

The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

Free independent weekly

COLD FOR A CAUSE

FRIDAY, JAN. 20 - SUNDAY, JAN. 22

FRANKLIN PLAZA

See Pg. 3

January 19, 2023 • 24 Pages

Volume 40 Number 35

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Western North Carolina experienced its first snow of the season last Friday. Parts of the county received a dusting as the higher elevations got an inch or so. Treacherous black ice caused multiple accidents and snow covered roads sent cars over embankments on Buck Creek and Wayah Road, and more than 200 homes lost power in Macon County on Friday. Pictured is Rainbow Springs Road just off 64W on Saturday morning. Photo by Betsey Gooder

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New hospital offering more than expected



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Community Care Clinic serving the uninsured

New property reappraisal coming in 2023

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

The Board of Macon County Commissioners (MCC) held its first regular meeting of the year on Tuesday, Jan. 9. After a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Paul Higdon kicked off the evening with public comments. The topics ranged from fentanyl abuse in the county to the moral decline of our country and its constitutional government to the new Franklin High School and the handicapped usability shortcomings of the current high school.

Upcoming tax reappraisal

The hot topic of the evening was county Tax Administrator Abby Braswell's report on the 2023 property reappraisal. The estimated real property taxable value in the county is

\$12.6 billion, however this assessment will change once exemptions, exclusions, deferments, and appeals are factored in. The county conducted what is defined as a mass appraisal, which is a process of determining property values by looking at sales information for many properties, property characteristics, and statistical testing. This process is accomplished by analyzing all sales to create assessments that are 100% market value as of a specific date while creating equity for all parcels. Reappraisals match market values against taxable values. While market value is the price a property would mostly likely bring in a competitive market, taxable value reflects assessment, which takes into account any exemptions, exclusions, or deferments being subtracted. In

“It has to be based on sales, which became a N.C. General Statute in the early 1970s,” Braswell answered. “... we have to be at 100% market value and if not, then it affects our public utilities.”

– Abby Braswell
Macon County Tax Administrator

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Nutritional journey leads to online cookbook

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APPRAISALS

Continued
from page 1

North Carolina, the assessed value is 100% of the market value.

Braswell pointed out that on average, township taxable totals increased about 58%. From a historical perspective, four assessment periods, from 1983-2007, averaged a 61.44% increase each. Conversely, from 2007-2019, an average decrease of 8.28% was realized in property taxes.

"The base does not stay the same; there is growth each year," Braswell noted. She concluded by reminding the board that not all increases are due to a raise in assessment. If a new dwelling or other type of storage or commercial building is added, it will affect the increase.

Ultimately, county commissioners determine millage rates, which equal the amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property. To emphasize changes realized in the past couple years, Braswell explained.

"For forestry, we are normally at \$195 an acre; the new schedule is \$380 per acre. Agriculture is normally \$790 per acre; it is now \$1,200 per acre. This comes directly from the Department of Revenue (DOR) and their present use advisory board."

The window to appeal taxes assessed can run until Dec. 1, but normally closes in July. A notice will be advertised for opening and closing dates for the board of equalization and review appeals in March. However, county tax administration will still bill recipients before the appeals process concludes.

Board Vice Chairman Josh Young asked, "Historically, have we always gone by sales? ... I feel like now we are bringing that assessed value up to the actual price."

"It has to be based on sales, which became a N.C. General Statute in the early 1970s," Braswell answered. "[The Statute] says, we have to be at 100% market value and if not, then it affects our public utilities. The DOR values our public utility property. If the department sees that your sales ratio is at 90%, they can lower the public utilities assessment based on that."

Braswell said that not having closely aligned sales-to-tax assessment values could adversely affect the amount of tax dollars the county receives from public utilities, which currently stands at approximately \$1 million.

"The purpose of a re-evaluation is to equal everybody's tax burden so that everyone is paying the same [rate] based on their market value. Properties appreciate or depreciate at different rates and the reappraisal is to create equitable values based on 100% market value," Braswell concluded.

Reappraisal notices will be sent out the first or second week of February. Informal review of assessments occurs February through April followed by notices being disseminated within four-to-six weeks. This will be followed with appeals to the Board of Equalization after April 3.

Highlands School renovations

Next came consideration of a contract for the Highlands School renovations project. County Manager Derek Roland presented the information for discussion and approval, based on Macon County School Board prioritization of the Highlands School work being second only to the Franklin High School project. The project includes an estimated cost of \$634,300, which will be taken from the North Carolina Repair and Renovation fund - it is not county funding. The scope of work on the school includes replacement of the roof, HVAC system, windows, and flooring. Also included within the contract cost is the actual fee for basic services from LS3P

Associates, the architectural company performing the work, which totals \$45,901 and includes a \$1,500 reimbursable fee. Initial design was scheduled to begin Jan. 10 with construction completed no later than July 31, 2024.

A motion was made to approve the contract and a county budget amendment of \$63,430, or roughly 10% of the total project cost to cover architectural fees associated with the project. This includes the aforementioned \$45,901 plus \$17,529 built in from the Repair and Renovation Fund (RRF) to cover any unforeseen changes to professional fees. If the money is not needed, it will be returned to the RRF and earmarked for use if construction is slightly higher than bud-



Macon County Board of Commissioners meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., in the Commission board room on the third floor of the county courthouse.

geted - or reserved for future use. The motion was approved unanimously by the board.

Broadband RFP for Nantahala

The county manager also introduced the second item up for discussion: Request for Proposals (RFP) for broadband services in the Nantahala Community that includes deployment and operation of approximately 11.6 miles of high-speed fiber for a premises network within Nantahala Township. Roland reminded the board "the Broadband Committee members previously discussed allocating \$400,000 of county money to be associated with a match for this proposal that the county would give to a provider who submitted a proposal.

"This proposal is essentially a net that has been cast out with \$400,000 that has been earmarked for the Nantahala Community Center and library renovation."

The county is not obligated to spend the entire proposed amount; expenditures will depend on decisions made based on proposals submitted. Overall, the project is scheduled to be conducted in three phases, with the project discussed in the

RFP referred to as Phase 1. The RFP allows the county to seek proposals from unaffiliated, qualified network service providers.

Jeff Lee, of Little T Broadband Services, provided additional insight on the RFP process.

"We are seeking a qualified provider to come in and develop fiber infrastructure on the major roadways in the Nantahala Lake area - Wayah and Junaluska roads," said Lee.

The fiber would then be used to connect county facilities. The RFP further requests connection of homes and businesses located within 500 feet of the fiber infrastructure. Within the 11.6 miles served by the proposed corridor fiber

deployment are approximately 231 potential recipients. Once connectivity is established, the committee envisions using state grant funding to conduct some additional expansion off the installed fiber, which would be Phase 2.

Commissioners also briefly discussed the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LACTF), which originated from the pandemic-associated American Rescue Plan Act funds. Macon County is eligible to receive two payments of \$459,842.41 each, that are designated for eligible Tribal Governments for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The money can be used for any governmental purpose, less lobbying activity. A motion to accept the LACTF funding prior to the

Jan. 31 deadline was unanimously approved.

Handicapped accessible playgrounds

And finally, commissioner Danny Antoine pointed out that none of the existing park playgrounds in Macon County have any kind of handicapped accessible equipment for kids.

"At this point there's a lot I feel like we can do," said Antoine.

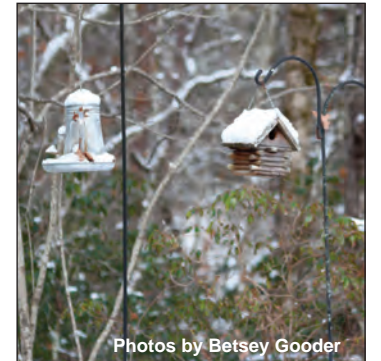
He suggested looking at partnering with the Town of Franklin to discuss playground issues regarding use and access for handicapped individuals.

"This could be another project the county and town can work well together and we can come up with a larger playground," suggested Antoine.

Ultimately his vision is for a much larger facility that is accessible to both handicapped and non-handicapped children.

The next regularly scheduled County Commissioner meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m., in the Commission Boardroom located on the third floor of the Macon County Courthouse.

Snowfall



Cold for a Cause this weekend

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Recently elected Macon County Commissioner Danny Antoine and Realtor Evan Harrell will be enduring freezing temperatures in the evening spending 24 hours, in the bucket of a large crane as part of the Cold for a Cause annual effort to raise funds, food, and needed winter items for individuals in the region. The crane, sponsored by Commissioner Josh Young, will be parked at Franklin Plaza, in front of Dalton's Christian Book Store, on Georgia Road, starting Friday, Jan. 20, at noon until Sunday, Jan. 22, at noon.

"We need jackets, blankets, gloves, toboggans, socks, warm clothes, and canned goods," said Tim Hogsed, Macon County CareNet's director.

Annually, more than 6,000 pieces of clothing and blankets, and close to 10,000 pounds of food and personal care products have been donated during the event. Cold for a Cause was begun by Patrick Jenkins in 2009 and for 10 years, Jenkins spent 48 hours braving cold weather and hunkering down in the bucket of a crane parked in front of Macon County Farm Bureau. He and Joe Sanders, owner of J.R. Sanders Company who provided the crane, came up with the event idea as a way to start a new year off by giving back to the com-

munity. The goal was to encourage citizens during the 48-hour time period to drop off donations of coats, blankets, canned foods, and personal hygiene items for Macon County CareNet to distribute to needy families.

Cold for a Cause is considered one of CareNet's most important activities that generates not only needed items but awareness of the ongoing services and supplies that CareNet provides for the community.



Hogsed has pointed out that since the pandemic, CareNet's services have been in greater demand. Besides thousands of pounds of food needed to feed thousands of needy families and individuals, at least 800 bags of food are sent home each week in backpacks so that food-insecure school children will be able to eat over the weekend.

Needed items can be dropped off this weekend at the Cold for a Cause site at Franklin Plaza. For more information about CareNet, visit the organization's website.

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New hospital is offering more than expected

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Franklin's new hospital opened in September 2022, after years of dialogue, some skepticism, and a multi-million dollar price tag. But the Mission Health-affiliated (since 2013) Angel Medical Center's move from the former facility on Riverview Street in Franklin has been "seamless," according to Clint Kendall, Angel Medical Center's CEO, and the new hospital is offering more than naysayers speculated.

"The staff's level of professionalism through the transition and since September has been noted in letters to editors in local newspapers," said Kendall. "I think we have the best staff in the world here.

They made the change over to the new hospital very seamlessly, and the community as a whole has been very supportive. While prehospital concerns were that the new hospital wasn't going to be able to offer the services the community needed, citizens are seeing that we are offering above and beyond what was expected."

The new hospital has a 30-bed capacity inpatient unit with five acuity adaptable beds, 20 medical surgical beds, and five observation beds, plus a 17-bed emergency department. Three beds are available for behavioral health patients as well as other patients' needs. The hospital has new MRI and CAT scan machines, as well as a new nuclear medicine machine.

"Everything is new in our imaging department, except for a two-year-old, fluoroscopy unit, which is basically a continuous X-ray, purchased at the old hospital and brought over to the new hospital," said Kendall. "Plus, at the end of 2022, we also purchased another ultrasound machine, and we purchased some new basic floor cleaning equipment to keep the hospital in top shape."

A main draw to the new hospital is breast mammography services.

"Now, we have a 3-D mammography machine that is able to perform more precise stereotactic breast biopsies," said Kendall. "[The hospital] is also able to provide breast MRIs. Women no longer must leave the community for high-level breast exams. Our physicians have been American College of Radiology certified to read mammography. And we are always looking for new opportunities for services and technology, especially regarding breast exams, because it's such a need in our community."

Besides focusing on breast care, the new Angel Medical Center has been able to offer additional surgical procedures due to equipment and staff.

"We've conducted some high-level surgeries here, such as bilateral knee/total knee replacement, total joints, bowel obstruction, and more," said Kendall. "It's a blessing to have skilled surgeons to take care of those types of surgeries."

