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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER



The Town of Franklin and the surrounding communities came together to celebrate the nation's 247th anniversary of America's Independence from Great Britain on Tuesday, July 4. The festivities began with a parade down Main Street with residents, visitors and their pets dressed in their patriotic finest along with vintage cars, motorcycles, a jeep club, championship sports teams and more. On the square after the parade, were food truck offerings, free watermelon and a cool shower courtesy of Franklin fire department. The celebration culminated in a fireworks display sponsored by the Town of Franklin. For more, see page 12. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Zoning concerns heard; Whitmire plan approved

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

Fresh off passing a new budget, Town of Franklin Council members gathered on July 3 to receive public input regarding rezoning requests submitted by Town Planner Justin Setser. A presentation was also delivered on a master plan

for development of the Whitmire property. Approval for two resolutions was given and numerous individuals were recognized.

Mayor Jack Horton kicked off the meeting by introducing Public Works Director Bill Deal, who then recognized three individuals

to protect current property rights ... so owners don't have some drastic change that affects their lifestyle."

working in his department. Travis Waldroop, water treatment plant operator, received his Class C Certification; and Chris Green, a pump maintenance mechanic, received his Class A Distribution Certificate. Wastewater Treatment Supervisor Jason Hopkins also received the same certificate as Green, but in Grade 2 pre-treatment certification.

Mayor Horton recognized Jim and Kathie Akins from the

Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center with a certificate of appreciation for their contributions to the Town of Franklin and surrounding community. The mayor reminded attendees of the recent 35th anniversary celebration for the Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center. He commented that during the celebration in March he happened upon the Lee County

"The whole intent behind all this is

- Justin Setser, Town Planner

Next, a public hearing was held to receive input on rezonings recommended by the Town Planning Board. Setser introduced a summary of his office's recommended changes to zoning in the city limits. In total, 509 acres are included in the proposal, which is made up of 352 parcels. The overall objective for rezoning

Commissioners chairman.

"He sent me a really nice

'Thank You' letter for the

hospitality you all showed to

him in Franklin and to the

Tartans Museum, to town

and county employees, and

the town manager."



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Hornsby meeting needs in Honduran community

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is to "bring the parcels into compliance with the nature of the neighborhoods they are in," said Setser. He listed several factors that went into the proposed zoning changes. In some cases, relatively small areas currently include residential, commercial, and mixed-use zoning designations. Setser emphasized, "The whole intent behind all this is to protect current property rights ... so owners don't have some drastic change that affects their lifestyle."

The overriding concern expressed by those who signed up to speak was for the Council to be cautious in their approach to rezoning. Speaker Carson Green offered that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." He went on to argue that he bought his property almost 30 years ago and it has been zoned commercial the entire time. "I've kept it maybe as a retirement possibility.

Lifelong Franklin resident Connie Stiles delivered a lengthy address which focused primarily on "tweaking" proposed changes around Sloan Street. She observed that of the numerous properties on Sloan and nearby streets, most are defined as manufactured homes. Her request to council members was to extend the R-1 (general residential) zoning to Cherry and Hillside streets, and if possible, to the majority of 2nd Street, rather than to make the whole area R-2 (low density) zoning. She pleaded that applying R-2 zoning to only a small cluster of manufactured homes on 2nd Street, and to a similarly small area on Beaver Lane, which connects to Cherry Street makes more sense. She also expressed concern with permanent recreational vehicles (RV) and tiny homes that might go up in R-2 areas. "Zoning is the principal tool for protecting property values, providing a stable real estate market, and the prevention of incompatible uses too close together," she said.

Tim Cochran, who owns a grading company and lives on Old Murphy Rd., also spoke and relayed that he was unaware the area he lives in was already zoned. Setser responded that it has been zoned as residential since 1974. Cochran argued that he has had his business located there and it has been used commercially, in that sense, since he first purchased it. He requested his property be taken out of R-1 zoning and made commercial (C*), whereby he can continue to store his equipment at the current location. He also reminded the Council that the not allow his area to be put on the sewer system due to regional high use by Mill Creek and LBJ Job Corps establishments. He professed to speak for some others who could not attend and asked that the Town leave Old Murphy Rd. out of zoning in its entirety.

Following the speakers, council members discussed making sure that the process of rezoning proceeds cautiously. "I'm sympathetic that if in fact someone can't get sewer



Public Works Director Bill Deal recognizes employee Jason Hopkins with a Grade 2 pre-treatment certification. Travis Waldroop, water treatment plant operator, received his Class C Certification; and Chris Green, a pump maintenance mechanic, received his Class A Distribution Certificate.

because of the sewer line issues, and has to remain residential, that's real troubling to me," Vice Mayor Joe Collins offered.

Council member Rita Salain pointed out that mapping should be looked at more thoroughly in response to some of the concerns expressed by speakers. Town Attorney John Henning Jr. added, "This is a good example where you can have a lot of different zones that bump up against each other in the same area. It is going to reduce your concern about spot zoning."

"I don't think anyone in this room is against proper uses of land," council member David Culpepper said. "The abrasion happens when people make financial or lifetime decisions based on something and then we come change the game, midstream. It doesn't seem exactly fair to people, especially in extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) [areas], for us [the council] to make decisions ... they don't have a representative here, they don't pay taxes; there is no way for them to influence it. I think we need to be sensitive to that. When you buy a piece of land, you have a bundle of rights. If it is already commercial and we dictate that it's not commercial, we are taking away one of those rights."

Horton concluded, "I think this board will tread slow and make sure they make the right decisions."



VOLUME 41 NUMBER 8

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023

Whitmire Property plan presented

Joel Storrow, senior principal with McGill Associates, opened up the Whitmire property segment of the meeting by stating his company has been involved in Franklin projects of some sort for more than 30 years. He then introduced Kurtis Durrant and Jim Ford, who delivered a presentation on the Whitmire Property Recreation Plan. After conducting a recreation study, followed by two public input sessions - including an online survey - they described findings from the surveys and also delivered a conceptual drawing on how the 12-acre property could be developed. Their presentation included potential costs and phasing priorities. The object for this stage of the overall plan is for the Council to approve and adopt the project master plan in its current form. The plan is made up of two main concepts; one design includes three different nodes of activity, while the second option has a variety of amenities that are all connected via a wide, multi-use walking path network.

The current anticipated cost to deliver the proposed park is \$7,534,320. For a state to be eligible to receive federal Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars, it must maintain what is known as a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The current (2020-2025) SCORP includes six objectives that serve to benefit the state's population, natural resources, public health and fitness, and take care of park amenities across the state. McGill professed to meet or surpass all six objectives with its master plan. The firm also assured the Council that their approach included goals and objectives that "serve the neighborhood and the people of the Town of Franklin with multiple outdoor amenities." McGill predicted a timeframe of three-to-five years for completion of the property.

Council member Stacy Guffey commented on the lack of American Disabilities Act (ADA) playground areas in Macon County.

"One of our most dire recreation needs in Macon County is an inclusive playground ... there's absolutely no opportunity for physically-challenged kids to play on playgrounds."

In response to a question on whether grants could be sought specifically for ADA-suitable areas, Ford responded, "There's specific playground grants that you might be able to use ... definitely you want to coordinate that when you establish what you are doing first, second, third.'

Following the presentation, the Council unanimously approved to adopt the plan as presented with follow-on discussions needed to hash out funding options, including budgetary considerations as well as maximizing federal and state grant opportunities.

Under new business, Mayor Horton introduced a resolution in opposition of North Carolina Senate Bill 675. The bill is described as legislation that "could be crippling for municipalities across the state located in counties of less than 50,000 [residents]." Additionally, the resolution argues that

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unless one reads the bill in its entirety, it is difficult to recognize its true purpose. According to the resolution "this bill would eliminate potential growth and stifle economic development efforts in Franklin by eliminating extraterritorial jurisdiction in its entirety." The bill passed the N.C. Senate, is currently in the House, and has already passed its first reading there.

Mayor Horton spoke in response to the bill, informing attendees of the importance of the resolution: "Half the counties in the state have less than 50,000 and a lot of counties don't have any land use plan ... to take that ability away from your town, I think, puts the people at a disadvantage. If we don't do something to help control the growth and the development of the perimeter of the town, eventually that area is going to be the town."

Council member Mike Lewis added, "It's [Bill 675] penalizing the municipalities that abuse that authority the least." Henning added, "It [the bill] acts as though a council is a corporation that goes around trying to benefit a town to the exclusion of the people who live in it, which isn't true. You try to preserve the values of the town and the resources that town has for the citizens that live inside of it."

The request before the Council was for the resolution to be approved and then sent to legislators representing the Franklin area. A motion was made to forward the resolution, which was approved by the Council unanimously.

Town Manager Amie Owens requested approval for Buckey Bridge, LLC, as the contractor for the Clyde Street waterline replacement project. She also asked the Council to approve a task order for surveying and engineering design of

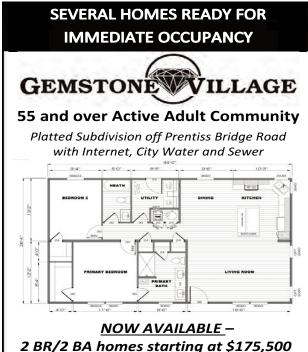


McGill Associates' Joel Storrow, Kurtis Durrant, and Jim Ford presented the Whitmire Property Master Plan.

the Wilkie Street sewer project by McGill Associates. Both requests were unanimously approved. Additionally, Sabrina Scruggs was re-appointed as the Town tax collector and was sworn in by Mayor Horton.

Quarterly updates from finance, planning, and police departments were provided. Highlights included Financial Officer Sarah Bishop announcing more than a 25% reduction in budget amendments needed in this year's budget compared to 2022. FPD Captain Matt Pellicer reported on police department business and informed the Council of recent donations. One was from the American Legion Auxiliary, which donated two infrared scopes, valued at \$4,000. The scopes will help the department identify suspects in the dark and increase officer safety. The Nantahala Bicycle company donated an ebike to the department valued at \$1,500.

The next Town Council meeting is Aug. 7, at 6 p.m.



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3

Historic preservationist takes on the saving of cemetery

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Alec Meier once played among the broken, faded, and sinking headstones at the graveyard beside his family's Cartoogechaye Valley home – just up from Cartoogechaye Baptist Church. The South Carolina native visited the area with his parents frequently after they purchased the home in 2005, and the then 10-year-old historian would listen intently as visitors like Vernie May Dills Elkins shared details of the almost 200 people buried there.

Since moving to the area full-time in 2022, the Stono Knifeworks' artist/craftsman has been undertaking the task of repairing and restoring the neglected centuries-old cemetery. In fact, with a historic preservation degree from the College of Charleston in South Carolina, Meier knew the roadmap for contacting the N.C. State Cemetery Board of Specialists and has become the site's steward/caretaker.

"No one else can legally be buried here," he explained, "and the property is officially owned by the state [of North Carolina], but I want to make sure the cemetery is not lost to nature. So, the plan is to keep the weeds out, the poison ivy under

control, the dead trees chopped up, the limbs picked up, and more. I have a close friend from college who works in cemetery repair in New Orleans who will eventually come here and teach me and a few others how to restore and care for the grave markers."

Recently joining Meier to walk through the cemetery was Willard Dills, whose great-great grandfather, Henry Dills, provided the deed for the cemetery and the property where the current Cartoogechaye Baptist Church stands; it is the third church building on the property since the church was founded in 1835.

