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Hikers praising Franklin for its welcoming hospitality

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Annually, Franklin rolls out the red carpet – so to speak – for the thousands of Appalachian Trail (A.T.) hikers that stop off in town for respite and restock before continuing their journey as section or thru-hikers bound for Mt. Katahdin, Maine. Appalachian Trail Conservancy, which publishes trail registrants by day, determined that as of mid-March, 3,005 northbound hikers were already registered, while 91 hikers indicated they plan to hike southbound.

This past week kicked off a weeks-long concentrated effort by local churches, organizations, and businesses to welcome hikers, who are from all over the United States and numerous other countries.

“Franklin has been wonderful!” said Elizabeth Stafford, from Mt. Pleasant, S.C., who is thru-hiking with her 10-year-old daughter, Brooklyn. “We’ve been amazed on how friendly everyone is towards us stinky hikers. We absolutely enjoyed our stay in Franklin.”

During the last week of March, Stafford was able to access one of the many transportation opportunities into Franklin from Winding Stair Gap, the A.T.’s trailhead off Hwy. 64.

“We were so excited to find out that we could take the local hiker bus right into town,” she said. “That was a stress reliever for us, just knowing that we didn’t have to



Elizabeth Stafford, from Mt. Pleasant, S.C., who is thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail with her 10-year-old daughter, Brooklyn, praised Franklin for the hospitality they received while in the town last week. The mother-daughter team stopped in at First Baptist Church for breakfast.

call for a shuttle. Our driver was awesome and made sure everyone was delivered to the right hotel. I thought we would just be dropped off at the center of town and would

have to find our way.”

The next day, the mother and daughter hiking duo decided to enjoy the free daily breakfast offered to hikers by First Baptist Church.

“The church breakfast was amazing,” she said, “We were picked up right at our hotel

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Town to lease alleyway to restaurant

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

While Franklin Town Council members discussed and approved sundry agenda items at their April 4, 6 p.m. meeting, much discussion surrounded the old business request of the lease of town property for outdoor dining by the Root + Barrel restaurant on Main Street. The public was given 30 days prior to April 4 to weigh in on the proposed lease agreement that will involve the alleyway between Franklin Town Hall, 95 N.E. Main Street, and Root + Barrel, which is next door at 77 E. Main Street.

Town Attorney John Henning Jr. explained that during the past 30 days approximately 160 comments were made both for and against the proposed lease. Clarified Town Manager Amie Owens, “The majority of comments (150) were made on social media platforms that were not town-owned or town-affiliated. There were only 10 official submissions to the town via email; nine were in favor of the lease and one

was opposed.”

The most vocal objection to an outdoor dining space for the restaurant that will add up to 40 seats for Root + Barrel patrons has been former Town of Franklin Mayor Bob Scott. He questioned during the public session: “Is such a lease a misuse of public property for private gain?” He posed other considerations and added, “I know the council is faced with a tough decision ... it’s very controversial.”

Scott has stated at past meetings that he is in support of outdoor dining in general – just not on Town property due to alcohol being served at the restaurant.

Council member Stacy Guffey noted that he has received some criticism for supporting the lease agreement but pointed out, “This is a small way to keep people downtown ... to make Franklin more livable. Whatever vote I take on this board, I honestly do it because I believe it’s in the best

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Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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A three-year lease agreement for a grassy alleyway between Franklin Town Hall and Root + Barrel was approved by Town of Franklin Council members at its April 4 meeting. The area will become an outdoor dining space for the Main Street restaurant. Photos by Vickie Carpenter

TOWN LEASE

Continued from page 1

interest of Franklin.”

Added member Rita Salain, “I appreciate local businesses wanting to expand in this town.”

Despite any written or verbal pushback, the Council voted unanimously to allow a three-year graduated lease agreement to Root + Barrel.

Mayor Jack Horton commented, “Since I have been involved with the council, I have been a big supporter of downtown – it’s commerce, it’s activities ... anything to improve the town. Some people are going to applaud you and some will be ready to burn you at the stake, no matter your actions on the council. This issue has received lots of public attention and discussion. And the town’s council members are sincere in doing what is in the best interest of the town.”

Other business

In other business, Mark McConnell was recognized by Franklin Water and Sewer Department Supervisor Bill Deal for his 20 years of service as a pump mechanic. McConnell will retire April 30. Mayor Horton thanked “all who keep the

town running,” adding, “Nobody worries about plumbing until it gets stopped up, so we really appreciate those employees who do this work.” McConnell was not present at the meeting, but Mayor Horton presented Deal with a certificate of appreciation for McConnell.

In addition, the council approved the annexation of 3011 Georgia Road into the Town of Franklin corporate limits as well as a request for a public hearing to be held on May 2 at 6:05 p.m. to receive public input on a rezoning request for Mary B. Lane from Storage R-1 to Commercial C-2 designation.

Steve Suttles of J.E. Dunn updated the council and guests regarding the skatepark, explaining that dirt is currently being moved in preparation to create the park’s base and ramps. Council member David Culpepper reminded the council that Phase I of the future 6,000-square-foot skatepark located off of First Street on the town-owned Whitmire Property is secure regarding construction funding. Funds are currently being raised for Phase II of the park, which will pay for the finishing work and landscaping. The council has agreed to assist financially with Phase II if necessary.

Request for street closures for upcoming 2022 Streets of Franklin Heritage Association events, by the organization’s

president Brooke Reale was approved.

A budget work session will be held April 19 at 6 p.m. The next Town of Franklin Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2. Town of Franklin offices will be closed Friday, April 15, in observance of Good Friday.

Kindergarten orientation days

The following schools have announced their kindergarten orientation days:

- Cartoogechaye Elementary - Friday, April 22, by appointment only
- East Franklin Elementary - Friday, May 6, by appointment only (8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.)
- Highlands School - Tuesday, March 15 at 10 a.m. Contact the school for details
- Iotla Valley Elementary - Friday, April 29, by appointment only
- Nantahala School - Friday, April 22, by appointment only
- South Macon Elementary - Friday April 22, by appointment only

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The Easter Bunny will be hopping around from 11am to 3pm. Children can meet the Easter Bunny in Rankin Square from 1-2pm and receive free goodies.
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| YEAR | MAKE | MODEL | MILES |
|------|------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| 2022 | BMW | Alpina XB7 | 536 |
| 2022 | BMW | 530 | 240 |
| 2022 | Chevrolet | Corvette 2LT | 201 |
| 2021 | Kia | K5 LXS | 4,963 |
| 2021 | Tesla | Model 3 Standard Range Plus | 15,196 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Spark | 1,167 |
| 2020 | Chevrolet | Corvette 3LT | 8,263 |
| 2019 | Nissan | Sentra SV | 15,009 |
| 2019 | Volkswagen | Golf SportWagen | 56,048 |
| 2019 | Volkswagen | Beetle | 42,676 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Cruze | 34,692 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Cruze LS | 54,872 |
| 2015 | Nissan | Altima 2.5 S | 59,261 |
| 2015 | Buick | LaCrosse | 104,189 |
| 2014 | Chevrolet | Cruze | 113,152 |
| 2013 | Hyundia | Elantra | 55,328 |
| 2011 | Cadillac | CTS Sedan Luxury | 73,798 |
| 2008 | Corvette | Coupe | 9,007 |

SUVS

| YEAR | MAKE | MODEL | MILES |
|------|-----------|-----------------------|--------|
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Tahoe RST | 4,798 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Tahoe Z71 | 14,918 |
| 2021 | Kia | Telluride S | 8,173 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Suburban | 388 |
| 2021 | Ford | Bronco Badlands AWD | 1,237 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Equinox Premier AWD | 16,427 |
| 2021 | Jeep | Wrangle High Altitude | 17,132 |

| | | | |
|------|------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| 2020 | Tahoe | Premier 4x4 | 24,476 |
| 2020 | Chevrolet | Traverse LT | 14,559 |
| 2020 | Cadillac | Escalade Premium Luxury | 7,309 |
| 2020 | GMC | Acadia AT4 | 28,261 |
| 2020 | Subaru | Outback Onyx Edition XT | 27,594 |
| 2020 | Subaru | Crosstrek Limited | 14,430 |
| 2020 | Hyundai | Palisade | 34,462 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Tahoe LT | 46,162 |
| 2019 | GMC | Yukon XL Denali | 63,696 |
| 2019 | Land Rover | Range Rover Sport HSE Dynamic | 37,751 |
| 2019 | GMC | Terrain | 63,316 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Tahoe | 84,386 |
| 2018 | Volkswagen | Atlas 3.6L V6 SE | 71,947 |
| 2018 | Kia | Soul | 58,573 |
| 2017 | Toyota | RAV4 LE | 83,441 |
| 2017 | Volkswagen | Tiguan Wolfsburg Edition | 59,132 |
| 2016 | Buick | Enclave CXL AWD | 81,859 |
| 2015 | Chevrolet | Equinox LTZ AWD | 107,485 |
| 2015 | Chevrolet | Equinox IT AWD | 87,398 |
| 2015 | Jeep | Wrangler Unlimited Altitude | 39,030 |
| 2014 | Ford | Explorer 4x4 | 68,342 |
| 2013 | Mazda | CX-5 | 94,754 |
| 2012 | Chevrolet | Traverse | 120,790 |

TRUCKS

| YEAR | MAKE | MODEL | MILES |
|------|-----------|------------------------------|--------|
| 2022 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss | 651 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss | 15,112 |
| 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 | Colorado | 31,506 |
| 2020 | Ram | 3500 Dump Truck | 19,267 |
| 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 | Toyota | Tacoma TRD 4x4 | 43,577 |
| 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 |
| 2019 | Toyota | Tacoma SR5 | 43,420 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Colorado Z-71 | 23,542 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 Custom | 104,810 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 | 31,379 |
| 2018 | GMC | Sierra 1500 SLT | 44,668 |
| 2018 | GMC | Sierra 1500 Denali | 25,059 |
| 2017 | GMC | Sierra 1500 SLT | 55,201 |
| 2017 | GMC | Sierra 1500 SLT | 61,657 |
| 2017 | Ram | Nightfall 1500 4x4 | 79,143 |
| 2016 | Ram | Diesel Crew 2500 | 60,495 |
| 2015 | Chevrolet | Colorado | 95,530 |
| 2012 | Chevrolet | Colorado LT w/1LT | 117,555 |
| 2012 | GMC | Sierra 2500 Diesel | 192,749 |



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HIKERS

Continued from page 1

by the pastor [Dr. Robert Brown] and driven straight to pancakes and bacon! It was just the boost we needed for the morning. The fact that the church members donate their time to cook for us every morning says a lot about your community.”

