn Magill to spend the day on Tuesday at Cartoogechaye Elementary School. Finn saw all 380 Cartoogechaye School students – including Ms. Trawick's fourth graders (pictured) – during a day full of short, small-audience instructive performances as well as questions and answer periods. Finn also performed a program of holiday music at the First Presbyterian Chapel. Along with beloved Christmas tunes, the concert included selections with a distinct Celtic flavor. For information phone 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Keep your Christmas tree looking its best throughout the season

Melinda Myers – Columnist

The hunt for the perfect tree is oftentimes an important part of family tradition. Buy local whenever possible by supporting local Christmas tree growers. Purchasing locally grown trees also reduces the risk of spreading unwanted pests into your landscape. Your local University Extension Service and Department of Natural Resources provide updates on any threats.

Family tradition may dictate your tree choice. Many prefer the fragrance of balsam fir and needle retention of other firs like Fraser, white, Grand, and Noble. Though not a true fir, Douglas fir needles have a wonderful aroma when crushed. White pine lacks the fragrance that many prefer. Its pliable branches only support lightweight ornaments, but the soft needles have less bite than the popular Scots or Scotch pine. This evergreen has stiff branches that support heavier ornaments and its needles hold even when dry.

Check for freshness. A fresh tree will last throughout the holidays. Run your hand along the stem. The needles should be pliable yet firmly attached to the branch. Avoid trees with lots of moss, lichens, vines, broken branches, and other signs of poor care.

Look at the overall shape and size of the tree. Stand the tree upright to make sure it will fit in the allotted space.

Check the trunk. It should be straight and the base small enough to fit in your tree stand.

Make a fresh cut, removing at least an inch from the base of the trunk before setting it in the stand. Straight or diagonal cuts work equally well. A diagonal or V-shaped cut may make it difficult to properly support the tree in the stand.

Proper watering is key. Fill the stand with water and check it often. Fresh trees can absorb as much as 2 quarts of water in the first 24 hours. Keeping your tree stand filled with water is the best way to keep your tree looking its best throughout the season.

Once your tree is in place, you can add lights and decorations. Then take time throughout the busy holiday season to relax with your favorite winter beverage and enjoy the beauty of your Christmas tree.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD 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.



Proper selection and care of your Christmas tree will keep it fresh and looking its best throughout the holidays. Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com



Deaths & Funerals

Chester Wadsworth Mahon Jr.

Chester Wadsworth Mahon Jr. was born on June 28, 1929, to Chester Wadsworth Mahon, Sr. and Dorothy Marie Joneson in Chicago, Ill. He grew up in the family business, Mahon Finer Foods Grocery, which had been in the family for two generations. He attended Morgan Park Military Academy where he was appointed Captain of Company D. While at the military academy he played several sports including football, baseball and basketball.



Chester Mahon Jr.

He attended Wheaton, a fine Christian college in Wheaton, Ill. After graduating, he acquired his master's degree in chemistry and went on to attend Temple University Medical School in Philadelphia, Pa., beginning his residency in General Practice at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa, Fla.

His first family practice was in the Zephyrhills/Dade City area. He then opened his own practice in Tampa. He treated the medical needs of so many through the years including everything from casts and stitches to delivering babies. He truly enjoyed getting to know the families of his patients in the Temple Terrace area. He later became the Director of University of South Florida's Medical/Physicians office. He and other physicians in the Tampa area were influential in finding land and coordinating the construction of a hospital near the University of South Florida, originally named University Community Hospital.

He enjoyed everything about nature. He loved hiking, biking and watching or playing any sport. He especially loved his travels in Europe. One of his favorite adventures was hiking the Swiss paths. He eventually managed to travel to and hike or bike in eight different European countries. All he ever carried was a backpack.

He thoroughly enjoyed reading many types of novels, with particular fondness of the Louis L'Amour western novels of which he owned the complete collection. He also loved listening to classical and Christian piano music.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Myrna Delk Mahon; his four children, Wendy Ellen Harvey and children Kalyn, and Dane (deceased), Bonnie Lynn Martin and children Kristen and Kali, Cyndee Kay Saucier and children Austin, Devin and Cameron; and Chester W. (Kip) Mahon III and son Blake; eight wonderful great grandchildren, Kayl, Bliss, Declan, Shepard, Sekani, Hadrian, Adaline and Sophia.

Funeral services will be held at 10am, Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m., at Pine Grove Baptist Church, with Rev. Greg Rogers officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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

Alison Brooke Douglas

Alison Brooke Douglas, 24, born Sept. 21, 1998, lost her two-year battle with cancer on Oct. 15, 2022.

She was treasured and will always be loved by her devoted parents, Robert and Anna. She also left behind her loving grandparents, James Douglas, Ron and Carmen Like and Jacqueline Like as well as her aunts, uncles and cousins. More friends than can be counted and her godmother, Wendy Paulsen.

As an aspiring author, her wonderful stories and gracious heart will be forever missed.



Alison Brooke Douglas

Raymond H. Wheeler

Raymond H. Wheeler, 93, devoted husband, father, and grandfather, passed away peacefully on Nov. 26, 2022.