At the cemetery – as well as another cemetery tucked off



Alec Meier is in the process of restoring and preserving a centuries-old cemetery in Cartoogechaye that includes almost 200 gravesites.



of Dills Creek Road – are the graves of countless members of Dills' immediate and vastly extended Macon County family, including his father, Lax Dills; his grandfather, Allen Dills; his great grandparents, Mattie and Vance Dills; and, his great-great grandparents, Susan and Henry Dills. His great-great grandfather's aunt and uncle are also buried there: Henrietta and H.H. Dills, who was a Macon County judge.

Throughout the sloping cemetery, with Standing Indian Mountain looming in the distance, are newer granite markers that have replaced old ones, as well as age-worn, handchiseled markers and even natural stones to signify head- and foot-markers. A hand-twisted, rusted barbed wire fence attached to rotting posts encircles the cemetery. Many markers include the image of a lamb atop the stone, symbolizing a child's death, while short spaces between two rocks also indicate children are buried there. There are graves of soldiers ranging from the Revolutionary War and the Civil War to wars in the 1900s, beginning with World War I. Some of the grave markers are simply white quartz rocks, and many are covered with untold years of moss or lichen.

Meier has learned that while some of the headstones may have been broken due to vandalism, many are damaged because of frozen water in the cracks or because trees have fallen on them.

"I've done some repairs of the stones, but I want to make sure that any future preservation is proper and done with longevity in mind," he

said. "It's important that the cemetery not be weed-whacked or mowed in such a way that the stones are damaged further."

Dills told Meier that some of the gravesites date back most likely to the late 1600s to 1700s.

"If my Grandmother Elsie was still alive, she could tell you about everyone who is buried in here." Dills, 60, remembers



Willard Dills, whose family in Macon County dates back centuries, joined Alec Meier recently to learn how a rural cemetery - where many of Dills' immediate family are buried - is being preserved.

attending many burials of family members at the cemetery, beginning when he was a boy. "Walking through here definitely brings back memories."

Dills explained to Meier that a family member was buried in the cemetery who fought in the Second Battle of Bull Run during the Civil War; a family member of Meier's also fought in that battle. While Dills' family member was not killed in the battle, Meier's family member was.

"And I guarantee that some of the graves that are just marked by stones are Cherokee who lived in Sand Town," said Dills. Ancestors on both sides of Dills' immediate family were full or half Cherokee.

"Once we clean it up and eventually get a new fence around it, I will have my number on the gate and I want people to be able to pull up here (where he lives) and take some time to visit the cemetery and pay their respects," said Meier, adding that he has no interest in the cemetery except for preservation efforts. "I'm doing this because I live here, not because I'm related to anyone here. However, everyone buried here feels like my family because I've spent so much time caretaking this cemetery and learning about the people buried here. I want to do what I can to see that it doesn't get lost to nature and fall into decay."

(For more information about historic Sand Town, read Jan. 16, 2020, Macon County News article online titled, "Sand Town: Cherokee/White community lost, but not forgotten;" and, for further information about Alec Meier, visit the site, www.themaconcountynews.com, and read the Feb. 16, 2023 article: "Nationally sought utilitarian knife artist moves to Macon County."



Grave markers with lambs signify a child is buried there, while some old grave stones are sinking into the ground. Alec Meier is working to make certain grave indicators are not lost to time and nature.

SCC honors high achievers at Academic Awards Ceremony

The highest-achieving students at Southwestern Community College were honored in the annual Academic Awards Ceremony on April 18 in Myers Auditorium on the college's Jackson Campus.

Among the honorees were 56 students who received "high honors" for maintaining a perfect 4.0 cumulative GPA.

Ellie Padgett was named the N.C. Community College System Academic Excellence award recipient.

The Charles McConnell New Century Scholar Award went to Leah Carter, and Jenice McKin received the Dallas Herring Achievement Award - given annually in honor of one of the state's earliest advocates for community colleges.

Megan Beck won the Bob Scott Leadership Award, named after the former N.C. governor who also served as president of the state's community college system for 12 years.

To qualify for the "Academic Honors" portion of the program, each student had to earn a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit within the last four years by the end of the fall semester at SCC, be enrolled in the spring semester and have a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.5 or above.

For more information about SCC, call 8 2 8 . 3 3 9 . 4 0 0 0 , visit www.SouthwesternCC.edu or drop by your nearest SCC location.



Macon County residents honored at SCC's Academic Awards ceremony on April 18 included, front row from left: Ted Trimble of Franklin, Bri-Anna Campbell of Franklin, Gabriela Rivera-Villa of Franklin, Tina Cronberger of Franklin, Emilee Duke of Franklin and Sara Walker of Franklin. Second row: Alyssa Smith of Franklin, Callie Roper of Franklin, Callie Barnett of Franklin, Reese Ward of Franklin, Abbi Miller of Highlands, Emily Swanson of Franklin, Elizabeth Crowe of Franklin, Anika Zuiderveen of Franklin and Abigail Young of Franklin. Third row: Brandon Penney of Franklin, Tevin Neal of Franklin, Dalton Jones of Franklin, Arlene Jones of Franklin, Diane Mahoney of Franklin, Kaydence McDonald of Franklin, Cameron Rodewald of Franklin, William Duggins of Franklin and Brian Proveaux of Franklin.



Catching Up: George Young – The Voice of the Franklin Panthers

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

Anyone who has listened to or watched Franklin sports, has heard or seen George Young. Blessed with a "radio" voice, Young is a familiar connection to Franklin High School games and increasingly in other areas as well.

Working for Backlot Cinema in a larger capacity and with Franklin Panther Sports Network (FPSN) more specifically, Young is involved with much more than just broadcasting. His duties include interviews, photography, webinars, tutorials, and more. While Young pointed out that Backlot's Luis Diaz is the "audio guru" and Clinton Taylor coordinates much of the behind-the-scenes work for FPSN, such as photos and live streams, Young is the face and voice of Panther Sports broadcasts. While newer to the video arena, he has been in the radio/broadcasting business for almost two decades.

He previously worked at WFSC in Franklin for 12 years as operations manager and morning show host, and handled sundry engineering tasks. He was a certified broadcast technologist doing a little bit of everything and was heavily involved with radio station broadcasting. With that level of involvement comes responsibility.

"It was a good experience but very demanding. You're on call 24/7," said Young.

Moving to Backlot at the end of 2018 brought numerous advantages to his work life, including better pay, healthcare and less stress.

"What we're doing, number one, is not going away and number two, every year gets more and more popular," he said.

As with so many things in life, the 2020 pandemic affected Backlot and FPSN – but in a positive way. Streaming and video presentations generated much more interest, given that social interaction restrictions were an inherent part of 2020 and 2021.

Early Days

Growing up in Greenwood, S.C.. Young attended Lander University, a small Division II school of about 3 to 4,000 students. He graduated in 2003. While obtaining his mass communications degree, Young worked with the sports department. He was the public address announcer for softball, some baseball, and also basketball while also holding down statistician duties. When he was in college, he shared that he was not entirely confident with "longform stuff," such as announcing an entire sports game. He intended to graduate and get more involved in backroom, editing, and behind the scenes work. However, upon graduation he worked about six months as a program producer Scott at WCCP for Clemson in the team. Greenville (S.C.) area.

Toward the end of his stint at WCCP, Young was contacted by the WCRS station manager at Greenwood High School and offered the play-by-play sports position for the school. His first event was a "jamboree," which is essentially a scrimmage series where he started calling basketball games on the local F.M. station. He said he was so nervous that at one point, just before his first broadcast, he begged the A.M. radio announcer to call the game instead. He persevered and made it through that first, full broadcast. Young worked approximately two years at the school, calling primarily basketball and baseball games. When the station was sold and started a Spanish broadcasting format, he found his way to Franklin, through connections to the person who originally hired him at Greenwood, Jerry Duke. Duke interviewed Young in early 2007, brought him to WFSC



for a sports talk show under Dan George Young prepares to call a game for the FHS Lady Panther softball

that year to begin calling FHS football games. After transitioning up the radio dial to 104.1 and 104.9, and helping orchestrate an antenna station move to Cowee Bald for a better broadcasting on the Macon County communications tower, he started his career in Franklin.

Young started working for Backlot/FPSN in 2018 and took on various sports including volleyball and even soccer, although he admitted that calling a soccer game takes "patience." Asked whether his seemingly effortless skill in broadcasting came naturally, Young quickly replied, "No, it's not natural. Talking into a camera – it's not natural. It's the same doing the games on the radio; you're talking to someone you can't see. You're not conversing back and forth with somebody – you're telling them what's going on ... as concisely as pos-

sible so they can paint the picture in their mind."

He also emphasized that people, when listening to a game, care about three things: Time, score, and who has the ball.

"Radio, is just better overall because you [the announcer] are the eyes of the people." But if you ask him what is the biggest source of recognition that he gets from people on the street, he says it is from seeing him on television. With radio, he does periodically hear back from people but they don't feel as connected as with television, where they often feel closer to the action because they can see it.

Objective reporting

While justifiably revered by many in the Franklin area due to their connection with him through sports broadcast, Young stated that he and Tony Christie, his sometime broadcasting partner, have been accused at times of not being excited enough. He said there is a segment of listeners who expect them to be "homers" (outright supporters of the home team) instead of objective deliverers of the game action. Young is professional and polished enough to appreciate that other than FHS fans may be watching or listening to his broadcasts. He pointed out that the most attended broadcasts are when opponent team fans are tuning in, who do not want to listen to a local announcer trounce their kids playing a high school sports game.

In speaking about what really resonates and sticks with listeners or viewers, Young offered, "Most nights, the outcome is going to



be forgotten. But if we bring the game to people and spotlight the kids, what they've done, their upbringing, how good of a kid they are character-wise, where they work, what they've done in the community – stuff like that we try to bring up." on at Parker Meadows." While the delivery is slanted toward Franklin, the FPSN broadcast team does all it can do to ensure an unbiased approach to bringing the games to fans. Byron McClure, whose own sons, Miles and Max, have played FHS sports, worked with Young on broadcasting football games back in 2007, with Mike Wood joining them in 2015. The team developed a rapport that shines through during their broadcasts of FHS

games. Young tells of the time when he discovered how to assist another broadcaster with better presentation of a baseball game by finding a splitter and taping a microphone outside a booth so the game sounds could be

heard more clearly by radio listeners. He also pointed out that many area high schools get locked into contracts through the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) or some similar proprietary arrangement. Using those subscription services can lock schools into contracts that not only cost money to the school to obtain but also comes with an additional cost incurred to tune in.

FPSN provides both the cameras and the

broadcast team free of charge to either FHS or the listening community.

"A lot of people still don't know that this (FPSN) is available for free," he said. He also admitted that one thing the network could really benefit from is a deep run in the high school football playoffs because more people jump on the broadcasts when playoff runs happen. Young observed that if he could go back, FPSN would be under a different title as his team has branched out in the last couple years to cover more events than just Panther sports events. And while that brings with it promise of future growth, he also exhibited satisfaction in all that has been accomplished with the network in a relatively short time and looks forward to the future.

