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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Lady Panthers first string varsity team celebrates their first round win of the state Playoffs Tuesday night in the Panther Den as the second string finished off an aggressive team in #25 Central Davidson Spartans. Both the girls and the boys teams won in the first round and both will play in the second round at home on Thursday with the girls beginning at 6 p.m. against #9 Ashbrook and the boys playing #23 St. Stephens at 7:30 p.m. For more photos, see page 12.

Wake County Court approves new maps; Western North Carolina districts changing

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Just after noon on Wednesday, a special Wake County court approved new redistricting maps for North Carolina's 2022 elections. Parties can still appeal the decision by 5 p.m., otherwise, the approved maps will be the official boundaries for the congressional and General Assembly elections for 2022.

Three former judges serviced as special masters for a Wake County Superior Court panel have rejected the map drawn last week by the General Assembly to establish congressional districts that meet requirements established by the North Carolina Supreme Court.

"Today's decision allows a blatantly unfair and unconstitutional State Senate Map that may have been the worst of the bunch," NC Governor Roy Cooper said in a statement. "That is bad for North Carolina because it strips voters of their voice in our democracy. Our elections should not go forward until we have fair, constitutional maps."

Unless one of the parties appeals the maps to the North Carolina Supreme Court, candidate filing for the 2022 primaries is set to begin at 8 a.m. Thursday. The primary election will be on May 17.

The Congressional Maps approved on Wednesday virtually eliminates the newly drawn District 14 in which Rep. Madison Cawthorn said he would be running. District 11, which Rep. Cawthorn currently represents will remain nearly unchanged with all boundaries staying the same with the exception of Mitchell and Avery counties being moved to NC District 5. With a field of candidates already lined up for District 11, the new district will likely once again change for those candidates running for election.

While the court rejected the Congressional maps, the court approved the maps the North Carolina House and Senate that the General Assembly passed last week.

For WNC, the biggest change for the Senate districts would be Transylvania County moving to Senate District 50. A portion of Haywood County will also now be located in Senate District 47.

WNC will see virtually completely new House Districts. While House District 120, currently represented by Rep. Karl Gillespie will remain unchanged, District 119, represented by Rep. Mike Clampitt will see a significant change



Powdered infant formula voluntarily recalled



NCDMV director Goodwin visits Franklin office



RGNS Middle School performs Peter Pan Jr.

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Governor and state health officials

update mask recommendations

olina Department of Health and Human

Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley pro-

vided an update on the state's COVID-19

metrics and trends Thursday, Feb. 17. As

North Carolina's COVID-19 metrics con-

tinue to move in the right direction and

with vaccines widely available, the gover-

nor encouraged schools and local govern-

requirements to help us move safely to-

ward a more normal day to day life," said

Governor Cooper. "It's time to focus on

getting our children a good education and

improving our schools, no matter how you

Macon County Schools have been mask

optional since October 2021 when con-

cerned parents began to make their wishes

known to the school board about their re-

luctance to continue to mask their children.

The school board has since revisited the

optional mask decision every month since and are still maintaining that decision.

As other entities statewide decide how to

move forward, people and businesses are

urged to continue to make the best deci-

sions for themselves, their employees and

their customers. Some places, such as

health care, long-term care and transporta-

tion like airplanes, where a mask will still

be required because of the setting or fed-

Although many indoor mask mandates

are implemented at the city and county

level, six states still have mandates in

place: California, Hawaii, Illinois, New

A growing number of states - the ma-

jority with Democratic governors – have

planned to end their indoor or school mask

mandates in the coming weeks, including

California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois,

Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New

A press release from the NCDHHS says

Mexico, Oregon and Washington.

York, Oregon and Rhode Island.

"We are taking a positive step on mask

ments to end their mask mandates.

feel about masks."

eral regulations.

Public urged to complete broadband survey

Macon County's Economic Development cess will always be a challenge." Commission is urging the public to particisurvey is designed to gather information on broadband picture, guiding funding opporlocations without adequate internet access and speeds in the community.

getting North Carolina back on its feet so that students can learn, teachers can teach, businesses can grow and communities can connect," said Secretary of N.C. Department of Information Technology and State Chief Information Officer Tracy S. Doaks. "As communities begin to survey their citizens, we will gain a better understanding of North Car-

olina's internet speeds and need, which is net access at their home or business and decritical for building strategies to achieve affordable broadband access for all."

The five-minute survey was created in collaboration with the Friday Institute at North Carolina State University. The survey can be taken online for users with internet access and by phone for users without service and will be available in both English and Spanish.

"Every community has different challenges and unique needs," added Doaks. "Without the data to understand what those are, designing strategies and implementing plans to expand affordable broadband ac-



Information gathered using the survey pate in the N.C. Broadband Survey. The will be used to provide context to the state's tunities through North Carolina's Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technol-"Reliable internet access is crucial for ogy (GREAT) grant program, informing re-

search and policy recommendations, and supporting strategic targeting of additional funding channels. Feedback directly impacts grant and infrastructure funding in the respective communities.

This project is an extension of NCDIT's Speed Reporting Tool, which allowed people to report whether they have inter-

termine the speeds received at their address.

To access the online survey, visit: ncbroadband.gov/survey. Residents without internet service, but with phones capable of text messaging, can text "internet" to 919-750-0553. Standard text messaging rates will apply.

Residents with land lines or cellphones that do not have texting capability, may call 919-750-0553. The interactive voice response system will guide them through a series of short questions to obtain their address and register it in the database as having no internet capability.

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Governor Roy Cooper and North Car- that as it has throughout the pandemic, North Carolina is adapting its response based on the data and for the current stage of the pandemic. Vaccines and boosters are widely available and have protected millions of people against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. Treatment is available for those at higher risk of severe disease. And the state's COVID-19 trends are decreasing, lowering the risk of infection, and improving hospital capacity.

"NCDHHS has always been committed to using the right tools at the right time to combat COVID-19 and chart a course for us all to get back to the people, experiences, and places we love," said Secretary Kinsley. "At this time, the most effective tools are vaccines and boosters. Everyone five and older should get a COVID-19 vaccine and everyone 12 and older should get a booster as soon as they are eligible. It's not too late to vaccinate."

This week the NCDHHS listed 3,470 Covid cases, down 90% from mid-January's total of 34,803.

To date, North Carolina has administered more than 15.7 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with 71 percent of the adult population fully vaccinated. About 75 percent of adults have received at least one dose of the vaccine, including 96 percent of North Carolinians 65 and over. About 51 percent of eligible adults have received their booster shot. The national average is around 65% of the population has been fully vaccinated.

Locally, Macon County Public Health has administered 13, 285 first doses and 25,566 total vaccines given. As of Wednesday morning, 58 persons were active positive with 16 pending test results. Nearly 8,000 people in Macon County have recovered from Covid-19 and 102 diagnosed with Covid have passed away.

For more on the pandemic, declining metrics and visiti data, covid19.ncdhhs.gov.

for you!



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Powdered infant formula is recalled; FDA warns of possible serious illness

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is cautioning families about certain infant formula that has been recalled by Abbott for potentially containing a bacteria that can lead to hospitalization in infants. The recall includes powdered formulas Similac, Alimentum, EleCare and EleCare Jr., and they should not be used.

On Feb. 18, 2022, Abbott issued a voluntary recall for these products following an investigation by the Food and Drug Administration, which found the bacteria Cronobacter in samples from Abbott's manufacturing facility in Sturgis, Michigan. This bacteria can cause diarrhea and urinary tract infections in people of all ages and can be very serious in infants.

The first symptom of Cronobacter infection in infants is usually a fever, accompanied by poor feeding, crying or very low energy. If your child is experiencing any symptoms, you should notify your child's medical provider and seek medical care for your child immediately.

Nationwide, three infants were hospitalized with Cronobacter infections between September and December 2021 after using the recalled formula; other possible cases are also under investigation. No infections linked to this recall have been identified in North Carolina to date.

The FDA is advising consumers not to use Similac, Alimentum, EleCare infant or EleCare Jr. powdered formulas if all of the following are true on the formula packaging:

• The first two digits of the formula's lot number are 22 through 37; and

• The lot number contains K8, SH or Z2; and

• The expiration date is 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later.

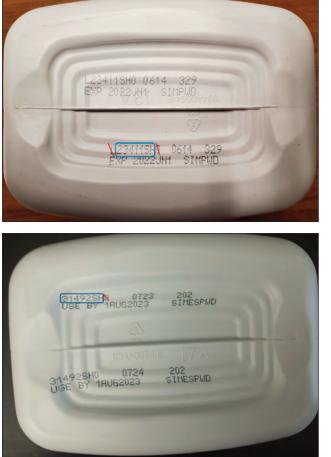
Consumers can che ck their formula's lot number, located at the bottom of the formula container, to determine if it was included in this recall. Below are examples of containers showing where to find the lot number and check if they are between 22 and 37.

Parents and caregivers can also visit www.similacrecall.com or call 1-800-986-8540 to find out if the formula they have is included in the recall or not.

If your product is affected by the recall, do not use it and go to www.similacrecall.com for a refund or replacement, depending on how the product was acquired or the type of product. Use different feeding options for your infant and talk to your pediatrician or health care provider about any concerns you may have.

If you are a participant in the North Carolina Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), do not use the recalled infant formula. Families with products affected by the recall can: return the product to the place of purchase; may contact Abbott for instructions at similacrecall.com or Similac customer service at 1-800-986-8540; or return it to the local WIC agency. Contact information for local WIC offices can be found here.

The recall does not affect soy-based infant formula, metabolic deficiency nutrition for-



mulas, liquid infant formula or liquid exempt infant formula. Consumers should continue to use all products not part of the recall advisory.

This is an evolving situation and investigations are still ongoing. For additional information from Abbott and our federal partners, please see:

• Abbott's Recall Information Site: www.similacrecall.com

• Abbott's Consumer Hotline: 1-800-986-8540

• Abbott's Press Release: Abbott Voluntarily Recalls Powder Formulas Manufactured at One Plant - Feb 17, 2022 (mediaroom.com)

• FDA Recall Information: Abbott Voluntarily Recalls Powder Formulas Manufactured at One Plant | FDA

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Heating costs and power grid stability a concern in cold temperatures

Mari Scarbrough – Carolina Public Press

Heating costs are rising, inflation is surging, and the coronavirus pandemic has left many in financial distress.

The combination leaves some North Carolinians worried about being able to keep their homes heated.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration warned in its Winter Fuels Outlook released in October that prices would rise — in some cases significantly — this winter.

"The high prices follow changes to energy supply and demand patterns in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," the EIA report noted.

"We expect that households across the United States will spend more on energy this winter compared with the past several winters because of these higher energy prices and because we assume a slightly colder winter than last year in much of the United States."

According to the report, almost half of the homes in the country rely on natural gas to supply most of their heat. Those households will see bills increase by an average of 30% compared with last year, according to the EIA. Estimates range from a 22% increase if it is a warmer winter or up to 50% in a colder one.

For the 41% of U.S. households that use electric heat, the EIA estimates they will spend about 6% more, with estimates ranging from a low of 4% to a high of 15%.

Less than 10% of homes rely on propane or heating oil for heat, but they could also see increases ranging from 29% to 94% for propane and 30% to 59% for heating oil, according to the EIA.

Power grid review

Paying for heat is just part of the equation. The failure of the Texas power grid in February of last year raised concerns about the stability of North Carolina's grid, prompting the N.C. Utilities Commission to conduct reviews of the system.

"I can't tell you, 'No, absolutely nothing will happen here,' but I can tell you we don't believe, based on what we know, that it would occur to the same extent as to what happened in Texas," James McLawhorn, director of the energy division of the Public Staff of the N.C. Utilities Commission said Jan. 27.

"I can't tell you, 'No, absolutely nothing will happen here,' but I can tell you we don't believe, based on what we know, that it would occur to the same extent as to what happened in Texas," James McLawhorn, director of the energy division of the Public Staff of the N.C. Utilities Commission said Jan. 27.