He was born March 31, 1929, to Raymond Sr. and Margaret (Peggy) Wheeler of Cleveland, Ohio. Later, the family moved to Cincinnati where he and his three sisters grew up. He loved the outdoors, camping as a Boy Scout, beekeeping, gardening, and hiking. His first career choice was forest ranger, but as an extrovert, he decided that would be a bit lonely.



Raymond H. Wheeler

He was a health enthusiast and athlete to the end. He played football and basketball in high school, then took up track. Passionate about running, he participated in road races all around the South. He finally turned in his running shoes at age 82 when an 88-year-old "gazelle" bested him. From that point, he faithfully went to the Franklin Fitness Center three days a week and walked the hills by his home five days a week. Unstoppable, he continued his fitness program until a few months before he passed. At one point his physical therapist told him he was too speedy on his walker and to slow it down some, which he stubbornly refused to do.

One sister described him as "always having his nose in a book." He loved learning so much that he eventually pursued a PhD in Sociology at the University of Michigan. After earning his PhD, he took a job at the University of South Florida in Tampa and moved his family there in 1965. He worked there as a professor for 40 years, finally retiring at age 72. Moving to Florida provided even more time and sunshine for outdoor adventures, like golf and sailing.

Always an adventurer, he hitchhiked with a buddy across the U.S. the year after high school graduation. He loved Mexico. In 1992 he traded positions with a professor at the University of South Wales in Australia where he lived and explored for six months. While there, he formed an email relationship with a graduate student and eventual soul mate, Judy. When he returned to the U.S., the couple married, blending their two families together for almost 25 joyous years. She preceded him in death by only 71 days. They simply didn't want to live without each other.

He loved spending summers in Franklin, eventually buying a home and moving here full time with his beloved wife. They resided here for 22 years. His favorite activities were climbing Mt. LeConte, hiking Wayah Bald, attending book club meetings, going to Wednesday morning breakfast with friends, and exploring the Blue Ridge Parkway.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Peggy Wheeler; his first wife, Peggy Wheeler (yes, his mother and first wife had the same name); his sister, Lois Wheeler Zapf; and his beloved wife, Judy Perry.

He is survived by two sisters, Donna Wheeler Ditmyer of Toledo, Ohio, and Marjie Wheeler Holcomb (Paul) of Dayton, Ohio; his two children, Art Wheeler (Gail Knowlton) of Raleigh; and Sarah Wheeler Caverhill (Rob) of Atlanta, Ga., and Greenville, N.C.; his two stepchildren, Heather Perry Greist (Hank) of Gainesville, Fla.; and Alex Perry (Julie Simmons) of St. Petersburg, Fla.; five grandchildren: Kirsten Caverhill of Boston, Mass., and Nathan, Jonathan, David, and Benjamin Greist of Gainesville, Fla.

The family thanks Florence Crauwels for her wonderful caretaking and friendship of Ray and Judy.

A celebration of life will be held this summer in Cincinnati, Ohio, when the family can gather and drink a toast to Uncle Ray. We appreciate all of the prayers, good wishes, love and support from our family and friends. We will miss him deeply and are grateful for his long, rich life.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is serving the family.

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



View obituaries at
themaconcountynews.com

Edward Lee Washington

Edward Lee Washington, 79, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022, in Asheville, N.C.

He was born in Carthage, Texas, to the late Eddie C. and Mary Lee Ross Washington. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Doris Strickland.

After graduating college, he worked as a middle and high school science teacher before continuing a 34-year career in government with the departments of U.S. Forest Service and Interior, as counselor, teacher, and ultimately Center Director of Job Corps in numerous communities. He was a member and deacon of Burgess Chapel Church in Franklin. He was a past president of Kiwanis and member of the Lions Club International (Wisconsin). Throughout his life he cherished family time (including his church family at Burgess Chapel) and travel. He loved outdoor sports, hunting, grilling, working on cars, watching boxing matches.....and especially fishing. He thrived on helping people and building better communities, often one person at a time. In the end, what mattered most to Edward Washington was his relationship with the Lord.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Washington; four children, LaDonna West (Walter) of Johnson City, Tenn., Pamela Richmond (El Shon) of Nashville, Tenn., Ericka Washington of Franklin, Chrystal Johnson (Robert) of Fruitland Park, Fla.; two sisters, Gwendolyn Johnson of Garland, Texas, Carolyn Jones of Dallas, Texas; eight grandchildren, DyAngelo Washington, Nathan West, Benjamin West, El Ana Richmond, Olivia Johnson, Zion Johnson, Chamella Johnson, Jaylin Johnson; and one great granddaughter, Kaya Washington.

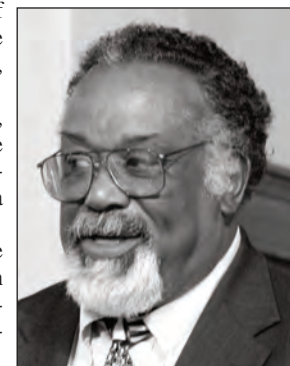
A funeral service was held on Saturday, Nov. 26, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Pastor Mozart Moliere officiated.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Teen Challenge of the Smokies, P.O. Box 2157, Franklin, NC 28744.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Edward Lee Washington

More obituaries on page 18

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Deaths & Funerals

Clarence 'Doc' Hall

Clarence "Doc" Hall, 90, of Sylva, N.C., passed away Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022.