Traditionally, First Baptist Church provides breakfast 7 a.m. daily for A.T. hikers from mid-March to mid-April. The breakfast includes pancakes, bacon, coffee, and juice. Brown explained that about a half dozen volunteers make sure breakfast is made and served daily for hikers. At the same time, the volunteers offer hikers encouragement and prayers. They are also invited to pose for pictures that the church mails to their loved ones as an act of kindness for the hikers. They are also invited to send photos back to the church for its “Wall of Honor” that depicts hikers that have enjoyed FBC’s breakfast over the years.

Stafford said she and her daughter were inspired to hike the A.T. after hearing a family member’s story. They were hikers and backpackers, but to prepare for the arduous 2,000-plus-mile hike of the entire A.T., Stafford and her

daughter trained by walking with a full pack on an incline treadmill and stair stepper, taking walks on the beach, and walking their dog in the neighborhood. “I work out as well,” she said, “and Brooklyn is working her way up to a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.”

Regarding her daughter’s commitment to the hike, she added, “We have made it this far and hope to continue all the way to Maine. She is one determined little girl and I have no doubt we can do it. She is also a Girl Scout who sold over 6,000 boxes of cookies just to earn a cruise to Mexico and a week-long trip to New York City this year. Everyone we met [in Franklin] was friendly, polite, and intrigued by our story.”

Already this year, hundreds of A.T. hikers have visited Franklin. Last Saturday, April 2, the Nantahala Hiking Club’s Hiker Chowdown enlisted multiple volunteers to feed around 60 hikers a homemade meal of chili, as well as a large selection of baked goods that were made and donated by club members and individuals in the community. The hikers were offered fruit, chips, and other items as well. As they congregated to eat and visit with one another and the volunteers, they expressed their impressions of Franklin; “friendly,” “welcoming,” and “awesome” were just some of the adjectives hikers were overheard conveying to volunteers.



Elizabeth Stafford and her daughter Brooklyn prepare cards to send back to their family back home.



Along with breakfast, First Baptist also offers inspirational materials, information about the area and a “survivor” kit that may include things like a mini first aid kit, a lighter and chapstick.



A crew of volunteers from the First Baptist Church in Franklin show up before daylight to prepare and serve breakfast daily to hikers throughout the months of March and April.



First Baptist Church offers a pancake breakfast to hikers that stop off in Franklin, even picking them at their hotels or hostels to make sure they have a hot meal.



At Saturday’s Hiker ChowDown, hosted by Nantahala Hiking Club and held at Lazy Hiker, at least 60 Appalachian Trail hikers enjoyed a free meal, snacks, fruit, and baked goods.



Hikers are invited to mail their photos back to First Baptist Church when they complete the Appalachian Trail where they are placed on a "Wall of Honor."

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WHT names 'trailblazer' Jessie Downs Cabe Macon Matriarch

Cheryl Beck & Theresa Ramsey

The Women's History Trail (WHT), a project of the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County (FHAMC), adopted an activity in 2018 that continues each March as a part of Women's History Month. This annual event recognizes a special "WHT Macon Matriarch" and her role as trailblazer to help shape a better future for Macon County.

Since its creation, four deserving women have been honored as WHT Macon Matriarchs: Margaret Ramsey (2018), Sally Kesler (2019), Dorothy Crawford (2020) and Roberta Swank (2021).

"This year's recipient, Jessie Downs Cabe, joins this legacy of women, esteemed treasures of our community, who have been recognized for their many years of dedication and service to others," said Anne Hyder, chairperson of the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County. "The Folk Heritage Association and Women's History Trail strives to keep our area's heritage alive, and the Macon Matriarch is a perfect way to bring history to life as we celebrate the lives of Macon County women and honor their accomplishments."

Jessie Downs Cabe

Jessie Downs was born in 1927 and raised on Hall Farm Road in the Rose Creek Community. As a little girl she walked across the mountain to Iotla School. She graduated from Franklin High School in 1945 and attended Berea College from 1945-1949, majoring in home economics and minoring in



Jessie Downs Cabe

religion. In 1950, she married Leon Cabe, who had been her neighbor when they were growing up. The couple moved to Detroit, Mich., where Leon worked in the automotive industry, but they longed to return home to Macon County.

After moving back home, Cabe began her career as a school teacher, teaching home economics at Hayesville High School for two years and then at Franklin High School. In 1953 she was recruited to work with the

North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service (now called N.C. Cooperative Extension) through North Carolina State University. She began as an assistant for the 4-H clubs, but it was her time spent with homemakers for which she is most remembered. For more than 30 years, Cabe's expertise in housing and house furnishings, human development, as well as all areas of family and consumer education, and volunteer recruitment and utilization, made her an invaluable resource for Maconians.

Cabe's ability to work with all ages and socio-economic groups allowed her to share research-based information that could improve the lives of individuals and families. She visited homes, providing assistance in developing house plans and making homes more convenient and livable. She conducted or coordinated workshops that taught hundreds of people marketable craft skills that helped add income for their families. Cabe provided educational opportunities for parents to be better equipped for their responsibilities, and her work with the aging population was groundbreaking in the county.

Cabe mobilized a cadre of volunteers, women and men, through Extension Homemakers Clubs – providing training to help them use their knowledge and skills to help others. Through activities like the Green Garden Program, the N.C. Highway Safety Car Seat Program and Lap Readers, these volunteers gave countless hours to the citizens of Macon County. At one time more than 500 people were involved and there

were more than 20 Extension Homemaker groups in the county. Under Cabe's leadership, the Macon County Extension Homemakers were recognized as one of the largest and strongest volunteer organizations in the state.

Ever eager to provide new opportunities for Macon County, Cabe's influence was far-reaching. Along with her Extension co-worker Florence Sherrill, she wrote federal grants for community action that would become Macon County Program for Progress. She was instrumental in helping form Macon County Arts Council, Macon County Senior Citizens Program and Maco Crafts, as well as serving on boards for many other organizations.

The Macon County Fair benefitted from Cabe's leadership as she helped establish the Home Furnishings division of the fair; at one time, there were more than 800 entries in the Family Life area.

Cabe inspired other young Extension agents to be influential in their counties, mentoring at least 15 during her career. A consummate professional, Cabe was organized in all areas of her life. Marilyn Cole, a former co-worker, said she had never seen anyone as organized as Jessie. "She always had plenty of time for her work, her family, and her church."

The Cabes raised three daughters, Peggy, Susan, and Jan. She has six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Cabe was active in the Snow Hill United Methodist Church, serving as a Sunday School teacher, Bible study leader, and UMW leader, and

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participated in many church conferences at Lake Junaluska.

“Macon County benefited from Jessie Cabe’s love for families and her desire to help them live good, productive lives. She is truly a Macon Matriarch,” said Mary Polanski from the FHAMC/WHT.

Women’s History Trail projects

The Women’s History Trail “Walking in Her Steps” project is a designated walking path in downtown Franklin identified by bronze plaques that share stories and pay tribute to the many women who helped shape Macon County’s history.

The WHT sculpture, a stop on the trail, will feature a special bronze art sculpture to be placed in downtown Franklin. Titled “Sowing the Seeds of the Future,” the sculpture depicts three local historical women (a white woman, an African American woman and a Cherokee woman) whose lives and cul-



tures intersected in the early days of Macon County.

For more information about the Folk Heritage Association or the Women’s History Trail, visit www.FolkHeritageAssociation.org or email WHT leadership at whtmaconnc@gmail.com.

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Postpartum coverage is extended for 12 months for NC Medicaid beneficiaries

Medicaid postpartum health care coverage will be extended from 60 days to 12 months for eligible people in North Carolina beginning April 1, 2022. Medicaid will also provide 12 months of continuous postpartum coverage to eligible people who are currently pregnant or gave birth between Feb. 1, 2022, and March 31, 2022.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 gave states the option to increase postpartum coverage to 12 months. The extension was included in the state budget which was approved in November 2021. The option for the 12-month extension of postpartum coverage is available to states for five years, through March 2027.

Beneficiaries will now be eligible to receive 12 months of ongoing postpartum health care coverage beginning on the date their pregnancy ends through the last day of the month 12-months after the last date of the pregnancy. Beneficiaries will remain eligible for ongoing postpartum health care coverage even if certain changes occur that may affect eligibility — such as a change in income or household/family unit.

Most pregnant and postpartum beneficiaries will have access to full Medicaid benefits. This may include services like doctor's visits, prescription drugs, dental, vision and hearing, as well as behavioral health care and substance use services. For a full list of benefits, visit the NC Medicaid website.

North Carolina currently ranks 30th in the country in maternal mortality and 39th in infant mortality. In addition, 12% of women in the state experience postpartum depression.

Beneficiaries will automatically receive extended postpartum coverage if enrolled in the Medicaid for Pregnant Women program. All eligible beneficiaries will receive a letter notifying them of the change.

To receive the extended postpartum benefit, all eligible Medicaid beneficiaries must report when they are pregnant and the last date they were pregnant to their local Department of Social Services. Extended coverage applies to all categories of beneficiaries in all NC Medicaid programs, including those currently enrolled in MPW.

For more information, visit NC Medicaid's Postpartum Coverage Extension webpage.

Overdose deaths up 40% in North Carolina in '20

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services reports that an average of nine North Carolinians died each day from a drug overdose in 2020, a 40% increase from the previous year.

"A single life lost to an overdose is a life we should have saved. Stress, loss of housing and loss of employment for those in recovery caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a backslide in our fight against substance use disorders," said NCDHHS Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "Improving behavioral health and resilience is a top priority for NCDHHS, and we will rally our community partners and our team to meet these new challenges as we focus on saving lives, prevention and the lasting supports needed for long-term recovery, including increasing the number of people with health insurance."