Branching Out

Young also has peripheral interests, occupationally, that keep him busy on a regular basis. He has a side company that offers services for weddings or other area events. Recently, Young provided music and emcee support to the "Rev It Up for Vets" event hosted at Countryside Chevrolet in early June and he mentioned having a wedding the first weekend of July to work as well. Starting that line of business in 2017, he normally does a handful of weddings a year but admitted, "I

probably could be booked every weekend. I do so much at FPSN with all the games and late nights ... In fact, tonight (June 26) I am doing public announcing for the Little League 12-U (and under) tournament going

Clearly, Young's talents are in increasingly high demand and that presents opportunities to choose what he participates in without being hostage to a schedule. Doing so affords him the luxury of quality over quantity.

While there are always challenges when broadcasting sports, such as rainouts or, as was the case for June 25 rain delays - in that case Young finished calling a Little League District Five double-header at 12:01 a.m. the upside is worth the pain. He acknowledged that, as the "voice of the Panthers" he does not lack for work, and people in Franklin demonstrate their appreciation of his efforts.



by listeners in order George Young interviews FHS football head coach, Josh Brooks.

"I went into Lowe's and a man said, 'Hey, you - you're the guy who does those football questions ... on YouTube, the football game questions." Young explained that his team had done a "coach's challenge" where they asked coaches questions and recorded them. Once he was able to decipher what the gentleman was referring to, Young thanked him for watching and showing interest. "It happens a lot more now that they can see me," he noted. FHS Panther fans should be able to enjoy the smooth voice and spot-on observations of Young and his team for many years to come.

Young also wants to ensure that people were aware of the North Carolina Little League 12-U State Tournament, which sends representatives to Williamsport, Pa., for the annual Little League World Series in late August, early September. Six districts, including the one Franklin is part of (District Five), are coming from all over the state, July 15-21, and they are playing at the Parker Meadows complex. Young will provide announcing duties for that tournament. Following their regional championship win over the combined Jackson/Swain counties' "Great Smokies" team June 27, Franklin Little League will participate and have a chance to move on to Williamsport if they win the tournament.

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VOLUME 41 NUMBER 8

Dutchmen Farms joins chamber

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting celebration with Dutchmen Farms located at 3590 Georgia Road in Whistle Stop Furniture.

Dutchmen Farms is a growing, familyowned and operated farm located in the mountains of Western North Carolina. It was founded in 2011 and has sold freezer beef ever since.

"We started with just a couple of Charolais cows and over the years the herd has multiplied into a large herd. Charolais beef tends to be leaner than most others and the fact that they are raised on pastures makes the taste really stand out," said Anika Zuiderveen.

Dutchmen Farms prides itself on selling the highest quality meat on the market in the most environmentally friendly way possible. As a small cow/calf farm selling pasture raised beef, they raise their own

livestock from birth. The primary feed source is grass and hay for the cattle and pasture. They have a federal meat handler's license that allows them to label, transport, and sell frozen meats.

In addition to beef, Dutchmen Farms also sells raw honey and other bee products. A's Bees is the label on the honey. T-shirts, chapstick and other gifts available are great for teachers, Mother's Day, Christmas, birthdays or other occasions.

Being a family run farm, it's all handson deck. Scott, Tami, Cody, Anika, Zach and Joseph handle everything from feeding to pasture work to having and marketing. Their jobs have grown as they have, and their roles continue to change.

For additional information or to place an order, give the Zuiderveens a call at 828-349-0099 or visit their website at www.DutchmenFarms.com.



Dutchmen Farms is located at 3590 Georgia Road in Whistle Stop Furniture. Call at (828)349-0099 or visit the website at www.DutchmenFarms.com.

Franklin Chamber welcomes 4 Seasons Putt-N-Play

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting celebration to welcome 4 Seasons Putt-N-Play to the Chamber membership and business community. 4 Seasons Putt-N-Play is located at 7570 Georgia Road.

Owner Jerry Levan has created a fun, family friendly venue where kids and adults can enjoy 18 holes of outdoor putt-putt and race remote control cars and truck on three different courses and boats in the pond. There is also an indoor game room with virtual reality games and pool table, as well as a kids play area.

Have your next birthday party or special event in the beautiful outdoor pergola and picnic tables ending the evening with a fire in the fire pit. Birthday and special event packages are available.

sons Putt-N-Play at (828)421-8647.



For more information contact 4 Sea- 4 Seasons Putt-N-Play is located at 7570 Georgia Road. For more information, contact 4 Seasons Putt-N-Play at 828-421-8647.

Job Corps offering career training for young adults

The U.S. Department of Labor's Job Corps program has launched a summer recruitment drive in North Carolina, offering immediate openings and free career training in leading industries for 16- through 24-year-olds from low-income households.

Four Job Corps campuses are located in North Carolina: Kittrell, Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) in Franklin, Oconaluftee in Cherokee and Schenck (in Pisgah Forest). Job Corps offers career skills training in high-growth industry sectors, including advanced manufacturing, automotive and machine repair, construction, health care, homeland security, hospitality, finance and business, and renewable resources and energy. LBJ offers pre-apprenticeship training in bricklaying and painting, Oconaluftee Job Corps offers pre-apprenticeship training in building construction technology and electrical, and Schenck Job Corps offers preapprenticeship training in carpentry and painting.

Job Corps is offered free for ages 16-24 from low-income households who meet the eligibility requirements, and students can apply and enroll at any time. Job Corps provides hands-on career skills training, on-campus housing, meals, health care and job search assistance. For more information about Job Corps, or to begin the enrollment process, visitjobcorps.gov or call 800-733-JOBS (5627).

New Edward Jones office now open

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce joined with family, friends and colleagues of Ben Rodriguez of Edward Jones to celebrate the opening of his new office located at 400 Porter Street, Franklin.

"I am extremely thankful to be able to open my new office in the community that I was born and raised, Franklin, N.C. My amazing wife Kandis, two beautiful children, Ivory and Rome, my family and friends have been a remarkable support system," said Rodriguez. "As a financial advisor, I believe hard-work, honesty and passion are some of my best qualities. I enjoy listening to people and finding out what is most important to them. After that, we use the strategies and solutions Edward Jones provides to help them. I value the

privilege of helping people meet their financial goals."

Ben Rodriguez is a member and the incoming president of the Franklin Daybreak Rotary Club. He serves as an usher at Discover Church. Prior to coming to Edward Jones, he worked in the customer service department of Entegra Bank.

Max Merritt partners with Ben Rodriguez as the Branch Office Administrator as they serve their clients at the new location. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (828)369-5061.

Ben Rodriguez of Edward Jones opened his new office located at 400 Porter Street. Franklin. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (828)369-5061.



Thursday, July 6, 2023

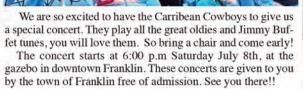
VOLUME 41 NUMBER 8

THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE





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Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square





The Legislative Review

N.C. Rep. Karl Gillespie

In this week's edition of The Legislative Review, House bills begin to move in the Senate and the legislature conducts override votes on the governor's vetoes.

For the legislative week of June 19, 2023-June 23, 2023, the House held an administrative, non-voting session on Monday evening.

On Tuesday, numerous committees met, including, House

Military and Veterans Affairs, House Commerce, and House Judiciary I. That afternoon I attended a caucus with my colleagues.

On Wednesday, Rep. Pless, Rep. Clampitt and I met with Pyramid Healthcare to continue the ongoing discussions regarding the possibility of a substance abuse treatment facility for the region. At 11:30 a.m., I attended a House Agriculture Committee meeting and we voted on one bill, SB135, Registered Vet. Tech. Modification. The bill passed committee.

At 1 p.m., I attended the Senate Finance Committee to present my bill, HB133, Graham County Occupancy Tax. This bill passed the House in March, and successfully passed the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday. Its next stop is the Senate Rules Committee.

At 1:30 p.m., I met with Community Action directors from Western North Carolina to discuss various topics of concern.

At 2 p.m., the House convened for a voting session where we considered several bills, including:

– HB192, 2023 Wildlife Resources Changes-AB, would make various changes to the statutes governing the Wildlife Resources Commission. I voted in support and the bill passed, 111-2. The bill now heads to the governor.

– HB608, Safety Requirements for Elevators, would change elevator safety requirements for certain rental accommodations and require the Building Code Council to amend the North Carolina State Building Code accordingly. The bill passed unanimously and has been presented to the governor for consideration.

- SB631, Minor Gender Trans. Proc./Public Providers, would prohibit public healthcare facilities from performing surgical gender transition procedures or providing pubertyblocking drugs and cross-sex hormones to minors. It would also prohibit state funds being used for those purposes. I voted in support and the bill passed, 66-47. The bill was referred to the Senate.

At 9 a.m., on Thursday morning, I presented HB133,

The Macon County

See GILLESPIE on page 11

& Shopping Guide

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Letters to the Editor

What Russia is really after in Ukraine

I watched a TV program in which an American farmer taught Ukranian famers how to cultivate their land to increase crop yields while preserving its viability for the future. This was in the mid '90s and I still clearly remember that American farmer being in awe of how rich and vast the fields of Ukraine were. He was asked why he was helping foreigners to compete in the agricultural marketplace. He responded that feeding people was what was important – "food drives the world." What happens when people starve? They flee and become refugees, often times in countries that spurn them, or fight and war ensues.

The verdant and vast fields are the joy and the curse of Ukraine because make no mistake, that is what Russia is after. Ukraine exports food that feeds almost 20% of the world. Russia is not interested in preventing starvation. Imagine Russia controlling the food supply of entire countries! Benevolent overlord? Experience proves the opposite. Enslaved people who are expendable if they are not completely compliant is a normal day under the Russian government. And history proves that Russia cannot be trusted; today, just saying "the war in Ukraine" gets a comrade 15 years jail time in Russia.

Right now, the USA has the luxury of sending only desperately needed weapons and ammunition to the Ukrainian people to defeat the Russian invaders themselves. If we stop, Ukraine will fall adding fuel to Russia's insatiable desire to control more resources and people.

This 4th of July recall how we are able to celebrate our independence and how it is only possible because Spain, the Netherlands and France helped the colonies become the United States of America by providing weapons, ammunition, training and soldiers.

Mary Carroll - Franklin, N.C.

Light versus darkness

Isaiah 5:20 - "Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil, that put darkness for light and light for darkness."

In the mid 1800s, people began to be converted at the rate of nearly 10,000 a week in New York City. In 1957 at Easter time the tall buildings of New York City left lights on at night to form a cross. In 2015, New York City decided to project an image of Kali the demon goddess of darkness on the side of the empire state building. Today, New York City is one of the worst cities for crime. Woe to those who call darkness light.

In Matthew 18:6, Jesus says it would be better for a person to sink to the bottom of the ocean than to cause a little one to stumble or sin. Yet today we have people who want to mutilate little children's bodies and we also have those who want to fill little children's innocent minds with filthy books that describe explicit sexual acts, graphic gender change, vulgar language and satanic themes. They know that if they can affect the minds of the little children today, it will affect the generations of the future. We can not let this happen. When a civilization rede-

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fines its moral values, when it changes the meanings and definitions of reality away from God, away from the created order, away from right and wrong to conform them to its own will and desires, it is making man into God. This is a formula for disaster.

"Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil, that put darkness for light and light for darkness."

Mike Townsend – Franklin, N.C.

People should demand an answer and wait for it

What is "communication that is primarily used to influence or persuade an audience to further an agenda, which may not be objective and may be selectively presenting facts to encourage a particular synthesis or perception, or using loaded language to produce an emotional rather than a rational response to the information that is being presented?" If you don't know the answer to that question, you are a prime target for it. Commercials are a good example of the above. Their producers have an agenda. They want to cause you to want to buy the product they are advertising. Sometimes it is harmless marketing. But unfortunately, not always. Many people have suffered and died prematurely because they believed propaganda from the tobacco companies and others.