A lifelong resident of Jackson County, he was the son of the late Ralph Dexter and Pearl Lewis Hall.

He was a U.S. Army veteran having served during the 1950s. He went on to work overseas in Iceland and Greenland and then married his sweetheart, Marjorie Hyatt in 1955. They settled on Greens Creek, where he raised his family and worked his family's farm. During the 1960's he and his wife were twice named Farm Family of the Year. He loved to work and he loved to bear hunt.



Clarence 'Doc' Hall

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie in 1994; his brothers, Eugene and Buddy Ray; a sister, Rose Ashe; and a special friend of over 25 years, Stella Buchanan.

He is survived by his daughters, Abby (Larry) Barnes of Sylva and Reatha (Alvin) Wilkey of Sylva; son, Clarence Corbbit Hall Jr. of Sylva; four grandchildren, Leslie Deitz, Bridget Queen, Chan Turpin and Shealeen Hall; great grandchildren, Taylor, Tanner and Brett Richmond, Wyatt Queen, Kiana Queen, JJ Reed, Waylon Hall, Jasper and Andie Williams and Rylee Turpin; brothers and sisters, Ruth Norman and Stella Hall of Sylva, Albert Hall of California, Lettie Cobb of Greensboro and RD Hall of Raleigh.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Nov. 23, in the Chapel of Appalachian Funeral Services with Revs. Kale Stancil and Austin Frady officiating.

Burial was in Old Savannah Cemetery.

Leilani Ruth Hartzog Lanham

Leilani Ruth Hartzog Lanham, 65, passed away Monday, Nov. 21, 2022. She was born in Tampa, Fla., on Jan. 9, 1957, to Charles Hartzog and Sarah Horne Hartzog. She was married to the late Ernest Howard Lanham who passed away August 2020. She worked and retired from the Smoky Mountain Mental Health.

She was a member of the Red Hat Society, attended the Catholic Church, and was a member of Ridge Crest Baptist Church. She also served in the U.S. Army.

Survivors include her parents; a sister, Teresa Haney (Chuck); two nieces, Brandie Hopkins (Charlie) and Tiffany Albury (Brian); five great nieces, Alex Hopkins, Kassandra Hopkins, Kyleigh Hopkins, Madison Albury, and Haiden Albury; one, great-nephew, Jayden Albury; and two special great nieces.

A private family service will be held with burial in the North Carolina Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain, N.C., next to her husband.

Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Lanham family.

Donald 'Don' J. Ward

Donald "Don" J. Ward, 80, died unexpectedly on Nov. 8, 2022, doing one of the many things he enjoyed so much in life, traveling and exploring new places. He was loved by many and will be missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Hilda R. Ward. They truly believed they were each other's soul mates as life for them took on a new meaning when they found each other.

He was born on June 20, 1942, in Portland, Me., to Donald H. and Barbara R. Ward. He leaves a loving sister, Linda Cleaves, and her husband Rodney, of Greenville, Me., their two daughters and their children. He was predeceased by his younger sister, Karen E. Ward.

He attended Cape Elizabeth High School in 1959 in Cape Elizabeth, Me., and later went on to obtain his license as a Master Electrician. In 1965, he was a member of the Ballardvale United Church in Andover, Mass. He was instrumental in installing the new church's electrical system and church bells. He was fortunate at having had a wide range of opportunities, allowing him to enjoy a variety of occupations over the years. When he lived in Massachusetts, he was a Master Electrician, Electrical Inspector for the Town of Andover, Mass., and a Police Officer. Once he moved to Ft. Myers, Fla., he was an Electrical Inspector, Acting Building Official, Fire Inspector, and finally as Fire Marshal for the City of Fort Myers for 16 years. He was always up for the challenge.

As a gifted craftsman, woodworker, and carver, he enjoyed working on special woodworking projects. He created many personalized gifts he loved sharing with his family and friends. He loved traveling, hiking, skiing and exploring new places with his wife and family. He never backed down from any adventure that came his way, from white water rafting to zip-lining. He often joked with his wife and friends that most of his adventures seemed to require a helmet.

He was so proud of his sons, James Ward (wife Melina) of Methuen, Mass., and Thomas O'Nan (wife Kelly) of Fort Myers, Fla. He dearly loved his daughters, Jacqueline Hollenbeck (husband Brian); Jennifer Gardner (husband David Sr.) of Methuen, Mass.; Jessica Owens of Hixson, Tenn.; and Rebecca Foss of Fort Myers, Fla.

He treasured his nine grandchildren, Michael J. Ward (Kasia), Lauren E. Hurst, Devon Hurst (Allison), Madeline P. Hurst, Jessica E. Ferris (Glen), David Jr. Gardner (Kasey), Zachary Foss, Kyle P. O'Nan, Zoey N. O'Nan; and blessed with six great-grandchildren.

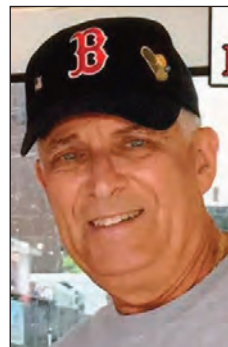
He chose to be cremated, preferring not to have a memorial service. His family will gather in the spring to spread his ashes and share memories along the water of the Two Lights lighthouse in Cape Elizabeth, Me. He spent many years there with his loving grandparents. He had beautiful memories of his younger years there. He worked the lobster traps with his grandfather, cooked with his grandmother, spent time with family, friends and cousins, enjoying life by the sea.