"And we are taking a look to see if we are vulnerable, where some of those vulnerabilities lie and what we need to do to try to correct those."

The Public Staff asked the commission to look into North Carolina's power system last May, but the request was on hold as the commission waited to see what would come from a report by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corp. Once that report was published in November, the Public Staff took a month to review it, then asked the commission again to review the North Carolina grid. The commission agreed and announced the beginning of its investigation on Jan. 26.

According to McLawhorn, looking at what happened during the polar vortices of 2014 and 2015 helped the state identify areas that could be improved.

"We had some generating units that had some issues but did not have to shed any load, did not have customers in North Carolina that were out," McLawhorn said.

While there were "issues," McLawhorn said they were not nearly as severe as those that occurred in Texas last year.

That "trial run" enabled the commission to review the system and identify needs. When a new natural gas plant was built, the commission ensured extra meas-

ures were taken to prevent potential issues, McLawhorn said.

"The commission in that certificate proceeding required some winterization," McLawhorn said. "Some components that might normally be exposed to elements had to be built inside buildings where the temperature could be controlled somewhat."

Significant differences exist between the power grid in Texas and the one in North Carolina.

"We are not nearly as isolated as they are and don't rely... on natural gas as much as they do," McLawhorn said.

"About 50% of our energy comes from nuclear power and so wouldn't

have the issues. We would still have issues, or could, because we do have natural gas generation, but it wouldn't be exactly the same as what transpired in Texas."

The commission's order announcing the investigation includes a list of questions aimed at electric and natural gas companies as well as water and wastewater utility companies.

The list includes queries about how often the companies source weather forecasts and the "robustness" of the forecasts. It also has questions about whether generators faced issues due to cold weather and how those problems were solved. Among other inquiries, it asks how the companies would alert customers if load shedding was necessary.

At the top of the list is a question asking what the companies are doing now as a result of watching the Texas disaster.

The commission included water and wastewater utilities in the investigation since they, too, were affected by the storm in Texas.

"In addition to examining the level of preparedness of the major utilities in North Carolina, this proceeding will involve consideration of whether amendments to commission rules are necessary to ensure preparedness, coordination and reliable service during extreme cold weather events," the order states.

A loss of power contributed to those failures. In the commission's order, it noted that the FERC/NERC report found that more than 14 million people in Texas were told to boil water.

"Broken pipes and power outages caused water pressure to be reduced, put pumping stations out of commission and ultimately prevented water utilities from providing safe drinking water to many of their customers," the order notes.

Jeff Brooks, a spokesperson for Duke Energy, said Duke is constantly analyzing its performance to learn what improvements can be made. The company is working to improve its



Low temperatures and rising costs have some consumers worried. Photo courtesy of Jarosław Kwoczała for Unsplash

system in all six states it serves while considering regional differences and extreme weather events.

"One thing you want to consider is that we serve a pretty broad service area, so some of those resiliency needs are different in different places," Brooks said.

"The coastal community is probably thinking more along the lines of protecting against hurricanes and tropical weather, but we were just in Wilmington [a weekend or two ago] getting ready for an ice storm."

Whether the company is learning from a hurricane or a polar vortex, Brooks said, the process is constant.

"We've been really taking a pretty intense look at the grid over the past few years," Brooks said. "Going into every storm we learn something new."

Duke has a team of meteorologists as well as self-healing technology designed to "quickly reroute power along main lines," according to Brooks. "That's a technology that exists in about 20% of our main power lines we have in the Carolinas, and we're hoping to expand it to serve 80% or more of our customers," he said.

The company also used the 2014 and 2015 polar vortices to upgrade its freeze protections, Brooks said. In 2018, the company "saw improvement" despite the cold temperatures thanks to those fixes.

"We're working to engineer a more climate-resistant grid that's also more optimized for a cleaner carbon future," Brooks said.

The utility companies named in the Utility Commission's order will be asked to answer the list of questions and participate in technical conferences in March and April.

McLawhorn stressed that the investigation is not being held because of suspected issues but to avoid unpleasant surprises. The goal is to be proactive rather than reactive.

"We don't want to wait until there is a problem and find out that there is a problem similar to what happened in Texas," McLawhorn said. "We don't want to sit there and assume that without looking into it."

North Carolina is actively working to expand its renewable energy sources. According to the EIA, North Carolina was the fourthhighest solar power generator in the nation in 2020. That same year, it was also the fifth-highest in generating energy from nuclear power.

Funding for individual needs

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program offers \$183.3 million in funds, including an additional \$87 million as part of the American Rescue Act, according to a press release from the White House. Eligible residents can apply to a county program, and if they receive approval, LIEAP provides a one-time pay-

ment to their heating company.

December was reserved for applications from those 60 or older. Others who meet eligibility criteria can apply through March 31, though funds could run out before the deadline.

To be eligible for the LIEAP program, a household must:

• Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria

• Have income equal to or less than 130% of the federal poverty limit

• Have resources, such as saving and checking accounts and cash on hand, at or below \$2,250 (resources will not be counted for 2021-2022 LIEAP season)

• Be responsible for their heating cost

Households can apply online through the ePASS portal at epass.nc.gov, by phone or by submitting a paper application through mail, fax or dropping it off at their local DSS, without having to go into the agency to apply. Individuals may also contact their local DSS to apply. The Department of Social Services in Franklin is located at 1832 Lakeside Drive. For more information, call them at (828)349-2124. All household applications will be accepted from Jan. 3, 2022, to March 31, 2022 or until funds are exhausted.

Unlike LIEAP, the Crisis Intervention Program did not receive funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. CIP helps eligible residents with both heating and cooling needs in emergencies.

While the state expects to exhaust its LIEAP funding by the deadline, families could possibly see additional help, according to Summer Tonizzo, a press assistant for DHHS.

"We do not anticipate having leftover funds, but if there are, they will be used to provide an additional payment towards energy costs to families who are eligible to receive a benefit through our Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)," Tonizzo said via email.

"Counties have up to 30 days to process the application and send the payment to the heating vendor."

To learn more about LIEAP, as well as the new Low Income Household Water Assistance Program and other assistance programs available in the state, visit the DHHS website.

Online gardening seminars offered

Fruit Trees: How to Start and Foster Your Home Orchard

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service will be holding a free seminar on How to Start and Foster Your Fruit Tree Home Orchard online Monday, March 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. via zoom.

Topics covered include site selection, the differences between dwarf, semi-dwarf and seedling trees, proper soil conditions, pollination requirements, differences in cultivars, chilling requirements, fertility needs, tree spacing and general pruning principles and more.

Blackberries & Raspberries: How to Create & Care For Your Caneberry Patch

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service will be holding a free seminar on how to create and care for your Caneberry patch online Monday, March 14, from 6 to 7 p.m. via zoom. This seminar is geared for those new to growing blackberries and raspberries or desiring to learn more tips on how to maintain your Caneberry patch. Participants will learn about site selection and preparation, proper soil and plant fertility needs, spacing, trellising, weed control, choosing the right cultivars, pruning, harvesting and more.

Grapes: How to Start and Grow Grapes

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service will be holding a free seminar on how to start and grow your own grape vines online Thursday, March 17, from 6 to 7 p.m. via zoom.

This seminar is geared for those new to growing grapes or desiring to learn the basics on how to maintain grape vines. Participants will learn about site selection and preparation, proper soil and plant fertility needs, spacing, trellising, weed control, choosing the right cultivars, pruning, harvesting and more.

Gardening Basics 101

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service will be holding a Gardening Basics 101 Seminar (free) online Monday, March 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. via zoom. This seminar is geared for those new to gardening or desiring to brush up on the basics. Participants will learn about site selection and preparation, proper soil and plant fertility needs, spacing, crop rotation, cultivars and the differences between cool and warm season vegetables and more.

To register look for the event at macon.ces.ncsu.edu/events

For more information, contact the Macon County Extension Center at (828)349-2049 or e-mail Christy Bredenkamp at clbreden@ncsu.edu

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- 🎸 Working for YOU, Macon County



Paid for by The Committee to Elect Browning for Sheriff

5

REDISTRICTING

by eliminating the entirety of Haywood County and instead also picking up Transylvania County. Rep. Mark Pless, who represents District 118, will see the entirety of Haywood County being shifted to his district, which will keep Madison County but eliminates Yancey County as it will move to District 85.

Filing for NC political officers may resume Thursday, pending Wednesday appeals

Lawsuits over the newly drawn district maps were filed shortly after the maps were approved by the General Assembly— while the lawsuits worked their way through the court system, filing for the November 2022 election was temporarily suspended by the courts.

The process for candidate filing is scheduled to resume

on February 24, with the primary being scheduled for May 17. While filing is anticipated to run from the 24th until March 4th, a decision from a panel of Superior Court Judges could change that this week.

Judges Graham Shirley II, R-Wake, Nathaniel Poovey, R-Catawba, and Dawn Layton, D-Richmond approved the new maps that the North Car-



Continued

from page 1

olina General Assembly passed in a bipartisan vote last week.

If no appeals are filed, absentee-by-mail ballots will go out at the latest on April 1. Early in-person voting would start April 28, and the primary election day is set for May 17.

Candidates that are seeking U.S. Senate, U.S. House or Representatives, State Supreme Court Justice, State Judge of Appeals, Superior Court Judge, District Court Judge, and District Attorney need to file with the state board of elections. Filing for State Senate, House, and all county and municipal offices should be done through the county board of elections.

Candidates who filed in December do not have to file again.



Last seen around Hillcrest Ave. (205)365-0195

WCU Forensic Anthropology Program expands

Sgt. Francis W. Wiemerslage made it home to Chicago after some 75 years, thanks in part to Western Carolina University.

A gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress shot down over Germany in the waning days of World War II, the 20-year-old was the only crew member whose body wasn't recovered from the crash following the end of hostilities. Enter Cold War tensions and the division of Germany into East and West, and the search more or less ceased.

Until, in 2019, a research team from WCU's Forensic Anthropology Program began a concentrated search for the airman, drawing on local interviews, anecdotal information and lots of onsite field work, including excavations. They found success. They

found Sgt. Wiemerslage.

Working with the U.S. Defense Department POW/MIA Accounting Agency, a positive identification was made, next of kin were notified and the airman was returned to Illinois in October 2021 for burial.

"Obviously, it was a pretty awesome experience in Germany. One of the goals of our program is to produce graduates who are able to perform with technical capabilities," said Nick Passalacqua, associate professor and forensic anthropology program director. "A part of WCU instruction is 'here's a mock forensic case, now do it.' So, being involved in an actual mission takes it a step farther. They were undertaking a real case."

Times are lively for students and faculty in the forensic anthropology program.

Home to the nation's second oldest body farm and internationally recognized for innovative instructional techniques, the WCU program is expanding through outreach and technical assistance with cold cases – such as locating the missing airman - and welcoming an ever-increasing number of students.

Forensic anthropology – applying anthropological method and theory to matters of legal concern, primarily focusing on the recovery and analysis of human skeletal remains – is offered as a bachelor's degree concentration and as a minor. From 2006, when there were 72 students in the major, the program has grown to more than 200 students enrolled today.

"For my future, I want to have some experience and get hands-on with the bones as much as I can, and this is a good opportunity to do that," said Alyvia Bridges, of Greenville, South Carolina, and a forensic anthropology major. "The instructors are really good and are engaging with their students and care about their students, something you see a lot at this university. Western wants to see its students succeed and that





Students sort through human remains in Western Carolina University's Forensic Anthropology Department.

helps us progress."

Sullivan Thomas, a senior from Asheville majoring in anthropology with a concentration in archaeology, meticulously cleaned a skull with a toothbrush during a recent laboratory session at Apodaca Science Building.

"I am the unofficial processing lead for volunteering, so I come in and coordinate activity, do inventory and sometimes photography, and participate in the work," Thomas said. "Volunteering is another opportunity to experience and learn, and it plays a big part in helping with the immediate needs of our program."