This stark increase during 2020 aligns with the increases experienced nationwide with the nation exceeding 100,000 deaths. In North Carolina, the number of drug overdose deaths — from illicit substances and/or medications — increased by nearly 1,000 deaths, from 2,352 in 2019 to 3,304 in 2020. There were also nearly 15,000 emergency department visits related to drug overdoses in 2020. Provisional surveillance data suggest these increases continued through 2021. Both overdose deaths and the increases disproportionately affect historically marginalized populations.

Amidst the challenging backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, NCDHHS is working to reverse this trend. It continues to implement the North Carolina Opioid and Substance Use Action Plan, which aims to prevent addiction, reduce harm from substance use and connect people to substance use services, housing and employment support, and to do all of this with attention to equity. Specific actions include:

- To prevent overdoses, NCDHHS regularly provides free naloxone to syringe services programs, local government agencies, treatment providers and other community-based organizations.

- This year, 15 mobile health clinics funded by NCDHHS will begin working in hard-to-reach areas to assess clients and provide treatment, primary care and recovery support services.

- Community-based organizations receive funding and other support to extend the reach of overdose prevention, harm reduction and substance use treatment services. Certain programs are tailored for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- NCDHHS funds a variety of trainings for professionals working locally in the field on initiatives like syringe services

and harm reduction programs, justice-involved linkages to care, post-overdose response teams and prescribing medications for opioid use disorder.

- Progress is monitored on a data dashboard that tracks state, regional and county-level metrics and local actions.

- The Hope4NC helpline (1-855-587-3463), continues to assist those who need confidential emotional support, counseling referrals or connection to community resources.

In addition to overall increases in fatal and non-fatal overdoses, the burden of overdose has disproportionately worsened in some historically marginalized communities. The overall number of overdose deaths is still highest among non-Hispanic white people; however, when measured as a portion of population, American Indian/Indigenous people have the highest rate and the highest increase in deaths (see table). Careful monitoring of these trends along with strategic partnerships with organizations and individuals from these historically marginalized populations are key in reducing these disparities.

Overdose deaths and emergency department visits had declined in 2018 and plateaued in 2019. The 2020 increases may in part be attributed to pandemic-related increases in alcohol consumption and substance use, and more U.S. adults reported anxiety or depression symptoms and seriously considering suicide than before the pandemic.

Specifically, the North Carolina overdose death trends by year are as follows:

- 017: +26% increase over the previous year
- 2018: -7% decrease compared to previous year
- 2019: +2% increase over the previous year
- 020: +40% increase over the previous year
- Provisional 2021: continued increase in overdose deaths in North Carolina

The increase in overdose deaths in recent years is driven by illicit opioids, such as heroin and fentanyl. In 2020, more than 70% of overdose deaths in the state likely involved illicitly manufactured fentanyl, often in combination with other substances. More than 60% of overdose deaths involve multiple substances, and the involvement of stimulants, like cocaine and methamphetamine, is increasing.

For more information about effective ways to prevent and respond to overdose, visit www.ncdhhs.gov/about/department-initiatives/overdose-epidemic or ncopioidsettlement.org or email beinjurfreenc@dhhs.nc.gov.

For more information about overdose data, visit www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/Overdose.htm.

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Dementia series continues

The Alzheimer's Association chapters in North Carolina, along with The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration and The Duke University and the University of North Carolina Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, are continuing Under the Dementia Umbrella, a five-part virtual education series taking place across North Carolina through September.

Dementia is not a single disease, but rather an overall term — like heart disease — that covers a wide range of specific medical conditions, including its most common form, Alzheimer's disease. This series will take a deeper dive into various disorders that fall under the umbrella of dementia.

"Confusion between Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia is common," said Katherine L. Lambert, CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, Western Carolina Chapter. "Learning about the differences between them is important and can empower individuals living with any form of dementia, their families and their caregivers with necessary knowledge."

Part one of the series on Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia took place in February.



Part two — "UNDERstanding Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) and Primary Progressive Aphasias (PPA)" — will take place on Thursday, April 21 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. In the frontotemporal dementias there can be a greater burden of problems in personality and behavior. FTD diseases can cause people to become more disinhibited, have reduced empathy, or not follow social norms. PPA can cause changes that are restricted to speech and language with preservation of memory and other functions. This program will discuss the symptoms most commonly seen in these conditions, the underlying causes, how these differ from Alzheimer's disease, and how these conditions can be best treated and supported. The program will be presented by Heidi Roth, M.D., who is currently leading the clinical research arm of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at UNC and is the director of the UNC Aging Brain Clinic which focuses on early memory changes.

"Despite being the most common dementia for people under 60, FTD remains little known among both the general public and even many healthcare professionals," said William Reiter, MA, AFTD Education Program Manager. "FTD presents care challenges that simply aren't common to better-known dementias like Alzheimer's. Greater education on FTD's symptoms and disease progression is imperative to ensure that those living with the disease, and their families, can access compassionate, person-centered, and FTD-specific care."

Remaining programs in the series are:

- June - Depression, Addiction and Dementia
- August - Down Syndrome and Dementia
- September - Vascular Dementia

The series is offered in partnership with The Age Coach and Senior Care Authority. Each webinar will offer expert speakers, guest panelists, and time for discussion. Webinars are open to the general public and individuals and families affected by dementia. There is no charge to participate, but registration is required and a recording of each program will be made available to all registrants. Attendees can attend via video/webinar or through a toll-free number. To sign up or access recordings of previous programs in the series, visit tinyurl.com/DementiaUmbrella2022 or call 1-800-272-3900.

Social Security offices to resume in-person services

Statement of Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner: "I am pleased to announce that local Social Security offices will restore in-person services, including for people without an appointment, on April 7, 2022.

"To avoid waiting in line, people are encouraged to use our online services at www.socialsecurity.gov, call us, and schedule appointments in advance rather than walking in without an appointment. Phone appointments can save you a trip to a busy office.

"Customers who walk in without appointments may encounter delays and longer waits at our offices. Be aware that our offices tend to be the busiest first thing in the morning, early in the week, and during the early part of the month, so people may want to plan to visit at other times.

"Given that many of the people we serve have health vulnerabilities, and consistent with our union agreements, we are continuing to require certain safety measures including masking, physical distancing, and self-health checks for COVID-19 symptoms. We will provide masks to the public and employees if they need them.

"Social Security employees are dedicated to serving the public, and we are ready to welcome the public back to our offices. We have also implemented office-to-office support as well as brought recently retired employees back to assist the public. We thank the many interested stakeholders including the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living and national advocate organizations for your help.

"Throughout the pandemic, millions of people have used our secure and convenient online services and received help by phone. People who have access to the internet should first try our online services before calling us or visiting an office.

"As we transition to a new modern phone system, some people may experience a busy signal or be unintentionally dis-

connected from their call. We sincerely regret this disruption and recommend people call when our National 800 Number may be less busy, such as before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. local time or later in the week. Like our offices, our waits are generally shorter later in the month."

To learn more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/gethelp/ and www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices/.

Additional Information

Most Social Security services are available to the public online at www.socialsecurity.gov and with a my Social Security account, or by telephone. And most Social Security services do not require the public to take time to visit an office. People may create their my Social Security account, a personalized online service, at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

People who set up their my Social Security account have access to additional personalized services. They can request a replacement Social Security card online if they meet certain requirements. If they already receive Social Security benefits, they can start or change direct deposit online, request a replacement SSA-1099, and if they need proof of their benefits, they can print or download a current Benefit Verification Letter from their account.

People not yet receiving benefits can use their online account to get a personalized Social Security Statement, which provides their earnings information as well as estimates of their future benefits. The portal also includes a retirement calculator and links to information about other online services, such as applications for retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits.

Many Social Security services are also conveniently available by dialing toll-free, 1-800-772-1213. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call Social Security's TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.



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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor

Highlands is moving toward spring, and activities will pickup in Highlands. I'm ready for the cold days and nights to go away.

Stillwell and Associates have begun replacing the old, outdated waterline on Moorewood Drive. There will be some disruption as crews dig and install the new six-inch waterline. The trenching will be mostly on the side of the road. Some plants and small trees will have to be removed. American Rescue funds are being used for this project. Water system improvement fall within permitted uses of the plan.

There are two sidewalk projects in the current budget that should get underway as we see warmer days. The sidewalk in front of the Presbyterian Church will be restored. The concrete under the brick pavers is crumbling and will be replaced. There will be a sidewalk installed on US 64 between the new residential development across from the ball field and down to the Wells Hotel. The developer of the residential development had to put in sidewalks in front of the development as a part of the Highlands master sidewalk plan. Ironically there was about a 400 foot gap between the sidewalk of the development and where it continues near the Well Hotel. The board decided last year to connect the two portions of the sidewalk. This new sidewalk project will also include better stormwater drainage.

As we move toward spring, town road crews will be doing cleanup and clearing operations in the ditches and drainage areas on town roads. With recent storms and high winds there has been a lot of fallen tree debris and runoff that fill these road drainage systems. I anticipate NCDOT will be doing similar operations on the roads that they maintain both in and outside town.

Now let me address the dreaded P word; that is potholes in roadways. As area asphalt plants resume production and temperatures increase, our crews will be filling the potholes in town that have developed over the winter. I know motorists become frustrated about potholes popping up during the winter, but efforts to make repairs in cold weather at best last for only a few days.

WLOS News recently ran an interesting story. A news reporter covered the Sylva Fire Department moving toward a combined staffing model. The department will hire a cadre of full time firemen to staff their department



Patrick Taylor

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Is American democracy doomed?

Oswald Spengler, German historian/writer/philosopher, wrote a book entitled "The Decline of the West." From this work, to a large extent, Spengler became known for his "Spengler curve." Basically, the Spengler curve suggests that many human endeavors have an onset, growth stage and, lastly, their decline/death.

It is noteworthy that everything changes in nature without necessarily following a fast track along the Spengler curve. Most living things produce offspring to carry on the species even as individuals die off.

So, how do we view American democracy? Is it doomed? What might be the most damaging factor for our form of government? What might be the most important factor to assure that our democracy survives? Is our Constitution in need of revision(s) to meet the challenges brought about by modern technology and the expanded population?