Please consider donating in his honor to one of his favorite charities: The Wounded Warrior Project, the Disabled American Veterans and the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

"Thank you, Dad; we love you and will miss you greatly."

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Donald J. Ward

Donald Frank Carman

Donald Frank Carman, 81, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022.

Born in Baltimore, Md., he was the son of the late Ralph and Edith Morris Carman. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Chess Carman, and a brother, Guy Morris.

He was a member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Franklin. He had served in the Lions Club International and the Boosters Club while in Virginia. He received the Outstanding Community Leaders of America award and the Outstanding Young Men of America award, both of which he was very proud. His family remembers him as a loving husband, dad, grandfather, and brother. He would lead by example, always being disciplined and willing to give praise for a job well done.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Bette Jane DuFour Carman; son, Jimmie Carman (Denise) of Franklin; daughters, Debbie Williams of Franklin, and Kimberly Justice (David) of Otto; brother, John Carman of Virginia; sisters, Elizabeth Roddy of Alabama, and Eileen Palmer of Arizona; six grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

As per his wishes, no services are planned.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials be made to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 50 Broadway, Floor 19, New York, NY 1004. If you are in crisis of any kind – reach out. Contact can be made at 1-800-273-8255 or the emergency number is 988.

Online condolences can be left at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Donald Frank Carman

Bart Edward Kimmey

Bart Edward Kimmey, 77, passed from this life on Nov. 26, 2022.

Born on Sept. 14, 1945, he was a wonderful family man and a great provider who will long be remembered by those who loved him dearly: his wife of 53 years, Linda Rhoden Kimmey; his daughter, Tara Jean Kimmey; his grandchildren, Samantha, Savannah, and Robert Washington, Jr.; his great-granddaughter, Nevaeh Snead; his brother, Alan Kimmey; his nephews, Richard Hopson, Daniel Hopson (Lolita), and Gregory Abair; his niece, Cynthia Abair; his great-nephews, Christopher Abair and Jedidiah, Jeshua, and Jessie Hopson; and his great-niece, Karlea Abair. He was predeceased by his daughter, Dawn Marie Kimmey; his mother and stepfather, Mary Elizabeth Murphy Rosenberger and Fred Rosenberger; and his sister, Gail Abair.

He enjoyed life. His very real claim to fame was being a professional bowler on the PBA tour. He actually bowled a game with a perfect score of 300 and a set with a score of 807. He was a joker with a laid back attitude who was always looking for an opportunity to give advice about life in general. He was artistic and used his ability and talent in his career as a sign painter. All of his work was done by hand including some hand painted gold leaf.

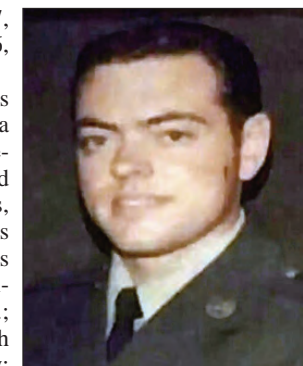
He loved listening to music from the '60s and '70s. The songs of Elvis, Neil Diamond, The Beach Boys and others of that era were always being played. He enjoyed watching all kinds of sports on television, but his favorite teams were the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Syracuse Orange. His special little pal was a cat named Bree.

Memorial contributions may be made to any local animal shelter, or any local veteran's organization.

No services are planned at this time.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



Bart Edward Kimmey



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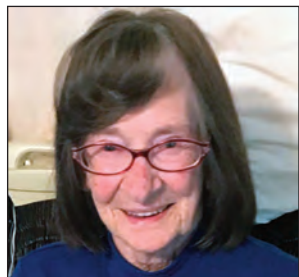




Deaths & Funerals

Doris E. Bryson Hicks

Doris E. Bryson Hicks, 88, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022. She was born April 12, 1934, in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late James Lawrence Bryson and Ellie Lazelle Talley Bryson. She worked for many years at Burlington Industries before retirement. She loved to sew and work in her flowers. She also loved bird watching, especially cardinals. She was of the Baptist faith.



Doris E. Bryson Hicks

She is survived by her son, Keith Hicks of Highlands; sisters, Mae Ivester (Dennis) of Clayton, Ga., Gail Henry of Liberty S.C., Opal McCall of Highlands; her grandson, Justin Hicks (Virginia) of Franklin, N.C.; three great-grandchildren, Sadie Hicks, Lucas Hicks and Oliver Hicks.

In addition to her husband, James Hicks, she is preceded in death by a daughter, Celeste Hicks; brothers, Homer Bryson, Wendell Bryson and Wymer Bryson and sister Lois Hawkins.

A graveside service was held at Clear Creek Community Cemetery Tuesday Nov. 22, with Rev. Zane Talley officiating.

Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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

Kella 'Rose' Malott Walsh

Kella "Rose" Malott Walsh, 65, loving mother and grandmother, passed away Nov. 17, 2022, at her home surrounded by family. She was one of a kind; she loved life and loved people. She worked as a waitress for many years. She loved taking care of her plants, fishing with her grandson, listening to music and playing the spoons as well as spending time with family.