Kendall explained that the community has gained new medical professionals, due to "the fact that we have a wonderful community and this area is growing and beautiful, so those things are draws for [healthcare professionals]."

New staff includes a family practice physician, Samantha Brothers, M.D.; a hospitalist, Richard Stuart, M.D.; and an advanced practice practitioner, Jessica Kitchens, PA.



Angel Medical Center's new helipad and crew facilities for MAMA II is scheduled to be completed in late April.

Mark Moriarty, M.D., is the orthopedic surgeon for Angel Medical Center and Zachary Phillips, MD, general surgeon, has been at Angel Medical Center for about a year.

"We are recruiting for other positions in general surgery areas so we can even better accommodate the community's needs," said Kendall. "For example, urology is another area we are focusing on."

New helicopter pad and facility under construction

The old hospital's helipad is being decommissioned, while a new helipad and helicopter staff headquarters is currently under construction at Angel Medical Center.

"It should be completed by late April," said Kendall, explaining that the pad will have an indoor garage and maintenance area where at least two helicopters can be housed out of the weather, if necessary. "A dolly will push the helicopters in and pull them out," he said.

MAMA II is the helicopter stationed at Mission's Angel Medical Center, while MAMA I is stationed at Mission Hospital in Asheville.

"The fueling station is here as well," said Kendall. "If we should have a major incident, where we need to transport people into or out of the area, we will be in good shape. Helicopter pilots, mechanics, and the flight team will all be located in the new helicopter facility, including sleeping and eating accommodations on the upper floor. That's exciting for us. They've had a house behind the old hospital, but it hasn't been as convenient as this new helicopter facility will be for them since this will be right in the midst of everything. It will be set up almost exactly like a fire station arrangement."

Kendall added that since Angel Medical Center is centered in Macon County, his desire – and that of the staff's – is for the hospital to be as much a part of the community as possible.

"If there are any opportunities where the hospital can be engaged in the community, we want to know about them. And, we have an adult volunteer program that involves sitting with people in the lobby, directing patients, and more, so anyone in the community can be a part of helping out at the hospital. Plus, we're working on a junior volunteer program so youth 16 and older can learn more about healthcare."

Kendall encourages anyone interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities to telephone volunteer coordinator Rick Vangilder at (828)349-6688.

Franklin fireman Gregory Day retiring after 40 years of service

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Gregory Day became a fireman 40 years ago for the reason many fire fighters seek the profession: he wanted to help people. Day's retirement celebration occurred at the main Franklin Fire & Rescue, Jan. 17, with family, friends, Town of Franklin Council members, and county commissioners attending.

A native of the Nantahala area of Macon County, Day was one of the original founders of the Nantahala Fire Department. He started off working on the rescue squad in the early 1980s; however, seeing the need for fire services, he and a few others on the squad entered a Wachovia bank and signed a personal note to purchase a fire truck. Currently, close to 10 trucks at two stations serve the Nantahala area.

In the mid-1980s, Day moved to Franklin and worked first as a volunteer fire fighter and then as a paid employee. He achieved level II firefighter status as well as becoming trained as a medical first responder and a certified fire instructor. He retires as a chief engineer, a role in which he has managed truck maintenance and much more, including teaching fire-related classes at Southwestern Community College and Tri-County Community College in Murphy.

Day recalled some of the more memorable



Franklin Fireman Gregory Day is pictured with his family during his Jan. 17 retirement celebration at Franklin Fire & Rescue.

events as a fire fighter have been a shooting case while he worked at Nantahala, the Franklin Ford fire, which he said was "challenging," and an individual whose mower

rolled over on him.

"He told me later that he didn't remember anything about that day except for me holding his hand," said Days, emotionally. "He was

very appreciative, and it's because of people like him that the job has been so rewarding."

He added, "I haven't had to deliver a baby yet ... came close a time or two, but it doesn't mean I won't have to deliver a baby at some point."

Contrary to what many people think, fire fighters do not rescue cats from trees. However, he said they regularly get calls to do so. What some fire trucks have begun doing is carrying an oxygen kit for pets who may have been involved in a fire.

"We've saved some pets' lives because of it," he said.

Day has been married to Leslie, who works as a 9-1-1 dispatcher, since 1987, and they have two grown daughters, Michelle and Emily, and three grandchildren, ages 2, 9, and 12. Their oldest grandchild, Landon, lives with the couple, and Day said, "He is counting the hours and the days until he turns 14 and he can join the Clark's Chapel Fire Department as a junior fire fighter. My daughter, Michelle, was a volunteer fire fighter when she was younger."

Although he officially retired from full-time duty in mid-January, Day says he will not completely retire from "helping people" as a fire fighter. He plans to volunteer for both the Clark's Chapel Fire Department and Franklin Fire & Rescue.

LONGTIME FRANKLIN BUSINESS OWNER PASSES IN FLORIDA

Julia Anne Abrams, 51, originally of St. Petersburg, Florida and a nearly decade-long resident of Franklin, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on December 7, 2022. She was the founder of Here Wee Grow! LLC (2011-2015), one of the largest Macon County resellers of newborn - through 12th grade preowned clothing, shoes, winter gear, and accessories. Julia left her career as a Certified Nurses' Assistant in 2011 to pursue her passion of serving fellow parents fulltime.

A mother of two, Julia understood that—unlike adults—children outgrow their favorite outfits and parents are forced to choose between accepting pennies on the dollar for secondhand name brand clothing or visit her at Here Wee Grow! and trade for similar garments in the proper size. Julia implemented a unique "trade" system where she declined to pay cash for clothing because it hurt mothers who would sometimes trade the same garments more than once (based on condition).

As a child, Julia wore secondhand clothing with no access to name brands and this experience was never forgotten. Julia preferred to see children start school with affordable name-brand clothing than endure her former experiences by bullies. Following the Great Recession of 2008, Julia began to consider that traveling from Franklin to Asheville included costs for gas, road food, and ridiculously expensive prices for new clothing. By 2011, she converted her eBay clothing store to a 'brick and mortar' business in the Georgia Road Shops. The connections and friendships she built over the years with fellow mothers and their children were her greatest joys.

Aside from children's clothing, Julia also helped discover what are now known as the "Dorgan Letters"—a previously unknown series of correspondences from the Great Depression that redefined the history of Big Bend National Park in Texas. Her contribution to Texas history and the ghost town of Castolon won an award in 2015 from the University of Texas at Alpine.

Julia is survived by her two loving children: Kayla Joy Waters of Franklin, NC, Jaden Ladd Abrams of Raleigh, NC, and her sister Deanna Butler of Bladenboro, NC.

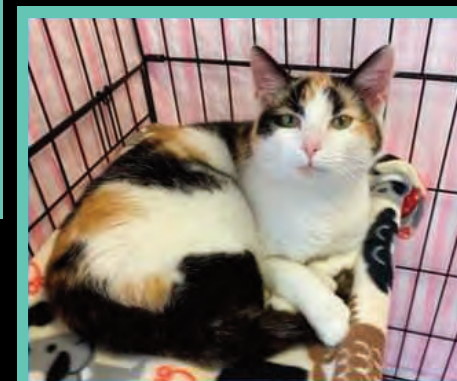
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Wrestling improves; track setting records; men's hoops in first place

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

As conference tournaments draw near, Franklin High School (FHS) Panthers winter sports teams vie for competitive positioning. Following are updates:

Wrestling

Lady Panthers continue to have quality individual performances, while as a team improvement has been steady throughout the season. On Jan. 10, they fell to the Marion Devils of Swain County, 36-18. In the 126-lb. weight class, Stephanie Ortiz won over Brianna Wesley "by fall" (a wrestling point-total term) and Abby Carpenter, wrestling at 132, won over Erika Wachacha, also by fall. In the 138 category, Jasmin Valencia won over Tasia Neadeau, again by fall, and rounded out FHS scoring. Carpenter also recently won two Most Outstanding Wrestler awards in back-to-back meets to start the year.

FHS now has 33 total qualified positions for post-season events.

Coach Matt Harlfinger pointed out, "Last year we had 11 total through the whole season and we still have three meets to go."

Additionally, from the Swain meet, Cochran also broke the school record in the 300m with a 36.10 time. Senior Cal Drake broke the indoor track high jump record at 6 ft. 2 in., and the indoor pole vault record was broken by senior Blake Cassada, with a jump

night, Jan. 17 for three basketball games, with the junior varsity (JV) girls not playing. Both the JV boys and varsity girls had resounding wins – the boys beating the Eagles 48-22 and the varsity girls' victory by an even larger margin, 64-17. But the last game of the night was by far the closest. The Panthers found themselves down by 15 points at half time and still trailed by 12 with just over three minutes left in the third period. They rallied to tie at 51 and the game went to over-

ing the East Henderson win, and lead 3A Conference 54 at 7-0, with West Henderson second and North Henderson in third place.

The Panthers have one more on their current home stand, against Tuscola Jan. 20. Then it is on the road to play at Pisgah and North Henderson before returning home for Senior Night, Jan. 31, versus Smoky Mountain.

The last conference game will be at West Henderson to close out the regular season.

Senior center Cal Drake continues to set the pace, averaging nearly 19 points per game (ppg) and leads in several other statistical categories. Additionally, senior guard Josh Zoellner leads the team in assists, while senior forward Kehler Lamb averages just under three steals per game.

The varsity women also have a win streak, at five games currently, after their victory over East Henderson.

Senior shooting guard Tori Ensley leads all scorers, averaging just over 17 ppgs, and also leads in steals. Junior center Avery Moffitt paces both field goal percentage (44) and rebounds, at 5.7 per

game. Sophomore point guard Cali Queen leads in assists.

On the junior varsity side, the boys extended their winning streak on Tuesday to six and the girls are likewise undefeated in their last five games after a resounding 40-9 victory over Swain County, which followed



Franklin High School basketball season's midpoint has the men's team sitting at first place in the Mountain 7 conference with the Lady Panthers in second place behind Pisgah.

Indoor Track

Due to the close proximity of two recent meets, including one at Liberty University, only half of the team traveled to a mid-week meet at Swain County. Still, the Panthers gained two new state qualified runners. With sophomore Talon Smith in the high jump and junior Elijah Cochran in the 300 meter,

of 14 ft. The meet also saw numerous personal bests from other members of the team. The Panthers competed again at Swain County on Wednesday, Jan. 18.

Basketball

FHS hosted East Henderson Tuesday

time where Franklin prevailed 59-57. The men's varsity win streak and record in conference now both stand at 7-0.

With their most recent home game, FHS' basketball program continues to shine in conference play for the season. The varsity men have a seven-game win streak follow-

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Lady Panthers compete against Highlands and Smoky Mountain swimmers January 14.

a much closer win over the Falcons of West Henderson, 29-21 on Jan. 10.

Swimming

With its Jan. 13 meet at Asheville canceled due to inclement weather, the FHS swim team hosted a three-school meet at the Franklin Health & Fitness Center on Jan. 14. In addition to the host Panthers, the Highlands Highlanders, and Smoky Mountain Mustangs swim teams competed in 22 scheduled events.

FHS fared well against the reduced number of participants and continues to dominate within Mountain 7 as the program heads toward conference and regional competitions. The total combined team score was 362, with the women and men each scoring 181 points. To put the win in better perspective, the Mustangs' combined score was 132, and the Highlanders 106.

Regarding standings within the 3A West, which is where FHS is slotted for swimming/diving, their positioning is not as lofty. Individually, freshman Jonah Brant is sec-



Clayton Guynn competes in January 14 meet at Franklin Health & Fitness Center.

ond in the 1m-6 diving category. Otherwise, the highest team ranking is the girls 200 Free Relay where the Panthers are ranked 7th.

Next is the conference meet, scheduled for Jan. 21 at the Waynesville Recreation Center, beginning at 11 a.m.

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Community Clinic provides free primary health care to uninsured

Submitted by Executive Director Cindy O'Boyle

The Community Care Clinic of Franklin has been providing medical care for Franklin residents as well as other Macon County residents for more than 12 years. The Community Care Clinic of Franklin is a local, nonprofit organization that believes everyone deserves basic health care. Their mis-

sion is to provide free primary health care, including education and disease prevention, to low-income, uninsured members of their community and surrounding communities. They accept patients with up to 200% of Federal Poverty Level household income who are uninsured or are underinsured with high deductible or limited Medicaid cover-

age. The clinic was founded in 2010, with their office and clinic located within the Macon County Public Health Department building.