American democracy is under attack. Are you willing to witness its death as some who participated in the January 6, 2020 insurrection say they were/are? Or are you sowing seeds of democracy for tomorrow? Without nourishment/practice we may indeed watch helplessly as our democracy dies.

Dave Waldrop - Webster, N.C.

We really should butt out of Ukrainian War

Forgive me if I don't share the general enthusiasm for the war in Ukraine. The Ukrainian people are truly suffering and deserve our support with humanitarian assistance but the way to stop their suffering is to bring a negotiated peace quickly rather than trying to prolong the war with continued arms shipments. I look upon the war as a domestic situation in which we have become involved. The trouble is that this domestic situation involves another man, as it were. That other man is Uncle Sam, so we really should butt out. We say that we are defending democracy, but Ukraine is hardly a model democracy and we overturned their democratically elected leader in 2014 because we didn't like the results. Funny how we hear talk of democracy and "our democracy" when the results please the elites that rule us but when things don't go their way it's because of Russian interference, insurrectionists, and white supremacy, yada, yada, yada. Oh, and voter suppression! Who can possibly take these people seriously?

We have a dangerous Commander-in-Chief whose loose lips could get the whole world in a nuclear war. We need to de-escalate and save us a lot of death and needless suffering. We need to acknowledge our meddling in Ukrainian affairs, using the corruption in the country to enrich people such as Hunter and Joe Biden. We have repeatedly turned a deaf ear to Russian concerns starting soon after the col-

lapse of the Soviet Union by expanding NATO upon the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact. I always thought that was a terrible move. It sure didn't inspire trust and now we are seeing the outworking of a flawed decision. Instead of forging a closer relationship with Russia after the Cold War we have pushed her into the arms of China, our chief adversary. Our entire foreign policy establishment needs a complete overhaul in both personnel and philosophy. I'm ready to let Europe take care of Europe. If they want NATO, they can support it and fight for it. We need to pay more attention to our own house before we try to get everybody else's house in order. We are being invaded at our southern border and democracy is being threatened here in the U.S. but we are being asked to ignore that and focus on the border and democracy of another country. As someone once said, "My God, this man cannot remain in power."

David Parker - Franklin, N.C.

Voter information for May 17 Primary Election

Absentee ballots request March 28-May 10

Request forms at www.maconnc.org or www.ncsbe.gov or by calling (828)349-2034 or email Macon.boe@ncsbe.gov.

Voter Registration Deadline Friday, April 22 at 5 p.m.

Same day registration is possible only during one-stop voting.

One-Stop Voting - Franklin April 28-May 14

Robert C. Carpenter Community Building
Hours Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.;
Saturdays 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

One-Stop Voting - Highlands April 28-May 14

Highlands Civic Center, 600 N 4th St.
Hours Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.;
Saturdays 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Primary Election Day Tuesday, May 17

Voters will cast ballots at their respective precincts.

Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Contact the Macon County Board of Elections at (828)349-2034 or visit www.maconnc.org/elections.

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Barbara McRae a beloved writer, woman

I have always loved researching and finding new facts and learning about people. There was one gracious lady, Barbara McRae, who had such vast knowledge of our Macon County and was willing to share her expertise. She found five different people with Scots/Irish roots who settled in Macon County.

Thanks to my beloved writer, let me share this information.

Patrick Callahan, Indian trader at Cowee, hosted Thomas Griffiths in 1768 while Thomas was on an expedition to obtain the Cherokee Clay. He also hosted William Bartram in 1775. Bartram was described as "the old honest Hibernian" (i.e. Scotsman) He married a Cherokee woman and was much beloved by the Indians, according to Bartram.

Thomas Shepherd (1798-1880) and his wife Narcissa Welch (1800-1874) were among the earliest settlers of the Cowee Community. Thomas, who was born in Scotland came to America with his parents. They first settled in Pennsylvania, then moved to Wilkes County, N.C. Thomas and Mary were in Macon County by 1827. Thomas wrote

his will on April 22, 1841, and died the following August, leaving a large family. His estate included 34 slaves who were divided among his heirs.

Robert Love, who headed the party of surveyors who mapped old Macon County in 1820, in preparation of the first land sale, was a member of a prominent family who originated in Ulster, Ireland. Other members of this family included Dillard Love – one of the richest and most interesting of the early settlers.

George Patton, born in Northern Ireland, 1 May 1769, married Mary Ann McDonnell, whose parents were also from Northern Ireland. They settled in Macon County in the early 1820s (Patton Valley). George got his start peddling goods and buying furs, feathers, indigo, and beeswax.

William Morrison (1794-1865) came from Burke County, N.C. and settled in Oak Grove Community, about 1829. He was a descendant of James Morrison, who emigrated to Pennsylvania from North Ireland.

I would like to give Barbara McRae (unofficially) the title of Beloved Writer and Beloved Woman of Macon County.

Merrilee Bordeaux
Taste of Scotland Society

SHP announces 2022 Operation Drive to Live

With many schools celebrating prom season, and in conjunction with national Distracted Driving Awareness Month, the State Highway Patrol is conducting Operation Drive to Live. This annual campaign is aimed at reducing collisions involving teen drivers on our roadways. Beginning Monday, April 4, and going through Friday, April 8, troopers will step up their enforcement efforts in and around school zones between 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, young drivers are significantly over-represented in fatal crashes. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in America and in North Carolina. Engaging in risky driving behaviors combined with inexperience are primary factors contributing to fatal crashes by young drivers, especially during the first six months of driving. Mile for mile, teenagers are involved in three times as many fatal crashes than all other drivers. Two common errors accounting for nearly half of the crashes involving teen drivers are speeding and driving while distracted.

In 2021, the State Highway Patrol investigated over 32,915 motor vehicle collisions involving young drivers and passengers. Of those collisions, 8,498 injuries were reported and 124 resulted in one or more fatalities.

"Teen drivers face a great responsibility when getting behind the wheel of a vehicle, we must be committed to ensuring they have the tools, resources and knowledge needed to stay safe on our roadways," said Colonel Freddy Johnson, Jr., commander of the State Highway Patrol. "The choices they will face, along with the consequences of making a poor choice are important conversations we must have with young drivers as parents, educators and law enforcement professionals."

During the week-long campaign troopers will focus on enforcement, but equally important they will conduct educational initiatives throughout schools, at community events and in driver education courses. Parents and caregivers will hopefully use the campaign as a catalyst to discuss safe driving with their young drivers especially as the forthcoming summer months are considered the deadliest time for collisions involving teens.

Individual income tax return filing deadline for 2022 is Monday, April 18

The deadline for filing calendar year North Carolina individual income tax returns is Monday, April 18, unless you request an extension. Electronically filed returns must be submitted electronically by midnight on April 18. For taxpayers filing via paper, returns must be post-marked by April 18.

The deadline to file and pay state income tax was extended to April 18 because state government is closed on Friday, April 15, to observe the Good Friday holiday.

A taxpayer who receives an automatic extension to file their federal individual income tax return will be granted an automatic extension to file their North Carolina individual income tax return if the individual certifies on their North Carolina return that they received an automatic federal exten-

sion.

If a taxpayer is not granted an automatic federal extension, the taxpayer may still request a State extension to file their North Carolina individual income tax return by filing Form D-410 by midnight on April 18. The extension, however, is only for filing a return and is not an extension of time to pay any tax that may be owed.

A taxpayer who does not pay the amount of tax due by April 18 may incur late-payment penalties and will be charged interest at the statutory rate. The late-payment penalty will not be due for taxpayers who pay at least 90 percent of their tax liability through withholding, estimated tax payments, or with Form D-410 by April 18.

For more information, visit www.ncdor.gov.



TAYLOR From previous page

24/7 this coming year. The Sylva Fire Department will also continue to rely on volunteer firemen. The combined model is a growing national trend. What caught my interest was that the fire chief said they had built a new department a few years ago with a barracks section. He indicated they built this larger facility with the aim of hiring full time firemen. The chief pointed out that the full time staffing would reduce response times which will keep insurance rates down. That model and strategy is exactly what the Highlands is planning with the construction of our new fire department that also has a barracks section.

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Cowee lecture series continues with preservation presentation ‘An Animal Shelter for Old Homes’

On Monday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m., the series “Where We Live: History, Nature, and Culture,” will host Ted Alexander, western regional office director for Preservation North Carolina.

Preservation North Carolina (PNC), founded in 1939, promotes and protects the buildings and landscapes of our state’s diverse heritage. Preservation NC acquires endangered historic properties and then finds purchasers willing and able to rehabilitate them. It has saved more than 800 endangered historic properties — houses, factory mills, schools, churches, general stores — and are fondly referred to as “the animal shelter for old houses.” Buyers have put these properties into a multitude of new uses, adding millions of dollars to local tax rolls and creating numerous jobs. In addition to buildings, more than 4,000 acres of open space have been placed under PNC’s protective covenants.

Alexander will discuss PNC overall and specifically the properties that they have been directly involved with pre-



Rickman Store near Cowee School is one of the properties Mainspring Conservation Trust has worked to preserve.

serving in Macon County, working alongside Mainspring Conservation Trust.

A native of Morganton and now a resident of Shelby, Alexander has served since 2005 as the Regional Director for PNC’s Western Office covering 37 counties. He has extensive background in both downtown revitalization and historic preservation, serving as Main Street Program Coordinator for Virginia, executive director of the Uptown Shelby Association, Mayor of Shelby from 2003-2011, and is now serving his second term in the NC Senate, representing District 44, comprised of Lincoln, Cleveland and a portion of Gaston County.

The program will be held at the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center at 51 Cowee School Dr., in Franklin. The lecture series is designed to give people an opportunity to learn more about the local area, from many different angles, and to participate in an informative evening. The public is invited.

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Bob and Sammie Calloway Houston

Couple wed 65 years

Bob and Sammie Calloway Houston celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on March 19, 2022. They were married on March 14, 1957, just before Bob left for Japan for an 18-month tour in the Air Force. Sammie graduated from Highlands High School during that time.