Kella 'Rose' Walsh

She was preceded in death by husband, Bob Malott and her brother, Bernie Gibson.

She is survived by a daughter Tina McConnell (Jamie); a son, Joey McCoy (Penny); four grandkids, Austin McConnell (Melissa), Robert McConnell, Ryleigh McConnell, Kinley Carpenter and Heather McCoy; one great grandchild, Maddix McConnell, along with Espi, Chino and Staci; one brother, Tommy Gibson and husband, Steve Walsh (James, John).

She was put on this earth to show unconditional love to her kids, grandkids, friends and anyone she came in contact with and she never failed to make someone feel loved. She made an impression on everyone she ever met. Her personality, smile, heart and laugh will never be forgotten or replaced. She left this earth with a full heart and her mission on this earth was accomplished. A piece of everyone's heart went with her and she's holding on tight to all those pieces. Tell stories, laugh and talk about her like she never left. Remember the joy she brought to all of those around her. She will be dearly missed.

A memorial service was held Saturday Nov. 26, at Snow Hill United Methodist Church.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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

Mary Lou Sanders Taylor

Mary Lou Sanders Taylor (Goobie), 74, passed from this life Nov. 19, 2022. She was the daughter of Renes A. and Mary Etta Carpenter Sanders, both deceased. She was first married to Thurman Jack Sanders who died July 6, 1997, and she remarried Rev. Thomas Taylor who died Aug. 8, 2012. She was preceded in death by five half-brothers and sisters, Boyd and Floyd Sanders, Ollie Mae Carpenter, Algie Dills and Della Hight.



Mary Lou Sanders Taylor

She is survived by three stepchildren, James Taylor of Tennessee, Tammy Allen (Nick) and Sherry Nix (Edward) of South Carolina; her sister, Sue Sanders Shope (Larry) and Johnny Sanders (Darlene); and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Nov. 23, in the Bryant Grant Funeral Home chapel with Rev. Keith Ashe officiating. Burial followed at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneral-home.com.

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

Raymond Earle Bracken Jr.

Raymond Earle Bracken Jr., 89, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, Nov. 25, 2022. He was born on June 22, 1933, to the late Raymond E. Bracken Sr., and Elizabeth A. Elfrey Bracken. He was predeceased by one brother, Harry Bracken, and his beloved wife, Georgia M. Bracken.



Raymond Earle Bracken Jr.

Born and raised in Blackwood, N.J., he served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He returned to his hometown in New Jersey upon his honorable discharge. He worked for a paint company as a manager for many years. He then relocated his wife and three children to Clearwater, Fla., where he stayed until 1975. He spent many years as troop leader for the Boy Scout troop in Clearwater. He enjoyed his time spent as an amateur HAM operator. When he moved to his beloved mountains of Franklin, he worked many years in Highlands and Franklin areas as a carpenter. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting and sport shooting. He was a lifetime member of the NRA. He enjoyed driving the back roads of Western North Carolina in his dune buggy. He enjoyed countless days spent going to auctions, flea markets, and yard sales with his wife, Georgia, and his granddaughters, Alisha and Denise.

He is survived by a cousin whom he considered to be a sister, Dotty Jean Burton of Florida; eight children, Laurene Bracken of Kodak, Tenn., Cheryl Wyatt of Sevierville, Tenn., Richard Bracken of Franklin, N.C., Cheryl Weigand (Harold) of Tallmadge, Ohio, Linda Henry of Mew Market, Tenn., Gary Puckett (Charlene) of Franklin, Keith Puckett (Laurie) of Franklin, and Jody Crisp of Franklin; 26 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

He was the epitome of the loving family man, mentor, protector, and friend. He knew the true American values of honesty, integrity, and loyalty, spending everyday of his life modeling these attributes for all who knew him. He spent many years taking care of his beloved wife until the day she departed this world. He was always the first person to offer help to anyone, anytime, without question. He will forever be our American Hero, loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

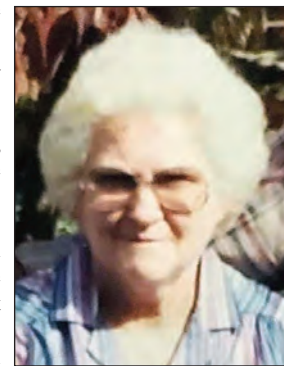
A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, at 1 p.m., at Oak Grove Baptist Church, 28 Lakey Creek Road, Franklin. Rev. Lloyd Fish will officiate. Honors will be provided by the VFW Post #7339. A meal will follow for family in the fellowship hall.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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

Kay M. Ledford

Kay M. Ledford, 104, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022. What a Thanksgiving Day she had; she is walking on streets of gold.



Kay M. Ledford

She was born to on Sept. 19, 1918, to the late Millard and Rose McDowell in Macon County. "Granny Kay" was loved by everyone that knew her, she was faithful to her church and her family. She was the oldest member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. She loved to garden, canning anything, sitting on the porch, and just spending time with family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Ellis J. Ledford; daughter and son-in law, Louise McConnell, Millard McConnell; daughter-in-law, Kay Ledford; brothers, Paul, Carter, and Dan McDowell; sisters, Blanche Bleckley, Frances Farmer, Maggie Hopper, and Annie Mae McConnell.