Approximately 80% of the patients seen are working at least part time but cannot afford medical insurance. Many of them have chronic disease such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and/or heart disease. They cannot afford to see a physician and often cannot afford the medications they need to control their medical issues and without clinic services many would end up hospitalized, with more serious problems and unable to work to support themselves and their families. The Franklin Clinic provides medical supervision, access to free or low-cost medications and needed laboratory tests all free of charge to their patients.

In 2022, the clinic staff continued serving patients during evening clinics and through telehealth. However, due to the lack of public transportation in the evening, the need to add a daytime clinic to its schedule. Thankfully, their new offices located in the Macon County Health Department allowed them to increase their capacity to provide services and visits during daytime hours. The space has also allowed them to increase their medication assistance program. The Community Care Clinic of Franklin serves as a designated site for The Pharmacy Connection, which is a nonprofit free pharmacy program and together they provide lifesaving prescription medications, patient support, advocacy, and related services to low-income, uninsured residents of North Carolina. In 2022 alone the clinic has served patients during over more than 1,000 clinic appointments.

During Covid and the frequently changing restrictions, the clinic continued

to serve patients. Over the past two years, the clinic has been able to meet the needs of an increasing number of patients. They have implemented practices that keep their patients and staff safe as well as serve the medical needs of their patients. They have endured circumstances out of their control while never compromising the care of their patients. Their safety practices and precautions, bilingual translators, and desire to serve their patients from all backgrounds help create an environment that is welcoming, respectful, inclusive and is highly patient centered with a sincere desire to improve the health of their patients and the health of their communities.

The Community Care Clinic of Franklin serves as a medical home by providing primary, preventive, and acute care to their patients. This includes screening patients for



The offices of the Community Care Clinic are now located in the Macon County Health Department increasing its capacity to provide services during daytime hours. The health department is located at 180 Lakeside Drive, Franklin.



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social determinants of health, and making appropriate referrals for specialists, medication assistance, financial assistance, substance abuse treatment, behavioral health treatment, family, and community assistance. The clinic staff follows up through case management to coordinate the care that the patient needs. Their providers treat patients from where they are, from the simplest to the most complex conditions.

To set up an appointment or to find out more about the Community Care Clinic of Franklin, visit the website at communitycareclinicfranklin-inc.org or call (828)349-2085. The Clinic is funded through grants, fundraising and donations.

Life Force medical transport now offers high flow oxygen therapy

Life Force Air Medical Transport based at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn., announces its newest capability of offering high flow oxygen therapy to patients during air medical transports. They are the first air medical team in the state of Tennessee to offer this therapy. Life Force has a base in Western North Carolina in Murphy, from which patients can be transported.

High flow oxygen therapy, primarily used in a hospital setting, helps reduce the need for invasive ventilation. This method of oxygen delivery has been proven very effective and allows patients to receive oxygen while reducing strain on their body to support healing.

In recent years, more patients have been placed on this type of oxygen therapy in hospitals and studies have shown that it is extremely beneficial while remaining noninvasive. This oxygen therapy is typically delivered via a high flow nasal cannula (HFNC). High flow oxygen therapy bridges the gap between traditional noninvasive and invasive methods, is proven to be effective in improving gas exchange and decreasing the patient's work of breathing with the goal of patient improvement without mechanical ventilation.

"The ability to offer this advanced therapy



With the capability to offer high flow oxygen therapy to its patients, Life Force has reduced the need for invasive ventilation. This method has proven very effective and allows patients to receive oxygen while reducing strain on the body to support healing.

that was previously only available inside the hospital setting will greatly benefit our community by providing the right care during a critical time," said Robbie Tester, Senior Director of Life Force. "We are excited to be able to provide this higher level of care to the community and look forward to continuing to expand our capabilities."

This therapy is delivered on-board Life Force helicopters by combining a transport ventilator with a humidifier. This combination of devices provides the same functionality as those utilized in the hospital. Life Force is the only air medical provider in the state of Tennessee to carry this new advanced oxygen therapy.

Life Force transports patients of all ages and medical conditions. This new therapy will allow the transport of patients who require oxygen flow rates greater than 15 liters-per-minute in cases of hypoxemia, or below-normal oxygen in your blood, caused by various disease processes such as acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), COVID, pneumonia, bronchitis, pulmonary diseases such as COPD, or congestive heart failure (CHF).

About Life Force Medical Transport

Life Force began operations in 1988 and currently has six bases of operations. With headquarters at Erlanger's downtown location at 975 East Third Street in Chattanooga, Tenn., Life Force also provides emergency helicopter transport from bases in Cleveland, Tenn., Sparta, Tenn., Calhoun, Ga., Blue Ridge, Ga., Winchester, Tenn., and Murphy, N.C. The Life Force fleet consists of four twin engine IFR helicopters and two single engine VFR helicopters. The program possesses a record of aviation excellence and safety. Life Force has also maintained accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS).

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The Legislative Review

Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

On Wednesday, January 11, 2023, the North Carolina General Assembly officially reconvened to begin the legislative long session. The long session occurs in odd numbered years following the previous year's November election. A new class of legislators is sworn in and subsequently, the months long process of considering various bills and passing a biennium state budget begins.

Although the formal process of administering the oath of office occurred on Jan. 11, under North Carolina law, the General Assembly must adjourn for two weeks before returning to Raleigh to begin official legislative business.



Rep. Karl E. Gillespie



Rep. Karl Gillespie, his wife Janet and Speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives Tim Moore

Representative Gillespie's statement on taking the oath of office for his second term in the North Carolina House of Representatives:

"I am very excited to get started on my second term in the North Carolina House of Representatives," stated Rep. Gillespie. "I will continue to advocate and work tirelessly for the mountain values of Western North Carolina while in Raleigh. I am incredibly thankful for the support of my family and friends, and grateful to the constituents of House District 120 for their belief in me. To my constituents, I promise that I will continue to be a responsive and accessible representative, and I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions or concerns that you may have. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the North Carolina General Assembly. It is truly the honor of a lifetime."

Letters to the Editor

We are now living in two Americas

The two Americas that I'm referring to are not as in North or South America. It's the divided America in which we live. America's beginning was born out of the dictatorships of Europe and Britain, which gave no rights to the common man, and common man had no say with life's destiny. Freedom was in such desperate need and want that many left their land of birth to find a re-birth within an unknown land we now call America.

Seeing the results of decades of the elite dictating to the less fortunate was painful and tiresome to say the least. So this new freedom was sought and birthed not under man, which forever was in failure, but under a Divine direction and understanding that ultimately would give credit to and follow a different manner of living. A different way than what the powerful dictate, it would be the will of the people dictating to governing systems. We would follow and respect a just way to rule, and not the unjust ways of selfishness and pride. A rule which respected all humanity and life, with worth and value. Justice would fall outside the realm of man, because man had proven he could never be just and fair. Much of this was the foundation of the new America in seeking freedom, for the weak and the strong. People who sought this new ray of hope and freedom which the world had never seen was likened to the phrase, "A city upon a hill," which humanity has always sought the world over, which reflects the good and Divine values of God Himself.

We now desire an evolving America, or a, "Woke" america, (small a) which its desire is to cancel anything of the past and what the past has taught us. Education has become the foundation of change, just as any who want to rule, you first change the hearts and minds of the young, whose minds are tender for what's put before them. So man once again starts his journey of replacing himself as god within his own sense of justice, which shows itself in his selfishness and pride. There's now the view that there is nothing outside of man, and anything Divine is a figment of the imagination. So much of modern america is pushing in this direction of justifying the will of man, this is also being found within many churches. Just as in the current concerns of teaching young children their possible need or desire to be LGBTQ, (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer), which I believe they have no right to do, this should be soulfully the right and responsibility of parents. Forces within education already seek and assist children with abortions and gender surgery without parental consent. All this is done knowing that the development of children's minds are not completely developed until their early 20s. And within true science which bears truth of life tell us every individual is made up of either the X or Y chromosome, which is either male or female. Thus we are created male or female

from the point of conception until death and cannot be changed whether by surgery or otherwise.

Many of us are uncomfortable with who and what we are. It took years for me to find myself within a world which seemed confused and off balance. Man and his view of his goodness seemed much in conflict with God's goodness. Which God himself claims the source of all things good, true and just. Within man's goodness anything that opposes man he considers as evil. So man becomes his own standard bearer of what is good and evil. So the goodness of God is always in conflict with man's thinking of good, which has no foundation because man wants nothing he must answer to. This resolves much of my confusion. I see things as they truly are and why they are what they are and have always been. God's book of history explains all this in such detail. Which exposes the conflict within man and choices given him in choosing his destiny. This is our freedom to choose this day whom we will serve.

What is your thinking on such things? Discussing life openly brings a unity which we all desire.

Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard - nds13@frontier.com

Established 'framework' allows liberty without chaos

Handling any emergency requires repeated training, endless practice, extreme focus, and incredible courage. (Just ask our valiant law enforcement and medical personnel.)

I applaud the multiple roles that teachers must embrace. But it is naive and irresponsible to suggest that teachers assume the role of law enforcement, maintain proper training, and protect dozens of students caught in the crossfire between teachers and assailants.

The designers of The Constitution gave us a "framework." I'm proud of the educated among us who have added to and solidified that framework allowing us liberty without chaos plus checks and balances on those who live without any concept of reality.

Beaupré Preston - Franklin, N.C.

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

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Edwards asks constituents with unfinished cases to call office

*From the office of
Congressman Chuck Edwards.*

In keeping with his pledge to make constituent service his top priority, Congressman Chuck Edwards (NC-11) is asking anyone with outstanding or unfinished casework to get in touch with his office at (202)225-6401, or at (828)435-7310.

The office of former Congressman Madison Cawthorn did not transfer official constituent casework, which is standard practice for any legislative transition.

Due to this lack of information, Congressman Edwards and his staff have no way of knowing which constituents had ongoing casework or other outstanding federal issues. Repeated attempts to reach Cawthorn and his staff have been made, but no response or action was provided.

The deadline for Cawthorn to sign over the database was Friday, Dec. 23, and House rules provide that the outgoing member must execute the transfer process.



Chuck Edwards

"I ran on the issue of providing the best constituent service possible for the people of Western North Carolina," Edwards said. "I ask that anyone with any pending casework contact my office immediately. ... I would like to ensure that our veterans, the elderly, the infirm and others who need help get the full benefit of the services they are entitled to."

Edwards announces 15-county district wide tour

Congressman Chuck Edwards (NC-11) has announced that he will visit all 15 counties of North Carolina's 11th District during January, his first month representing Western North Carolina in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"My priority as Western North Carolina's congressman is to start my term meeting with constituents and listening to their concerns," Edwards said. "I'm looking forward to visiting every county in our district and hearing about what matters most to WNC. I also hope to learn about any challenges that constituents are facing so that my staff and I can help them with federal agencies or provide other services."

Edwards was in Franklin on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the Franklin Noon Rotary Club meeting.

A legislator's toughest job – casting a vote

Lee H. Hamilton – Commentary

As Congress and many state legislatures get under way for the year, lots of new lawmakers are out there starting to learn the ropes. It's an exhilarating, exhausting time, and they'll have plenty of questions about the challenges. But here's one thing they might not even have imagined: The hardest part of their new jobs may be the most basic—casting a vote on legislation.

It seems odd, doesn't it? And it actually took me a couple of decades in Congress before I realized it. I'd never reflected on the question until a constituent asked point-blank what I found most difficult about the role. I thought about the long hours, the time away from home, the criticism and pressure from pretty much every side (yes, even back then). Then I realized that it wasn't the frustrations of the job that made it difficult, but its very core: Deciding how to vote.