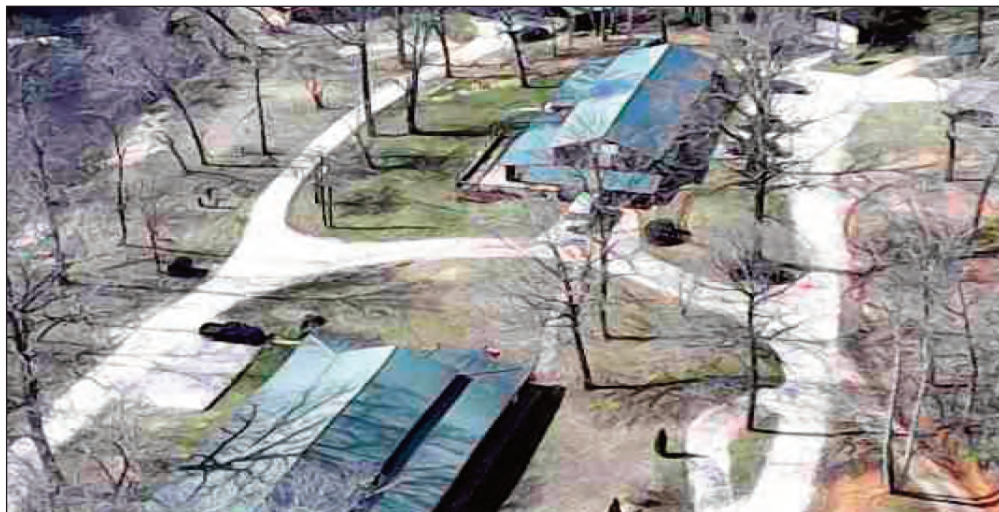
They have one daughter, Karen Potts (Joe) of Cashiers, N.C., and one son, Timothy Houston of Lawrenceville, Ga. They are blessed with four grandchildren, Danae Westendorf (Scott) of Highlands; Trent Reese (Stephanie) of Berlin, Germany; Matt Houston (Jenny) of Snellville, Ga.; and Melissa Toller (Ben) of Snellville. Their eight great grandchildren have brought them so much joy, Adisyn, Charlotte, and Camden Westendorf of Highlands; Maeve Evelynne Reese of Germany; Lucas, Emma, and Levi Houston of Snellville; and Olivia Toller of Snellville. Melissa and Ben are expecting another little one around the end of September.

They have worked hard all of their lives. As long as they were able, they were very active at Highlands First Baptist. Bob enjoyed more than 50 years with the Highlands Fire and Rescue Department. Sammie has a beautiful voice, singing at church, weddings, funerals and other events. They enjoyed traveling, and especially spending time with their family. Everyone enjoys their time with Be-ba and Mumzie.

Their family honored them with a luncheon at Karen and Joe’s home. Time spent with family is such a blessing.

Men’s center to hold graduation, mortgage burning

The public is invited to our next graduation and our mortgage burning at Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men’s Center Saturday April 16, 2022 at 10am at 336 Living Hope Way, Franklin. There will be worship, a message from the word, a short video, and our graduate giving his testimony. The mortgage burning and a reception will be at the end of the graduation ceremony. Come join us. For more information about our program go to www.livinghopeway.com or call 828-524-2157.



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Eduard and Liliya Chernous of Asheville spent several weeks in March working with Ukraine refugees in Eastern Europe locations like this facility in Poland. Photo courtesy of Eduard Chernous

N.C. volunteers work with Ukraine refugees

Shelby Harris – Carolina Public Press

Less than two weeks after Russian forces opened fire on Ukraine, Liliya Chernous was on a flight from North Carolina to Poland.

“When I came to the United States, I told myself, ‘I will learn everything that Americans are doing in order to help my country,’” Chernous said. She never thought helping Ukraine, her home, would mean tending to people fleeing war zones.

“It is a different (kind of) help, but I want to do it.”

When Chernous and her son, Eduard, boarded a 12-hour flight to Warsaw, they didn’t have a set agenda.

The Chernous family immigrated to Asheville from Western Ukraine in 1997. Since then, they’ve made annual trips back to visit Ukrainian family and friends — many of whom have fled the country in recent weeks as Russia widened its attack.

Most of Liliya and Eduard’s Ukrainian family has escaped the country safely. Some are choosing to stay and fight, despite Liliya’s pleas otherwise. One cousin, a front-line fighter in the war, hasn’t been in touch with the family in weeks.

The Chernouses didn’t start their humanitarian work in Ukraine when they landed in Europe. Back in Western North Carolina, they helped put on a vigil in Asheville days after the war began.

But this trip to Eastern Europe was different from previous ones. Instead of sharing meals with family or revisiting fond childhood locations, the pair spent the three-week trip in Germany, at Ukrainian borders and in Poland.

They didn’t join humanitarian organizations offering aid at the borders, such as Doctors Without Borders or the International Committee of the Red Cross. Instead, they reached out to people they knew personally through family and church to offer help.

“We found it more effective to be on a personal basis because the turnaround time is a lot quicker,” Eduard said about joining Polish church and community groups in Warsaw, Lodz, Krakow and the border town of Hrebenne. “You can get directly connected to people.”

The mother and son also served in German cities, including Stuttgart, Pforzheim, Neubulach and Bad Liebenzell.

After joining forces with these connections, Eduard and

Liliya transported refugees to safe places and registered them for international passports and social services.

Liliya, who was a registered nurse in Ukraine and works as a medical translator in North Carolina, also assessed people for medical issues. Group leaders told her to be cognizant of potential sex trafficking and approach incoming Ukrainians with listening ears.

The Chernouses quickly realized, however, that the biggest task ahead of them while working with displaced Ukrainians was tending to their emotional needs.

“I just tried to hug them and kiss them,” Liliya said.

“Ladies were crying constantly and asking, ‘Why? Why has this happened, Liliya? Do you think the world will end soon?’”

“They still hope ... to go back. They want to rebuild Ukraine, and they were even asking me, ‘Liliya, do you think the world will help us to rebuild Ukraine?’”

During their nearly monthlong trip, Liliya and Eduard heard heartbreaking stories from refugees about their arduous journey across the Ukrainian border.

One refugee family, while passing through a Russian block post, watched soldiers fire at a vehicle carrying a family with small children. Another had a friend who watched his wife die after being shot.

“They lost track of the days of the week,” Liliya said about a refugee who spoke about staying in the basement with her seven foster children for 19 days after Russia invaded.

“This lady ... she said, ‘I so appreciate that I can see ... light. Everything is different. Everything is much brighter.’”

“Sometimes we don’t see colors, but those refugees, they can see colors much brighter than us.”

Eduard and Liliya flew back to Asheville on March 30, but they don’t plan to stop assisting Ukrainians. As soon as it’s logistically appropriate — they had to pay for the trip on their own and with the help of a GoFundMe — the two plan to return to Ukraine’s borders or wherever they’re needed to help their homeland.

In the meantime, they hope that the world outside Ukraine doesn’t become accustomed to the violence saturating the ground of their home country.

“The more identity we give to the (Ukrainian) people, the better,” Eduard said. “We can only hope that people don’t forget about this.”

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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests March 24 - April 1. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

March 28

Jessalynn Elizabeth McArthur, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Tyler Alvin Ramey, was charged with breaking and entering, assault on a female, trespass, larceny of a dog and possession of stolen goods/property. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Michael Shane Bates, was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle and larceny of a motor vehicle. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

March 30

Tia L. Day, was charged with drug/narcotic violations. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

March 31

Kyle Jaycob Hanson, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Timothy Michael Carson, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Elijah Joseph Blanchard, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Lieutenant Tim Holland made the arrest.

April 1

John Patrick Roquemore, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Dustin Louis Swafford, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

March 24

Gregory Allen Rhoden, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

Vanessa Lynnette Griffith, was charged with misdemeanor larceny, possession of stolen goods/property and obtain property by false pretense. C.T. Chastain made the arrest.

March 26

Austin Harley McCall, was issued an order for arrest for assault inflicting serious injury. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

March 27

John Bishop, was charged with first degree trespass, disorderly conduct and resist delay obstruct. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Alexander Carl Farland, was charged with possession of stolen motor vehicle. A.R. Holland made the arrest.

March 30

Jeffery Michael Miller, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time for North Carolina to grow a better tomorrow

Recognizing the importance of caring connections, supportive environments and positive experiences for all children and families, Governor Roy Cooper declared April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in North Carolina.

"Our children are precious and deserve to be nurtured and protected. It's important that we build a strong foundation for them so that they can learn, play and grow," said Governor Roy Cooper in a video message. "We're doing more to wrap services around the whole family. When we work together to support our children and families in every corner of our state, we can build a strong future for all."

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina recognize everyone has a stake in prioritizing equal opportunities for every child from each community in the state to build a more prosperous future for all during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

"April is a time for North Carolinians step up and help to build caring connections, supportive environments and positive experiences for all children and families," said NCDHHS Sec. Kody Kinsley. "Child and family well-being is one of DHHS' top priorities, to make sure every child in North Carolina grows up safe, healthy, and thriving in a nurturing and resilient community."

April 2022 marks the third year CAP Month occurs during the COVID-19 pandemic. While metrics are improving, many North Carolina families continue to find themselves under great stress that can lead to significant increases in the risk of child maltreatment. COVID-19 has added stressors that can overload parents and caregivers, such as loss of employment, loss of income due to lack of paid leave, changing child care and schooling arrangements, and food insecurity.

While children and families are facing unprecedented stress during the pandemic, child maltreatment is preventable. There are programs, strategies and policies proven to strengthen families so they can address their basic needs and

better care for their children.

"Research shows that positive childhood experiences and caring connections grow thriving families and communities," said Sharon Hirsch, PCANC President & CEO. "While every season is a new opportunity to build sturdy foundations for children, this Child Abuse Prevention Month is an opportunity to redefine how our policies, systems and communities propel children into becoming healthy, thriving members of their community and reaching their full potential. Please join us in prioritizing safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for children, allowing families and entire communities to succeed — today and for generations to come."

For more information on Child Abuse Prevention Month, including a toolkit with customized resources for school counselors, faith communities and early care and education providers, please visit preventchildabusenc.org.