She is survived by her sons, Douglas E Ledford (Beverly), Dearl E. Ledford; eight grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; seven great-great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

A graveside service was held Sunday, Nov. 27, at Prentiss Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Lloyd Fish and Rev. Josh Brooks officiated.

Pallbearers were Dee McConnell, Matthew McConnell, Wade McConnell Jr., Jared Ledford, Brandon Ledford, and Braden Ledford. Honorary pallbearers were the Senior Adult Sunday School Class of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Like the winter sun

Like the winter sun
A blessing from above
Like the winter sun
Always so beloved

Like the winter sun
That eases many cares
Like the winter Sun
You answered many prayers

If troubles came creeping in
You could diminish them
With your endearing grin

Like the winter sun
Bringing hope and light
Like the winter sun
You were our hearts delight

Like the winter sun
That helps a lot of pain
Like the winter sun
We long to see you again.

In loving memory and tribute to Robert (Bob) Cabe, Sr. from wife Elizabeth Cabe and Family.

Happy Birthday (December 1) Merry Christmas and many Happy New Years to the "Best of the Best" as you rejoice without pain and enjoy peaceful rest.

We will have a little Rocky Road Ice Cream and salute you on the holidays in remembrance and to feel your presence with us. God Bless!!

NASCAR returns to Nashville for Champion's Week celebration

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

NASCAR has returned once again to Nashville, Tenn., for Champion's Week celebration.

The NASCAR Awards will be held on Dec. 1 at the Music City Center to formally crown this season's NASCAR Cup Series, NASCAR Xfinity Series and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series champions. Fellow drivers, industry personalities and celebrities will take over downtown Nashville for the third year to celebrate an unforgettable 2022 season.

"We are pleased to announce our return to Music City for the celebration to crown our series champions," said Pete Jung, SVP, Chief Marketing Officer at NASCAR. "We are delighted to bring the celebration to Nashville once again, as the city's energy and passion for motorsports never ceases to amaze us. We are looking forward to being back following the conclusion of the 2022 season."

The formal postseason Awards is a tradition that stretches back to 1981, when the event was held in New York City. It relocated to Las Vegas in 2009 and then called Nashville its home for the first time in 2019. Over the last two years NASCAR has seen a tremendous turnout from the Nashville fans not only at the racetrack, but for the celebration of Champion's week. NASCAR looks to continue the tradition and conclude the season at one of the most iconic cities in the country.

Rising music star Erin Kinsey to perform at the 2022 NASCAR Awards

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (Nov. 28, 2022) – Rising country music artist Erin Kinsey will take the stage to help NASCAR celebrate a 2022 season highlighted by break-



Erin Kinsey

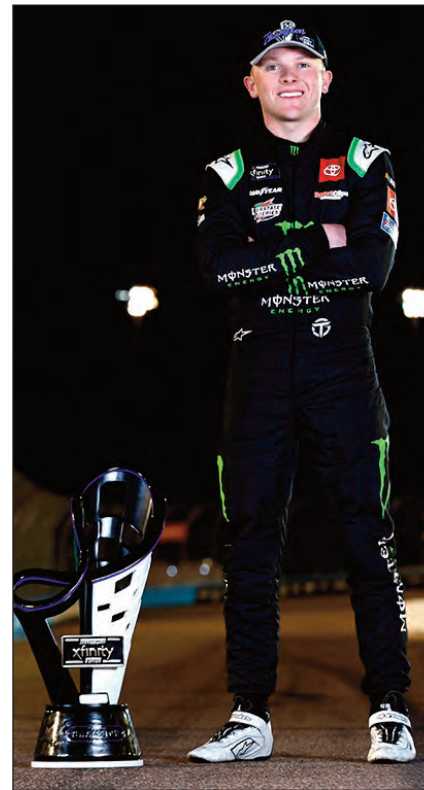
through moments from many young stars of its own.

The RECORDS Nashville singer-songwriter will perform her debut hit single, "Just Drive," which has been featured on SiriusXM The Highway "On The Horizon" and amassed more than 40 million streams and views to date, during the NASCAR Awards and Champion Celebration invite-only event this Thursday, Dec. 1, at the Music City Center in downtown Nashville.

"Getting the oppor-



Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Shell Pennzoil Ford, poses with the Bill France NASCAR Cup Series Championship trophy after winning the 2022 NASCAR Cup Series Championship at Phoenix Raceway on Nov. 6, 2022 in Avondale, Ariz.



Ty Gibbs, driver of the #54 Monster Energy Toyota, poses with the 2022 NASCAR Xfinity Series Championship trophy after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Championship at Phoenix Raceway on Nov. 5, 2022 in Avondale, Ariz.

Photos by Meg Oliphant/Getty Images



Zane Smith, driver of the #38 Michael Roberts Construction Ford, poses for a photo with the championship trophy after winning the 2022 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Championship and the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Lucas Oil 150 at Phoenix Raceway on Nov. 4, 2022 in Avondale, Ariz.

tunity to perform at the NASCAR Awards is such an honor, especially with it being in Nashville," says Kinsey. "As a bit of a speed demon myself, I really admire the amazing drivers who have made incredible careers out of driving fast! This is also my first tv performance, so I am just so excited to get to play a small role in such a huge night for NASCAR. Congratulations to all the winners!"