This isn't always the case. Sometimes, voting on a bill can be straightforward: Maybe it's a matter of no consequence, or it's clearly what your constituents need. But you have to remember that legislators are asked to vote on a stunningly complex array of issues, some of which they are familiar, some of which they are not, and many of which have real consequences for real people. Often, these are complicated issues, with aspects that extend far beyond the black-and-white views expressed in tweets and sound bites. So, for a legislator who is truly trying to do his or her best for the country, the state, or the community, deciding how to vote requires hard work.

The first consideration is—or at least, should be—the views of the people a lawmaker serves. Members of Congress and state legislators get inundated with calls and emails from constituents and hear plenty of feedback on key issues at public meetings. From time to time, those sentiments all run in the same direction, but often they conflict, so a legislator has to work hard to find the majority's sentiment. Similarly, lawmakers rely on the reams of material produced by experts, think tanks, lobbyists, and even colleagues with particular expertise, but those can often con-

flict as well. Making a decision involves sorting through a host of arguments—from legal and economic to practical and moral—and then making a judgment about which are most compelling. Because it's a good bet that at some point, you'll be called to account for how you voted.

Then, of course, there are the political considerations. These have become both simpler and more complex over the last few decades as partisanship has grown. On the one hand, politicians these days are often expected just to fall in line with what the congressional or legislative leadership expects. But if the electoral politics of the last few years has made anything clear, it's that voters do not follow party leadership dictates, and depending on the constituency, any politician interested in re-election needs to look beyond the loudest and most vociferous voices.

Finally, legislators do not arrive in office as blank slates waiting to be written on. They have their own experiences and convictions to draw from. At some point, everyone who holds office has to come to a decision on what he or she is willing to compromise on and what is beyond the pale—and, in the most dramatic instances, what is worth losing an election over.

You can see, then, why deciding how to vote is rarely the easy part of a lawmaker's job. On some issues, you'll vote your conscience. On others, you'll follow the wishes of your constituents, or of the party leadership, or of colleagues you trust and respect. On others, you'll become an expert as quickly as possible and then spend time parsing shades of gray. Yet on every vote, you'll be expected to have an opinion and to be able to defend it, sometimes in the face of withering criticism. So, in the end you'll cast your vote and then move on, because the next one is coming on fast.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

The new year is well underway. Thursday, Jan. 19, will be the first meeting of the year for the Highlands Town Board. It begins at 7 p.m., at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field. You can remotely access the meeting through the town website.

Several agenda items are carryovers from last year. I hope the board will take final action on several of these items.

The draft of the lease for the WHLC transmission antenna located on the town's Big Bear Pen tower will again be up for review. If the board approves this draft, it will have to be posted in the newspaper before final action is taken. The same will apply to the lease for the small HAM radio antenna that will also be placed on the town tower. Since this antenna is for non-commercial use, I foresee no issues.

The board is still waiting for information from the county concerning the renewal of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce building lease. Hopefully, more information will be available at the next town board meeting.

Members of the ABC board and staff will attend the meeting to present a more detailed proposal concerning the possible relocation of the ABC Store to the old Oak Street fire department building. The fire department has transferred its operations to the new facility on US 64. Last month Steve Mehder, the chair of the ABC Board, and Kevin Vinson, the ABC manager, proposed that the ABC store be relocated to the old fire department building. The Town Board requested more information before making a decision. The ABC representatives will make an in-depth presentation, including architectural schematic drawings, an assessment of future space needs, project financial data, and the impact on the long-term ABC store operation. I anticipate a final decision on the ABC proposal at a later date.

At the December meeting, commissioners expressed an interest in conducting a land-use study for the entire town property where the police, EMS, Playhouse, and town hall are located. If the board decides to hire a company to conduct a land-use study, I believe it should be a comprehensive review of future needs for all facilities, including those in the recreation and public works departments.

As he first did last fall, Lamar Nix will present a report concerning town obligations and costs for the proposed downtown electric vehicle charging stations. Upon hearing Lamar's report, I hope for a final decision on this proposal.

Last year the board entered a contract with Environmental, Inc. to operate the Highlands sewer plant. In the meantime, we have also been helping town personnel acquire the required operator licenses. The contract and training efforts have gone well. The current strategy is to continue using a private company to operate the plant while also developing redundancy by having license operators on staff. At the board meeting, the board will review the contract for operating the sewer plant for the coming year.

Email Letters to the Editor to maconcountynews@gmail.com

Big Brothers, Big Sisters sign on to free drug prevention video program

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina has increased its efforts to help its Littles avoid substance abuse by making available age-appropriate videos by Natural High, a drug prevention nonprofit organization.

Natural High (naturalhigh.org), whose videos and discussion prompts are free to educators, students and parents, provides engaging, professionally produced videos by athletes, artists, and other influencers meant to spark discussion among young people and those who care about them. BBBSWNC (bbbswnc.org) incorporated Natural High's video approach last year to offer its Bigs and their Littles' caregivers tools to help children avoid the temptations of drugs and alcohol.

Natural High, according to its website, seeks "to help young people discover those core activities in their lives that uplift, inspire, and motivate them — to find their "natural high" rather than use alcohol or drugs." The program provides a curriculum and activities to help youth build life skills, solidify a support system, and identify sparks to engage in for a "natural high."

Three out of four adolescents have tried addictive substances, half within the last month,

according to The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, Natural High posts on its website. Nine times out of 10, addictions begin during a person's teen years.

"Research shows that if young people are directly engaged around the issue in a compelling way by people they look up to and trust, they are much less likely to choose drugs and alcohol," Natural High's website states.

To help its Bigs, parents, and guardians use the Natural High initiative, BBBSWNC has produced a two-minute video explaining the program and how to use its features. The video (<https://youtu.be/MJ2Zv2mqPSA>), on BBBSWNC's YouTube channel, includes clips and closeups of Natural High videos, to give viewers a quick idea of the benefits of the program.

The video is also viewable on BBBSWNC's website under the "Volunteer" tab (<https://www.bbbswnc.org/naturalhigh>) and can serve as a resource even to caregivers who don't have a child enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters or who would like to help a young person avoid substance abuse by discovering — and engaging in — what they're passionate about.



Highlands Aerial Park an AT Supporter

The Franklin Appalachian Trail Community Council held its January meeting at Highlands Aerial Park, one of the newest AT Supporters. Pictured (L-R) are FATCC council member Tim Lindler; HAP CEO Kurt Damron; and FATCC council members, Kristina Moe, Natasha Sebring and Cory McCall. To learn more about A.T. Supporters visit appalachiantrail.org/explore/communities/franklin-n-c/. For more about the FATCC, the next meeting is on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 5 p.m. downstairs in Franklin's Town Hall. Meetings are open to anyone interested in supporting the Appalachian Trail and Franklin's outdoor community.

Photo by FATCC councilmember Eric Haggart

AG: Top 10 Consumer Complaints for 2022

Attorney General Josh Stein has shared the top 10 consumer complaints that the North Carolina Department of Justice received in 2022 as he released the department's annual report. The report also provides updates about DOJ's work to protect the people of North Carolina from scams and fraud, defend the state and all people's rights, protect our communities, train law enforcement at the North

Carolina Justice Academy, and serve the state through the State Crime Lab and law enforcement Training and Standards Commissions.

"I am grateful for our team at the Department of Justice for their hard work this year to defend our state and our people," said Stein.

In 2022, NCDOJ received 24,981 consumer complaints.

The annual report also features the office's work to protect people from crime, combat the opioid crisis, get justice for victims and survivors of sexual assault, keep people safe online and offline, and updates on the work of the Criminal Division, Civil Division, State Crime Lab, North Carolina Justice Academy, and law enforcement Training and Standards Commissions.



Workshop: How to sustain a strawberry patch

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service will be holding a free seminar on how to establish and maintain a strawberry patch. This event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 9, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Macon Extension Center located on 193 Thomas Heights Rd Franklin.

This seminar is geared for those new to growing strawberries or desiring to brush up on the basics. Participants will learn about site selection and preparation, proper soil and plant fertility needs, spacing, weed control, choosing the right cultivars, pruning, har-



vesting and more.

Finally, information will be provided on the most common disease and insect problems and their possible control options.

For more information or to register for this event contact the Macon County Extension Center at (828)349-2046 or e-mail Debbie Hunter at debbie_hunter@ncsu.edu



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Nutrition journey leads to cookbook

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Generally, freshmen college students are known to experience the “freshmen 15” – a weight gain due to high-calorie cafeteria food options and free-for-all snacking opportunities. However, Emily (formerly Neidle) Epps lost a significant amount of weight when she was enrolled at Loyola University, Baltimore, Md., as a freshman. Homesickness and anxiety quickly manifested into an eating disorder that lasted the better part of three years.

Per the concern of her parents, Epps – a certified holistic health coach at Kavod in Franklin, and the author of a new online cookbook titled “Fed & Fueled: Quick, Easy & Nutritious Recipes” – began seeing a therapist and eventually a nutritionist.

“I learned to practice intuitive eating ... to listen to my body and learn its needs,” she said.

A study abroad in Italy further educated her about the benefits of eating as much locally grown and freshly prepared foods as possible.

“They appreciate food there,” she said. “It’s part of their culture. I began to look at food differently, to love the art and preparation of it and not look at it negatively as in bringing about unwanted weight gain.”

As she explained in the introduction to her cookbook, “I am passionate about helping people heal their relationship with food and eat in a way that honors their bodies.”

The cookbook is based on recipes she has tried and then shared for the last four years in a blog that was named “Coffee and Clean Eating,” but which has recently been renamed “Fed & Fueled” – also the name of her cookbook. She shares on the blog and in the cookbook knowledge gleaned while obtaining a certification from the Institute for Integrated Nutrition.

Epps’s cookbook is filled with vibrant photography and easy-to-follow recipes, as well as cooking and nutritional tips. While this first cookbook focuses on salads, sides, and main



Local certified holistic health coach Emily Epps recently published an online cookbook, based on knowledge she gleaned from her own nutritional journey.

dishes for either lunch or dinner, she plans follow-up versions spotlighting healthy breakfast and dessert recipes. Checklists of ingredients on every recipe page enables readers to print copies and take to a grocery.

Recipes are distinct and colorful, incorporating many different varieties of produce and complementary ingredients. For example, the book’s Peach Caprese Salad includes peaches, mozzarella cheese, honey, balsamic glaze, fresh basil, and fresh mint. A couscous salad is loaded with vegetables and herbs, as is the hummus pasta. Plus, Epps offers variations on standard recipes – in order to make them healthier. Her “mac and cheese” is made with butternut squash, coconut milk, and chickpea shell pasta instead of heavy cream and cheeses. And, a gyro recipe features portobello mushrooms instead of seasoned lamb or beef.

Epps recently married Jeffrey Epps, a local fitness and lifestyle coach and host of the podcast “NspiredCoaching.” Emily, who hails from Virginia, and Jeffrey, a Columbia, S.C., native, met when she was teaching elementary school at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School near Clayton, Ga., and he was employed in Franklin with the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Emily said the couple not only discusses food and nutrition often, but cooks together as well.

“He’s a great cook himself and a great taste tester of recipes,” she said.

And, the Epps are involved in worship and teaching at Discover Church.

“We are both about sharing with the community ways to be as healthy as possible,” noted Emily. “Our bodies are temples, just as God shows us, and we really need to take care of them in all ways. What we do with our bodies physically, spiritually, mentally, nutritionally ... it all helps us be better in everything we do.”



Cookbook author Emily Epps and her husband, Jeffrey Epps, a podcast host and coach, are involved together in sharing fitness and nutrition education with the community.

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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests Jan. 9 - 17. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

January 9

April Dawn Wood, was charged with offenses committed in jurisdiction. Sargent Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

Joe Otis Norwood II, was charged with offenses committed in jurisdiction.

Jaden Wilt, was charged with violating domestic violence protective order. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Carl David Ferrin, was charged with offenses committed in jurisdiction. Sergeant Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

January 11

Jarret Dane Holland, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Megan Leigha Alford, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Charles Russell Edwards, was charged with failure to appear. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

January 12

Phillip Alexander Taylor, was charged with burglary with intent to commit a felony and theft by taking. Corporal James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Megan Leigh Alford, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Donald McLean Long Jr., was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Julie Marie Wood, was charged with felony larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. Adam L. Crawford made the arrest.