Propaganda is most dangerous when governments, pseudoscience and big business are involved, and any rebuttal or opposition is censored. Governments have the power of coercion. This makes them very dangerous when they fall, or are stolen into the wrong hands.

True science invites peer review and critical evaluation. But in the past few years, public opposition to government/big pharma ideas has been squelched by any means necessary. This kills good science (and that's not all it kills).

Critical thinking skills are necessary to avoid being victimized by propagandists. One of my favorite bumper stickers says, "Question EVERYTHING." I wish millions had followed that advice in recent years. The most important question is: Why? People should demand an answer to that question, and wait for it. Compliance should be conditioned upon a satisfactory answer. Under tyranny, compliance is mandatory. Answers to questions are not provided, or if they are provided, they are not reliable. But as beautifully stated in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. -- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness." I hope you all will read all of this great document this 4th of July week, and think about its importance for the survival of freedom for ourselves and our children.

Ed Hill – Franklin, N.C.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

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Not surprised at Trump's mishandling of documents

The indictment of former President Donald J. Trump in the Southern District of Florida on June 8, 2023, is only 44 pages long. Yet, it is quite revealing. Read it. Since I am not a lawyer I make no claim to fully understanding everything it says. But, I plan to watch the case progress through the courts.

I am also currently reading the January 6 Final Report. It is over 600 pages. Read that document to get a clearer view of the conduct of Donald Trump from 2017 to 2021.

Through the eyes of a "man on the street" who tried to remain attentive to Trump's actions/ inactions during his presidency I am not one bit surprised that he has been indicted for mishandling government documents. As a Navy veteran I wonder how active duty servicemen and women feel about the endangerment that is manifested by Trump's careless/reckless handling of documents.

Two clouds hang over Trump: 1. What was said between Trump and Putin in Helsinki? And 2. Why did Trump try to withhold military aid from Ukraine? Is there any connection between these two questions and the current documents case?

Let me say here - I have no objection to investigating Trump. Neither do I object to investigating Hunter Biden. Maybe it is time to move on from Hillary Clinton, though. Enough is

enough.

Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius said, "If it is not right do not do it; if it is not true do not say it." These words relate to all investigations.

In a related political matter it is interesting to listen to Republicans rail about the "unfair" 2020 election that Trump lost while at the same time they gerrymander voting districts across America to gain unfair advantages.

As Thomas Paine said, "These are the times that try men's souls." Indeed they do, Mr. Paine.

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

Mass shootings result of legally acquired firearms

According to Terry Swift in last week's paper, legally acquired firearms are not the problem. According to Statista, over 67% of mass shootings (4 or more killed) in the U.S. were carried out with legally purchased guns between 1982 and April 2023. There has been a total of 142 mass killings in the U.S. during this time. In 2021 alone, 706 people died in mass shootings in the U.S., according to Pew Research Center. That seems very problematic to me.

For clarity, 80% of murders are carried out by firearms in the U.S., including 52% by handgun. Unfortunately, the latter number isn't broken down by revolver or semi-automatic, which are faster to reload and can hold larger-capacity maga-

GILLESPIE **Continued from**

tee. The bill passed with unanimous support.

At 10:45 a.m., House session reconvened and we considered various bills, including:

- SB246, Property Owners Protection Act, would modify the law of second degree trespass to include entering or remaining on the curtilage of a dwelling of another between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. I supported the bill and it passed, 101-4, and it now heads to the governor.

- SB389, Parent Consent to Donate Blood/Tech Correct, would require written parental consent for a person 16 or 17 years of age to give or donate blood and would make technical and clarifying changes to the midwifery statutes. The bill passed with unanimous consent and was sent to the Senate.

- HB574, Fairness in Women's Sports Act, would prohibit male students from playing on middle school, high school, or collegiate athletics teams designated for females, women, or girls. The bill would require a student's sex to be recognized solely based on reproductive biology and genetics at birth for purposes of athletic participation. I am a primary sponsor of this legislation, and the House voted to concur with the Senate Committee Substitute by a vote of 62-43. The bill now heads to the governor for consideration.

The House also welcomed Toyoto CEO, Koji Sato to the House floor. Upon session adjournment, I attended a caucus with my colleagues. Thereafter, legislative business concluded for the week.

The legislative week of June 26-30, began with a no-vote administrative House session. On Tuesday, I attended the Senate Agriculture Committee to present my bill, HB295, Promote North Carolina Sawmills. The bill passed committee and referred to Senate Commerce and Insurance.

Tuesday afternoon the House reconvened for a voting session, where we overrode vetoes on these six bills:

- HB750, Address Environmental, Social, and Governance Factor, would prohibit state investments from being used to push an ESG [Environmental, social, and corporate governance] agenda.

-SB299, Reimburse Late Audit Costs with Sales Tax Revenue, would hold local governments accountable for not fulfilling annual financial audits.

- SB329, Retail Installment Sales Act Amendment, would update financial laws to safeguard access to consumer financing and loans.

- SB331, Consumer Finance Act Amendments, would update financial laws to safeguard access to consumer financing and loans.

SB364, Nondiscrimination and Dignity in State Work, would ensure state employees are not required to endorse political or social beliefs.

- SB582, North Carolina Farm Act of 2023, would provide regulatory certainty for farmers and promote agritourism.

On Wednesday, I met with various colleagues throughout the day to discuss the upcoming legislative agenda. Wednesday afternoon, the House reconvened for the final voting session of the week, considering numerous bills, including:

SB49, Parents' Bill of Rights, would do the following: Establish a Parents' Bill of Rights enumerating certain rights of parents related to the education, health, privacy, and safety of their child; Require public school units to provide parents with information related to parental involvement in schools, legal rights for their child's education, and guides for student achievement; Require public school units to provide notifications on student physical and mental health, require ageappropriate instruction on certain topics in kindergarten – 4th grade, and create remedies for parents to address concerns over implementation of these requirements; Require health care practitioners to obtain written consent from the parent of a minor child before providing treatment. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 66-47. The bill heads back to the Senate.

- HB451, Noncontiguous Expansion of MSDs, would permit for the extension of municipal service districts to noncontiguous areas so long as the property owners in the area petition unanimously for the annexation and other requirements are met. HB451 passed unanimously and remains in the House for third vote consideration on 7/12/2023.

- HB721, State Precious Metals Depository Study, would require the Department of State Treasurer to study the costs and benefits of establishing a North Carolina Bullion Depository. I supported the bill and it passed, 73-40. HB721 now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Let us know what you think

Contact us and we will assist you in any way we can. Email: Andrew.Bailey@ncleg.gov or phone: 919-733-5859.

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zines.

The Second Amendment states "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." The government already limits what kind of weapons we can own, such as grenades, missiles, etc., with good reason.

As for a "well-regulated militia," it was regulated by the state governments. They chose the officers, and militia service was compulsory, not voluntary. The weapons were locked in a local armory, not in their homes. At the beginning of our War for Independence, only about 13% of colonials owned firearms.

This brings us to Mr. Swift's statement that "Our modern firearms are no different than the ones the "militia" had in 1776." The rifles back then could only shoot up to two bullets per minute by an expert, which is nothing compared to up to 45 rounds per minute for an AR-15.

Mr. Swift also states that the "AR-15 is not a military grade weapon." The ArmaLite company developed the AR-15 in the late 1950s as a military rifle based on the AR-10. Both were originally select fire (semi and fully automatic fire), but the versions made for civilians are semi-automatic only (one shot per trigger pull). This is the only substantial difference between the military and civilian models.

The breakthrough of the AR-15 was its cartridge. Rather than the traditional high-powered 7.62 NATO round of the AR-10 and M-60, the AR-15 uses 5.56mm ammo. While this is much smaller and lighter, the bullet flies much faster, and spins at such a rapid rate, that when it hits flesh, it is unstable and tumbles, causing massive internal trauma, rather than a single bullet hole that often exits the same size.

In addition, large capacity (30 round) magazines were developed and became standard in the military. These enable shooting that many bullets before having to stop and reload. There are also 100 round magazines on the civilian market.

The AR-15 was designed to kill or wound as many people as quickly and as easily as possible. Assault rifles are not what we've all hunted with over the generations. Given how effective our assault rifles have been on the battlefield, the Soviets redesigned their AK-47 to use similarly sized ammo, creating the AK-74, first used in Afghanistan.

The NRA does not refer to AR-15s as assault weapons, but rather as Modern Sporting Rifles. I'm not sure how sporting it is to unload 30 bullets into a deer in rapid succession. It is not responsible to allow the civilian ownership of these mini weapons of mass destruction. They can do as much damage as a hand grenade, but at a much longer range. Grenades are not legal for a reason.

As for gun buyers who have to "jump thru the many massive hoops and laws on the books today," Mr. Swift greatly exaggerates. To purchase a gun from a licensed dealer in Macon County, you have to fill out a form and wait for a federal background check and pay the money. That's it. You can also pay cash at a gun show to anyone except a dealer with no paperwork and no background check.

There are also websites connecting buyers and sellers to do the same. If Mr. Swift really wants to cut down on illegal guns, he would support closing the gun show loophole, and require every gun buyer to submit paperwork and pass a background check.

As for the argument that we have a right to defend ourselves, I agree. I own a 19th century rifle design called a 30-30 lever action. Remember those old Western movie shoot outs from a cabin? It's small, handy, fairly light, and it holds 6 or 7, and you can reload as you shoot. It's also good for bringing home venison or pork.

The AR-15 is the weapon of choice for mass shooters. It's time to stop selling them and similar designs to civilians. Unless you are planning on killing a lot of people, we don't need 30 or 100 round magazines either.

It's time to use common sense for the common good.

Scenes from Town of Franklin's 4th of July Celebration







The White Sisters

















Thursday, July 6, 2023



Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests June 19 - July 2. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Macon County Sheriff's Department

June 26

Jesse Boone Locke, 41, was charged with warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

June 27

Doyle Dooger Ramirez, 37, was charged with true bill of indictment. Costin Jiglau made the arrest.

Joshua Edly Gregory, 33, was charged with failure to appear. Caleb G. McConnell made the arrest.

Christopher John Jobe, 53, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Jay Wright made the arrest.

June 28

Juanita Marie Queen, 47, was charged with breaking and entering. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Joshua Anthony Wall, 37, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of synthetic cannabinoid. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Elaine Katherine Reinert, 24, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

June 29

Jonathan Wade Hurst, 26, was charged with failure to appear and child support enforcement contempt. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Zachary Robert Downs, 40, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance. William R. Younce made the arrest.

Krystin Lynn Zinkand, 30, was charged with drug/narcotic violations and possession of drug paraphernalia. William R. Younce made the arrest.

June 30

Michael Anthony Roland, 22, was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a stolen motor vehicle and failure to appear. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

Tyler Elden Deats, 27, was charged with a true bill of indictment. Costin Jiglau made the arrest.

Danelle Kay Jimenez, 36, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

July 1

Jennifer Marie Gerba, 43, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny and injury to personal property. Robert Young made the arrest.