While Kinsey's first-ever televised performance marks an exciting career milestone, it will not be her first time gracing the stage at a NASCAR event. The 22-year-old Texas native also performed the National Anthem prior to the NASCAR Cup Series race at Texas Motor Speedway this past May.

Fans can tune in to watch the 2022 NASCAR Awards, including Kinsey's performance, when it airs Saturday, Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. ET on Peacock. In addition to two-time Cup Series champion Joey Logano, NASCAR will also honor first-time Xfinity Series champion Ty Gibbs and first-time Camping World Truck Series champion Zane Smith as part of the celebration.

NASCAR fan Ralph Maccarone wins 2022 Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award

DAYTONA BEACH, FL (Nov. 17, 2022) – The NASCAR

Foundation announced Ralph Maccarone as the winner of the 12th annual Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award during a live-streamed announcement on NASCAR's YouTube channel. As the award winner, Maccarone secured a \$100,000 donation from The NASCAR Foundation to Who We Play For, a nationwide organization whose mission is to eliminate preventable sudden cardiac arrest in young people through affordable heart screenings.

"It's a great honor to have won the Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award," said Maccarone following the announcement. "The entire NASCAR organization and The NASCAR Foundation have been phenomenal to work with and we're so excited to use these funds to help students and save lives."

Maccarone, who co-founded Who We Play For after losing his 15-year-old son to sudden cardiac arrest, has served and supported the organization for more than a decade. He earned the most online votes from a pool of volunteers, including: Dan Majetich of Nick and Kelly Children's Heart Fund; Tammy Garrett of Rapahope Children's Retreat Foundation of Alabama; and Tracy Williams of Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation. Together, the group of finalists have impacted more than 100,000 children through their 81 combined years of service. Each of these organizations has

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earned a \$25,000 donation from The NASCAR Foundation in recognition of their nominated volunteers' achievements.

"Ralph has dedicated his life to ensuring young people receive the proper screenings that could one day save their lives," said Nichole Krieger, Executive Director of The NASCAR Foundation. "He has spent countless hours volunteering at screenings, fundraising and advocating for change as Who We Play For has grown into a national organization that's reaching more communities each year. His work and the work of all of our finalists exemplify the lasting legacy of Betty Jane France and the countless number of children The NASCAR Foundation continues to impact."

Maccarone co-founded Who We Play For in 2012 with the vision to inspire and empower schools, sports clubs and communities to provide heart screenings for all student athletes and students. Through his work, Maccarone has helped bring Who We Play For to many regions across the country as he has advocated for sudden cardiac arrest legislation on the local, state and federal level. With the \$100,000 award, Maccarone hopes to bring heart screening events to more NASCAR communities over the next two years.

Aside from his service, Maccarone has been a fan of NASCAR after first being introduced to the sport by his wife, Valerie. He and his son started following Ryan Newman after discovering the driver shared the same birthday as his son.

In its 12 years, The Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award has recognized 48 NASCAR fans who are dedicated volunteers working for children's causes in communities nationwide. More than 475,000 children's lives have been affected by the program with \$2 million contributed to children's charities.

To learn more about The NASCAR Foundation's programs, including the Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award and Speediatrics Children's Fund, please visit NASCARfoundation.org.

Martinsville Speedway to Host 28th Annual Christmas Toy Drive Saturday, Dec. 3

MARTINSVILLE, Va. – As part of Martinsville Speedway's 75th anniversary, the track will hold the 28th Annual Christmas Toy Drive on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The annual event will welcome the greater Martinsville region to donate an unwrapped toy or \$25 for the opportunity to drive laps around the iconic track in their personal vehicles. The Christmas Toy Drive will benefit the Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County.



Ty Gibbs, driver of the #54 Monster Energy Toyota, takes the checkered flag under caution to win the NASCAR Xfinity Series Dead On Tools 250 at Martinsville Speedway on Oct. 29, 2022 in Martinsville, VA. Ty Gibbs will compete full time for Joe Gibbs Racing in the 2023 NASCAR Cup Series behind the wheel of the No. 54 Toyota Camry TRD. Gibbs won the 2022 NASCAR Xfinity title with seven wins and 23 top-10 finishes. In just 51 career Xfinity starts, he's won 11 races (21 percent), scored 33 top-10 finishes (64 percent) and led 1,234 laps. He also won the 2021 ARCA Menard Series championship.

Photo by Mike Mulholland/Getty Images

"As we enter the holiday season, we will rally the community to support the 28th Annual Christmas Toy Drive, so we can share the joy of Christmas with those in need," said Clay Campbell, Martinsville Speedway President. "We are grateful for our valued partners and fans across the region who will join us in supporting this event to impact families in our community through the Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County."

Over 28 years, the annual Christmas Toy Drive has impacted over 20,000 area children through nearly \$300,000 in donations and over 50,000 toys to unwrap on Christmas morning in Martinsville and Henry County. The Christmas Toy Drive is one of the most popular events in the region with residents from Henry County and the surrounding counties in Virginia and North Carolina coming to support the community and take laps on the same historic half-mile short track as NASCAR's biggest stars. Last year's Christmas Toy Drive raised over \$17,000 and provided nearly 2,000 toys to local families.