Becca George is a forensic anthropology instructor and facility curator. "Our program wouldn't function without our student volunteers and that's why a lot of them come here, to be able to have these opportunities," she said. "Of course, we are loving our new lab space, being in the new science building. It gives us some different processing opportunities for our lab work. We still have our lab in the McKee Building for visiting researchers as well as student researchers, and a little bit more space for our skeletal collection, which comes from our donors at the facility and are processed through this lab."

WCU's forensic anthropology program has also increased its outreach and continuing education offerings, now providing annual training on the analysis of burned human remains and the investigation of fire-related deaths, for local and state agencies. The program has also acted as a model for other universities, including George Mason University, which plans to become the eighth decomposition study facility in the country.

For additional information on coursework, go to https://www.wcu.edu/engage/professionalenrichment/profdev/forensic-anthropology.aspx.





Local officials met with the new commissioner of the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles Wayne Goodwin and his staff Monday afternoon to discuss how to alleviate wait times and continued delays at the local DMV office.

NCDMV Commissioner visits Franklin office

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

North Carolina Representative Karl Gillespie was joined by Senator Kevin Corbin and leaders across Western North Carolina on Monday afternoon to host newly appointed Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Wayne Goodwin and members of his staff to discuss issues with rural DMV operations.

"I believe this is the first time that the DMV Commissioner, let alone his top staff, has visited the offices here in Franklin and Andrews," said Corbin.

Since taking over as Commissioner on Jan. 18, Goodwin now oversees the daily operations of the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles, including vehicle registrations, driver licenses, vehicle safety, and emissions inspections as well as activities to halt vehicle theft and identity fraud.

Before joining the N.C. Department of Transportation, Goodwin worked as president and CEO of Seaboard Strategic Consulting where he provided counsel to insurance entities, businesses, associations, and consumers.

Goodwin also previously served as state insurance commissioner for eight years, overseeing the agency that regulates insurance rates as products as well as investigating fraud. During his time as insurance commissioner, he also served as state fire marshal and chaired the national Antifraud Task Force for two years.

Goodwin met with Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor, Macon County Manager Derek Roland, Commission Chair Jim Tate, and Franklin Mayor Jack Horton to hear about issues and concerns about the Franklin DMV operations as well as to answer questions on what solutions are in progress.

With wait times and shortened operating hours being among the top concerns, not just in Western North Carolina, but across the state, Goodwin noted that addressing employment shortages would be the first step in addressing issues. Macon County's driving license office is intended to employ two people, however, one position is vacant meaning 50% of their workforce is missing. Andrews has three staff but with one vacancy, a third of the office's workforce is missing.

On Monday afternoon, if trying to book an appointment to be seen at the Franklin DMV office, the first available appointment was May 12 - 80 days out. A sign hanging in the Franklin office said appointments are typically 45 days out — however with a staff vacancy, that wait time is currently almost double.

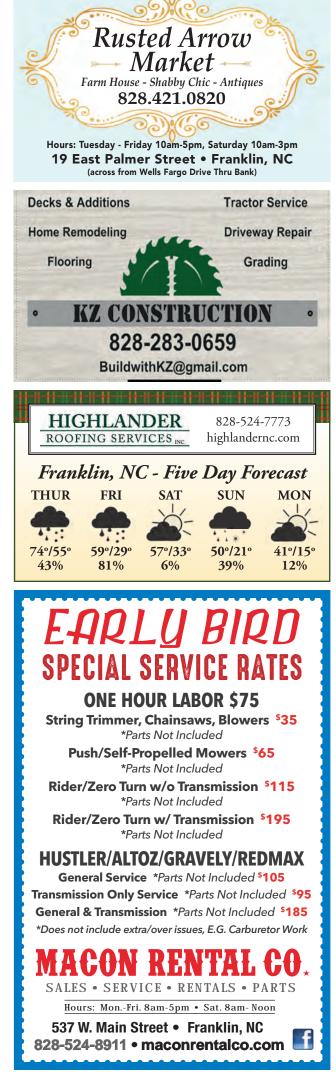
Yvonne Cano with NCWorks was on hand to brainstorm how NC DMV can work in conjunction with NCWorks to advertise job openings within the DMV and fill vacancies that cause longer wait times and reduced operating hours.

Prior to traveling to Andrews and Franklin, Goodwin attended a ribbon-cutting for the state's 117th DMV office in Marshall located in Madison County. Before this, Madison County residents have had to travel into another county for in-person service since the 2019 closure of the Main-Street DMV office. For a short time, a part-time office was open in Madison County, but that also closed during the pandemic. The new office marks the full-time return to service that has been needed for several years.

Corbin said that creating a part-time office split between Robbinsville and Murphy may be possible and could alleviate much of the delays being experienced at the Andrews and Franklin offices.

Goodwin, who will be back in WNC later this month, said that meeting with officials and hearing firsthand how he and his team can improve the department and operations for customers is a top priority and something he plans to continue doing.





7

Cardiac patient shares rehab story for Heart Month | Healthcare disparities,

Darlene Crisp is back at work in the radiology department at Harris Regional Hospital after a five-month journey to strengthen her heart.

With a family history of heart problems, Crisp saw a cardiologist last year as a proactive measure. She expressed shortness of breath and jaw pain, which are early warning signs of a heart attack. Within 24 hours of that life-saving visit, Crisp underwent a typical catheterization, where three stents were placed for blocked arteries, and she was admitted for monitorization of back pain. During that time, lab work and an Echo indicated a significant heart attack post catheterization. The three stents placed mere hours before had collapsed. Crisp was informed she needed open heart surgery to perform a triple bypass.

After five days of sedation on the ventilator, Crisp finally awoke from a successful triple bypass with a balloon pump in her heart. After 11 days, she made it home. Six days later, Crisp was experiencing abnormal fatigue, which she articulated in her post-surgery check-in with her physician. Little did she realize that she was in AFIB and VT, otherwise known as an arrhythmia, that occurs when the lower chamber of the heart beats too fast to pump blood efficiently, meaning the body is not receiving enough oxygenated blood. As a result, Crisp quickly underwent another surgery to place a pacemaker in her chest to help control her heartbeat.

After her extensive journey, Crisp was referred to the Harris Regional Hospital cardiac rehab program, where she attended rehab three days a week. She shared that "the first couple of weeks were very hard. I did not feel like I was accomplishing anything, but as time went on I did better and got stronger." In cardiac rehab, you start each day by

Mountain Medical Directory Quality Care for a Healthy Life





Heart patient Darlene Crisp underwent open heart surgery at Harris Regional and then attended five months of cardiac rehab. She is now back at work and has "a new appreciation of life."

weighing to evaluate fluid retention, and then you receive a heart monitor for exercise. Crisp explained that cardiac rehab involved stretching, strength training, and cardiorespiratory engagement. She shared how cardiac rehab impacted her.

"First it got me out of bed because when I commit to something I do it. Second, it gave me a social outlet as I am a people person, and I was not working and missed the interaction. Thirdly and probably most important, I gained strength in my arms, legs and overall energy level came up. My heart ejection fraction level is now between 35 and 40, so I am making progress on that."

Crisp is now back to work at Harris Regional Hospital and has a new appreciation for life.

"I am very blessed to be alive, to work where I work, and for our hospital to offer what we do for many patients."

Harris Regional Hospital offers cardiac rehabilitation services designed to help participants learn optimal personal physical, psychological, vocational, and social health. Cardiac rehab offers three phases to the program: inpatient, outpatient, and maintenance.

Harris Regional Hospital offers cardiac rehab services, as well as the cardiac catheterization lab as a part of Harris Cardiology.

For more information, visit the Find a Provider page on MyHarrisRegional.com/Schedule or call 844.414.DOCS.

About Harris Regional Hospital

Harris Regional Hospital, established in 1925, is an 86bed acute and specialty care facility serving Western North Carolina with more than 100 physicians practicing in locations throughout a multi-county region, including Harris Regional Hospital Medical Park of Franklin, an outpatient facility in Macon County.

Healthcare disparities, heart services at AMC

Healthcare in rural communities has often been cited as an area where significant disparities exist. Many communities are not fortunate as the as Franklin/Macon County area, as we have top tier healthcare available through Angel Medical Center (AMC). This includes both primary care and specialized services. We're fortunate that long-term emotional and financial investments have been made since the hospital's founding by our community.



Clint Kendall

Another healthcare inequality

is rooted in gender. Part of the challenge is that men and women seek healthcare differently and exhibit different signs and symptoms when experiencing everything from heart attacks to how they process pain.

A third health-related inequality is among different racial and ethnic groups. The health problems and symptoms each group experiences vary due to a host of factors, including predisposition to certain health conditions and education and income levels.

Finally, socioeconomic factors create disparities in how people care for themselves and how they seek care. For instance, a person will generally be in poorer health if their home isn't safe, if they are unemployed, or if they are uninsured.

Together, these considerations are known as the social determinants of health. They are wide-ranging influences and circumstances that strongly impact an individual's health, especially when combined. Examples include environmental factors like whether your dwelling is safe and clean, living in a food desert (an area where no grocery stores with fresh foods exist), access to mental health services, and possible exposure to an early childhood trauma.

Becoming aware of these healthcare disparities is the first step in successfully decreasing them, and our institutions can play a role in that, from the healthcare and insurance industries to local and federal government. The second step is within our own power: practicing lifestyle habits that support health as much as possible.

A critical complement to self-care is finding a care provider who you trust. You and your provider form a team whose top priority is keeping you healthy. Depending on your age and gender, there are times when your doctor will talk to you about getting screened for a wide range of health conditions. These preventive tests include bloodwork, colonoscopies, depression screenings, prostate cancer screenings, and mammograms and Pap smears. Routine blood tests reveal key information, including your cholesterol levels, complete blood counts, PSA (for detecting prostate cancer), and A1c levels. Low-dose CT scans are advised for people who have smoked, for example, because the test can catch lung cancer earlier.

I'm proud that AMC offers all of these evidence-proven tests and procedures close to home, and you can schedule most easily and quickly. You may wonder what happens if a condition is discovered in your preventive testing. Our community also has specialists to treat you, as well as access to other specialists so you can enjoy good continuity of care, or ease in your care accessibility and flow. These specialized community services include, but are not limited to, cardiology, general surgery, gastroenterology, orthopedics, oncology,

Erlanger moving toward nonprofit status

Chattanooga, Tenn. – The Erlanger Health System Board of Trustees has announced it is taking an important step forward to position the region's safety-net hospital system for long-term success by pursuing a potential transition of the organization to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.

"This important work is driven by our commitment to our mission, the responsibility to do everything we can to secure a strong future for this important community pillar, and to ensure Erlanger continues to provide the best possible care for everyone in Chattanooga and our growing region for decades to come," said Jim Coleman, Chair of the Erlanger Board of Trustees.

Many safety-net hospitals across the country have already transitioned to a 501(c)(3) structure, including UT Medical Center in Tennessee, and Grady Medical Center in Georgia. The nonprofit structure allows health systems to achieve greater operational flexibility in a quickly changing healthcare environment, and the ability to seek greater philanthropic contributions, among other significant benefits.

"Our top priority is to continue serving as the region's safetynet hospital," said Coleman. "We have seen a marked increase in individuals who seek out Erlanger for medical care they would not be able to access otherwise. In order to continue providing this crucial service, we know we must be willing to make a change."

The Board of Trustees anticipates this process will take many months, and is working closely with the Hamilton County Commission, and other elected officials to ensure alignment and support as the health system transforms to meet the challenges of today's healthcare environment.

Changing the structure of Erlanger Health System would have meaningful benefits, ultimately enhancing clinical excellence and patient outcomes by attracting and retaining highcaliber clinicians and caregivers, having added flexibility to explore partnerships that are right for the community and positioning the organization for new and additional access to capital.