Eusebio Sanchez Joares, was charged with breaking and entering and second degree trespass. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

January 13

Gabrielle Evans, was charged with failure to appear. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Richard Lindsey Rowland, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon on government official or employee, assault on a government officer/employee, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer, flee/elude arrest, impede traffic slow speed and failure to surrender license. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

January 15

Morgan Allen Shirley, was charged with offenses committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

January 16

Valerie Turner, was charged with break or enter a motor vehicle and breaking or entering. Tristan Howard made the arrest.

Whitney Allison Downs, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, trespass and larceny. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

January 17

Eddie Bird, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Corporal James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

January 9

Colton Ryan Burch, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

January 10

Phillip Alexander Taylor, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

January 11

Aaron Ortego, was charged with larceny of property. Cody H. Tiger made the arrest.

January 12

Austin Trent Holbrooks, was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving while license revoked, no insurance and expired registration plate. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Extra federal food benefits will end in March; NCCARE360 can help

In North Carolina and nationally, emergency allotments for COVID-19 in the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program will end in March 2023. Households that have been receiving extra FNS benefits (called "emergency allotments") each month since March 2020 or after will see a reduction in benefits because of a federal change that ends emergency allotments for all states.

As part of the COVID-19 public health emergency, families enrolled in the FNS program in North Carolina have been receiving at least \$95 extra per month since March 2020 through emergency allotments. With the end of emergency allotments, the average FNS benefit per person per day will decrease from \$8.12 to \$5.45.

These emergency allotments have been critical in helping families compensate for financial and economic hardships due to COVID-19.

"Families needed these additional benefits to get healthy and nutritious food throughout the pandemic," said Susan Gale Perry, NCDHHS Chief Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being. "While FNS emergency payments are ending, the need is not. We will continue to prioritize food security for all North Carolinians."

Since March 2020, an average of 900,000 North Carolina households received FNS emergency allotments, giving more families access to nutrition meals that support healthy and productive lives, and bringing approximately \$150 million federal dollars each month into local economies.

Beneficiaries will continue to receive their

regular monthly benefit amounts in March 2023 based on a person's or household's current eligibility, income, household size and other federal eligibility requirements. FNS recipients can view their regular monthly FNS benefit amount and their emergency allotment amount online at www.ebtedge.com. NCDHHS encourages families to keep their FNS information up to date to help them get the greatest benefits they are eligible to receive.

NCDHHS is working to increase access to food support by growing the NCCARE360 network to help connect families in need to resources in their communities. Additionally, the NC Medicaid Healthy Opportunities Pilot program is connecting people in certain counties with food vouchers and other services to boost their overall health.

North Carolinians in need of additional food assistance can learn more about additional food and nutrition resources at www.ncdhhs.gov/foodresources. Residents can apply for FNS benefits online with ePass or by filling out a paper application and mailing it to or dropping it off at their county Department of Social Services.

NCCARE360 reaches new milestone with more than 100,000 people referred

NCCARE360, the first statewide coordinated care network in the country that better connects people to local services and resources has reached a new milestone with more than 100,000 people in North Carolina being referred for services through the platform since its implementation in 2019.

NCCARE360 is the first statewide network that unites health care and human services organizations, assesses for and identifies unmet social needs, and enables a coordinated, person-centered approach for delivering care in North Carolina.

The referral for the 100,000th person was part of the rollout of the Healthy Opportunities Pilots, the nation's first comprehensive program to pay for non-medical services, such as food and housing, for Medicaid enrollees. A community-based nonprofit providing inspections for housing safety and quality was able to provide high-priority repairs for home accessibility and safety modifications from a referral made securely through the Platform.

In May 2019, one of the first referrals through the NCCARE360 Platform powered by Unite Us resulted in an individual finding employment assistance. For NCCARE360's 1,000th referral, a Piedmont resident was referred to social services by a local health department's WIC & Nutrition services and was able to receive help with diapers, bedding, and other necessities for their home.

"To be healthy, it is essential to have access not only to medical care but also to non-medical drivers of health like food and housing," said Dr Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson, State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer for NCDHHS. "NCCARE360, a shared infrastructure across the state, continues to be a critical tool that improves coordination and enables a focus on whole person health."

Platform trends show that as of Nov. 30, 2022, the top five service needs by volume

statewide were food assistance, housing and shelter support, individual and family support (e.g., childcare assistance), income support (e.g., emergency/one-time financial assistance), and utility bill payment assistance.

In addition to serving more than 100,000 people statewide, the NCCARE360 team continues to grow and support the network—especially in rural and under-resourced areas—to increase the capacity and efficiency of communities to respond to referrals. The NCCARE360 network has now surpassed 3,000 organizations onboarded onto the platform and 7,500 active programs to which referrals can be made. With almost 50,000 network users actively sending and receiving referrals, almost 80% of accepted referrals are accepted in 4 days or less. 92% of referrals made as part of the Healthy Opportunity Pilots were accepted in fewer than 3 days.

"The purpose of NCCARE360 is to improve the health and well-being of all North Carolinians by recognizing there are many aspects that affect our health," said David Reese, President and CEO of Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation.

Organizations interested in joining NCCARE360 as a network partner can visit www.nccare360.org for more information. People who are interested in making a connection through NCCARE360 can visit <https://nccare360.org/resources/> to request assistance.

For more information about NCCARE360, or any of its partner organizations, email to connect@nccare360.org.

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Descendants of American Revolution active in SAR

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Although most of the main altercations and battles of the American Revolution took place not in Western North Carolina but in the mid-regions and coastal areas of the state, some local ancestors of patriots are still involved in the organization called Sons of the Revolution (SAR). Tom Sterrett and Wayne English are a few local active SAR participants.

"I really wish more people would pay attention to their history," said Sterrett, whose father was a past president of an SAR chapter in Georgia and his mother was a past president of a Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter. He explained that the more one knows about history, the more that is appreciated in terms of what ancestors endured to secure and build America.

Two of SAR's main criteria to become a member are: 1) be a "citizen of good repute in the community"; and, 2) be a "lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in loyalty to and rendered acceptable service in the cause of American Independence."

The Sons of the American Revolution was incorporated on January 17, 1890, in Connecticut and chartered 16 years later by the United States Congress on June 9, 1906. Prior to this date, a number of state societies were formed in the 1880s. These were led by The Sons of Revolutionary Sires organized July 4, 1876, in San Francisco, Calif. The first Congress of the National Society was held in Louisville, Ky., on April 30, 1890, which was the 100th anniversary of George Washington's taking the oath of office of President of the United States.

The North Carolina SAR (NCSAR) was chartered on Feb. 22, 1911. NCSAR acknowledges that "... the people, places, and events of North Carolina during the Revolutionary War played the pivotal role in bringing the war to a victorious conclusion in Yorktown." As a result, historic battles, places, and cemeteries are located across the state, and NCSAR members, and members in area chapters, strive to make certain those sites are not forgotten.

Since the Silas-McDowell chapter of SAR in Franklin disbanded a few years ago due to "older members passing away, and we weren't garnering any new members," according to Sterrett, descendants of patriots have had to seek membership in the NCSAR or find the nearest chapter; some exist in Northern Georgia, and chapters in Waynesville, Candler, and Asheville are in effect. Besides meetings and recognition events, members also have opportunities to participate in battlefield commemorative activities and educational programs.

Macon County-native English has been a member for the past six years in the Clarksville, Ga., chapter. He learned from a cousin, a retired school teacher in Clayton, that a family member on his father's side, David McCracken, was a patriot in the American Revolution.

"For several years, I thought about trying to trace my ancestry back to see if there were any patriots, but then my cousin got interested in the ancestry and learned about David McCracken, and then he went



Tom Sterrett poses in his Revolutionary War style tri-fold hat in front of a portrait of the leader of the war for America's independence, George Washington.

through the SAR registry process."

English pointed out that he is proud to know "for certain" that he has at least one relative who was a patriot.

"I haven't traced it all the way down, but another family member may have been a patriot as well," said English. "I'd like to keep finding out about my family members and how they were involved. I like to learn about history, and I'm a member of the board at the Macon County Historical Museum."

Sterrett noted how he became involved in SAR.

"My dad was always interested in genealogy and did research and learned through the family trees that we had 38 direct descendants involved in the Revolutionary War. I'm very patriotic and I think it's great to have a tie to the founding of the country. I have some coins some of my ancestors carried as well as a powder horn. I've enjoyed being in the at-large North Carolina SAR currently,

which means I'm a state member. [Sterrett was a member of the local chapter before it disbanded.] I've been an SAR member for at least 30 years."

Sterrett's son, Jacob, when he attended Rabun Gap school a few years ago, made a replica of a long rifle for Sterrett. His wife, Linda, helped him make a simple Revolutionary War militia outfit.

Robert Shook, curator at the Macon County Historical Museum, explained that even though the Appalachian Mountains were viewed as Native Indian territory and not technically part of the North Carolina colony until after the American Revolution and the establishment of the 1819 treaty with the Cherokee, this region did contain some patriots, and at least one skirmish took place: The Battle of Sugartown.

The local chapter of the DAR, the female counterpart to SAR, describes the battle this way: "Once the Continental Congress proclaimed independence in 1776, and fighting ensued

between the united colonies and the crown, the British began encouraging the Native American Nations, including the Cherokee, to fight the colonies while supplying them with ammunition to do so. Late in the summer of 1782, a group of regular soldiers from General Andrew Pickens' Brigade of South Carolina diligently pursued marauding bands of Cherokee who had been raiding frontier settlements in western North Carolina. Led by Major Daniel Bryson, these soldiers pursued one of these bands into the area where Western Carolina University is now located, over the Cullowhee Gap and down into Elijah. The Cherokee fled through the area where the Sugarfork and Cullasaja streams merge finally moving to an area which had been the site of an old, previously destroyed Cherokee village called Sugartown. That area became the battlefield on September 10, 1782, [toward the very end of the seven-year war] where the Native Americans made their last stand. Fierce fighting ensued. Though a significant number of Native American warriors were said to have been killed, only one colonial soldier died during that battle, Corporal White."



The gravemarker of Corporal White is located on the Sellers farm about five and half miles from Franklin on the bank of Sugarfork River near the mouth of Elijah Creek. On a hill a few hundred yards away are two large mounds of stone, thought to be the burial ground of the Indians killed in the Battle of 1782.

Annual Burns Night planned for January 28

The Taste of Scotland Society is once again hosting its annual Burns Night on Jan. 28, to commemorate the birthday of Robert Burns. Festivities will include an authentic Scottish meal, entertainment, the presentation of the Haggis and the reciting of Burns poetry and more.

Burns is known as the national poet of Scotland, but more Scots probably remember his writing of many songs more than his poems. Perhaps it is because he chose well-known tunes and fit his words to the tunes. Burns even used more than one poem to see which words he thought best fit the tunes. His most famous song became "Auld Lang Syne," but Burns also wrote more than 100 songs for a book called "Melodies of Scotland."

His wish was not to become famous, but to be the Scottish bard that elevated and shared the wondrous parts of his homeland of Scotland. He was given several nicknames such as the "Ploughman Poet" as poor farmer, "Rabbie Burns," the "national poet" of Scotland and others. He died in 1796 at the age of 37.

Robert Burns was born in Alloway, Scotland. His father, a poor farmer, and his mother were very supportive of him. Because they were poor, Burns seem to relate to the everyday struggles of the common folk. He had a true ability to write about the big themes like love, poverty, and the universe in a simple way with a small number of words. He also caught the attention of the wealthier, genteel folk, because of his ideas.

At the time in history in which Burns lived, Great Britain was attempting to take over Scotland by forcing English customs, language, and other English ways. More and more English was becoming more and more important in Scotland, whether language or customs. Robert Burns was mak-



Wild Mountain Thyme will be performing at the annual Burns Night Jan. 28 in the Tartan Hall of The First Presbyterian Church. The duo, consisting of Brenda Miller and Chuch Flaim, performs all over the Southeast with their eclectic blend of dulcimers, Irish penny whistle, bowed psaltery, guitar, mandolin, harmonica and cajon.

ing a statement when he published his book in the Scottish dialect. His first book of poetry was entitled, "Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect," which was released in July 31, 1786, received raves from many people, both poor and privileged.