July 2

Wesley Burgess Young, 41, was charged with second degree trespass. Sergeant Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Joshua Shane Anderson, 32, was charged with assault on a female. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

June 27

Regina Leigh Sanders, 39, was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

June 28

Carolynn Rosaleigh Willis, 21, was charged with felony probation violation and resisting a public officer. K. Harper made the arrest.

June 29

Logan McKenna Otter, 28, was charged with safecracking, possession of stolen goods, larceny and breaking and entering. K. Harper made the arrest.

June 30

Jonathan Wade Hurst, 26, was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle and possession of a stolen vehicle. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

June 19

Lily Marie Webster, 36, of Sylva, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance. No bond was set.

Rondy Lee Chastain, 34, of Robbinsville, was charged with display an expired registration plate number.

Amber Danielle Lane, 33, of Robbinsville, was charged with possession of heroin. No bond was set.

Anthony Keith Welch, 27, of Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, failure to appear for possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, conspire to traffic opium/heroin and trafficking opium or heroin. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Andrew James Henry, 46, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for trespassing. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

June 21

Kamie Calhoun Seay, 40, of Whittier, was charged with contributing alcohol to a minor. A citation was given.

Thomas Eugene Pheasant, 45, of Cherokee, was charged with contributing alcohol to a minor. A citation was given.

Teresa Lynn Cooper, 55, of Cherokee, was charged with larceny by an employee. No bond was set.

Randy Bryant Conn, 37, of Sylva, was charged with assault on a female, communicating threats, second degree trespass and assault by pointing a gun. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

June 22

Brittney Lashay Rogers, 36, of Cherokee, was charged with all other larceny. A secured bond of \$40,000 was set.

Thomas Paul Trantham, 28, was charged with failure to appear for break or enter a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$300,000 was set.

Joseph William Ferro Grier, 40, of Sylva, was charged with breaking or entering and second degree trespass. No bond was set.

Tyler Lee Hendershot, 27, of Sylva, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Ronald Jay Bish, 23, of Whittier, was charged with child support purge. A \$450 bond was set.

June 23

Darius Ian Lambert, 22, of Cherokee was charged with driving while impaired. No bond was set.

George Arthur Pohl, 41, of Glenville, was charged with

carrying a concealed weapon, resist a public officer, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

JD McCurry, 56, of Sylva, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with minor present, assault with a deadly weapon and discharge weapon on occupied property. No bond was set.

June 24

Jonathan A. Steed, 21, of Whittier, was charged with drive left of center, failure to wear a seatbelt for driver, no operators license and reckless driving to endanger. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Carlos Arturo Contreras-Gaona, 36, of Highlands, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

June 25

Graysha Waleska Stampe, 47, of Whittier, was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order. No bond was set.

Anthony Louis Grimes, 34, of Cherokee, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

Tyler Andrew Sutton, 30, of Sylva, was charged with parole warrant, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Brandi Nicole Moore, 29, of Sylva, was charged with felony larceny. A \$4,000 bond was set.

June 26

Max Nathan Hurley, 22, of Whittier, was charged with misuse of 911 system, resist a public officer and false pretenses/swindle/confidence game. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Thomas Paul Trantham, 28, was charged with failure to appear for obtain property by false pretenses, identity theft, financial card theft, felonious larceny, possession of stolen goods, misdemeanor larceny and break and enter a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$1,000,000 was set.

June 27

David Charles Roberts, 43, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for financial card fraud. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Sierra Salone Jenkins, 32, of Whittier, was charged with warrant service for other jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Ashley Savannah Frady, 36, of Cashiers, was charged with child abuse, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Ivan Jerrod McClamb, 34, of Pittsboro, was charged with failure to appear for driving while intoxicated. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Autumn Rae Evans, 21, of Sylva, was charged with breaking and entering non-forcible. No bond was set.

James Brooks Ramsey, 28, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for a criminal summons. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Frederick Earl Stillwell, 55, of Sylva, was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia and carrying a concealed gun. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

June 28

Charity Leigh Sampson, 40, of Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and probation violation. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

Alyxzandrya Kaylinn Bell, 28, of Cullowhee, was charged with misdemeanor child abuse. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

SHERRAR OFFICE

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Free Summer Meals offered for Macon County School Students, Breakfast is served from 7:30 to 8 a.m.; Lunch is served from 11:30 to 12 noon. For the month of July, meals will be served at the following sites: Cartoogechaye Elementary July 5-7, 10-21; East Franklin July 5-7, 10-21; Franklin High School July 5-7, 10-14, 17-20, 24-27; Iotla Valley July 5-7, 10-21; Mountain View July 10-21; Nantahala School July 5-7, 10-27, 31; Nantahala Learning Center, Lunch only 12:30 - 1p.m., Tuesday-Friday, through Aug. 18; New Vision Gymnastics 12:30 - 1 p.m., through Aug. 25; and the Macon County Library Lunch 11 to 11:30 a.m. through July 31.

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

Start Your Recovery.org is a groundbreaking website developed by bringing together experts in substance misuse treatment from leading nonprofit, academic, and government institutions. Through this resource, the community can find local support and treatment options; hear stories from individuals with similar life experiences; and learn about recognizing and dealing with substance misuse.

Cullasaja Gorge Fire and Rescue Annual Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 6, 7:30 p.m. at the fire department. Community residents are urged to attend.

Heartland Band Old Time Gospel Singing will be held on Friday, July 7 and 21, 6 to 8 p.m., at West Franklin Church, located on Sloan Rd., next to the Forest Service Office. All are welcome.

Ammons Descendants Reunion will be held on Saturday, July 8, 10:30 a.m. Musical entertainment and a catered meal will be provided. For more information, call Susan Hirsch (828)524-1808.

Cullasaja Community Summer Meeting will be held on Monday, July 10, 6 p.m. at the picnic area. There will be a short meeting, a hotdog roasting and some clean up around the area. Food will be provided. Plan to attend and bring a weedeater or rake to help.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, July 12, and 26, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the signs. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

Nantahala Hiking Club Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will Thursday, July 13, 6 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library, 149 Siler Road, Franklin. Bookstore owner Jenn Kelley will be speaking about how the natural beauty of the area can springboard personal

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Extension Agent Kim Terrell will present a Beginner Water Bath class on Canning Pickles will be held on Saturday, July 15, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; or Thursday, Aug. 3, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn the basics of canning dill pickles and take home a jar at the end of the class. The class will be held at the Macon County Cooperative Extension Office at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin. For cost or to preregister, call (828)349-2046.

Extension Agent Kim Terrell will present a class on Pressure Canning Green Beans on Thursday, July 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; or Friday, Aug. 4, 10 a.m. to12 p.m. Learn the basics of canning green beans and take home a jar at the end of class. The class will be held at the Macon County Cooperative Extension Office at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin. For cost or to pre-register call, (828)349-2046.

The Franklin High School Graduating Class of 1968 will hold its 55th reunion at the Holly Springs Community Center, Sept. 23, from 2 to 6 p.m. RSVP to Conley Shope (828)371-7558 or (828)349-9759.

Nantahala Hiking Club Silver Striders Walks/Hikes are held on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. The hikes are led by two NHC members, Kathy Ratcliff and Beverly Upson. The walks/hikes are three miles long and are usually local. For example, Winding Stair FS Road, Coweeta Lab, Greenway, Wallace Branch, or Tessentee Bottomland. For more information, call Jack Blake at (828)421-5661. Leave a message.

Thursday Painters meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Uptown Gallery located at 30 East Main in Franklin. All skill levels are welcome. Free to the public. Bring your project, supplies and a bag lunch. For more information, call (828)349-4607 or 28734pm@gmail.com

Historic 1895 T.M. Rickman Store is open Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 259 Cowee Creek Rd. Built in 1895 the store is full of historical information, displays. Music in the mornings and music jams begin at noon. Limited parking with additional parking available at Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center a short walking distance.

In-Home COVID-19 and Flu Vaccinations available for adults ages 65 and older. Drive through clinics will be offered in the fall. For information or to schedule a vaccine, call (828)349-2058, ext. 2280.

Gem & Mineral Museum on Phillips Street in downtown Franklin is open Wednesday through Saturday from 12 to 4 p.m., featuring gems and artifacts from North Carolina and all over the world.

Macon Chips, Franklin's Wood Carving Club meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Macon County Public Library and on Thursdays, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Franklin High School Wood Shop just off Mc-Collum Drive. For more information, call (828)349-6109.

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CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center Sunday, July 9, 11 a.m., Kim May will present "Be The Joy." Quaker Style Meditation in the sanctuary, first and third Saturday of the month at 5 p.m.; Yoga with Ashley Mondays at 6 p.m., free and open to all. Spiritual discussion group on Thursdays at 3 p.m., in the fellowship hall. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

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

Calvary Baptist Church has Sunday School at 10 a.m., morning worship Service 11 a.m., and Wednesday service is at 7 p.m.

Resurrection Lutheran Church (LCMS) worships on Sunday in the Sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship with light refreshments in the fellowship hall. Adult Bible class begins at 9:15 a.m. The church is located at 38 Wayah Street, Franklin.

East Franklin Baptist Church holds Sunday School at 10 a.m., Worship service 11 a.m. Prayer meeting is Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

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

First Pentecost Church holds Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.; Worship service, 10:30 a.m.; Bible study, Thursday, 7 p.m. The church is located at 164 lotla Church Rd. Pastor is Luke Bateman.

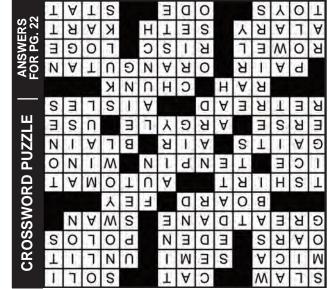
Mountain Synagogue in Franklin conducts services the first Friday and third Saturday of each month. For information, visit the website at mountainsynagoguewnc.com, email mountainsynagogue@gmail.com, or call (828)634-1312.

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

Franklin First United Methodist Church Sunday In-person Worship is held at 10 a.m. or on Facebook at Franklin First United Methodist Church, either live or later on recorded video. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue in downtown Franklin; senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524-3010 or visit us at http://www.firstumcfranklin.org.

Email church calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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Hornsby meeting needs for more than a decade in Honduran community

Deena C. Bouknight Contributing Writer

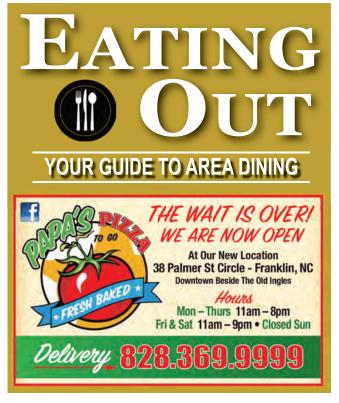
In the best-selling book "Kisses From Katie," young Katie Davis goes from high school into the mission field in Uganda, Africa, and since 2008, has adopted more than a dozen children and oversees many facets of her Amazima ministry there. Molly Hornsby is Franklin's own "Katie Davis." The 2009 Franklin High School (FHS) graduate has been in Honduras for the past decade.

Hornsby was introduced to shortterm mission trips during her senior year at FHS, and then she participated during college in additional mission opportunities, including trips to Honduras to volunteer at a small ministry. While attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she decided upon graduation from college that she would devote at least one year to full-time missions work. That was 10 years ago. Her parents still reside in Franklin, and her three siblings are scattered through-

out the United States, but Hornsby calls the Los Piños neighborhood on the outskirts of the Honduran capital city, Tegucigalpa, her home. It is there that she founded Future of Hope Family Ministry, and it is there that she and other Honduran volunteers meet the needs of people in the neighborhood. In fact, Future of Hope's main goal is "to break the generational cycle of poverty and violence by strengthening and empowering families through Christ-centered education, counseling and healthy recreation programs." It is also near the Honduran capital that she rents a home and lives with her two adopted children.