"This is all about doing what is right for our patients," Coleman said. "We must be willing to respond to today's changing healthcare environment in order to have the people, facilities and technology needed to deliver the best possible care."

About Erlanger Health System

Erlanger Health System is a public, non-profit, academic

medical center affiliated with the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, and is a Level-One Trauma Center for adults. Children's Hospital at Erlanger is also the region's only pediatric hospital providing the highest level of trauma, critical and inpatient care, as well as the region's only Level IV neonatal intensive care unit. Erlanger is the only provider of tertiary care services spanning a 50,000 square-mile region encompassing southeast Tennessee, northwest Georgia, north Alabama and western North Carolina. The health system consists of seven hospitals and seven emergency departments, provides medical services for a fleet of six helicopters and offers centers of excellence in bariatrics, cancer, heart and lung, emergency, neuroscience, orthopedics, pediatrics, primary care, surgery, trauma, urology and women's services. Visit www.erlanger.org

Town conducts ADA survey

The Town of Franklin is conducting an Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to ensure inclusion and access for people with disabilities and the Town of Franklin needs your input.

A release sent out to the media states: "We are working toward making our community even more inclusive by ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A portion of this effort is to gather public input concerning existing obstacles or barriers encountered by people trying to access sidewalks, parks, public buildings, and public events. We ask that you share this with others so that we are properly reaching the citizens of Franklin.

"Your feedback will help the Town of Franklin develop an ADA Transition Plan that will guide the planning of future pedestrian facility improvements. The Town welcomes public comment regarding accessibility of pedestrian facilities and Town-owned facilities. Public comments are accepted at the Town Council meetings, held on the first Monday each month. All comments are due by the close of business on Friday, March 25, 2022.

A link to this survey is also available on the Town's website.

Survey Link https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MYVM-CJP

For questions, contact ADA Coordinator, Chris Waldroop at cwaldroop@franklinnc.com or call (828)524-2516 x 405

KENDALL

Continued from page 8

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gynecology, ear, nose and throat, dental services, ophthalmology, and optometry.

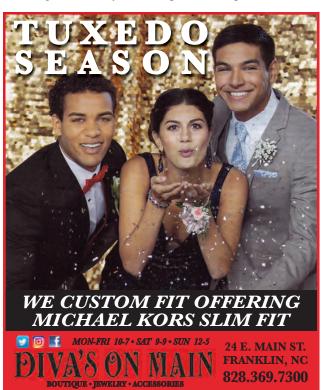
Practicing healthy lifestyle habits is best, but what if you have an emergency or a condition that warrants immediate attention? Angel Medical Center is here for you then, too. We're accredited by the Joint Commission in Stroke Care, which means that we have proven that we use evidence-based care to ensure that you have the best outcome. The brain needs a constant supply of blood and oxygen to function. The more time that passes after a stroke, the more damage that occurs. To identify a stroke, we use the acronym BEFAST (Balance, Eyes, Face, Arms, Strength, Time to call 911), because most people experience similar symptoms.

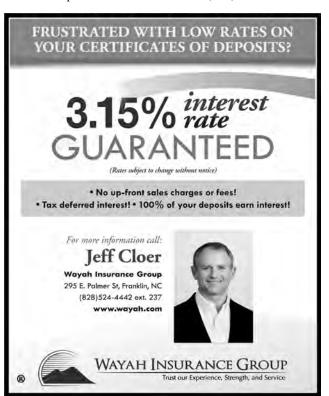
Heart care is also something we excel in, but heart issues are more complex. Heart event symptoms are different for women, the elderly, and those with chronic conditions like diabetes. The best answer, according to the American Heart Association, is to seek care if you have chest pain, sudden arm pain, jaw pain, pressure in the chest area, weakness, shortness of breath, sweating, nausea, and stomach/upper gastric pain. We can quickly diagnose and treat you, and get you to the next level of care quickly. Having excellent Emergency Medical Services in our county, and MAMA air medical services, makes us well-equipped regarding these highly preventable conditions.

I want to give a shout out to our Cardiac Care teams during Heart Month. The physicians of Asheville Cardiology Associates-Franklin are Dr. Marian Taylor and Dr. Lillia LaPlace. They serve our community by providing diagnostic and preventive care in conjunction with AMC's Cardiac Care Team, where we offer stress tests (nuclear and exercise), echocardiograms, and lab services.

Finally, remember that cold, snow, and ice present several health and safety issues. Studies show that shoveling snow can trigger heart attacks, due to the sudden increase in blood pressure and heart rate combined with cold air constricting blood vessels. Research also shows that our overall health can decline in the winter months due to a more sedentary lifestyle, poor eating habits, and depression. Make a conscious effort to be active, get outside, and recognize mood and behavior changes in yourself and your loved ones.

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







What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor Highlands Mayor

This afternoon [Thursday] the public hearing concerning the Highlands Planning Board STR [short term rentals] recommendations will begin at 5 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center. A signup list will be at the door for folks wishing to speak. Speaking requests can also be emailed to our town clerk at: Gibby.shaheen@highlandsnc.org.



Patrick Taylor

Instead of speaking, folks can send comments to the above email address. All written statements must be labeled as a statement for the hearing and post the name of the writer. Commissioners will have access to written statements after the hearing.

I request the written statements to be no more than 500 words. Hearing speakers will have 3 minutes to make their remarks to the board. Speakers can also submit written statements also.

I hope that speakers will focus on the planning board recommendations. These recommendations are the central purpose of the hearings. Also, this meeting is a listening session for the Highlands Board of Commissioners. There will be no final actions taken by the board during or at the end of the hearing.

The hearing will be available for remote viewing through YouTube TV. At the last board meeting there were problems with the audio of the YouTube broadcast. A microphone used for the broadcast had a mechanical defect. I have directed staff to make sure this problem has been corrected and will not happen again.

Information on how to access the hearing remotely is on the town website. The planning board recommendations and guidelines for the hearing are also located on the site.

Plans are being made for the Town of Highlands Annual Retreat. Normally we conclude the retreat around 3 pm. I think this coming retreat will go into the late afternoon.

During the retreat I, along with the commissioners, will share views on what the town should focus upon as we develop the new budget. I have two strategies that I believe staff and commissioners should follow in budget prioritization and development.

First, the town should seek ARPA funds to do several major water and sewer projects. At the last board meeting two resolutions were passed to apply for grants through the American Rescue Plan. If the town receives part or all of the multimillion dollar funding for these projects, other

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

We must also be anti-rascist

The United States was founded on the belief that all citizens are created equal. Nonetheless, the foundation of our country commenced with the attempted mass genocide against indigenous people, depriving them of their land and cultural history. Our nation's economic growth and development originated off of the labor of kidnapped and enslaved Africans and their descendants. Race by itself doesn't exist biologically, but just how we interact with race has such a substantial impact on our perceptions and lives. Racist views are accepted as prevalent within our media, culture, social structures, and institutions in a society that privileges white people and "whiteness." Racist beliefs have historically validated unequal treatment and discrimination of people of color, of which have included the mass murders of Mexican Americans at the hands of Texas Rangers during the 1940s, segregation of housing and schools during the Civil Rights Era, as well as the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

While we might be led to assume that racism is solely a result of individual attitudes and behavior, racist policies often add to our polarization. But while individual decisions are harmful, discriminatory policy proposals have a far-reaching effect by jeopardizing the equity of our systems and the justice of our institutions. To achieve equality, we must commit to making unbiased decisions and being "anti-racist" in all facets of our own lives. A commitment to anti-racism manifests itself within our very own decisions. We become consciously aware of ethnicity and inequality, and we take steps to eliminate social inequities in our everyday lives, reacting to and disrupting interpersonal racism, whether blatant or subtle.

However, the concept of "color blindness" stems from the notion that ethnic and race-based distinctions must not be recognized when decisions are being made, impressions are created, and actions are to be performed. The rationale behind the idea that color blindness will deter bigotry and discrimination is simple: if individuals or organizations do not notice race, they cannot behave in a racially discriminatory manner. The allure of color blindness is that it seems to have a very straightforward basis for dealing with racial issues in contemporary culture. Despite the prevalence of this colorblind approach to race relations, recent psychological research has put its purported advantages into question. A summary of current statistical analysis suggests a simple and direct dispute: shielding our eyes to the nuances of race does not make it vanish, but it does make it more difficult to see that color blindness often introduces more challenges than it addresses.

It is not only naive and dense to suggest that bigotry does not exist and flourish in our modern society; it is also inaccurate. In March of this year, the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, published a report that examined all reported hate crimes throughout 16 of America's largest cities. It confirmed that, while such crimes declined by 7% overall in 2020, those affecting Asian residents increased by nearly 150 percent. This being directly attributable to the xenophobic prejudice associated with the Coronavirus Pandemic. As a result, the COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act was passed by Congress to combat the rise of hate crimes and brutality against Asian Americans. Its passing represents a moment of bipartisanship on a topic that has piqued broad public concern.

The argument is simple: there isn't only one appropriate manner in which to make a difference when it comes to combating bigotry and prejudice; there are plenty. The most valuable thing we as a nation, as a society, can do is to act, and to act right now. By engaging in these types of discussions, you open the door to restoration. And it is through these types of conversations that redemption becomes concrete and meaningful, announcing for the possibility of effective change. However, it is important to recognize responsibility. Possibility without accountability is nothing more than wishful thinking.

It is not enough to just not be racist; we must also be antiracist.

Erick Mendez – Franklin, N.C.

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





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town funds would be freed up to address impending water and sewer projects that were identified in the 2019

general and enterprise funds. We have been in this ro-

bust reserve position in years past. Like in the past, this year's budget should generously use reserves to address

major projects and town improvements. For instance,

we need to continue to invest in road paving projects like we have in the last several years. There are also projects

in stormwater management, recreation and in developing

a smart cities grid that should receive full consideration.

We also must continue to competitively compensate em-

ployees in order to recruit and retain a strong town work-

Water Assessment Management and Master Plans. Second, Highlands currently has strong reserves in the

TAYLOR

force.

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From previous page

DA cracking down on illegal opioid distributors

Sentencing awaits a Jackson County man who didn't return to court after state prosecutors laid out their case against him for drug dealing and possession, District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch said.

Court on Thursday (Feb. 18) was suspended for more than an hour to allow Sylva resident Phillip Jordan Andrews, 24, to show. When he didn't, Jackson County Superior Court Judge Daniel



Jeffrey Spencer Green

Kuehnert revoked Andrews' bond for failing to appear. The case in court proceeded without the defendant. Jury members found Andrews guilty of two counts of trafficking

and possession on Aug. 5, 2020, with intent to sell and deliver fentanyl. Officers provided jury members with video surveillance of the drug deal.

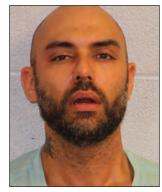
Jury members found Andrews not guilty on identical charges from a different date, Aug. 19, 2020.

"Andrews' conviction is part and parcel of our regionwide crack down on illegal opioid distributors," Welch said. "Our prosecutors are going after the people responsible for creating and distributing the drugs in Jackson County, as well as Haywood, Macon, Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain counties.'

On Aug 5, 2020, Jackson County investigators and SBI agents arranged a controlled "buy" at Andrew's residence. They seized a plastic bag that contained 6.98 grams of both fentanyl and ANPP, or anilino-N-phenethylpiperidine, a direct precursor to fentanyl.

Once located, Andrews faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 70-93 months in prison on each trafficking charge. He also must pay a mandatory fine of \$50,000.

As part of the 43rd Prosecutorial District's efforts to target major opioid suppliers, in January, two other Jackson County residents also were sentenced to mandatory minimum trafficking charges:



Robert Mitchell Hoyle

Phillip Jordan Andrews

• Whittier resident Robert Mitchell Hoyle, 38, pleaded guilty to trafficking and received the mandatory minimum prison sentence of 70 to 93 months. He was also ordered to pay a mandatory \$50,000 fine.