Farming made it hard to have enough money or time to write his poetry or songs, so he took a job as an excise man. This job required him to collect taxes. The extra money did help him have a bit better life. But he always extolled the virtues of the honest hard working men and never forgot to be grateful for the help given him by friends.

The Taste of Scotland Society, Inc. invites the public to the annual Robert Burns Dinner on Jan. 28, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Tartan Hall, First Presbyterian Church, Franklin. Adult tickets are \$25 and cover a full meal, entertainment, and a traditional celebration of Burns Night. Children 12 and under tickets are \$15. Tickets can be purchased at Ruby City, First Presbyterian Church, Franklin Chamber of Commerce, or any Taste of Scotland Society member.

Submitted by Merrilee Bordeaux Taste of Scotland Society

Professor tracks migration of Tarheels to Pacific Northwest

"Tarheels in the Pacific Northwest" is the title of the presentation by Rob Ferguson for the Feb. 2 meeting of the Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society.

In the early and mid-20th century, western North Carolinians migrated to Washington State in such significant numbers that they came to numerically dominate some of the communities along the Sauk and Skagit river valleys in the shadow of the North Cascade mountains. Following logging work, familial connections, and their hearts, Tarheels sometimes moved out for a few seasons, but most eventually stayed. In the process, these southern mountain migrants brought with them the cultural practices of the Appalachian mountains such as music and foodways. This presentation tracks that movement from western North Carolina to the snow-capped mountains of the Pacific Northwest.

Robert Hunt Ferguson is an associate professor of History at Western Carolina University. He received his M.A. from Western Carolina University and his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His book, "Race and the Remaking of the Rural South: Interracialism, Christian Socialism, and Cooperative Farming in Jim Crow Mississippi" was published with the University of Georgia Press in January 2018. Dr. Ferguson's work has appeared in the *Journal of Southern History*, the *North Carolina Historical Review*, *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, and *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. His research has been funded by the Center for the Study of the American South and the North Caroliniana Society. He lives in Sylva.

This presentation is on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 6:30 p.m., at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center, 45 East Ridge Drive, Bryson City. East Ridge Dr. is a right turn off Buckner Branch Road which is west of Ingles. Conversation and refreshments will follow the presentation. The event is free and open to the public.

Vendors sought at Greening Up the Mountains Festival

Artisans, Crafters, and Food and Beverage Vendors are invited to submit their application for the Greening Up the Mountains Festival to be held on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Greening Up The Mountains Festival is the premiere spring festival for Western North Carolina. The festival, takes place in historical downtown Sylva. This year's festival seeks artisans and crafters selling handmade products. Arts, crafts, and food vendors from the expanded Appalachian area are encouraged to apply.

Visit the festival's website, www.greeningupthemountains.com to review the 2023 Vendor Policies and download the application. Applications will be accepted through March 15, 2023. For more information, email the event coordinator at greeningupthemountains@gmail.com.



Violin virtuoso Jaime Jorge in concert at SDA

The Franklin Seventh-Day Adventist Church invites community members to attend a free Christian concert, featuring Jaime Jorge, a world-class violinist, on Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. The concert will feature music ranging from favorite hymns to contemporary praise songs.

From Carnegie Hall to high school auditoriums, Jorge has played them all. He has played in 60 countries on six continents and has released 15 albums.

In addition to being an accomplished musician, Jorge has an inspiring story to share. Born and raised in communist Cuba, he was offered many opportunities – including offers to study in Moscow with some of the greatest musicians of our time – if only he and his family would renounce their belief in God. They refused. When Jorge was 10, miraculously, his family was given the opportunity to leave the country.

In 1996, Jorge left medical school and a promising medical career to devote himself to full-time music ministry.

The concert will be held at the Franklin SDA Church at 71 Brendle Road. The concert is free and is designed for people of all ages and denominations. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, email info@franklinsda.org.

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Deaths & Funerals

George Robert Phillips

George Robert Phillips, 90, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at his residence.

He was born in Jackson County to the late Clarence Edmond and Mattie Lou Cope Phillips. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Patsy Veora Self Phillips; brothers, Roy Lee Phillips, James Larry Phillips, and Clarence Edmond Phillips Jr.

He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a Korean War Veteran. He was a member of the American Legion.

He is survived by his two daughters, Vickie Phillips Pearce (David) of Mt Airy, N.C., Sandra Elizabeth Phillips of Greensboro, N.C.; sister, Thelma Louise Maynard of Indian Trails, N.C.; two grandchildren, Megan Horsley, Courtney Nixon (Jake); two great grandchildren, Cameron Wallace and Callidora Nixon; and several special cousins. His daughters are very grateful to cousin, Diana Cabe (Warren), for the care they provided their dad during his declining health.

A celebration of life was held Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Iotla Methodist Church with Rev. D'Andre Ash officiating. Military honors will be conducted by VFW Post #7399 and American Legion Post #108.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to CareNet of Macon County, 130 Bidwell St, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Joyce Gail Rogers

Joyce Gail Rogers, 77, of Highlands, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023,

Born in Jackson County, she was the daughter of the late Leonard and Flossie McCall Potts. She was preceded in death by her parents; and brothers, Roy Potts and Jimmy Potts.

She was a member of Yellow Mountain Baptist Church. She enjoyed crocheting and spending time with her family, especially her four grandsons.

She is survived by two daughters, Melissa Crowe (Chris) of Athens, Ga., and Monica Vinson (Kevin) of Highlands; one son, Justin Rogers of Atlanta, Ga.; and four grandsons, Tyler Crowe, Ryan Vinson, Travis Crowe, and Dylan Vinson; two sisters, Helen Holden of Cullowhee, N.C., and Willene Conner of Franklin, N.C.; three brothers, Curley Potts of Cullowhee, Dennis Potts of Black Duck, Minn., and Robbie Potts of Cullowhee; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside service will be Saturday, Jan. 21, at 2 p.m., at Potts Cemetery in Cullowhee with Rev. Tommy Holden officiating. The family will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Potts Cemetery, C/O Robert Potts, PO Box 2444, Cashiers, NC 28717.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



George Robert Phillips



Joyce Gail Rogers

James Richard McCall

James Richard McCall, 82, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023. He was born April 14, 1940 in Macon County to the late Carl McCall

He was a carpenter and he enjoyed fishing, car racing, antique car shows. He also loved flowers, especially day lilies. He was a Baptist by faith.

He is survived by two sisters, Jessie Revis and Hazel McCall Taylor both of Franklin; a brother, John Curt McCall (Nancy) of Franklin; one niece and one nephew.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by nephews, Tony McCall and Darrin Taylor; and sister, Mavis McCall Eppard.

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



James Richard McCall

Cora Pearl Holland

Cora Pearl Holland, 89, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, Jan. 16, 2023. She was born Sept. 13, 1933, in Macon County, to the late James and Laura Gregory Ammons.

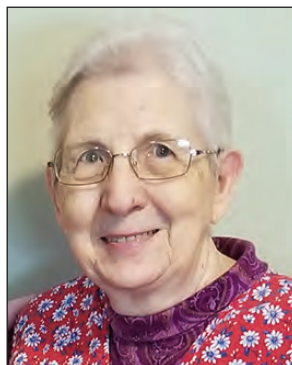
She was a homemaker and had worked as a nurse's aid at Grandview Manor and had worked at Van Raalte. She was a Baptist by faith.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Lemie William Holland; brothers, Fred Ammons, Harrison Ammons, Parker Ammons and James Ammons; sisters, Lelia Adams, Bertha Robinson, Minnie Hollifield, Rhoda Price, Mamie Stiles and Clydia Ammons.

She is survived by her son, William Mark Holland and his wife, Pam of Summerville, S.C.; grandson, Jacob William Holland of Summerville; and sister, Myrtle Frisbee of Sedro-Wooley, Wash.

A funeral service will be held Friday, Jan. 20, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home. Burial will be at Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m., prior to the service at the funeral home.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Holland family. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



Cora Pearl Holland

Larry M. Seagle

Larry M. Seagle born to Gladys Adams on Nov. 30, 1946. Her death was early in his age, and he was raised alongside Morris and Doyle Chapel known to him as stepbrothers. He was preceded in death by his wife, Willie Kay Seagle of 54 years.

He worked over 40 years combined with Dalton Rock and Vulcan Materials. He played softball and basketball for the love of the game., but he coached three generations for the compassion of the players.

He is survived by his intentionally adopted daughter, Sabrina Cochran; two granddaughters, Presley Cochran and Morgan Anello; three great grandchildren, Kaius Frady, Casen Bringle, and Amaya Anello; stepbrothers, Doyle and Morris Chappell; distant cousins; and a great niece by marriage, Audrea Burch.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Hunter Funeral Home is honored to serve the Seagle family.



Larry M. Seagle

Dolen William Bates

Dolen William Bates, 84, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, Jan. 16, 2023. He was born Aug. 13, 1938, in Macon County to the late Bruce W. Bates and Cleo Cowart Bates.

He was married to Mavis Gibson Bates who died in 2008. He retired from Burlington Industries after 36 years, where he worked as a supervisor. He was a former Macon County Commissioner and worked hard to get Macon Program for Progress and Macon Valley Nursing Home started. He was very faithful to the Democrat Party. He attended Louisa Chapel United Methodist Church.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by a brother, Leonard Bates.

He is survived by a special nephew, Terry Bates and wife Tillena of Franklin; a sister, Mildred Rogers of Franklin; and many extended family and friends.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 11 a.m., in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, with Rev. David Crunkleton officiating. Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Robert Fullbright, Eddie Leatherwood, Harold Huscusson, Mark Pruitt, Nick Morgan and Joe Morgan. The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m., prior to the service at the funeral home.

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

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



Dolen William Bates

Nancy Ann Moger Lohan

Nancy Ann Moger Lohan lived life on her own terms. She was an independent, caring, stubborn lady who never met a stranger and who was interested in the lives of those she loved. An unexpected phone call resulted in a cross examination or interrogation about what was wrong, what was the purpose of the call, and what action was required of her. Her love for her family shone through the questions, and they understood her being nosy was them being loved.

She never met a stranger. She especially loved cats and dogs, handing out treats to every animal that she met. She would not be rushed as she petted and spoke to all pups and kittens. If her companions were in a hurry, that was not her problem.

As an Episcopalian, she spent a good portion of her life caring for others as a focused, efficient registered nurse. The time she spent as a hospice nurse was very gratifying to her.

In her spare time, she loved watching crime, dramas, and who-done-its on television. When she traveled, her driving abilities came into question occasionally, but she was steadfast in her belief that her driving was above reproach even amid gasps and white-knuckled passengers.

She was born on Aug. 2, 1954, to Harry Irving Moger Jr., and Althea Anne Foster Moger. She passed from this life on Jan. 13, 2023. Her parents as well as three siblings, Kathy Hodge, Gary Moger, and an infant, preceded her in death.

She is survived by her children, Sandra Wagner (Leonard) of Leicester, N.C., and William Lohan (Shelly) of Moore, Okla.; and seven grandchildren, Alex, Will, Liz, Anna, Gavin, Siler, and Adam.

No local services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



Nancy Ann Lohan



Deaths & Funerals

Joe Edward Holland

Joe Edward Holland, 87, of Franklin went to be with the Lord on Jan. 14, 2023. He was born in Macon County, North Carolina, on Dec. 6, 1935, to the late Harley and Selma Estes Holland. He is survived by his wife, Dixie Holland of almost 68 years.

He was a member of the Riverside Fellowship Church. He was proud of his service in the United States Navy. He retired in 1972 after serving in both Vietnam and Korea. Throughout his career he received five Good Conduct Medals, a Combat Action Ribbon, a Vietnam Service Medal, and a Vietnam Campaign Medal. He was a member of the American Legion and the VFW. After retirement he worked and retired again from the LBJ Job Corp.