Yet, Hornsby's successful ministry did not happen overnight. She explains.

"While I began as a volunteer at a boys' home, God transitioned me out of that situation into beginning a new ministry after about a year and a half, but not before introducing





devote at least one year to full-time missions work. That was 10 years ago. Her parents still reside in Franklin, and

me to the kids I've now been blessed to adopt and getting me familiar with the neighborhood where my ministry is now based. The step from one ministry to founding a new one was one of the scariest decisions I had to make, especially as a 21-year-old in a foreign country that I was still getting to know; and, I was doing my best to pick up the language and culture along the way. But God was faithful, and what began as a small ministry ministering to a handful of families and helping 10 students stay in school, has now grown into something much bigger, all thanks to God's grace!"

Currently, Future of Hope Family Ministry assists at least 200 young people with their education.

A main challenge for Hornsby and people assisting her with Future of Hope is the danger they face. Los Piños is a large and famously volatile neighborhood due to the gang borders that surround and cut straight through the area, on the outskirts of the capital city. Yet, there are other hurdles as well.

"We also minister in some neighboring communities and a small mountain town located farther out of town, as those students come down the mountain to attend the same high schools near Los Piños because they don't have any in their community," said Hornsby. "As a ministry, we recognize that children in this country, particularly those who live in neighborhoods like Los Piños, come up against huge challenges just to make it into a classroom. The first obstacle is financial, as most of the parents and single mom households simply don't have the funds to provide the mandatory uniforms, long lists of school supplies, and bus fare to send their kids to school. As we've worked for years in this community, however, we've recognized that financial isn't the only or even the largest obstacle for many kids, meaning that our ministry has to go deeper than just handing out free supplies at the beginning of each school year."

She added, "A large percentage of parents can't read or write, making it difficult for them to support their kids' learning. Many never attended school themselves, so they don't understand the benefit or importance of getting an education. Also, many parents/grandparents live with deeply ingrained beliefs that a young girl 13/14/15 years old doesn't need to go to school, but should instead start a family. And if damaging advice doesn't come from inside their homes, it cer-

for both young men and women starts when they're around 10 or 12 years old, and only intensifies as they get older. Unfortunately, when so many children grow up in extremely poor and volatile households where kind words are rare, the simple promise of money and a place to belong makes gang-recruiting way too easy. Other obstacles include an underfunded and overcrowded school system, where kids tend to get passed along without actually improving their academic level, and a general feeling of hopelessness that it's impossible to really change your circumstances no matter how hard you try."

tainly comes to them on the

streets where gang-recruiting

But Hornsby has remained undeterred. She is supported by individuals and churches in Macon County and returns to her roots at least annually to up-

date contributors with information on the ministry's successes and goals.

"As a Christian ministry, we do our best to address all of issues to give the kids the best chance at achieving the plans God has for them and reaching their full potential, all while sharing God's love and truth with them," pointed out Hornsby. "We regularly visit each and every one of our sponsored kids' homes to encourage, check in, pray, and minister to both the students and their family, allowing us to walk with families as they celebrate accomplishments and also struggle through some of life's hardest moments. We also have tutoring classes throughout the week, currently serving about 80 kids ... We also integrate into this class students from some of the hardest home situations, giving them a safe place to be each day after school, a small meal, and a community of classmates and a teacher who love, care, and are watching out for them.

Last year, we got to watch 12 of our students, many with honors – from all different backgrounds and struggles – beat the odds and graduate from high school. Many of them now are working in professional jobs and helping to break the cycle of poverty in their families, and it was our largest graduating class ever and a definite highlight."

Every year, Hornsby raises the bar. An immediate future goal is to purchase land to build a community center.

"This center will be our home base, housing everything we do, and very importantly allowing us to expand our tutoring program," she noted. "We currently rent one small classroom, but in this new building we plan to have three classrooms, plus space to expand our library, giving us more flexibility and space to open spots for the long list of kids wanting to join our classes. We also plan to have a recreational area to have as a safe place for the kids to play, a large meeting room to do periodic meetings with our sponsored students throughout the year, as well as host job trainings, seminars, and more, with other organizations we partner with. After serving in this community for 10 years, we are excited for this expansion and have a place of our own, and the community is as well. When we decided on the land and needed to have all the overgrowth cleared out, around 50 members of the community (students, mothers, grandmothers, uncles, neighbors) all came out bright and early on a Sunday morning, machetes in hand, to volunteer

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and clear the land. It was incredible!"

Hornsby's longer-term goal is to establish such a strong foundation for Future Hope Family Ministry in the community that she will no longer be needed to oversee it. She shared, "I know that God has placed calling and abilities and gifts within the community already, and as more and more of the young people get their education, become teachers, become psychologists, become professionals, we recognize that their ability to minister to their community, share their testimonies, and encourage their neighbors is even greater than mine is. We've seen this to be true with the two local teachers we currently have working for the ministry who have both seen God move dramatically to bring them to where they are today."

Even though she plans to eventually pass the reins of her ministry to capable Hondurans, she cannot imagine herself not involved in Honduran ministry.

"I absolutely love what I do, so I would love to step into something similar, possibly using all the ... first-hand experience I've gained over the last decade to serve in a different area," she said.

While Hornsby has had to travel to the United States alone, without her adopted children, she is working towards securing their passports and navigating the confusing immigration process so that she can travel to the United States with her family.





For the last 10 years, the ministry founded by FHS graduate Molly Hornsby has been focusing on mentoring and educating children in Honduras.

Visiting her home town is important. She shared:

"Whenever I'm able to travel back to North Carolina, the first thing I usually want is some good barbecue! Also, lots of time hiking, being outdoors, enjoying everything our beautiful mountains have to offer, and plenty of time with family and catching up with friends that I only get to see about once a year. Currently, I think the biggest thing I miss is a bit of a slower rhythm of life. I grew up in a small town, but now live in a city with over a million people. The two places couldn't be more different!"

Anyone interested in assisting Hornsby's ongoing ministry efforts in Honduras can visit www.futureofhopefamilyministry.com.

Lightning Bugs topic of 'Where We Live' program

On Monday, July 17, at 6:30, the series Where We Live: History, Nature and Culture will host the program "Learn about Lightning Bugs & The Importance of Your Yard" with Sarah Johnson.

Sarah Johnson was born and raised here in Macon County. She is a naturalist, artist, and stay-at-home mother. She has spent her life on her ancestral farm, roaming the fields and woods, and there is no place she would rather be. Over the decades it has revealed glowing treasures: Lightning Bugs, Glow Worms and Foxfire. The program will reveal natural wonders that few get to see, find out why they are

in decline and learn how one's own yard can be a sanctuary for them – so that our children and their children's children will see them too.

The program will take place at Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center at 51 Cowee School Rd. in Franklin begin-



ning at 6:30 p.m. The lecture series, which takes place the third Monday of every month, is designed to give people an opportunity to learn more about our local area, from many different angles, and to enjoy a pleasant, informative evening together. The public is invited.



Career chef settling full-time in Franklin

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

"Picky Patty," as Patty Cook was known from an early age, learned to choose and cook food that she liked – and that pursuit turned into a lifetime career. Ironically, Cook became a cook, or more formally, a top chef.

"I never planned to get into food," said Cook, who has been gradually moving to Franklin full-time from Islamorada, Fla., for the last several years. While she was a teenager growing up in Annapolis, Md., she began not only learning how to cook, but teamed up with a friend to host dinner parties. "We did everything from the linens to the

food. It was a fun thing for us and we made some money."

Plus, she began to enjoy a variety of foods and moved away from her "Picky Patty" persona.

However, when Cook entered college, she decided pre-med was her path. But marriage and motherhood quickly derailed that path and she found herself not only entertaining often for an affluent husband but also helping a friend with the menu for a bookstore café.

"He asked me to make some desserts, which sold right away, and then I was making hors d'oeuvres for dinner parties and it just kept escalating," said Cook. "I began reading cookbooks cover to cover. I ended up reading about 700 cookbooks and really educating myself. But where cooking is concerned, I think I just understand the chemistry of food – what goes together and what doesn't."

Her parents had moved to the Florida Keys and she found herself assisting in their care as well as working with friends to cater events. "I just kept stepping on one stone and then another, where food was concerned. God seemed to just be directing my path. I opened a café and bakery in an artist village and did catering out the back, I became a private chef, and so much more. God just kept opening door after door after door for me."

Cook began to travel all over the East Coast, sometimes in a private yacht as a private chef. And then she entered the Christian mission field – in places like Thailand – and was teaching underprivileged, formerly trafficked girls how to cook and make a living in the field.

"I taught them how to prepare American Asian food – everything from bakery items to appetizers to main courses," said Cook. "I'm normally a shy person, but God took me out of my comfort zone and used my skills in China and elsewhere."

For the past several years, Cook has been the private chef for a multi-million-dollar rental estate in the Keys, living part-time in the property's cottage. Accompanying one of the owners to Western North Carolina enabled her to discover Franklin, where she now lives part-time and where she plans to become a full-time resident in August. She has decided to wait for God to show her the next food path.

"My style of food is considered transcontinental due to my travel influence," said Cook. "I've had to be knowledgeable about all kinds of foods and preferences and al-

lergies – all kinds of preferred cuisine. When I've cooked for private groups, I might focus on fresh seafood one day and Indian fare another and then French dishes another, but usually all dishes are influenced by an upscale Southern bent."

Her favorite food focus is to incorporate ingredients that are locally grown. "I don't waste anything, and the best meals are often made with ingredients 'off

the land,' as local as possible. Every day I wake up and look at what I have and what's in season and I figure out what ingredients can go together for a dish."

She added, "I mostly like to see kids enjoy some of the things I make, especially picky kids. Sometimes I've brought kids in to see what I'm doing in the kitchen. It makes them understand the ingredients and how they come together, and it makes them more likely to try different foods."

Patty's Summer Corn Salad

2 cups white sweet corn

- 1 cup roasted pepper, chopped
- 2/3 cup tomato, seeded and chopped
- 1/4 cup red onion, chopped
- 1 jalapeno, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon lime zest
- 2 teaspoons olive oil 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/8 pepper
- 1/0 pepper

Combine all ingredients and allow to sit for one hour before serving.

Arts Council names scholarship award winners

Mackenzie Paige Hughes and Alisia Michelle Johnson were each awarded a 2023 Arts Council of Macon County \$1000 Arts Scholarship. A recent Franklin High School graduate, Mackenzie Hughes will major in Film and Television at Savanah College of Art and Design. She is the daughter of Sherri Hughes. Alisia Johnson, a recent Highlands School graduate, will double major in Art and Accounting at Southwestern Community College before transferring to a four-year college. She is the daughter of Kristy and John Johnson.

The Arts Council's Arts Scholarship is awarded annually to a Macon County resident seeking a college degree in an arts field. Award criteria include talent, commitment, educational and career goals, and financial need. For further information, contact any Macon County high school guidance office, visit www.artscoun-



Mackenzie Hughes



Alisia Johnson

c i l o f m a c o n . o r g , email arts4all@dnet.net, or phone 828-524-ARTS.