Deputies likely saved Hoyle's life. Officers conducted a traffic stop after Hoyle, driving on a revoked license on Sept. 11, 2019, ran a red light.

When confronted, he tried to swallow a potentially deadly amount of fentanyl. Following a struggle, deputies were able to force Hoyle to spit out the drug-filled plastic bag.

• Cashiers resident Jeffrey Spencer Green, 49, pleaded guilty to trafficking and received the mandatory minimum prison sentence of 70 to 93 months and the mandatory \$50,000 fine.

Green also pleaded to two counts firearm by felon. Those charges were consolidated for sentencing with the trafficking charge.

On Feb. 19, 2020, a deputy stopped Green on Yellow Mountain Road for driving a car with a fictitious registration plate and without insurance.

As a convicted felon, Green is not allowed to possess firearms, but had one in the vehicle. Green then told the deputy he had methamphetamine: He had stuffed two drugfilled containers into his long underwear.

Assistant district attorneys Christina Matheson and Andy Buckner prosecuted the cases.

Nominations open for '22 North Carolina Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the 2022 North Carolina Award, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the state, now through April 15. Created by the General Assembly in 1961 and administered by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, the award recognizes "notable accomplishments by North Carolina cit-

izens" in the fields of literature, science, fine arts and public service.

Award nominations may be submitted by anyone and must include a completed nomination form, cover letter, three letters of support and the nominee's biography or resume. Additional letters of support and examples of the nominee's work will also be accepted. Applications may be submitted online or materials can be sent to the North Carolina Awards

Committee, N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 4601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4600.

The North Carolina Awards Committee will review the nominations and make its selections this summer. The recipients will be honored later this year. Past award recipients have included some of the country's most distinguished artists, poets, writers, performers, journalists, scientists and

public servants.

Previous awardees include Maya Angelou, Doc Watson, William Friday, Gertrude Elion, Branford Marsalis, and other noteworthy North Carolinians. Information on the award and the online nomination process are available here. To receive forms by mail or e-mail contact Jennifer Fontes

at Jennifer.fontes@ncdcr.gov or (919) 814-6756.

About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina.

NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development. For more information, visit www.ncdcr.gov.



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FHS Varsity teams win first round of NCHSAA State Playoffs









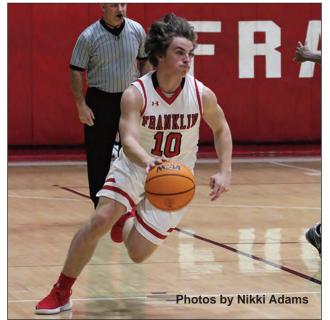
























13



Located in the old Cullasaja School off the Highlands Rd. **5** 45 River Rd., Franklin, NC • (828) 349-1600 whistlestopantiquesnc.com The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests February 10 - 21. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Macon County Sheriff's Department

February 11

Madeleine Marie Taylor, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine and simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. David Blanton made the arrest.

February 15

Virginia Laura Backer, was charged with failure to appear. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Carl Kenneth Floyd, was charged with probation violation and possession of stolen goods/property. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

Brittany M. Roeder, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

February 16

Dustin Rodmaker, was issued a true bill of indictment. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Tyler Lee Watson, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and probation violation. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Kevin Jachob Holland, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine and possession of LSD. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Jessie Mal Cowart, was charged with trafficking opium or heroin, possession of methamphetamine and warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Ralph Norman Peterman, was issued a magistrates order for a fugitive. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Carlos Cruz, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

February 17

Willie Eldon Watts, was charged with assault on a female. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Amberly Lynn Crawford, was charged with misdemeanor conspiracy, break or enter a vehicle, robbery with a dangerous weapon, second degree kidnapping, felonious restraint and felony conspiracy. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Avery Allison Bates, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

February 18

Donovan Joseph Drake, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Lieutenant Tim Holland made the arrest.

February 19

Andrew Parker Casto, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

February 20

Richard Ray White, was charged with driving while impaired. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

February 21

Charles Robert Hall, was charged with simple assault, assault and battery or participates in simple affray. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

February 10

Brian David Dills, was charged with false pretenses/swindle/confidence game. J.M. Norman made the arrest.

February 14

Hagen Devan Phillip Henderson, was issued a fugitive warrant for theft of motor vehicle. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

February 16

Dustin Lynn Busby, was issued a warrant for arrest for assault with a deadly weapon. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Jelissa Sarah Jordan, was issued an order for arrest for assault on emergency responder. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

February 14

Brooke Kay Biddix, 27, of Braveheart Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$500 was set. Mark C. Junaluska made the arrest.

Brent Robert Mcree, 51, of West First St., Charlotte, was issued a true bill/possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. William M. Hawkins made the arrest.

Trystan Drake Mullen, 23, of Ed Roland Dr., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set. Robert E. Porter made the arrest.

February 15

Alisha Kaye Toineeta, 29, of Kallups Cold Mountain Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

Tonya Lynn Maney, 32, of A Model Dr., Whittier, was charged with second degree trespassing and misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set. Robert E. Porter made the arrest.

February 16

Andrew Doyle Boggs, 31, of Dalton Rd., was charged with failure to appear for larceny after breaking and/or entering. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Tyler B. Bryson made the arrest.

February 17

Tyler Garrett Converse, 28, of Buck Creek Rd., Highlands, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Jesse L. Henkel made the arrest.

Shayla Faye Trull, 23, of High Haven Rd, was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to an inmate. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set. Zachary P. Stiles made the arrest.

February 18

Nathan Daniel Wood, 28, of Cabins In The Woods, was charged with failure to appear for allow unlicensed to drive. A secured bond of \$500 was set. James A. Brown made the arrest.

Dustin James Kirkland, 36, of Wayehutta Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to an inmate. No bond was set. Scottie R. Holder made the arrest.

Jackson County jail Christmas overdose leads to arrest of former detention officer

An overdose at the Jackson County Detention Center on Dec. 25, 2021 resulted in the rest of Former Detention Officer Patty Stillwell.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office initiated the investigation after an inmate overdosed and was transported to Harris Hospital. The inmate made a full recovery.

During the course of the investigation, conducted by deputies and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, 16 individuals have been charged in connection with bringing, or conspiring to bring, drugs into the Detention Center.

Former Detention Officer Patty Stillwell is among the individuals charged. Stillwell was placed on investigatory leave without pay on Dec. 26, 2021 and resigned from her position on Dec. 27, 2021. Stillwell is a former Detention Sergeant for Haywood County Detention Center and was employed at Macon County Animal Control at the time of her arrest.

Willaim Garret Pannell, 22, of Cornflower Lane, was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to an inmate. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Scottie R. Holder made the arrest.

Charles William Duncan, 51, of Cornflower Lane, was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to an inmate. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Scottie R. Holder made the arrest.

Natasha Belle Kirkland, 33, of Peppermill Lane, was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to an inmate. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. Samuel D. Plaster made the arrest.

Colby Taylor Price, 29, of. Big Witch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to an inmate. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. Samuel D. Plaster made the arrest.

Lori Jane Cantrell, 50, of Big Witch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to an inmate. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. Samuel D. Plaster made the arrest.

Brittany Danielle McCall, 34, of Newport Dr., was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to an inmate. No bond was set. Samuel D. Plaster made the arrest.

Tommy Lee Henderson, 37, of Carringer St., Bryson City, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property, possession of counterfeit instrument/currency and larceny of a chose in action. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set. Hunter M. Karup made the arrest.

Patty Danielle Stillwell, 30, of Dairy Farm Rd., was charged with provide contraband to an inmate. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

Kaitlyn Brooke Price, 29, of Bigwitch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to an inmate. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. Mark C. Junaluska made the arrest.

Cathleen Marie Metterville, 51, of Sumac Rd., was charged with assault by pointing a gun. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set. Hunter M. Karup made the arrest.

February 20

Tyler James Albert, 24, of Barneys Place, Lenoir, was charged with misdemeanor child abuse, possession of drug paraphernalia, conspire to traffic methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine. A. secured bond of \$80,000 was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

Jesusa Marie Morgan Street, 33, of Boone, was charged with misdemeanor child abuse, possession of drug paraphernalia, conspire to traffic methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine and traffic in methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$80.000 was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

William Jason Woodard, 37, of Bo Cove, Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear on misdemeanor. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Mark C. Junaluska made the arrest.





COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin is celebrating their 50th Anniversary and will meet Thursday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m., at First Christian Church, 156 Belleview Park Rd, Franklin.

Depression – From Surviving to Thriving free class will be held on-Thursday, Feb. 24, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library. Register ahead by visiting https://www.vayahealth.com/calendar/ or call the library, (828)524-3600 with your name and phone number.

Franklin Covenant Church Drive-thru Hot Lunch, Food Pantry, Prayer Tent and Winter Coat Give Away will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26, starting at 11 a.m. The church is located at 265 Belleview Park Rd. First come first serve

Valley River Arts Guild will be Offering Classes for Clay Hanging Heart Pocket, Class is suitable for children, Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Making Hand Built Clay Mugs, Saturday, March 5, 2 to 4 p.m., Rock Painting, Saturday, March 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., class is for children and youth ages 6 through 17, Painting an Easter Quilt Board, Saturday, March 12, 1 to 4:30 p.m., at the Murphy Art Center. Classes are open to the public. For more information, call (828)360-3038.

Trout Unlimited Chapter #373 will meet Tuesday, March 1, in the fellowship hall of the United Methodist Church, 77 Jackson Street in Sylva, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for a meal and a meeting. Speaker is Ken Brown of WATR (Watershed Association of the Tuckaseegee River). A weekday cleanup is scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 3 to 5 p.m. Meet at the CJ Harris Launch on River Rd. See us at https://www.facebook.com/tuckaseigeechapter373

Macon County Schools Preschool Program is currently taking applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Applications are available at the Macon County Board of Education, Iotla Valley, Cartoogechaye and South Macon; or email valerie.norton@macon.k12.nc.us. Applications are due by Wednesday, April 20.

American Legion Post 108 Bingo is held every Wednesday evening at the Post, 614 West Main St. from 4 to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Dorothy and John Crawford Senior Center is now offering limited inperson classes at the Robert Carpenter Community Building. A variety of exercise classes and a writing group are offered in the afternoons for adults over 50. For more information, call (828)349-2058.

Thursday Painters meet at the Environmental Research Center every Thursday 10 a.m. Bring your own project, a table covering, and a bag lunch. All skill levels and mediums welcome. Free and open to the public. Contact Pat Mennenger at pm14034@yahoo.com For more information, visit Franklinuptowngallery.com.

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

Franklin Duplicate Bridge Club Wednesday afternoon games are held from 1 to 4 p.m. Arrive no later than 12:45 p.m., at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on 441 S. For more information, call Larry Noyes at (828)200-9394 or email LarryRNoyes@gmail.com

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

Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Community Services are open on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to help Macon County residents in need with rent, power bill and a fully stocked food pantry. The church is located at 93 Church St., Suite 212. For more information, call (828)369-9000. Habitat for Humanity of Macon/Jackson County needs volunteers to share skills or gain some experience learning new ones. From carpentry to cleaning, marketing to moral support, computer skills, planning and organizing or just plain common sense, the greatest gift you could ever give is time. Any amount is good. Some great times, lasting friendships and rewarding experiences await. Call (828)369-3716 or (828)371-5442.

Friends of the Greenway FROG Quarters is now open Wednesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 573 E. Main. Stop by for coffee, a soft drink and a snack, and free internet. Reservations taken for the shelters.

Celebrate Recovery at Discover Church every Monday night, 6 to 8 p.m. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life. Free childcare up to five years old for attending parents. Discover Church is located at 47 Macon Center Dr. (behind Bojangles). For more information, email cr@discover.church for questions.

Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Centers in Cullowhee and Franklin have an educational parenting program to earn "points" to use to obtain free items for your family. The centers carry formula, diapers, wipes, baby items and clothing up to size 6, as well as strollers, car seats, high chairs, pack n' plays, etc. Donations are always welcome. Services are free and confidential. For more information or an appointment, call (828)349-3200, (828)293-3600 or smpcc.org

Crawford Senior Center Zoom Classes will include exercise, tai chi, and others. For more information, or to register, call the Senior Center at (828)349-2058.

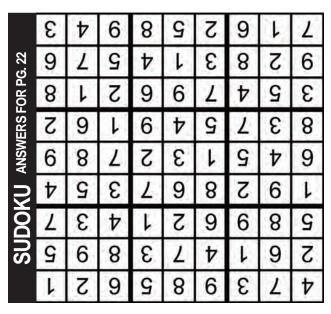
Uptown Gallery on Main Street hours through December are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 pm and Wednesday and Sundays by appointment. The Uptown Gallery is located at 30 E Main St Franklin. For information call the gallery at (828) 349-4607.

Alzheimer's Association Western Carolina Chapter Telephone Support Group for Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia is designed to provide caregivers opportunities for sharing, education, and support through a telephone conference. Support group participants and a support group facilitator connect each month for onehour confidential sessions. For more information, call (800)272-3900.

Volunteer drivers needed at Macon County Senior Services. Mileage will be reimbursed. For more information, call (828) 349-0211.

Macon County CareNet is in need of volunteers. Positions open are food pantry, soup kitchen and file room. If interested stop by for an application at 130 Bidwell St., or call (828)369-2642.

CareNet on Bidwell Street will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A box of food may be picked up once a week.



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m. Rev. Dr. Katherine RB Greysen will speak on "Radical Intuition."On Tuesday a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and out to eat afterward. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

First Alliance Church Sunday Service is held at 10:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages is held at 9:30 a.m. This Sunday, Feb. 27, Pastor Scott Eichelberger will speak on "Knowing We Have Eternal Life." Special Music will be performed by the Sacred Sounds String Group. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next-door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828) 369-7977.

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

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

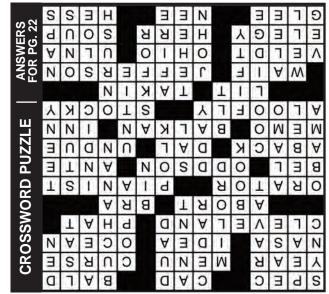
Son Rise Ministries is a non-denominational, full-gospel, Christian fellowship that meets Friday evenings at 7 p.m., Intercessory Prayer is Monday night at 6:30 p.m., Ladies prayer and Bible study is Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m. The church is located at 462 Depot St. For more information, call (828)369-2465 or (828)421-4153.

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

Snow Hill United Methodist Church Sunday worship with music is held at 10:45 a.m., morning worship service 11 a.m. Pastor D'Andre Ash is the pastor. The church is located at 330 Snow Hill Rd., in the Cowee Community.

Grace Baptist Church services are held on Sunday, 11 a.m. Frank Rodriguez is the pastor. All are welcome to attend. The church is located at 130 Setser Branch Rd.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship An inclusive faith community that celebrates life in all its joy and mystery. Inspiring and sharing journeys of love, learning, justice, and hope. For information, call (828)342-0546.



RGMS presents 'Peter Pan Jr.'

Middle School students at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School brought the magic of Neverland to the Rearden Stage in their production of the musical "Peter Pan Jr." on Feb. 18-19.

Abby Hartridge of Clayton, Ga., starred as Peter Pan, with Makenna Bilbrey of Otto, N.C., as Wendy, and Demmler of Rabun Gap as Captain Hook. More than 30 students in grades 6-8 were involved in the musical both on stage and behind the scenes. In addition to the musical numbers, there were two Cirque acts in the show. Amber Miller directed and choreographed the show, with Beth Loveland as technical direc-

tor and Qui Antoine.

Abby Hartridge of Clayton, Ga., as Peter Pan, top, poses after a musical number with the Lost Boys. Pictured, front row from left, are Mya Burnett of Franklin as Slightly, Porter Mulholland of Franklin as Michael, and Andrew Tench of Clarkesville as John; back row, Eleanor McArthur of Otto, as Twin #1, Abby Grace Head of Clarkesville, as Lost Boy, Bailey Demmler of Rabun Gap as Lost Boy, and Jada Tiger of Franklin, as Nibs.



Abby Hartridge plays Peter Pan in Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School's Middle School musical "Peter Pan Jr.





The cast of "Peter Pan Jr." at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. This Middle School musical included more than 30 students in grades 6-8.



Demmler of Rabun Gap, Ga., center, as Captain Hook, sings on stage with Allen Arbitter of Clayton, Ga., as Smee, second from left, and pirates portrayed by Tess Purtle of Greenville, S.C., Zoe Walters of Rabun Gap, Mont Wood of Clarkesville, Ga., Andrew Lancaster of Cherokee, N.C., Carson Hill of Clarkesville, and Owen Murphy of Franklin, N.C.



Spring Literary Festival returns to WCU campus with live events

After two years being held as an online celebration, Western Carolina University's Spring Literary Festival returns to campus March 14-17 for a series of live events.

The 20th annual gathering of poets and authors is free and open to the public, with all events taking place in the Hinds University Center theater. Directed by Jeremy Jones, an associate professor of English, the festival has a long tradition of bringing established and emerging literary talent to the community.

"Lit Fest brings the literary world - in all of its diversity - to the region of Western North Carolina and we're thrilled to do this in person again this year," Jones said. "So much of the magic happens in the informal conversations around the readings and in line for book signings, so we're looking forward to having readers and writers in the same space in March to create this magic. To keep everyone as safe as possible, WCU will continue to follow campus pandemic protocols, with face coverings optional outside but required in public spaces indoors."

The 2022 schedule:

Monday, March 14

• Noon – Gilbert-Chappell Poets

• 4 p.m. – Karen Salyer McElmurray, author of "Surrendered Child: A Birth Mother's Journey" and the novels "Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven," "The Motel of the Stars" and "Wanting Radiance," and Meagan Lucas, author of the award-winning novel "Songbirds and Stray Dogs"

• 7 p.m. – Ashley M. Jones, poet laureate of Alabama and the author of "Magic City Gospel" and "REPARATIONS NOW!"

Tuesday, March 15

• Noon – Brian Brodeur, author of "Every



Aimee Nezhukumatathil

Hour Is Late" and Steve Scafidi, author of "Sparks from a Nine-Pound Hammer," "For Love of Common Words," "The Cabinetmaker's Window" and "To the Bramble and the Briar"

• 4 p.m. – James Tate Hill, author of the memoir "Blind Man's Bluff," a New York Times Editors' Choice, and Ed Southern, author of "Fight Songs: A Story of Love & Sports in a Complicated South'

• 7 p.m. - Deesha Philyaw, whose short story collection, "The Secret Lives of Church Ladies," won the 2021 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction

Wednesday, March 16

• Noon - Winners of the undergrad and graduate student creative writing competitions

p.m. - Rachel Yoder, author • 4 of "Nightbitch" and a founding editor

Friends and neighbors are invited to join

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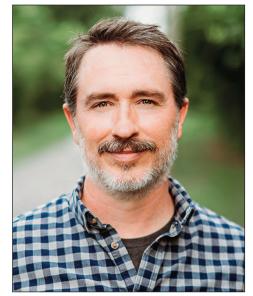
of draft: the journal of process, and Kerry Howley, author of "Thrown," a New York Times Notable Book

• 7 p.m. – Wiley Cash, author of "When Ghosts Come Home" and the New York Times bestseller "A Land More Kind Than Home," and University of North Carolina Asheville alumni author-in-residence

Thursday, March 17

• Noon - Jayne Zanglein, WCU professor emeritus and author of "The Girl Explorers: The Untold Story of the Globetrotting Women Who Trekked, Flew and Fought Their Way Around the World"

• 4 p.m. - Eduardo Corral, author of "Guillotine" and "Slow Lightning," and Torrey Peters, author of the bestselling novel "Detransition, Baby" and the novellas "Infect Your Friends and Loved Ones" and "The Masker'



Wlley Cash

• 7 p.m. - Aimee Nezhukumatathil, author of "World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks & Other Astonishments," which was named Barnes and Nobles' Book of the Year 2020, and four award-winning poetry collections.

"So many organizations and people have a hand in making this big festival in little Cullowhee robust and exciting each year," said Jones.

"This year we received support from South Arts, the North Carolina and Jackson County Arts Councils, the North Carolina Humanities Council, WCU's campus theme committee, the Office of the Provost, and the College of Arts and Sciences. We feel the love from the university and the region."

For information, more visit litfestival.org or contact WCU's English department at 828-227-7264.

Project wants to record your stories

The Macon County Public Library is holding a Story Made Recording Project in Matt Sawyer in telling the world how sto-

the Macon County Public Library Living Room, Saturday Feb. 26. Drop in between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Story Made is a project exploring how stories make a difference in people's lives.

It is an interview podcast and a wandering recording station. It is a celebration of books, music, film and oral traditions. Organizers say the project is a community and a movement and is asking for help from the public.



For more information about the project and the podcast visit https://www.storymadeproject.com/

The library is located at 149 Siler Farm Road. For more information, call (828)524-3699.



Give your transplants a good start for success

Melinda Myers - Columnist

Increase your growing success by giving your transplants a good start with a few simple planting techniques. Preparing them for the transition outdoors and planting properly will help you grow your best garden yet.

Transplants started indoors from seed or purchased at a local garden center or greenhouse need time to prepare for their outdoor home. Gradually toughen them up with a procedure called hardening off. This process helps them adjust to the outdoor growing conditions, so plants will suffer less transplant shock and establish more quickly.

Start by moving the plants outdoors to a sheltered shady location about one to two weeks before the recommended planting date. Stop fertilizing and water thoroughly when the planting mix is starting to dry. Move plants into an hour of direct sunlight the first day, increasing the time by an hour each day. Make this easier by placing transplants in a wagon, old saucer sled or a garden cart. Keep frost protection handy or move plants indoors when frost is in the forecast.

Once the plants are hardened off, move them into the garden. Water the planting mix thoroughly the night before planting. If possible, plant in the morning or on a cloudy day to reduce moisture loss and stress on the plants. Follow spacing recommendations on the plant tags to save money and time.

Press on the sides of the pot to loosen the roots and carefully slide the plant out of the container. Do not pull the plant out by the stem or you may end up with all stem and no attached roots.

Gently loosen any encircling and tightly bound roots. This encourages the roots to explore the surrounding soil and establish a strong root system. Use fingers to tease apart the roots or a sharp knife to slice through the surface roots in a few places.

Plant tomato transplants several inches deeper or set long leggy plants in a trench. This encourages roots to form along the buried stem. Remove the lowest leaves that will be covered by the soil and loosen the roots on the hardened-off transplant.

Dig a shallow trench two to three inches deep. Lay the leggy tomato in the trench and carefully bend the stem so the upper portion remains above ground. Cover the stem with soil and water. Set stakes and towers in place at the time of planting to reduce the risk of damaging roots and stems when trying to secure tall plants. Make sure the support is strong and tall enough for the plants. Tomato cages and supports need to be flexible, lightweight and able to be installed around established plants without damage.

Remove any flowers and fruit on the transplants at the time of planting so plants can direct energy into forming roots, resulting in more flowers and fruit over time. If you cannot bring yourself to do this, try removing flowers on every other plant or row at planting. Do the same to the remaining flowers the following week.

Water new transplants often enough to keep the soil moist, but not soggy wet. Water thoroughly and gradually extend the amount of time between watering to encourage deep, more drought-tolerant roots. Adding a layer of shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic mulch will help conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil as it decomposes.

Implementing these strategies will help increase your enjoyment and reduce maintenance throughout the growing season.

Grow quick and easy microgreens

Add fresh flavor to your meals year-round with microgreens. These easy-to-grow greens need minimal space and no special equipment for a flavorful and nutritious harvest in little more than a week.