He was an avid farmer and loved to raise tomatoes and keep bees. His true passions were trout fishing and coon hunting. In fact, he was a charter member of the Macon County Coon Hunters Association. He bred Redbone Coon Hounds and bred a United Kennel Club World Champion Redbone Hound. He also loved to spend time with his large extended family.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by one daughter, Kim Breedlove (Jackie); two sons, Eddie Holland, and Scott Holland (Nanette); one brother, John Holland; four granddaughters, Gina Breedlove, Holly Breedlove, Selena Holland Jones, and Bethany Holland Keller; 10 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins in Franklin, Canton, and Brevard.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by three sisters, Hilda Frady, Herbal Bennett, and Marie Huffman; and five brothers, Claude Holland, Clyde Holland, Harold Holland, Hayes Holland, and Guy Holland.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, Jan. 19, at Macon Funeral Home at 1 p.m., with Rev. Bobby Cloer officiating. The family will receive friends from 12 until 1 p.m., one hour prior to the service. Military Rites will be conducted by American Legion Post 108 and VFW Post 7339.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.
Macon Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Karen Bertling

Karen Bertling was born in the 1970s on Nov. 14 in a small town called Brenham located in the larger-than-life state of Texas.

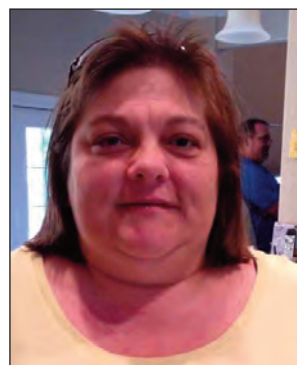
She was survived by her children, Carin and Earl, as well as a grandchild, Alexzander.

Many loved this woman for her fair but judgmental advice and motherly ways. She always had a warm hug, a kind word, and a huge heart for any in need; no matter how she was suffering. She was and always will be a giant piece of our puzzle and a big chapter of many books of life. We will do our best to carry her teachings and advice in our hearts and in our memory.

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



Joe Edward Holland



Karen Bertling

Earl Holland

Earl Holland, 90, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Leonard John Holland and Clara Belle Arnold Holland. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Crisp Holland; sisters, Eunice Queen, Hazel Wentz; brother, Hyman Holland; and brothers-in-law, Ernest Dendy and Ted Queen.

He was a member of Sugarfork Baptist Church for 59 years, where he served as the Adult Men's Sunday School teacher, member of the building and grounds committee, as well as the counting committee. He was a veteran and served his country in the U.S. Army (1953-55). He was also a former member of the board of directors for the Cullasaja Gorge Volunteer Fire and Rescue. He worked for Macon Program for Progress, helping build homes for 146 low-income families. Later he started his own business, "Earl Holland Builders," and built many more houses. He enjoyed gardening, camping, cutting trees, and selling firewood. At 89 years old, he climbed up in his dump truck and swept it out. He was not afraid of work and his hands proved it.

He loved the Lord Jesus Christ and continued to read chapters of the Bible each morning, but due to his health he was unable to read the last two days before he went to heaven. He raised his children in church and demonstrated the value of hard work and love in his family. He loved spending time with his family. He enjoyed hunting rabbits, grouse, squirrels, turkey, groundhog and deer. He also enjoyed trout fishing and could be found along the Cullasaja River or Cliffside Lake multiple days of the week during fishing season. He spoke often of his friends, family, and his "buddies" at breakfast at Hardees. He experienced the blessings of God throughout his life and was a great example to everyone. He is now reunited with his wife, Margaret, whom he missed dearly.

He is survived by his daughters, Becky Hurst (Billy), Nancy Dills (Ronnie) of Franklin, Sherry Brewer (Rick) of Franklin; grandchildren, Crystal Parker (Shaun), Michael McClure, Tommy VanHook, Holly Parlier (Dan), Patti Keener (Nathan), Jake Brewer (Amy), Jeb Brewer (Cheyenne); great-grandchildren, Savannah, Kandice, Cassidy, and Lance Parker, Cody, Austin, and Jessie McClure, Alexis and Paige VanHook, Eliza Jane and Ever Parlier, Riley and Harper Keener, Luka, Jentzen, Truett, and Ziphorah Brewer; two sisters, Ohdee Dendy, Ada Mae Morgan (Roger); brothers, Freddie Holland (Carolyn) and Homer Holland (Pat); five step-great grandchildren and two step great-great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Sugarfork Baptist Church with Revs. Steve Reeves and Gene Hawkins officiating. Burial was in the Sugarfork Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Shaun Parker, Michael McClure, Tommy VanHook, Jake Brewer, Jeb Brewer, and Scottie Thomas. Honorary pallbearers were Richmond Crisp and all the great grandsons.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Cullasaja Gorge Volunteer Fire Dept; Sugarfork Baptist Church; or Men's Teen Challenge of The Smokies.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Earl Holland

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Kevin Harvick is retiring after '23 NASCAR season

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

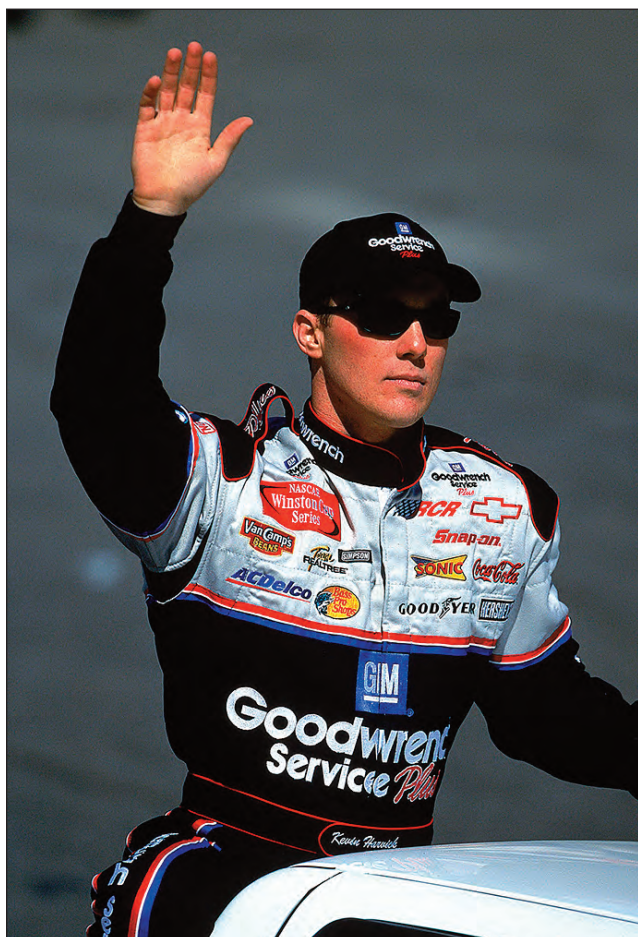
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - Two decades of competition, 60 NASCAR Cup Series wins, the 2014 NASCAR Cup Series championship trophy and a pair of NASCAR Xfinity Series titles to his name, driver Kevin Harvick announced last Thursday that he will retire from full-time NASCAR Cup Series competition at the end of the 2023 season, leaving an important and long-lasting impact on the sport that reaches well beyond the driver's seat.

Harvick's arrival into NASCAR's big leagues in 2001 represented a huge career opportunity for the young Californian but came with the emotional and daunting responsibility to follow the late legend Dale Earnhardt at Richard Childress Racing. Then 25-year-old answered that big-time challenge winning his first NASCAR Cup Series race in Earnhardt's car only three weeks after Earnhardt's passing and Harvick being tabbed to drive the car (the team's Chevrolet number changed from #3 to #29).

The effort and success under intense circumstances was a sign of things to come from the Bakersfield, Calif. native whose emotional and clutch performance that debut season came to characterize Harvick's moxy throughout a decorated career. The 47-year-old has become known as "The Closer" for being at the right place at the right time – arguably both on-track and off-track as a vocal spokesman for competitors.

And now after 23 seasons, the driver of the No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford will close the pages on a remarkable, certain Hall of Fame career.

"There is absolutely nothing else in the world that I enjoy doing more than going to the racetrack and I'm genuinely look-



A 25-year-old Kevin Harvick, driver of the #29 Chevy Monte Carlo for Richard Childress Racing Racing waves to the crowd March 24, 2001, during the Food City 500, part of the NASCAR Winston Cup Series at the Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tenn.

Mandatory Credit: Robert Leberge /Allsport



Kevin Harvick, driver of the #4 Mobil 1 Ford celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Big Machine Vodka 400 at the Brickyard at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sept. 8, 2019 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Photo by Matt Sullivan/Getty Images

ing forward to this season," Harvick said. "But as I've gone through the years, I knew there would come a day where I had to make a decision. When would it be time to step away from the car?"

"I've sought out people and picked their brains. When I asked them, when they knew it was the right time, they said, 'it'll just happen, and you'll realize that's the right moment. You'll make a plan and decide when it's your last year.'

"It's definitely been hard to understand when that right moment is because we've been so fortunate to run well. But sometimes there are just other things going on that become more important and for me, that time has come."

NASCAR President Steve Phelps said of Harvick's news, "With championships across several NASCAR series and a NASCAR Cup Series win total that ranks in the top-10, Kevin Harvick's legacy as one of the all-time great drivers is secure.

"Beyond his success inside a race car, Kevin is a leader who truly cares about the health and the future of our sport – a passion that will continue long after his driving days are complete. On behalf of the France Family and all of NASCAR, I congratulate Kevin on a remarkable career and wish him the best of luck in his final season."

Harvick and his wife DeLana have two young children already aspiring to follow in their father's footsteps. Son Keelan, 10, races karts internationally and daughter Piper, 5, drives a go-kart as well, seemingly eager to participate in the family's decorated legacy as well.

Stepping away from his own racing schedule will allow Har-



Kevin Harvick, driver of the #29 Shell/Pennzoil Chevrolet, celebrates on top of his car, after winning the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 18, 2007 in Daytona, Fla.

Photo by Jamie Squire/Getty Images

vick the chance to travel and guide them. He leaves the sport eager to immerse himself in his young family's priorities.

"In the last year, I think I've seen Keelan race three times while he's been in Europe," Harvick said. "I go to the go-kart track with Piper, and she makes twice as many strides in a day while I'm there than she would in a day I'm not there. It takes a lot of time to organize the level of racing they're doing and to be around that is important to me."

Being able to help his children work their way through the ranks is important to Harvick. He grew up in a working-class neighborhood in Bakersfield, Calif. – a town that appreciated the sport of auto racing; although at the time it was a legitimate challenge to make it in the world of big-time stock car competition on the other side of the country.

Harvick was a hard-worker, however, with an uncommon focus and so much natural talent that he quickly found his way into the NASCAR rank-and-file 3,000 miles away.

After starring in NASCAR's Southwest Tour and winning the 1998 ARCA Menards Series West championship, he raced in both the NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series and NASCAR Xfinity Series (then called the Busch Series) before getting the call from Childress to take over Earnhardt's seat.

In a span of three weeks in February-March 2001, Harvick was hired to drive in the NASCAR Cup Series, got married to his longtime love DeLana and then won his first NASCAR Cup Series race at Atlanta Motor Speedway in one of the most emotional and memorable moments in all of NASCAR history.

"Dale's passing changed our sport forever and it changed my life forever and the direction it took," Harvick said. "It took me a long time to really get comfortable to really even think about what that happened that day.

"The significance and the importance of keeping that car on the racetrack and winning that race early at Atlanta – knowing now what it meant to the sport and just that moment in general of being able to carry on, was so important."

Harvick won 23 races with Childress from 2001-2013 and two Xfinity Series title in that span (2001 and 2006) before moving to Stewart-Haas Racing where he made an immediate impact. Harvick earned the 2014 NASCAR Cup Series championship in his first year with the NASCAR Hall of Famer Stewart's team. He would go on to win multiple races in all but one season, highlighted by a single-season career-high nine victories in 2020.