To help promote Child Abuse Prevention Month people were asked to wear blue on Friday, April 1, for #WearBlue-Day2022, share your #BeAConnection story on social media, register for PCANC's free webinar on April 20 and participate in digital advocacy day on Wednesday, April 27.

About Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina ensures that child maltreatment prevention is a priority for North Carolina and all communities have the knowledge, support and resources to prevent child abuse and neglect. Through collaboration with partners across North Carolina, PCANC works with communities to build safe, stable, nurturing relationships for all children. PCANC is the North Carolina chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. PCANC is a proud recipient of Charity Navigator's prestigious 4-star rating and GuideStar's Platinum Seal of Transparency. For more information, contact Kristie Demers, Director of Communications and Marketing, at (919) 829-8009, ext. 619 or kdemers@preventchildabusenc.org.

April declared Sexual Assault Awareness Month

More than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To raise awareness and continue educating North Carolinians on this prevalent issue, Governor Roy Cooper proclaimed April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

"We stand with survivors of sexual assault, and we're focused on supporting them with the resources they need," said Governor Cooper. "Let's continue to raise awareness and educate communities to prevent future incidents."

By definition, sexual violence is any unwanted physical, or verbal advances including sexual abuse, harassment and assault. According to the NC Department of Administration's Council for Women and Youth Involvement, state funded rape crisis centers provided remote or in-person services to approximately 11,094 individuals between July 2020 and June 2021, including 2,364 children under the age of 18.

"Sexual violence occurs more often than we know," said NC Department of Administration Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell. "It is important that we continue to focus on this issue, teach North Carolinians how to prevent sexual violence within our communities and provide resources to support survivors."

Marginalized communities, which have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, are often at higher risk for experiencing sexual violence due to limited access to services and support.

Studies have shown that sexual violence is not only taxing emotionally and physically for the victim, often leading to anxiety and depression, but financially draining as well. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, the lifetime cost of rape or attempted rape per victim is \$122,461 nationwide and includes short- and long-term physical and mental health treatments, as well as loss of work productivity for the victim, property loss or damage and criminal justice costs. Recognizing the impact, Governor Cooper issued an executive directive in October 2019 to support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, permitting state employees in cabinet agencies to use earned leave for "safe days" to escape and recover from violence.

"Adopting policies such as the one issued by Governor Cooper supporting survivors of sexual violence and continuing to educate communities about consent and available resources will help reduce the rate of sexual violence within our state," said Council for Women and Youth Involvement Director Danielle Carman.

As an advocate for women and children, the NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement is committed to spreading awareness on critical issues such as sexual violence and providing funding to domestic violence and sexual assault programs across the state that offer counseling, shelter, and advocacy for victims.

For a directory of domestic violence and sexual assault providers funded by the Council for Women and Youth Involvement, visit their website.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Valley River Arts Guild will be offering classes for kids, Making A Clay Rabbit, Saturday, April 9, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; a youth class for ages 14 to 17, Making A Treasure Keeper Yarn and Rope Basket, on Saturday, April 9, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Pour Painting Class for Kids ages 10 to 17, on Saturday, April 16, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Mosaic Art for Children, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Murphy Art Center. Classes are open to the public. For more information, call (828)360-3038.

Tuckasegee Chapter of Trout Unlimited will host a roadside trash pick-up on Thursday, April 7, 3 to 5 p.m., on South River Road and Old Settlement Roads in Webster. Meet at the Webster Baptist Church lot. Bags and gloves will be provided. Find the event at https://www.facebook.com/tuckasegeechapter373 or email to tu.lenehan@gmail.com.

Franklin Women's Club will meet on Friday, April 8, noon, at Fat Buddies restaurant in Westgate Plaza. Speaker will be Alisa Ashe, executive director of KIDS Place. She will discuss the role KIDS Place plays in the care and treatment of abused children, teens and youths in Macon and Graham counties. To RSVP, call Brenda Jacobs at 828 421 0411. For more information about the club, call Linda Ellison at 407 342 9654.

Macon County Art Association membership will meet on Sunday, April 10, 3 p.m. at the Uptown Gallery, 30 E Main Street, Franklin. All are welcome. For more information call (828) 349-4607.

Death Cafe will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2 to 4 p.m., Wayfarers Unity Chapel, 182 Wayfarer Lane, Dillard, Ga. Jan Brewer, M.A., CMT, will lead a group-directed conversation about death and dying/life and living. Share your fears, tears, laughter, curiosity, creativity, stories, or lend an ear in this safe and supportive setting. For more information, call Jan at (510)684-5555 or visit www.deathcafe.com

Battle of Sugartown Chapter NSDAR will meet on Monday, April 11, 11:30 a.m. For more information about meeting location, or information about the Daughters of the American Revolution and local membership call, Vicki Baker (828)479-6121 or victoria.w.baker@gmail.com

Interested in joining the American Legion or Auxiliary join them on Tuesday, April 12, 6 p.m., for dinner and meeting after. They are located at 614 W. Main St.

Appalachian Trail thru-hiker & storyteller Nancy Reeder will perform and then answer questions as Grandma Emma Gatewood, the first female solo A.T. thru-hiker on Wednesday, April 13, 6 p.m. in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, April 13 and 27, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the signs. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

Highlands Nature Center invites birders of all skill levels to join Nature Center staff on Wednesday and Saturday mornings between April 13 and May 7 from 8 to 9 a.m. for an easy walk around campus to find what birds have arrived in Highlands. Interested participants will meet at the Highlands Biological Station's North Campus at 111 Lower Lake Rd. The walks are weather dependent. Binoculars will be provided and masks are encouraged. No registration is necessary. For more information, visit highlandsbiological.org.

Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Graduation and Mortgage Burning will be held on Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m., at 336 Living Hope Way, Franklin. Worship, a message from the word, a short video, and the graduate giving his testimony. The mortgage burning and a reception will be at the end of the graduation ceremony. The public is invited to attend. For more information about the program go to www.livinghopeway.com or call (828)524-2157.

Maidens Chapel Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday April 16, at 3 p.m. The hunt is free to the public. Refreshments after the hunt. The church is located at 230 Maidens Chapel Rd.

East Franklin Baptist Church Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday April 16, 2 p.m. The church is located at Lakeside Dr.

Franklin High School Percussion Camp and Auditions will be held on April 19, 4:30 to 5:30; Thursday, April 21, 4:30 to 6:30; Tuesday, April 26, 4:30 to 6:30; and Thursday, April 28, 4:30 to 6:30. Open to all rising 9th to 12th graders at FHS and MEC. For more information, contact Daniel Ball at daniel.ball@macon.k12.nc.us or call (919)428-1104.

Macon County Schools Preschool Program is 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.

The Coalition to stop Cruelty to all Domestic Animals will hold its second meeting Friday, April 22, at 6 p.m., at 189 Highlands Rd., Franklin. The coalition seeks committed individuals who witness neglect and/or abuse of an animal and want to help, take pictures, if possible, of the animal and email along with any questions to: ainc@dnet.net. Names can be kept anonymous, if preferred.

The Town of Franklin Water/Sewer Division will have temporary road closures through Friday, April 29, on West Palmer Street in front of the Franklin Fire Department and on Maple Street, and the intersection of Commerce Street and West Palmer to improve an existing sewer line. Signage will be in place for the closure area and detours. Information will be shared via social media on the Police and Fire Department pages and will be updated on the town's website. For more information, call Public Works Department at (828)524-2516 x 397

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church will hold Sunday Service, April 10, at 10:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages is held at 9:30 a.m., Pastor Scott Eichelberger will speak on "A Great Day," based on 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Pinnacle Brass will be providing special music. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next door to Trimont Christian Academy).

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, April 10, 11 a.m., Doug VanOrsdall will share. On Tuesday a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and then out to eat afterward. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

Seventh Day Adventist Church meets on Saturday, with Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m. Masks are optional. The church is located at 71 Brendle Rd.

All Saints Episcopal Church, Franklin Services are held Rite I, 8 a.m. without music and Rite II, 10:15 a.m. with music, every Sunday. First and third Sundays at St. Agnes Chapel, 66 Church St. and second and fourth Sundays at St. Cyprian's Chapel, 216 Roller Mill Rd. Sunday 10:15 a.m. services can be viewed live on the website: www.allsaintsfranklin.org and past Sundays can be viewed on YouTube search "All Saints Franklin".

Olive Hill Church Services are held on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Pastor is Keith McWhite. The church is located at 2389 Olive Hill Road.

Lifespring Community Church is holding Sunday services beginning at 10 a.m. Brian Lamb in the pastor. The church is located at the intersection of Cheek Road and Addington Bridge Road.

Tellico Baptist Church is having in-person Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. inside the church building with the Rev. L. E. Angel. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

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Djoukil ensemble on tour and back in Brasstown

The Brasstown Concert Association (BCA) is hosting the return of Djoukil, a lively French jazz ensemble performing in Django Reinhardt's style, on April 10. Djoukil has been wowing audiences and making feet want to dance for 15 years, touring the eastern U.S. this year between festival bookings in France and Italy.

Reinhardt was of Manouche Romani descent and one of the greatest musicians of the 20th century. Already making a living playing traditional music on string instruments in Paris, he escaped a fire at the age of 18. He severely burned his left hand, with two fingers becoming mostly paralyzed. His determination to overcome that resulted in a new method of chording notes. After hearing Duke Ellington recordings, Reinhardt further revolutionized his own rhythmic 1930s style of "hot" guitar or Gypsy jazz.

Djoukil's ensemble of guitars, saxophone, bass, and drums began when two young brothers (much like the original Reinhardt group) and a childhood friend in Lyon, France, were influenced by this century's resurgence of gypsy jazz in music and film. To this they added a fascination with American swing of the '40s. Guitarist Géraud Barralon stated that "while in America, Djoukil usually plays more French music and when in France, plays more American." Their passion and skilled technique are evident everywhere. A concert by Djoukil is like none other.

Djoukil will perform on Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the open-aired, covered Festival Barn at the John C. Campbell



The French ensemble Djoukil will perform in Brasstown on April 10.
Photo by Valentin Meylan

Folk School in Brasstown, N.C. Tickets only at the door (adults \$15, any student \$10). Folding metal chairs are available, but concert goers are encouraged to bring their own. For more information, call (828) 389-4210, email brasstownconcertnews@gmail.com, or Like us on Facebook.