Use microgreens on salads, soups, pizzas, omelets, in stir fries or as a snack. These tiny seedlings are packed with more



Set tomato stakes or towers in place at the time of planting and make sure they are strong and tall enough to support the mature plants. Photo courtesy of Gardener's Supply Company

nutrition than their mature counterparts.

Add a bit of spice to soups and sandwiches with radish and mustard microgreens. Try red cabbage, chard, beets and amaranth for some added color. Sunflower's somewhat nutty flavor makes it perfect for snacking. Let some of your pea microgreens grow a bit taller to use in stir fries.

Fill a shallow container with a two-inch layer of moist potting or seed starting mix. Sprinkle seeds over the soil surface and lightly cover with potting or seed starting mix. Water gently to ensure good seed-to-soil contact. Continue to water often enough to keep the soil slightly moist. Reduce your workload and keep the planting mix consistently moist by covering freshly planted containers with plastic. Once the greens break through the soil, remove the cover and move the container to a sunny location or under artificial lights.

The microgreens are ready to harvest once the plant forms the first set of true leaves. These are the leaves that resemble those of the mature plant. This takes anywhere from 7 to 14 days, depending on the room temperature and type of microgreens you are growing.

Use scissors to clip the greens off at ground level. Once you harvest all the greens, it is time to replant. Save money and be kind to the environment by composting the used planting mix and reusing containers. Convert shallow fast-food containers into planting trays. Disinfect these or other planting trays before using them by soaking the containers in a 10% bleach and water solution for 10 minutes. Then rinse in clear water.

Gardening doesn't get much easier than this. Enjoy fresh flavors all winter long as you wait for the outdoor growing season to begin.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including "Small Space Gardening." She hosts the "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned to write this article. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Frank Wesley Maxwell

Frank Wesley Maxwell, 58 of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022.

He was born in Arlington, Va., to the late Robert Lee Maxwell and Grace Raby Maxwell. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Steven Maxwell.

He is survived by his wife, Renee Hardegree Maxwell; children, Shannon Dent (Kaitlyn), Hunter Lee Maxwell, Andrew Hanak, Joshua Allen Hanak (Victoria), and Randall Evan Hanak; and sisters, Rosalee Gail



Frank Wesley Maxwell

Lyons (Bill), and Judy Greer (Larry); and five grandchildren, Emily, Sophia, Moses, Cohen, and Brooks.

A visitation will be held on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at Macon Funeral home at 1 p.m., with a memorial service to follow at 2 p.m.

Military honors will be provided by VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post #108.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project at https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

Jeffrey Kama

Jeffrey Kama, 59 of Franklin, passed away January 16, 2022.

He was born in Phoenix, Ariz, to Charles Kama and the late Juanita Deen Kama. In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his brother, Otis Dale Wright.

He loved to fish, enjoyed reading psalms, listening to Elvis and was the best cook. In his memory, the family asks that you celebrate his life by dropping a line on his birthday, May 18.

He was survived by his committed partner of over 30 years, Karen



Jeffrey Kama

Barnes, who recently passed; his father, Charles Kama; his daughter, Kristen Brauer; sons, Ricky Kama, Sammy Kama and Jeffrey Kama Jr.; sister, Kim Queen; nephew, Michael; great niece, Alisha Sumner; nephew Nicholas, and great nephews, Christopher, Thomas and Cason; niece Katie Queen; great nephews, Austyn, Blake, Christopher, Taylor; and grandchildren, Daniel Houston and Eddie Houston.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



themaconcountynews.com



Eddie Joe Floyd

Eddie Joe Floyd, 77, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Feb. 14, 2022

Known to many as Mr. Ed, he was born on July 25, 1944. He was a manager of Pizza King and Pizza Hut where he was honored as top store in the United States on Oct. 29, 1987. He moved to Otto in 1997 and starting working for Fruit of the Loom and then for Ingles Gas Express.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded by two brothers, Michael and Tommy.

His is survived by his sister, Jane Beese and his favorite brotherin-law, Richard; nieces, Amy (Jason) Sekaney and Stacy (John) Bluth; grand nieces and nephews, Olivia, Alaina, and Jake Sekaney, and Mollie and Spencer Bluth; one aunt, Nellie Hoover; and many good friends and neighbors.

A special thanks to the ICU nurses at Angel Medical Center and Care Partners Hospice.

A memorial service will be held by the family at a later date. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is assisting the Floyd family.

Kenneth Brewer

Kenneth Brewer, 63 of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, Feb. 14, 2022.

He was born in Macon County to the late Thomas Eugene Brewer and Hazel Henry Brewer. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Freda Owens. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors. He was a loving husband, father, paw, and brother.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy Brewer; sons, Everett Brewer (Crystal), Chris Brewer (Christina), Justin Brewer (Kristy); siblings, Shelby Rhodes (Richard), Rochelle Reed

(Donny), and Rick Brewer (Sherry); six grandchildren; and seven nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at Macon Funeral Home on Friday, Feb. 18. Rev. Oliver Rice officiated.

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

Richard Lee Davis

Richard Lee Davis, 35, passed away February 11, 2022. No services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family. Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.

BAHÁ'Í FAITH LIGHT OF UNITY "The well-being of mankind, its peace and security are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established." -- Bahá'u'llah Weekly devotions and discussions in Franklin, open to all. Call 302-383-6835. 1-800-228-6483 www.bahai.us

Franklin • Murphy • Sylva • Waynesville

Michael Eugene Dendy

Michael Eugene Dendy, 64, of Highlands, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born in Grundy, Va., he was the son of Ruth McCall Dendy and the late Rev. Alton Dendy. He was a true "Man of Faith," and a member of the Highlands First Baptist Church, and trustee of Mt. Moriah Cemetery. He was a gifted rock mason and he loved working with his Christmas trees. He enjoyed

collecting cowboy boots, cowboy Michael Eugene Dendy hats, and music.

He is survived by his mother, Ruth McCall Dendy of Goldmine; son, Kelly and wife Cynthia of Clayton, Ga.; and two sisters, Darlene Dendy Miller (Bob) of Cary, N.C,. and Lisa Rhodarmer (Derek) of Waynesville, N.C.; three grandchildren, who he adored, Trinity, Aiden, and Blaine; close friend, Jay Dendy; and numerous other family members and friends.

Graveside service was held Sunday, Feb. 20, at Mt. Moriah Cemetery with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating.

The family would like to thank all of Mike's friends, family, and caregivers, who gave him the best care throughout his illness.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Hazel Young Wilson

Hazel Young Wilson, 93, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022.

She was born in Riviera Beach, Fla., the daughter of the late Frederick George Herman Young and Marie Antoinette Smith Young. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, Robert Wilson in 2014; two sons, Gary Wilson, and Stephen Wilson; and three siblings, Eric Young, Opal Toleman, and Marie Sprague.

She was a member of the First Alliance Church, where she pre-

viously enjoyed singing in the choir and helping with the decorating committee.

Hazel Young Wilson

She is survived by her daughter, Lera Hesselbirg (Michael) of Franklin; son, Timothy Wilson of Branson; seven grandchildren, nine great grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and special friends.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Feb. 26, at 4 p.m., at First Alliance Church with Rev. Scott Eichelberger officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to First Alliance Church, 31 Promise Ln, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



On Feb. 17, 2022, the angels came calling for Mark McClure and he was ready!

He was born on Dec. 14, 1977, to Kathy Scott Stamey (Mike) and the late William "Billy" McClure (Shirley).

He was a member of East Franklin Baptist Church. He loved and had dedicated many years serving as a volunteer fire fighter here in Macon County. He loved hunting, spending time outdoors, and his chickens. He loved people and people loved him! He never met a stranger. He loved selling

19

Mark McClure

scrap metal, wheeling and dealing, and talking to people. He enjoyed when he could "babble" as he called auctioneering. Above all he loved the Lord, and recently he had felt Jesus calling him to reach out and testify to others to be sure where they would spend eternity. He knew he was Heaven bound and he was not ashamed to share with others. Tami was Mark's true love and wife of almost 17 years. He shared his love for her with all his big heart. Mark McClure will be missed but he has shown us how to love each other and our Lord, Jesus. He would want us to be ready to fly with the angels. As he always said, "True Story."

He is survived by his beloved wife, Tami Cunningham McClure; his stepchildren, Timothy "Robbie" Stevens (Brison), and Cassie Jo McMahan (Breanna); These special boys that were lucky enough to call him "Gaga," Keith, Isaiah, and Niko, that he loved like his own; brother, Timothy McClure (Tifani); nieces, Mykayla McClure, Madison McClure, and Sydni Carpenter; nephew, Travis Carpenter and maternal grandparents, Zeb and Dorothy Scott; stepbrothers, Jeff Floyd (Melissa), Scott Floyd and stepsister Stacey Floyd, as well as brother-in-law and true best friend, Bo Cunningham (Christie).

Funeral service was held at Macon Funeral Home on Tuesday, Feb. 22, with Dr. Gary Jarnagin, and Rev. Scott Matthews officiating. Burial followed at Prentiss Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Randy McCoy, Adam Peak, Lynn Higdon, Ernest Cowart, Greg Raby, and Joey Knight.

Honorary pallbearers were Ryan Raby, Byron McClure, and Ben Henson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, Office of Development 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



themaconcountynews.com







Mark McClure



Rookie Austin Cindric gets first NASCAR Cup victory in thrilling Daytona 500

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - On the 85th birthday of his car owner, Roger Penske, 23-year-old NASCAR Cup Series rookie Austin Cindric beat Bubba Wallace to the finish line by .036 seconds in overtime to win Sunday's 64th running of the Daytona 500.

In a thrilling run to the finish in NASCAR's new Next Gen race car at Daytona International Speedway, Cindric held off Wallace and Chase Briscoe (.091 seconds behind) to notch his first Cup victory in his eighth start in the series.

Cindric got the win in chamber-of-commerce weather with a sold-out crowd jamming the grandstands.

"Oh, my God—do you know what makes this even better? A packed house," Cindric exulted after climbing from his car. "A packed house at the Daytona 500. "Oh, my God, I've got so many people to thank. First and foremost, Roger Penske. Happy Birthday!

"Everyone has worked so hard on this Next Gen car and

through the whole process. I am so excited. This makes up for losing a championship in the last race I was in (2021 Xfinity Series season finale at Phoenix Raceway).

"I'm surrounded by great people, that's all there is to it. I know there's going to be highs and lows, being a rookie. I'm just grateful for the opportunity and excited to climb the mountain ahead of us on the No. 2 team. We're in the Playoffs-that's one box checked. My gosh, what an awesome group of fans; what an awesome race car. I'm just really thankful."

A three-car wreck in Turn 4 on Lap 195 of a scheduled 200 wiped out the No. 47 Chevrolet of Ricky Stenhouse Jr., who was leading for a restart on that same lap but was turned by a push from Brad Keselowski. The incident forced the race to overtime, requiring one extra lap for Cindric to claim victory.

An earlier six-car accident on Lap 190 had

eliminated reigning series champion Kyle Larson, Kevin Harvick, Todd Gilliland, Erik Jones and Noah Gragson, who was making his first start in NASCAR's top division.

rived at the finish line roughly three feet ahead of Wallace, who was runner-up in the Great American Race

and at the end of a wild two-lap scramble-after blocking a

strong run from Team Penske teammate Ryan Blaney-he ar-

for the second time.

"I thought our Toyota teammates did good work until they got picked off 1, 2, 3 throughout the race, so we just had to survive," said Wallace, who finished .260 seconds behind race winner Austin Dillon in the 2018 Daytona 500.

"Great Speedweeks, though. We'll come home second. I'm going to be pissed off about this one for a while. I was happy on the first second place we got a couple years ago. This one sucks when you're that close, but all-in-all, happy for our team, happy for our partners, and on to California."