He also has 47 NASCAR Xfinity Series wins and 14 NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series victories – one of the few competitors to earn double-digit wins in all three premier NASCAR series.

"I competed against Kevin for a long time, and I was so happy to finally have him a part of our race team," Stewart said. "He's incredibly reliable – consistent and calculated on track with a drive to always be better. That's what you want in a teammate. He knows what he needs to be successful and his will to win helped elevate our entire company."

It's the kind of praise Harvick has heard throughout his career and bountifully so with Thursday's news.

Rodney Childers has been Harvick's crew chief their entire tenure at Stewart-Haas Racing – the duo earning 37 NASCAR Cup Series wins, 25 pole positions, 366 top 10s, a pair of Brickyard 400 wins, two Southern 500 trophies and an All-Star race victory. And Childers was understandably poignant upon Harvick's announcement on Thursday.

"He gave me a chance of a lifetime," Childers posted of Harvick on social media. "In that chance our relationship has never wavered. It's been easy, every day. We've talked every day for nine years. Our passion and push to be the best has never changed. And isn't going to change. We still want to win every single week that we show up. ...

"But most of all, we became brothers. Best friends. He taught me to be a better person, smarter, more intelligent. And most of all we learned what good people with the same goals can do if they really want it. Our team is our backbone, and they have believed from day one.

"... This year is going to be fun, and we are going to race like hell."

Harvick's former teammate at Richard Childress Racing, Jeff Burton said, "From teammates to friends, Kevin Harvick and I have been through it all together.

"He scratched his way into this sport & proved himself as a leader and a champion. I'm looking to watching him in his final season & see where this next chapter takes him. Thank you for everything!"

Harvick's final season begins with the Busch Light Clash at the L.A. Coliseum on Feb. 5 and his team owner Stewart has nothing but high hopes for "The Closer" to close out his cham-

pionship career.

"I want Kevin to savor every lap this season, to compete like hell and to take it all in," Stewart said. "He's made all of us at Stewart-Haas Racing incredibly proud and we want to make his last season his best season."

Talladega Superspeedway honored with three awards during NASCAR Safety and Operations Summit

TALLADEGA, Ala. (Jan. 13, 2023) – Talladega Superspeedway, NASCAR's Most Competitive and fan-friendly track, were honored this week with three coveted awards during the annual NASCAR Safety and Operations Summit in Concord, N.C.

Dr. Bobby R. Lewis was presented the Excellence in Track Services Award for his more than 27-year career as Medical Director for Talladega Superspeedway Emergency Services while Courtney Carruba received the 2022 Nursing Director of the Year Award. In addition, the 2022 Teamwork Award was presented to the Talladega Superspeedway Infield Care Center staff.

The 2.66-mile venue hosts two exciting NASCAR weekends each year, featuring the GEICO 500 in the spring and the YellaWood 500 in the fall – both drawing more than 100,000 fans from all 50 states and 22 countries. The 2023 season at the 33-degree-banked track kicks off a tripleheader weekend, April 22-23, with the GEICO 500.

The Excellence in Track Services Award recognizes any individual who has made significant contributions to the improvement of track services at a single track over the course of a career spanning 10 years or more. Lewis, DMD, MD, is As-



Talladega Superspeedway

sociate Professor and Vice Chair for Clinical Operations for the Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Alabama School of Medicine, Birmingham, Ala. He has been involved with medical services at the superspeedway since 1981 as a member of LifeSaver Helicopter Crew before becoming Medical Director for TSS in 1995.

Carruba, from Hoover, Ala., has worked for the Talladega Superspeedway for 20 years and started with the LifeSaver crew, and has been the Nursing Director for five years at the iconic venue. Her tenacity starts with thorough pre-event preparation and continues by arriving early for set-up day, which includes helping colleagues and the NASCAR industry during the event. Always smiling, Carruba's positive attitude

shapes the event weekend for her care center team, patients, and NASCAR.

The Teamwork Award defines teamwork as "a cooperative or coordinated effort on the part of a group of persons acting together as a team or in the interests of a common cause." Talladega Superspeedway's exceptional group of medical professionals worked consistently together, knowing each other's part and doing it with purpose.

NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series driver Jordan Anderson, who relied on the TSS Emergency Services team after an on-



Talladega Superspeedway was honored this week during the annual NASCAR Safety and Operations Summit in Concord, NC. Pictured are Dr. Bobby Lewis (Excellence in Track Services Award), Courtney Carruba (Nursing Director of the Year Award) and Dr. Joel Evans, (Teamwork Award) for the Talladega Superspeedway Infield Care Center staff.

track accident last October, was on hand during the awards presentations and gave each member of the TSS team a "hug," as a gesture of thanks for what they do. Randy Ballard, RN, CRNA, is the track's Emergency Services Manager.

These incredible individuals will be back at Talladega Superspeedway for the upcoming GEICO 500 weekend. It will feature a trio of races, including a Saturday (April 22) doubleheader – the General Tire 200 for the ARCA Menards Series and the Ag-Pro 300 for the NASCAR Xfinity Series – before culminating with the Sunday (April 23) the NASCAR Cup Series GEICO 500.

For all ticket information for the GEICO 500 weekend, including the Talladega Garage Experience Presented By Coolray, log onto www.talladegasuperspeedway.com. Ross Chastain, who was runner-up in the 2022 NASCAR Cup Series Championship, is the defending champion of the GEICO 500. Chase Elliott, NASCAR's premier series' most popular driver the last five years, is Talladega's latest winner, capturing last fall's YellaWood 500.

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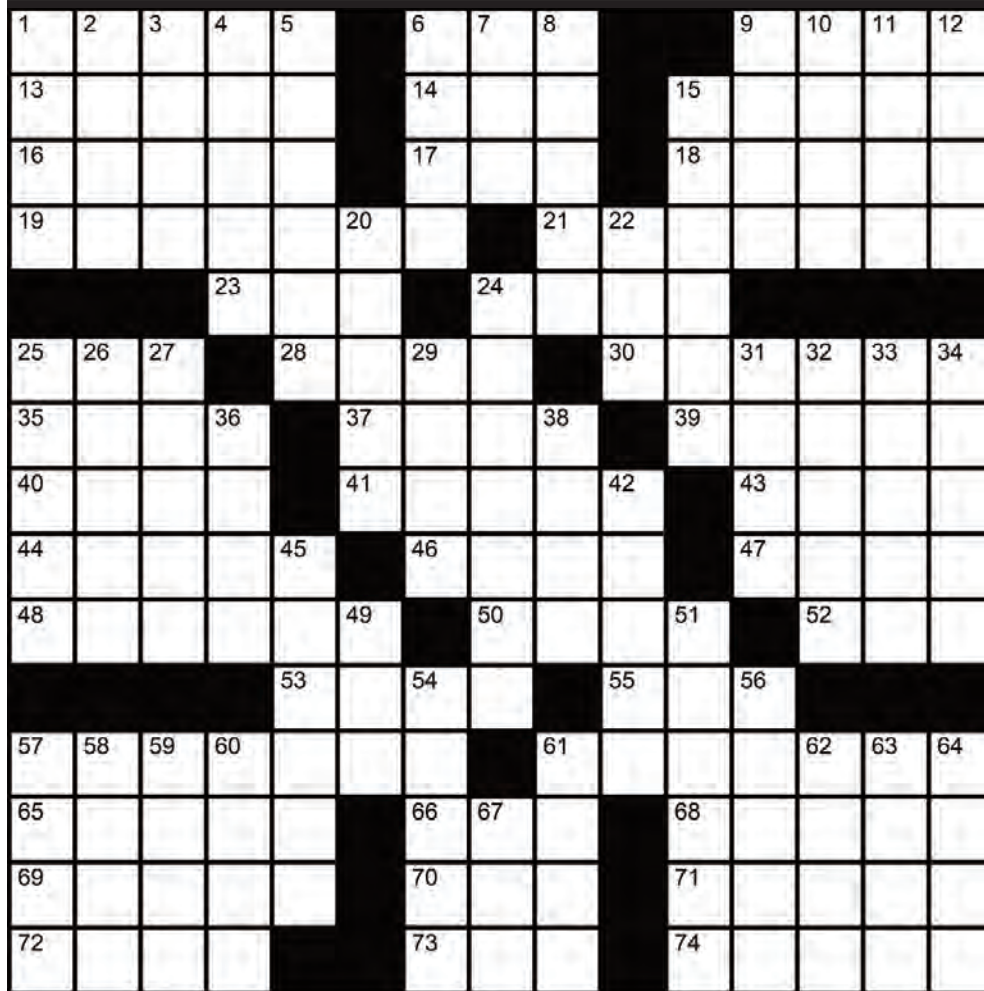
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23. "_____ the land of the free..."
24. Fictional Himalayan
25. Meme move
28. Man Ray's art movement
30. On cloud nine
35. Crude group
37. Seaside bird
39. Formerly known as dropsy
40. Make-up artist?
41. Blast from the past
43. Bruce Willis' ex
44. Chocolate substitute
46. Mischievous sprites
47. Plaintiff
48. *Advantageous display
50. _____ Spumante
52. Meddle
53. Largest share owner
55. "_____ to Joy"
57. *Coldest display
61. ***"What's on _____?"
65. Main artery in the body
66. Feathery neckwear
68. Isolated
69. Hipbone-related
70. Octopus' defense





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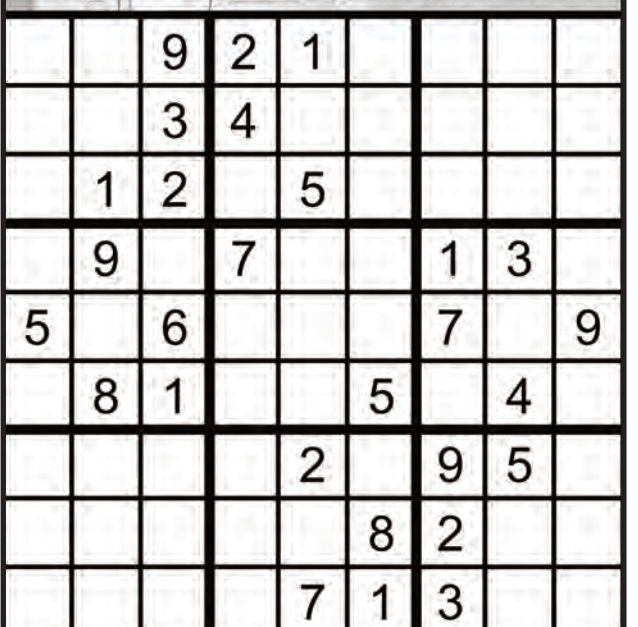


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LOOKING FOR A LOVING Pet or Lost Pet. Macon County Animal Control, Open M-F by appt. call (828)349-2106. Pictures of Lost and Available Pets, www.facebook.com/maconanimal

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BINGO American Legion Hall, 614 W. Main St., Every Wednesday starting on Feb. 1, 4 to 8 p.m. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Snack Bar Available.

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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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
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CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2021	Chevrolet	Corvette	5,792
2021	Chevrolet	Spark	82
2021	Kia	Optima EX	20,010
2020	Chevrolet	Camaro	25,641
2019	Chevrolet	Camaro	40,428
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan SXT	55,584
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	53,520
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze	34,692
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	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	Jeep	Wrangler Sport	8,094
2021	Chevrolet	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	Trax AWD	16,288
2019	Honda	Pilot EX	40,801
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox LT	23,569
2018	Ford	Explorer Sport	57,475
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	44,985
2018	Nissan	Murano	53,903
2017	Nissan	Rogue SV	58,866
2016	Dodge	Grand Caravan	76,458
2016	Lexus	RX 350	72,919
2016	KIA	Sorento LX	112,933
2016	Toyota	Sequoia	96,869

2015 Suburban LT 92,352

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	Chevrolet	2500 LTZ	4,635
2021	Chevrolet	1500 4x4	10,243
2021	Chevrolet	1500 RST	34,026
2021	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	10,842
2021	Chevrolet	LT Trailboss	34,069
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	5,822
2021	Chevrolet	Trailboss Crew	22,256
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



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