Submitted by Sheryl Vowell

Nature photographer to be honored with marker

A man whose photographs of the North Carolina mountains played a crucial role in the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park will be recognized with a new North Carolina Highway Historical Marker in Asheville.

The marker commemorates George Masa, who some have called the Ansel Adams of the Smokies. His photographs captured the unique beauty and majesty of the Smokies' mountains and valleys, persuading many that the Great Smoky Mountains were worth protecting as a national park.

Born Masahara Iizuka in Osaka, Japan, there is no definitive record of Masa's birth year but it is thought to be in the 1880s. He arrived Asheville in 1915, where he lived until his death 18 years later. During this time, he worked at the Grove Park Inn, for Biltmore Industries and later he owned a number of photographic studios including Plateau Studios where he was a photographer and made motion pictures, including newsreels for Pathe and other services. At Plateau Studio, he photographed some of the town's most affluent citizens — the Vanderbilts, the Groves, and the Seelys. His nature photographs also appeared in promotional publications, magazines including *National Geographic*, newspapers, guidebooks, and postcards.

Masa became close friends in the mid-1920s with Horace Kephart, a celebrated author and outdoorsman. They joined others in the successful movement to create a national park in the Great Smokies. He later served on the North Carolina nomenclature committee that researched and named significant areas



George Masa, who some have called the Ansel Adams of the Smokies, photographed the Great Smoky Mountains during the 1920s and 1930s.

in the Smokies. Today, he is recognized as one of the park's founders and Masa Knob in the park was named in his honor.

During this era, Masa joined Myron Avery, who was leading the effort to complete the Appalachian Trail. Masa, with Kephart's assistance, formed the Carolina Appalachian Trail Club (which later merged with the Carolina Mountain Club) to carry out trail work. In its first year, the club scouted, measured and marked 104.3 miles of trail. Masa also served as Avery's unofficial consultant regarding AT routing, photographing landmarks, resolving nomenclature questions and proofing elements of Avery's work. Masa was inducted into the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions.

Masa died penniless in 1933 and was buried in Asheville's Riverside Cemetery before seeing the full impact of his life's work. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park has consistently been the most visited national park in the country. In 2021, the park had a record 14.1 million visitors and has broken attendance records every year since 2014, according

to the National Parks Service. The next closest is Yellowstone National Park, which has about 9 million fewer visitors annually.

The marker, located on Patton Avenue just west of Pack Square in Asheville, will be unveiled Friday, April 8, at 10:30 a.m.

For more information about North Carolina Highway Historical Markers, contact Ansley Wegner at ansley.wegner@ncdcr.gov.

Wildflower walks offered at HBS garden in April

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Winter Gary, communications and events coordinator for Highlands Biological Foundation, is gearing up spring activities at Highlands Biological Station. She pointed out that Spring Wildflower Walks are offered free to the public each Thursday in April from 12-1 p.m.

“An abundance of wildflowers will be on display,” said Gary. “Throughout the Highlands Biological Station is evidence of the spring beauty and biological diversity that the Highlands’ Plateau has to offer.”

The Highlands Biological Station is a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University consisting of academic research, teaching, and residential facilities as well as a natural history museum (Highlands Nature Center) and a 12-acre native plant botanical garden (Highlands Botanical Garden).

The Spring Wildflower Walks are educational tours and thus are weather dependent, noted Gary. Space is limited to 11 people, so registration is required. The tours in Highlands are led by Biological Station’s horticulturist, Rachel Martin, who holds a bachelor of science degree in horticulture science from N.C. State University. Before joining the Station in 2020, Martin worked in public gardens and arboreta.

“There are lots of different species that participants can expect to see on the walks as the month progresses,” said Martin. “For example, we are currently seeing our Trout Lilies (*Erythronium americanum*) in bloom and other ephemerals like Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*). We’re also currently see-



Pink Shell Azaleas are just one flower blooming this spring on the campus of the Highlands Biological Station, where there are free, educational, wildflower tours.

ing our Oconee Bells in bloom and they’ll be around for the beginning of the month. Later on, folks can expect to see some of our early season deciduous azaleas (like the Pinkshell Azalea above). Apart from the flowers, I’ll be sharing some site history of Highlands Biological Station and walk through a few of our satellite gardens, such as the Homeowners Demonstration Garden. This year is our 60th Anniversary of the Highlands Botanical Garden so I’ll be sharing that history and talking about the reasons why this region is so biologically diverse.”

For more information and to register, visit highlandsbiological.org. Besides the scheduled Spring Wildflower Walks, Highlands Biological Station is open during the spring (April 1 – May 28) on Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

National Library Week, April 3-9

April 3-9, 2022 is National Library Week, a time to highlight the essential role that libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening communities.

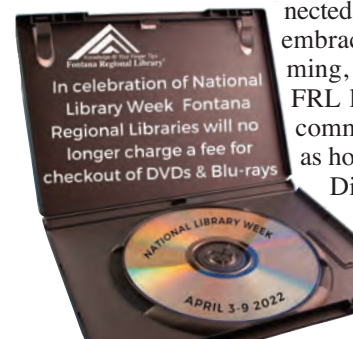
In celebration of National Library Week beginning Monday, April 4, Fontana Regional Library (FRL) will no longer charge a fee for checkout of DVDs and Blu-rays. All video checkouts will be available for free, though normal overdue fines will still apply.

This year’s National Library Week theme is “Connect with Your Library.” Libraries keep their communities connected by expanding resources and embracing inclusion in programming, resources, and collections.

FRL libraries also support local communities with services such as hotspots for check out and the Digital Seniors Chromebook loan program. Children can learn about science and technology with hands-on STEAM activities or travel the world in the Culture Club programs. Adult programs support a variety of interests, including the popular Walking with Spring programs to help people get out and enjoy the outdoors. Check with the Adult Services department for details.

This National Library Week, the public can show their appreciation and explore services by visiting their nearest Fontana Regional Library location, in person or online, by following them on social media, and using the hashtag #NationalLibraryWeek

For more information, call (828) 524-3600 or visit the library’s website at www.fontanalib.org



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Bring a bit of bright Spring color indoors

Melinda Myers – Columnist

Many gardeners are busy pruning shrubs to remove winter damage, control the size, or provide a bit of shaping before the season is well under way. Save some of the branches or cut a few from spring flowering shrubs to brighten your indoors. You'll enjoy the added spring color provided by branches of forsythia, quince, pussy willows, and other spring flowering shrubs for bouquets and arrangements.

Use a pair of sharp bypass pruners with two sharp blades that cut like scissors. These make clean cuts allowing the wound to close quickly and reducing the risk of insects and diseases moving in. Start by removing crossing or winter damaged branches. This helps manage plant growth while harvesting some stems for your enjoyment. Look for stems at least 12" long with lots of flowers or buds to maximize flowering. Make cuts above a healthy outward bud, where a branch joins another branch or just above ground level.

Combine planned renewal pruning with a bit of indoor enjoyment. Remove a few of the older stems of forsythia, lilac, and other multi-stemmed spring flowering shrubs back to ground level. This encourages new growth at the base of the plant. Cut the larger branches down to a useable size for your indoor enjoyment.

Then finish any needed pruning after the plants put on their spring display so they can form new flower buds next spring. Avoid severe pruning that can result in excess growth. Removing no more than one fourth of the total growth will result in more even growth. Repeat as needed for the next year or two to reduce the size and improve the



Melinda Myers

slits in a crosshatch or star pattern on the bottom of the stems before placing them in water immediately after cutting.

If possible, submerge the whole stems in a tub of water overnight. This encourages the stems and buds to absorb water and break dormancy. Set the stems in a bucket of cool water, about 60° to 65°F, in a bright but indirectly lit location after soaking overnight or immediately after pruning. Mist the stems as often as possible the first few days or place a plastic bag over the stems to boost humidity and prevent the buds from dropping. Change the water every two or three days making sure the cut ends of the stems are always in the water.

The buds should start swelling and flowers start to appear in several weeks. Cut the stems to the needed length and use them in flower arrangements. They look great mixed with spring flowering bulbs, greens and other spring flowers from your garden or florist. Or display them in a vase all on their own.

Continue cutting and forcing a variety of branches over time for continuous indoor bloom. Prolong their beauty by moving the flowering stems and flower arrangements to a cooler location at night.

Make notes on what worked well in spring arrangements to help you plan for next year. Whether you force them into bloom or harvest when in bloom, you will enjoy the added spring color indoors.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including "The Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a

columnist and contributing editor for "Birds & Blooms" magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



The branches of 'Flowering Quince' add color and beauty to the indoors.

Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

beauty of overgrown plants.

Harvest stems for forcing on a sunny day or when temperatures are above freezing for better results. Don't smash the stems as often recommended. Instead make one or more



Deaths & Funerals

Barbara Ellen Curtis Bradley

Barbara Ellen Curtis Bradley, 81, of Otto, N.C., passed away Monday, April 4, 2022. She was born Oct. 10, 1940, in Macon County to the late Charlie Sutton Curtis and Minnie McCall Curtis. She was married to William Lewis Bradley who died in 1999. She was a lifelong member of Asbury United Methodist Church, where she had served as Vacation Bible School leader, choir member, youth leader, Sunday School teacher and superintendent. She had worked as a cook at schools and at the hospital, and was also a beautician. She loved watching birds, and loved to support her grandchildren in sports, loved her family, and was well known for her yeast rolls.



Barbara Ellen Bradley

Survivors include her daughter, Cathy Marie Bradley of Otto; a son, William Michael Bradley (Alice) of Otto; two grandchildren, Holly Michelle Bradley (Tracy) and Christopher David Bradley (Jamie); three great grandchildren, Sarah Grace Bradley, William Logan Bradley and Ellen Beth Bradley; sisters, Judy Carpenter of Franklin, N.C., and Glenda Pauline Lovell of Elizabeth City, N.C.; a brother, Verlon Curtis of Franklin; and Gran to many more.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by three sisters, Elsie Brendle, Catherine Cunningham and Christine Brabson; and four brothers, Claude Curtis, Charles Curtis, Willie Curtis, and Jimmy Curtis.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, April 7, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Rev. Kelly Dotson, Rev. Phillip Cochran and Rev. David Hastings officiating. Burial will be in Asbury United Methodist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Logan Bradley, Chris Bradley, Eddie Williams, Drew Mason, Rick Sellers, Jaylan Burns and Daniel Dills. The family will receive friends from 12:30 to 2 p.m., Thursday prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to KIDS Place, P.O. Box 693, Franklin, NC 28744.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Bradley family.