Lorraine Theresa Sanderson

Lorraine Theresa Sanderson, 92, of Franklin, N.C., passed on to be with God on June 29, 2023, after a brief illness that she could not beat.

She started out as a New Englander before finding her way to Franklin. She was born to Raymond and Mae Plant on Oct. 13, 1930, in Williamstown, Vt. She graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy, in St. Johnsbury, Vt., and it was during her time there that she met her future husband who attended a competing high school in Lyndonville, Vt. On



Lorraine Sanderson

Aug. 28,1949, she married Richard Sanderson, the handsome guy from Lyndonville. They were happily married for 66 years before he predeceased her in 2015. They lived in Vermont and Emporium, Pa., before moving to Franklin in 2012.

Her family has continually been amazed by the positivity and joy that radiated from her. She loved God and her faith helped her through difficult days. She also loved her family and friends. She demonstrated her love for others through thoughtful cards, beautifully knitted afghans, kind words, delicious baked goods, and great hugs.

She lived life with joy and love. She spent many years working as a secretary and doing volunteer work. She was a member of Morrison Presbyterian Church in Franklin where she continued to sing in the church choir right up until she entered the hospital. Her voice remained beautiful, and she loved singing hymns and the many country songs that she and Richard sang together over the years. She also loved caring for her plants and working in her garden beds. She created a great sanctuary for a large assortment of birds, squirrels, and rabbits who feed at her feeders. Like her family, the little critters are going to miss her. She enjoyed knitting, reading her daily devotions, singing, and cooking delicious meals and treats for her family.

She is survived by her three daughters Carol, Patti, and Cheri; and sons-in-law, Loren and Doug; grandchildren, Justin and wife Kristi, Drew and wife Mary, Heather and husband Matt; and greatgrandchildren, Laura, Lexi, Sarah, Emily, and Salem. She is forever loved.

The family is grateful to the staff at Angel Hospital and the hospice nurse and chaplain who all treated her with great respect and kindness.

A celebration of life and reception will be held at Morrison Presbyterian Church on Thursday, July 6, at 11 a.m.

Suggested memorial donations may be made to Morrison Presbyterian Church, 511 Morrison Church Rd., Franklin, NC 28734; or Macon County Animal Services, 1377 Lakeside Dr., Franklin, NC 28734; or a charity of your choosing.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.







James Donald Blanton

James Donald Blanton walked into glory on July 1, 2023, after a period of declining health.

He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman with a special love for white tail deer hunting. He was a skilled craftsman, building cabinets and other woodwork for many years. He was a proud U.S. Army veteran having served in the Korean Conflict and was a proud supporter of various military related causes. Among other admirable qualities, he was a published author and poet, having written many gospel poems that his family will

treasure.



James Donald Blanton

He was preceded in death by his mother and father, Bonnie Bridges Blanton and Robert McKinley Blanton; a brother, Lee Blanton; and sister, Hazel Laws.

He is survived by his loving and dedicated wife of 58 years, Jo Doris Blanton known as Jody; son, Jerry Blanton (Lindy); daughter, Judy Blanton; grandchildren. Tyler Blanton (April), Logan Blanton (Rebekah), Rachel Cowart (Justin), Christen Welch; brother, John Blanton (Lucille) of Charleston, S.C.; and great grandchildren, Camilla, Owen, Addison, Aubreigh, Gabriel, Willow, and Everett.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, July 5, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. American Legion Post #108 and VFW Post #7339 presented Military Honors.

Honorary pallbearers were Tyler Blanton, Logan Blanton, and Justin Cowart.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his honor to veterans or children's related charities.

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

Macon Funeral Home handling the arrangements.

Michael Anthony Wood

Michael Anthony Wood, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, June 25, 2023.

Born in Plainfield, N.J., he was the son of the late Michael and Addie Diana Wood. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a grandson, Jeremiah Gribble; two brothers; and one sister.

He proudly served in the United States Air Force as a paratrooper, and later went on to be a general contractor. He was a 4th degree in the Knights of Columbus and served with several Italian American Associations. He was a member of St. Johns Michael Anthony Wood

Episcopal Church in Franklin.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joyce Dubiel Wood of Franklin; son, Michael A. Wood Jr. of Kennesaw, Ga.; daughter, Michele Smiley (Dale) of Franklin; and two grandchildren, Nicole Wood and Zach Wood.

A celebration of life will be at a later date at St. Johns Episcopal Church. Pastor Carl Southerland will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Johns Episcopal Church.

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

Mary Paulette Bradley

Mary Paulette Bradley, 65, passed away on June 30, 2023, after a lengthy decline of health, but so thankful that she is now eternally healed forever.

She was better known to those that loved her by "Polly" or "sissy" or her very favorite, "pop-pop." She was born in Franklin, N.C., on May 26, 1958, to the late Kenneth Holland and the late Betty Jo Holland.

She loved laughing and telling jokes. She just loved in general in a huge way. She loved cooking Mary Paulette Bradley and feeding people and loved her

time spent with her husband canning foods and coming up with delicious dishes. You never had to wonder where you stood with her because she would be the very first to tell you.

Polly retired from Macon County Department of Social Services. During her years there, she helped countless people. Her most treasured job that she had during her working years was the time she spent at the Macon Citizens Habilities, Inc. There are no words to express the joy and love that she experienced working there. It was not uncommon at all for her to take some of the employees home with her. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Franklin where she loved to work with the younger children in the nursery.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by a brother, Kenneth Gerald Holland and sister, LeAnn Holland.

She is survived by her husband, Terry W. Bradley: sister, Sandra Breedlove (Terry); sister-in-law, Brenda Bradley; and step daughter, Rebecca Pruitt (Allen).

She never gave birth to her own children but had a niece and nephews that she deeply loved as her own. She could not have loved them more if they were her own. They loved her right back as a second mother. They are April Ward (David), Jeremy Holland (Tracey), Nathaniel Breedlove (Amy), Brandon Breedlove (Nancy), and Matthew Breedlove (Brooke). These special children brought her what she considered her own grandchildren. And spoil them she did. They are Josey Ward, Angel Ward, Chloe Breedlove, Kelton Elkins, Alex Breedlove, Cadee Breedlove, Zachary Breedlove, Jake Breedlove, Patrick Breedlove, Ashley Holland, Sara Holland, Gabrial Lamb, and Evan McCourt. They gave her the name "pop-pop" and that would turn out to be her very favorite.

Services were held at the First Baptist Church in Franklin, on Monday, July 3, with Rev. Brandon Breedlove and Rev. Robert Brown officiating. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Matthew Breedlove, Nathaniel Breedlove, Josey Ward, Dereck Jones, Kenney Chastain and Joel Schick. Honorary pallbearers were present active deacons of the First Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to First Baptist Church, Children's Dept., 69 Iotla St, Franklin, NC 28734.

Right now, three things remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is Love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Polly was pure Love. To know her was to love her and she will be greatly missed.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Betty Rochelle Sanders

Betty Rochelle Sanders, 85, went home to be with the Lord June 28, 2023. She was born March 28, 1938, in Macon County to the late Carl Henson and Gussie Ledford Henson.

She was married to the late John "Jay" Quince Sanders for 66 years until his passing in 2021. She worked 30 plus years for Peoples Department Store as a sales clerk. She also worked as an Election Poll Worker. She loved reading and Atlanta Braves Baseball. She was a member of Prentiss Baptist Betty Rochelle Sanders Church.



In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Jeff Sanders; a grandson, Jason Friedling; two sisters, Barbara Moses and Loretta Riddle; and three brothers, Guy, Hoover, and Don Henson.

Survivors include her daughter, Sharon Cates (Kevin) of Weeki Wachee, Fla.; her son, Michael Sanders (Carol) of Franklin, N.C.; her brother, Doyle Henson of Hayesville, N.C.; eight grandchildren, Joseph Friedling, Autumn Sanders, Devan Sanders, Kayla Sanders, Brianna Stewart, Chris Cates, Candace Cregan, and Daniel Vanacore; two great grandchildren, Jacob and James Friedling; and close family member, June Hodgin.

A graveside service was held Monday, July 3, at Prentiss Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating.

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

WNC Civil War Roundtable hosts July 10 program in Waynesville

The Western North Carolina Civil War Round Table continues its 2023 series of programs on Monday, July 10, at 7 p.m. with Dr. Judkin Browning. The program will take place at the Haywood County Public Library in Waynesville at 678 S. Haywood St. It is free and open to the public.

Judkin Browning will show how the Civil War was a moment of transformation in Americans' relationship to the natural world, fundamentally altering relationships between Americans and nature. Adopting an ecological approach to study the conflict offers a holistic view of the war. Military strategy and battles were important, but so were a host of other factors, including disease, weather, draft animals, the need for sustenance, the biological reality of death, and the vagaries of terrain and natural vegetation.

Dr. Browning received his MA in Public History at North Carolina State University, completing his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia. He has written "The Southern Mind under Union Rule" "Shifting Loyalties," and "An Environmental History of the Civil War." He has also written a history of The Seven Days' Battles, reassessing that campaign and the reasons for its ultimate outcome.

More information about future programs and field trips with the Roundtable can be found at http://wnccwrt.com.



New Zealander Shane Van Gisbergen wins Chicago Street Race in NASCAR debut

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

CHICAGO-Drenching rain and standing water on the CHICAGO—When the Grant Park 220 turned topsy-turvy at the 49-lap mark, the change didn't slow New Zealander Shane van Gisbergen, the first driver to win a race in his first NASCAR Cup Series start since Johnny Rutherford accomplished the feat 60 years ago.

Driving the No. 91 Chevrolet under the aegis of Trackhouse Racing's Project 91 program, the three-time Supercars champion charged from eighth on a Lap 61 restart to the front of the field and won the series' first-ever street race on the Chicago Street Course in overtime.

Asked whether he thought victory was possible in his NASCAR debut, Van Gisbergen chuckled.

"No, of course not, but you always dream of it," he said. "Thank you so much to the Trackhouse team and (sponsor) Enhance Health, Project91. What an experience in the crowd out here. This was so cool. This is what you dream of. Hopefully, I can come and do more."

What changed the tenor of the race dramatically was NASCAR's decision near the midpoint of the event to shorten the race from the scheduled 100 laps to 75, putting a large group of cars that had pitted on Lap 43 inside their fuel window.

After the previously dominant cars of Christopher Bell, Kyle Larson and Tyler Reddick pitted with others for tires and fuel on Lap 47-Van Gisbergen among them—Justin Haley, Austin Dillon and Chase Elliott led the field to green on a single-file restart on Lap 49. At the time Van Gisbergen was 18th, but not for long.

"Wow, when we had that back strategy back to 18th, I started to worry a bit, but the racing was really good," said Van Gisbergen. "Everyone was respectful. It was tough, but a lot of fun."

The Kiwi passed Haley for the lead on Lap 71 and beat him to the finish line by 1.259 seconds, after the sliding car of Bubba Wallace knocked Ricky Stenhouse's Chevrolet into the Turn 1 tire barrier to cause the ninth caution on Lap 74 and force overtime.

The decision to shorten the race was a saving grace for Elliott, who had crashed his No. 9 Chevrolet during qualifying and started from the rear of the field in a backup car. Elliott held third after the final restart and finished ahead of Hendrick Motorsports teammate Kyle Larson and Kyle Busch, who were fourth and fifth, respectively.