On Saturday, Dec. 3, Martinsville Speedway staff will welcome the community to the track and receive donations from 6 to 9 p.m. For laps around the track, drivers must sign waivers and be 18 years of age or older with a valid state-issued driver's license. All participants must adhere to Virginia state laws regarding the usage of seat belts and child safety restraints.

The donated toys and monetary donations will be distributed to area children through the Grace Network of Martinsville and

Christmas Toy Drive, visit www.martinsvillespeedway.com/events/tracklapsforcharity.

Martinsville in the 2023 NASCAR Season

As part of NASCAR's 75th anniversary season, Martinsville will host all three NASCAR national series on April 14-16, 2023, featuring the CRAFTSMAN Truck Series on Friday, April 14, at 3:30 p.m.; Xfinity Series on Saturday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m.; and the Cup Series on Sunday, April 16, at 3 p.m.

The ValleyStar Credit Union 300, the nation's biggest, richest and most prestigious NASCAR Late Model Stock Car race, will return for an evening of intense competition next fall.

Martinsville will host the Whelen Modified Tour season finale on Thursday, Oct. 26 and penultimate races of the Xfinity Series in the Dead On Tools 250 on Saturday, Oct. 28, at 7:30 p.m. and the Cup Series for the fourth consecutive season in the Xfinity 500 on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 2 p.m. In an

intense short track battle that can only happen at Martinsville, the races will set the field for the respective series for the NASCAR Championships the following week at Phoenix Raceway.

2023 NASCAR tickets are available for purchase via phone at 877-RACE-TIX or online at martinsvillespeedway.com. Fans can view the full 2023 NASCAR schedule and purchase tickets at www.nascar.com/2023schedule.

For more information on the 28th Annual

intense short track battle that can only happen at Martinsville, the races will set the field for the respective series for the NASCAR Championships the following week at Phoenix Raceway.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: CLASSIC TOYS

ACROSS

1. *"___ Wars" toys from Kenner in the '70s
5. *Certain toy G.I.
8. Miss America's accessory
12. Pot inhale
13. Morsel of Little Miss Muffet's meal
14. Private
15. Larger-than-life
16. Children's author ___ Blyton
17. Post-Its
18. *Sticks and spools toy set
20. One of the Olsens
21. Gibson garnish
22. Middle-earth creature
23. Bias
26. Neat in appearance
30. Chasing game
31. Chancellor, in Europe
34. Not happening
35. Anomie, alt. sp.
37. Local area network
38. Re-attempt
39. Wyatt Earp's card game
40. Common parakeet, colloquially speaking
42. Snakelike fish
43. Not yet a wife
45. *Like certain toy Cathy
47. Mine deposit
48. Water nymph
50. Cassette contents
52. *Illuminated picture maker
56. Wainscots
57. Play parts
58. The Fonz: "Sit ___!"

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59						60				61			
62						63				64			

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59. Face-to-face exams
60. Not this
61. Brainchild
62. Homey, alt. sp.
63. "Fight for You" singer
64. High rocky hills

DOWN

1. Editor's mark
2. African antelope
3. Related
4. Suppose
5. Political club, in the olden days
6. Celestial hunter
7. Whirlpool
8. *Sno-Cone, actually (2 words)
9. Opposed to

10. "As ___ on TV"
11. Retail posting acronym
13. Blood-red
14. Beginning of essay
19. "Dear Diary" bit
22. Hockey legend
23. "The Office" people, e.g.
24. Veranda on Oahu
25. Ancient Greece market-place
26. "The ___ Show" (1976-1980)
27. Sacred song
28. White heron
29. *Raggedy Ann or Strawberry Shortcake, tenderly
32. *Professor Plum and Colonel Mustard game
33. Little bit

36. *Avenues and rail roads game
38. Betty Ford Center, e.g.
40. Spelling contest
41. Superlative of icy
44. Edible herb
46. Quick and skillful
48. Specialty
49. Rose oil
50. Tropical edible root
51. Dwayne Johnson's 2022 role Black ___
52. Wooden slat
53. ___-China
54. Part of a traditional wedding cake
55. Greek Hs
56. *Play-___

Classifieds

Community Fundraisers

CARENET BENEFIT CONCERT Sunday, Dec. 4, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 26 Church St., Free Concert, Love Offering will be taken. Church will match all monetary donations up to \$1,000. Frank Armato will play a variety of musical arrangements.

REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow, open Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, Benefits Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. Information call (828)369-2040.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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POSITION AVAILABLE Community Inclusion Specialist Disability Partners is seeking an outgoing individual who can assist people with disabilities to reach their desired level of independence through many specialized services. Must have high school diploma or equivalent, be a self-starter with organizational skills, excellent written and communication skills, knowledge of Microsoft Office and data base operations. Work experience and education will be considered. Benefits include vacation, sick, holidays, dental, life, vision and health insurance along with 401K. Join our team and make a difference. Applications available at Disability Partners, 525 Mineral Springs Drive, Sylva or on our website: disabilitypartners.org. Call Chuck Oaks for more information (828)631-1167.

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