Blaney came home fourth, followed by Aric Almirola, who will leave full-time racing at the end of the season. Kyle Busch, Michael McDowell, David Ragan, Keselowski and Chase Elliott completed the top 10.

Less than three laps from the end of the first stage, a push from Keselowski turned the No. 21 Wood Brothers Ford of Harrison Burton sideways at the head of the outside lane. Burton's Mustang nosed down the track into the No. 24 Chevrolet

Austin Cindric, driver of the #2 Discount Tire Ford, waves to fans onstage during the driver intros prior to the NASCAR Cup Series 64th Annual Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 20, 2022 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

of William Byron, whose car slammed nose-first into

Kyle Busch spun sideways during the ensuing eightcar wreck. Denny Hamlin's Toyota sustained terminal suspension damage, eliminating the field's only multiple winner of the Daytona 500. The No. 1 Chevrolet of Ross Chastain was also knocked out of the race.

After the impact with Byron's car and a jolt from the Toyota of Christopher Bell, Burton's Ford turned upside down and landed on top of the Chevrolet of Alex Bowman, who had started the race on the outside of

a wrecker towed to the garage. Bowman lost four laps as his crew tried to return the No. 48 Camaro to raceable condition.

"I'm fine—I've hit a lot harder before, that's for sure," Burso that's never good...

"I don't know, I just got pushed and didn't take it the right way-the car didn't take it the right way or got pushed in the wrong spot. I'm not sure. I couldn't really tell. I was looking out front to see what I had to do next to side draft the next guy that was on me, so just a bummer. I don't really know what we could have done different, but we'll move on and get better from it."

From Hamlin's standpoint, it was clear what happened.

"The 6 (Keselowski) was pushing the 21 (Burton) and you could see the 21 was kind of getting out of control there," said Hamlin, who failed to finish a Daytona 500 for the first time in 17 starts and lost his chance for a fourth visit to Victory Lane. "So you know the mind-set was that you've got to back off, but I think the 6 was just insistent on pushing him at all costs and eventually turned the 21 around.

"Tough, you know, considering it was just for the stage. We were kind of boxed in there where I noticed that something was going to happen, but I was boxed in, I was behind a teammate (Kyle Busch), and I wanted to try to help. Again, just too

Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, Erik Jones, driver of the #43 FOCUSfactor Chevrolet, Noah Gragson, driver of the #62 Beard Oil/South Point Chevrolet, and Todd Gilliland, driver of the #38 First Phase Credit Card Ford, spin after an on-track incident Series 64th Annual Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 20, 2022, in Daytona Beach, Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images Florida

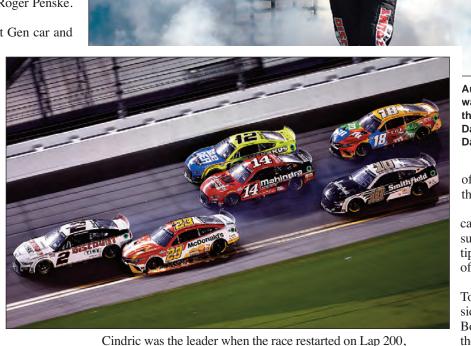
the inside wall on the backstretch.

the front row. The impact righted Burton's car, which

ton said after a trip to the infield care center. "It's just unfortunate. I hate it for the Wood Brothers group. They brought a really fast Ford Mustang down here and ended up on our lid,



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NASCAR News





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aggressive pushing right there when they weren't lined up and in control."

Truex won the first stage under caution and then claimed victory in the second stage, which ran under green-flag conditions from the restart on Lap 72 to the conclusion on Lap 130. Truex came from third to first on the final lap to grab the stage win.

Keselowski, however, was first off pit road under caution for the stage break and led the field to green for a restart on Lap 138. Keselowski held the top spot until Tyler Reddick's Chevrolet broke loose in Turn 4 on Lap 151 and started a wreck that damaged the contending cars of Truex, Joey Logano and Kurt Busch.

The NASCAR Cup Series returns to the track next week at Auto Club Speedway for the Wise Power 400 on Sunday, Feb. 27.

Rookie Austin Hill snatches Xfinity Series win at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – Austin Hill nosed ahead of AJ Allmendinger moments before an incident on the backstretch at Daytona International Speedway ripped

the engine and rear end out of Myatt Snider's car.

The caution froze the field with Hill the winner of Saturday's Beef. It's What's for Dinner. 300 in his first NASCAR Xfinity Series start with Richard Childress Racing.

In a large pack, the cars were streaking down the backstretch at the 2.5-mile superspeedway when an aggressive push from Anthony Alfredo's No. 23 Chevrolet turned Snider's No. 31 Camaro in front of Jade Buford's No. 48 Chevrolet. The resulting contact lifted Snider off the track and into the catchfence.

With pieces of his car strewn across the infield, Snider climbed from his destroyed race car in yet another testament to the safety of the vehicles that race at speeds in excess of 180 mph. Snider visited the infield care center, where he was treated and released.

The victory was Hill's first in the NASCAR Xfinity Series in his 16th start, after he moved from the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series to a full-time ride with RCR in the Xfinity ranks.

All told, nine cars were involved in the wreck that forced the race to end under the sixth caution of the evening.

Hill developed a strong run on the backstretch and made the winning pass after Allmendinger's Chevrolet advanced too far in front of the lead pack.

"We timed it perfectly," an elated Hill said after climbing from his car on the frontstretch. "Obviously, that caution came out, but we had a heck of a run, so who knows what would have happened there.

"I was able to drag back, the 98 (Riley Herbst) gave me a heck of a push, we were able to get by (Allmendinger), and this is so crazy.

"I won (a NASCAR Camping World Truck Series season opener) in 2019 with a new team, now we're with RCR, first race with them. We were able to get the job done... Man, I'm speechless. (Crew chief) Andy Street, (owner) Richard Childress, just all these guys back at RCR for believing in me. It's been a fun offseason, and now we get to go race for a championship. Let's go!"

Allmendinger was credited with his second straight runner-up finish in a Daytona Xfinity Series race.

"I'd have to go see the replay, study it," Allmendinger said. "I'm sure I will. Kind of kept trying to block both lanes, and it looked like Austin moved up there and timed it perfect where he just got a massive shove, and I probably could have tried to really block, but I think I probably would have



Austin Hill, driver of the #21 Bennett/United Rentals Chevrolet, celebrates with crew and family in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Beef. It's What's For Dinner. 300 at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 19, 2022 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

wrecked us if I would have done it.

xfinity

"Seeing there, I've got to be better sometimes not getting too far out in the lead. I don't know, I'll just keep working on it, man."

Noah Gragson was third, followed by Herbst and Justin Allgaier. Sheldon Creed, Alfredo, Ryan Sieg, Josh Bilicki and Brandon Brown completed the top 10.

Hill led four times for 23 of the 120 laps, second only to the 38 of reigning series champion Daniel Hemric, who was the victim of a 10-car crash on Lap 91. Hemric finished 28th, four laps down.

Another casualty of the final wreck was Ty Gibbs, who was making his first Xfinity start on the Daytona oval. Gibbs was 11th when the field was frozen by the caution.

The NASCAR Xfinity Series returns to action next weekend at Auto Club Speedway for the Production Alliance 300 on Feb. 26, 2022.

Zane Smith wins wild Camping World Truck Series season-opener at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – A 19-car incident as the field approached the white flag signaling one lap to go instead sent Friday night's NextEra Energy 250 NASCAR Camping

World Truck Series season-opener into overtime where 22-year old Californian Zane Smith won under caution over defending series champion Ben Rhodes.

A nearly 16-minute red flag was needed to clean up all the debris from the frontstretch melee, which happened only a few feet before the start/finish line and littered much of the track's tri-oval. Had Smith - the leader at the time - crossed the line before the wreck began, the race would have ended. Instead, the remaining cars that were able to continue, continued.

So Smith had to do it all over again. He lined up alongside Eckes for the final twolap run to the checkered. A sturdy nudge from behind from Parker Kligerman sent Smith's No. 38 Front Row Motorsports Ford-150 to the front and he was able to pull away - taking the white flag before caution flew on the final lap. He led only three laps on the night – including the im11.

portant last two.

"It's something else, man," Smith said of winning at the iconic Daytona International Speedway. "This place is its own, I'll tell you that. Literally my heart hurt during that red flag. I thought we had it.

"Just hats off to this whole group. They've really put the work in and it's so damn cool to see when it pays off. Man, this is going to be a really fun year and I'm going to try and make it a record year for myself."

Eckes finished third. Former National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) standout Tanner Gray and Kligerman rounded out the top-five. Carson Hocevar, Jesse Little, polesitter Ty Majeski, Danny Bohn and former NASCAR Cup Series driver Matt DiBenedetto rounded out the top-10. This was DiBenedetto's career first start in the series.

Kligerman, who was the last driver to qualify for the race on speed, started 31st and rallied into the top five ultimately giving that winning push to Smith, who now has four victories and was championship runner-up last year. It was the

kind of dramatic racing – there were 18 lead changes – and finish that fans have come to expect of Truck races on the 2.5-mile Daytona International Speedway high banks and it did not disappoint.

"This is just huge to get this momentum," said Kligerman, a part-time series competitor who also does national racing broadcast work for NBC.

He was particular proud of Friday's effort considering his truck team has only one fulltime employee.

"It's just such an honor" Kligerman said. "I'm so grateful to have the chance to just show up here, let alone go out there and compete and reel off a top five. We're just firing on all cylinders."

While the ending was certainly exciting, last year's fiverace winner John Hunter Nemechek really dominated the early-going. He led a race best 50 of the 106 laps and won both Stage 1 and Stage 2. He was caught up in the massive incident while running in the top-five and ultimately settled for a 24th-place showing.

The NASCAR Camping World Truck Series takes a week off and then resumes competition in the Victoria's Voice Foundation 200 on March 4 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway (6 p.m. ET on FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).



Zane Smith, driver of the #38 Love's Travel Stops Ford, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series NextEra Energy 250 at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 18, 2022 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images



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64. Hitler's Deputy

1. Update a FitBit

2. Sound of bells

3. "At ____, soldier."

5. Aromatic lumber

6. Beside, archaic

7. Two of the same

was a bachelor

4. Modern tie forerunner

8. *The only President who

DOWN

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23. *One of three Presidents

24. James Dean's famous

26. *First to serve coast to

27. Indo-Aryan, as in lan-

29. Like yellow polka dot

25. Remember this battle

28. Did not smell good

sound, in print

53. Type of gin

54. Cross to bear

56. Chill, with 'out'

James

to win a Grammy

role

coast

bikini

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FRIENDS OF THE GREEN-WAY Frog Fair May 7, 10-4, FROG Quarters, 573 E. Main at the Town bridge in Franklin. Vendor spaces available, Registration Forms on website (littletennessee.org) or stop by FROG Quarters. More information. email frog28734@gmail.com.

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2021	Tesla	Model 3 Standard Range Plus	15,196
2020	Porsche	911	6,135
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2020	Charger	RT Daytona	23,585
2019	Chevrolet	Sonic	59,039
2019	Nissan	Sentra SV	15,009
2019	Volkswagen	Golf SportWagen	56,048
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2018	Chevrolet	Cruze LS	54,872
2018	Toyota	Camry	60,256
2015	Chevrolet	Corvette 2LT	15,349
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2011	Cadillac	CTS Sedan Luxury	73,798
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120,790

MILES

3,761

489

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2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	5,822
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	435
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	16,244
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	8,432
2021	Ford	Bronco Sport	209
2021	Ram	2500 Tradesman	3,647
2021	Toyota	Tacoma 4WD	4,746
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500 HD	1,205
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500 HD HC Diesel	23,536
2020	GMC	Sierra 1500 AT4	15,588
2020	Ram	2500 Longhorn Diamond	23,286
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	30,903
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	44,359
2019	GMC	Sierra 1500	18,811
2019	Nissan	Frontier SV 4x4	60,592
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 Custom	104,810
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	31,379
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