"Once they changed that race distance, we got pretty fortunate to end up being able to make it on gas," Elliott said. "We kind of inadvertently flipped the strategy."

Haley, who started 36th after crashing in practice on Saturday, said he was beaten by a world-class driver on 16-lap better tires.

'Yeah, it was tough," Haley said. "I put it in the tire barrier yesterday and we stayed up all night. I stayed with the guys through the rain and rewrapped this thing, put a new body on it...

"Obviously congrats to Project91. It sucks, obviously, where we are right now we don't have a... we aren't in position to win every week, so coming that close obviously is not what you want.

"But just really proud of everyone at Kaulig Racing and what an awesome event. Can't wait to come back next year."

Shortening the race wasn't what Bell wanted or needed. He had overtaken Reddick for the lead on Lap 9 and won the first 20-lap stage by a comfortable margin. After a cycle of green-flag pit stops, Bell held an advantage of nearly nine

seconds before Noah Gragson's third adventure into the Turn

6 tire barrier caused the third caution on Lap 29. By then, drivers had transitioned from wet tires at the start

of the event to slicks as the racing line dried out. Bell survived two subsequent cautions and won Stage 2

under yellow after Alex Bowman stopped on the track at the exit from Turn 5 because of engine issues. By then, Larson had worked his way into the second position and was hounding Bell before the caution.

After the field flipped, Bell finished 18th, thanks to a late spin into a tire barrier.

Delayed for nearly 75 minutes by rain, the historic race was eventful from the start. As soon as the green flag waved, Reddick pulled even with pole winner Denny Hamlin. The drivers raced side-by-side until Reddick cleared Hamlin through Turn 5.

Aric Almirola spun near Turn 6 on the opening lap. Erik Jones drove too deep into Turn 6 and collected Brad Keselowski and Gragson. All three drivers extricated themselves from the tire barrier and continued.

On Lap 2, Hamlin slid sideways into the tire barrier on the outside of Turn 2 and lost 11 positions. A lap later, Busch lost control while making a move off the racing line and plowed nose-first into the tire barrier, causing the race's first caution.

After a safety crew pulled Busch's No. 8 Chevrolet from

Shane Van Gisbergen, driver of the #91 Enhance Health Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Grant Park 220 at the Chicago Street Course on July 02, 2023, in Chicago, III. Photos by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

the barrier with a tether, Busch rejoined the field without losing a lap. On Lap 13, Gragson buried the nose of his No. 42 Chevy into the barrier in Turn 6, which proved an early trouble spot on the wet street course.

Hamlin never recovered from his accident and finished 11th. Busch, on the other hand, took advantage of his early pit stop to come home fifth.

Austin Cindric, Michael McDowell, Joey Logano, Ty Gibbs and Chris Buescher completed the top 10.

Cole Custer declared winner of rain-shortened Chicago Xfinity race

CHICAGO—Drenching rain and standing water on the Chicago Street Course forced NASCAR to declare Cole Custer the winner of The Loop 121 NASCAR Xfinity Series race three laps short of halfway and five laps short of the completion of Stage 2.

Custer had led all 25 laps of NASCAR's first-ever street course race before lightning strikes in the area Saturday on NASCAR to red flag the race and then to postpone completion until Sunday morning. But the rain persisted, forcing NASCAR's hand.

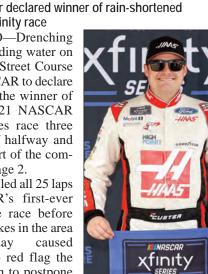
"It's been an awesome Custer, who drives the No.

Cole Custer, driver of the #00 HAAS Automation Ford, was the winner of the pole award during qualifying for the NASCAR Xfinity Series The Loop 121 at the weekend overall," said Chicago Street Course last Saturday.





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NASCAR News

00 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford. "The whole event, the whole thing that NASCAR's put on here-the whole city-it's been pretty unreal... The course is such a blast to drive.

"Today, we definitely wish we could have run all the laps. We don't want to win it this way, but at the end of the day, we had a really fast car. I think everybody knew that."

This marks the first time NASCAR has declared a winner short of the halfway point or the end of the second stage, the two benchmarks for an official event (with the second criterion in effect starting in 2020 after the advent of stage racing, which was introduced in 2017).

NASCAR issued a statement explaining the decision to curtail the race:

"With standing water and flooding a significant issue at the race track and throughout the city, there was no option to return to racing prior to shifting to NASCAR Cup Series race operations. Throughout the entire planning process for the Chicago Street Race, our relationship with the City of Chicago has been strong and among the most valuable assets in reaching this historic weekend.

"In the spirit of that partnership, returning on Monday for the completion of a NASCAR Xfinity Series event two laps short of halfway was an option we chose not to employ. Based on several unprecedented circumstances, NASCAR has made the decision to declare Cole Custer the winner of the race."

The victory was Custer's second of the season, the 12th of his career and his 10th straight top-10 finish this season.

John Hunter Nemechek finished second and leads the series standings by 16 points over Austin Hill, who was credited with a fifth-place result. Nemechek clearly was



Crew members push cars off the course after a weather-shortened NASCAR Xfinity Series The Loop 121 at the Chicago Street Course on July 02, 2023 in Chicago, III. Photo by Michael Reaves/Getty Images





Cole Custer, driver of the #00 HAAS Automation Ford, and crew celebrate in victory lane after winning weather-shortened NASCAR Xfinity Series The Loop 121 at the Chicago Street Course on July 02, 2023, in Chicago, III. Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

> impressed with the spectacle of NASCAR's first street race.

"Racing downtown on the streets of Chicago was pretty amazing," he said. "The whole experience, the atmosphere and how many fans were here -- I give a lot of props to everyone at NASCAR. Everyone involved with the Chicago Street Course did an amazing job. Riding around under caution yesterday, being able to see all of the fans lined up three or four rows deep along the fence with no open spots was incredible. Probably

one of the best attendances we've had so far this year in the Xfinity Series.

"The race went OK for us. I ran P2 from the drop of the green flag until lap 25 when they called it (Saturday). We needed a good stop to be able to make an adjustment and have a shot to contend with Cole for the win and just never had that opportunity. We'll take that second place, and we'll move on from it."

Justin Allgaier finished third and Brett Moffitt fourth. Sammy Smith, Daniel Hemric, Chandler Smith, Parker Kligerman and Kaz Grala earned positions six through 10, respectively.

Richard Childress named Grand Marshal for Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart

HAMPTON, Ga. – NASCAR Hall of Famer and legendary team owner Richard Childress will give the command to fire engines for Sunday night's

motorsports from inside the cockpit of the No. 29 car Kevin Harvick drove to victory at Atlanta Motor Speedway in 2001.

"To be the Grand Marshal for Atlanta, one of my favorite racetracks as a driver and a car owner, is an honor," said Childress.

His team Richard Childress Racing has scored 15 victories at AMS across NASCAR's three national touring series, including nine at the NASCAR Cup Series level. With Sunday night's race starting with an RCR car leading the field during pace laps, Childress hopes the race will end the same way after 400 miles of closequarters racing.

"We've had some good runs there (since the reconfiguration). We've won with Austin Hill (in the Xfinity Series) but now we need to win a Cup race," said Childress.



To visit victory lane, RCR's drivers will need to out-duel NASCAR's best on Atlanta Motor Speedway's challenging high banks, with superspeedway racing that will see drivers race just inches apart under the lights. With just eight races left before NASCAR's playoffs, sparks will fly as a hungry field of drivers chases victory.

The Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart headlines the summer slate of NASCAR racing at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday, July 9. Featuring the first weekend of night racing at AMS since 2014, Atlanta's summer NASCAR weekend comes with increased stakes with the NASCAR playoffs looming large.

Accompanying the Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart is the Alsco Uniforms 250 NASCAR Xfinity Series race on Saturday, July 9. The summer race will challenge the rising stars of the sport to stand out and succeed on one of the circuit's most challenging tracks.

More information on the July 7-9, 2023, Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart weekend and ticket availability can be found online at AtlantaMotorSpeedway.com.



Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart.

Childress will utter the most famous words in



CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Macon County Animal Services, Open M-F by appointment only, call (828)349-2106.

Pictures of Lost and Available Pets, www.facebook.com/maconcountyanimalservices



Gracie is about a year old Staffordshire Terrier Mix. She gets along well with other dogs and loves people. She is on her way to being house broken as well.

Molly is a 5 year old spayed female Staffordshire Terrier. She is housebroken, listens well to commands and is very loving. She should be the only animal in a home.



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5. Natural moth repellent 6. To change, as in the U.S. Constitution 7. Fork prong 8. *"Harry Potter" animal (2 words) 9. Earthenware pot 10. *"Born Free" animal 11. I in T.G.I.F.

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(828) 371-2432

29. Hues 32. Backgammon predeces-SOL 33. *"Babe" animal 36. *"Anchorman" and "The Wizard of Oz" animals 38. Kundera's "Unbearable Lightness of ____ 40. "That feels good!" excla-

53. To perfection (3 words) 54. Taj Mahal city 55. As opposed to gross 56. *"Willard" animal The Macon County

& Shopping Guide

\$157,000. OBO. 3BR/2BA. Living room, dining room. eat-in kitchen bonus room. New window foot put the eat-in kitchen put the eat-in kitche

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Community Fundraisers

BINGO American Legion Hall, 614 W. Main St., Every Wednesday. New Hours Early Bird 4:30 to 5:30, Regular Session 5:30, 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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2023

FROM

2023 2023 SILVERADO 1500'S EQUINOXES

FROM

2023 SILVERADO 2500'S 2023 TRAILBLAZERS

CA	RS		
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	VW	Taos AWD	29,618
2021	Cadillac	XT6 AWD	18,875
2021	Chevrolet	Corvette	5,792
2020	Chevrolet	Bolt	17,845
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox AWD	47,233
2019	Chevrolet	Camaro 2SS	14,162
2019	Chevrolet	Equinox LS AWD	64,233
2019	GMC	Acadia	17,045
2019	Dodge	Journey	80,887
2019	Toyota	Camry LE	54,312
2018	Hyundia	Elantra	51,067
2018	Toyota	Camry XSE	71,178
2017	GMC	Acadia	80,692
2016	Mini Coope	er	57,659

SUVS MAKE MODEL MILES YEAR 257 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe Z71 14,662 **CRV AWD** 8,584 2023 Honda 2023 Hyundia Sante Fe 14,470 **CX-50 AWD Premier** 9,506 2023 Mazda **High Country AWD** 831 2023 Traverse 16,410 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4

COUNTRYSIDE

CHEVROLET



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YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES				
2023	Chevrolet	2500 LT Z-71	1,131				
2022	Chevrolet	1500 Custom 4x4	289				

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2022			4,635
2022	••	2500 HD	5,114
2022		Sierra	11,577
2022	Hyundia	Sante Cruz Ltd	2,682
2022	Nissan	Frontier Pro 4x	7,859
2022	Nissan	Titan Pro 4x	1,729
2022	Toyota	Tacoma TRD	12,056
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
2020	Chevrolet	1500 RST	90,498
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	36,463
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	GMC	Sierra SLT	21,064
2020	Toyota	Tacoma Predator	42,773
2020	Toyota	Tacoma SR	12,448
2019	Chevrolet	Trailboss LT	44,594
2018	GMC	Sierra Reg Cab	94,092
2017	Ram	2500 Reg Cab	47,650
2015	GMC	Canyon	89,008

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