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

Willis Eugene 'Gene' Billingsley

Willis Eugene "Gene" Billingsley, 84 of Scaly Mountain, N.C., passed away on Friday, April 1, 2022.

He was born in Macon County to the late James Newton Billingsley and Lillie Hazel Brown. In addition to his parents, he was preceded by nine brothers and sisters. He loved gardening, raising cabbage, and working with flowers during his favorite seasons of Spring and Summer.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Eunice Taylor Billingsley; children, Debra Jean Billingsley Allred (Sidney) of St. Augustine, Fla.; and Ronnie Eugene Billingsley (Tina) of Scaly Mountain, N.C.; one sister, Gail Head of Scaly Mountain, N.C.; three grandchildren, Clay Allred, Amber Allred, and Kristi Stockton; three great grandchildren, Clara Woods, Abigail Woods and Cam English; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held at Scaly Mountain Methodist Cemetery Wednesday, April 6, with Rev. Don Bates officiating.

Pallbearers were Clay Allred, Keith Billingsley, Chris Gilbert, Jamie Holt, Steve Holt, and Scott Vinson.

Honorary pallbearers will be Donnie Billingsley, Johnnie Billingsley, Jody Taylor, and Kevin Earp.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Deaths & Funerals

Timothy Allen Gibson

Timothy Allen Gibson, 55, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, April 3, 2022.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of Harley Judson Gibson and Clara Belle Dills Gibson. He lived most of his life in Franklin and was a member of the Watauga Baptist Church. He enjoyed fishing, golfing, being outdoors, spring and summer.

He is survived by his dad, Harley Judson Gibson of Franklin; his mother, Clara Belle Dills Gibson of Franklin; two sons, Timothy Jacob Gibson of Franklin, and Zackary Nicolos Gibson of Horseshoe Bay, Texas; three brothers, Joey Gibson of Franklin, Andy Gibson of Albuquerque, N.M., and Kenny Gibson of Franklin; one sister, Sarah Sanford of Franklin; and one grandchild, Theo; and several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins also survive.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, April 7, at 2 p.m., at Watauga Baptist Church cemetery. Rev. David Lee Williams will officiate. The family will receive friends from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., prior to the service at Macon Funeral Home.

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



Timothy Allen Gibson

David Ronald 'Ronnie' Armes

David Ronald "Ronnie" Armes, 73, son of Pete and Imogene Freels Armes passed away on March 3, 2022, in Hermitage, Tenn. He was a Franklin High School graduate and a U.S. Marine veteran who served two tours in Vietnam where he received three Purple Hearts during the conflict of over a dozen combat operations.

After his military duties, he bought, operated and later sold The Brewery in Kingston, Tenn., before working temporarily for a cross country trucking company. Upon completion of his college studies, he worked in the hospital engineering and maintenance field as the director of plant operations at Southwestern General Hospital in El Paso, Texas, director of engineering at Park West Hospital in Knoxville, and department head for engineering and planning at Cumberland Medical Center in Crossville, Tenn.

Upon his retirement and prior to his deteriorating health, he was active in the Vietnam Veterans of America's Smoky Mountain Chapter and a member of the VFW, American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans.

Visitation was held at Davis Funeral in Harriman on Tuesday March 8. Faith services were led by Brother Josh Kidd and graveside Military Burial Honors by the Roane County Veterans Honor Guard at Roane County Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to any veteran's organization in memory of Ronnie Armes.

Jody Ray Tomberlin

Jody Ray Tomberlin, 52, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Wednesday, March 30, after a period of declining health.

Born in Gastonia, N.C., he was the son of the late Jerry and Patsy Bazzle Tomberlin. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Daniel Ray Tomberlin. He would say God brought him to Franklin, where he would work as a software engineer for Drake Software, met his future wife and best friend, and became a member at Cartoogechaye Church of God. He was the Minister of Music at the church, a very gifted musician, and a diehard UNC Tarheels basketball fan.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Cindy Peek Tomberlin; daughter, Heather Tomberlin; and four siblings, Jerry Tomberlin of Morganton, N.C., Jamie Hook (Tom) of Kings Mountain, N.C., April Mincey (Steve) of Hendersonville, N.C., and Beth Cunningham (Tim) of Gastonia, N.C.; a nephew, Sam Hook; a niece, Christine McGinnis; his in-laws, Richard and Shirley Tallent Peek; and many other cousins and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held Sunday, April 3, at Cartoogechaye Church of God. Rev. Eddie Brewer and Rev. Phillip Cochran officiated. Burial was in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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



Jody Ray Tomberlin

Pat James Mangas

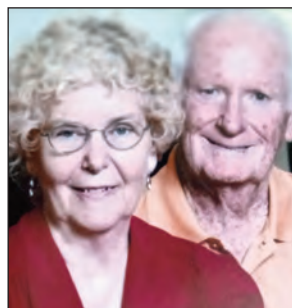
Pat James Mangas, 82, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Born on Jan. 9, 1940, he was the son of the late Thomas Frederick Mangas Sr. and Victoria Farmer Mangas. He joined the United States Army and was in the infantry division for four years. He loved his goats but most of all he enjoyed volunteering his time with his wife Joan. Together they volunteered in the community to send physical comfort items all over the world and provided meals and cooked for CareNet. He also leaves behind his two four-legged fur babies, JJ and Bandit.

In addition to his wife Joan Mangas, he is survived by one son, Patrick Mangas and wife Patty, and their son Brandon; one daughter, Natalie Mangas; stepdaughter, Jennifer Stanley and husband James, and their daughters Zoe White and Kiley Raby; one brother, Richard Mangas and wife Angela; and one sister, Sandy.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 10, at First Alliance Church of Franklin with Rev. Scott Eichelberger officiating.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is assisting the Mangas Family.
Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneral.com.



Pat James Mangas

Julie Baldwin Reitmeier

Julie Baldwin Reitmeier, 81, passed away on Dec. 4, 2021, in Franklin, N.C., after an extended period of declining health. She was born May 16, 1940, in Peoria, Ill., to Mark Reginald Baldwin and Elizabeth Nelson Baldwin. She was married to Kenneth Ray Reitmeier for 34 years.

She was a hard working woman who had a variety of jobs through the years. At times, she would work more than one job to provide for her family. She made sure that her family was taken care of. Her relationship with God was central in her daily life. She was a very spiritual, Christian woman. Earlier in her life, she attended the Episcopal Church. Years later, she attended the Unity Church. She loved to worship with her children at their home churches through the years.

She was a strong, independent, loving woman who never met a stranger. Until the last few years of her life, she was always a very active woman. She enjoyed playing tennis, taking walks, doing yoga, reading (especially self-growth and inspirational books and magazines). She loved to play board games, with her favorite being Scrabble, which is an ongoing family tradition. She had a huge heart and love for others. She was a wonderful encourager, always knowing just what to say at just the right moment to help someone feel better about whatever might be bothering them. She loved to travel with her family and friends. Other than the mountains, the beach was a real love of hers. She loved to watch the seagulls and listen to waves rolling in.

She absolutely loved her family and was the rock for all of them. The highlights of her life were the birth of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Nothing gave her as much joy and happiness as spending time together with her family. She was a dear, loving mother to her children and "Grammie" to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, and a granddaughter.

She is survived by her daughter, Beth Corbin and husband Kevin of Franklin; son, Chris and his wife Karey of Travelers Rest, S.C.; son, Danny and his wife Kim of Franklin; her brother Mark Denison Baldwin and his wife Mary of Yakima, Wash.; 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends and loved ones on Friday, April 15, at Holly Springs Baptist Church, from 10 to 11 a.m.

A memorial service for Julie will be held at Holly Springs Baptist Church immediately following the visitation.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to: Four Seasons Hospice, 571 S. Allen Road, Fletcher, NC, 28734

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



Julie Baldwin Reitmeier



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Denny Hamlin becomes seventh different cup series winner in seven races

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

Perhaps there was no better place for Denny Hamlin to finally notch his first win of 2022. Much to the pleasure of the fans at Richmond Raceway, the hometown favorite from Chesterfield, Virginia took the lead of the Toyota Owners 400 from William Byron with five laps remaining and held off the field for a .552-second victory over Kevin Harvick and Byron.

It was amazingly Hamlin's first top 10 of the 2022 season, though it marked his fourth NASCAR Cup Series victory at the 0.75-mile track – the very place the driver of the No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota grew up watching NASCAR as a young fan.

It is the sixth win for the JGR Toyota team in the last eight races at the Richmond track – 18th in the team's history there. And it is the third consecutive race there that all four JGR drivers finished in the top 10.

The victory was also significant in that the 41-year old Hamlin stopped a 12-race victory run by drivers 30-year old or younger – a mark dating back to last season.

"Just drove as hard as I could," said Hamlin, a perennial championship contender who had been ranked an uncharacteristic 20th in the standings before the Richmond race.

"So proud of this whole FedEx Camry team, they just never gave up.

"There was no doubt in my mind, maybe just a little, but they got this car right there towards the end," Hamlin continued. "Wow this it's just unbelievable."

"We needed a data point, something, a good run to kind of balance ourselves on other tracks. Obviously, I think we got it here."

Byron and his No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet team opted to stay out on older tires for the last 90 laps and at one point held a strong five-second lead on the field. But as the teams opted for fresher tires during a series of late race green flag pit stops, it became apparent that Byron would have to really work for the win – and do so on worn tires.

Ultimately, Hamlin, who got new tires with 47 laps to go, was able to dice his way through the field, taking the runner-up spot from his JGR teammate Martin Truex Jr. with six laps to go and continue moving forward to dive low and move into the lead around Byron with five laps remaining. Also on fresher tires, the Stewart-Haas Racing driver Harvick was able to pass both Byron and Truex to take his best finish of the season as well.

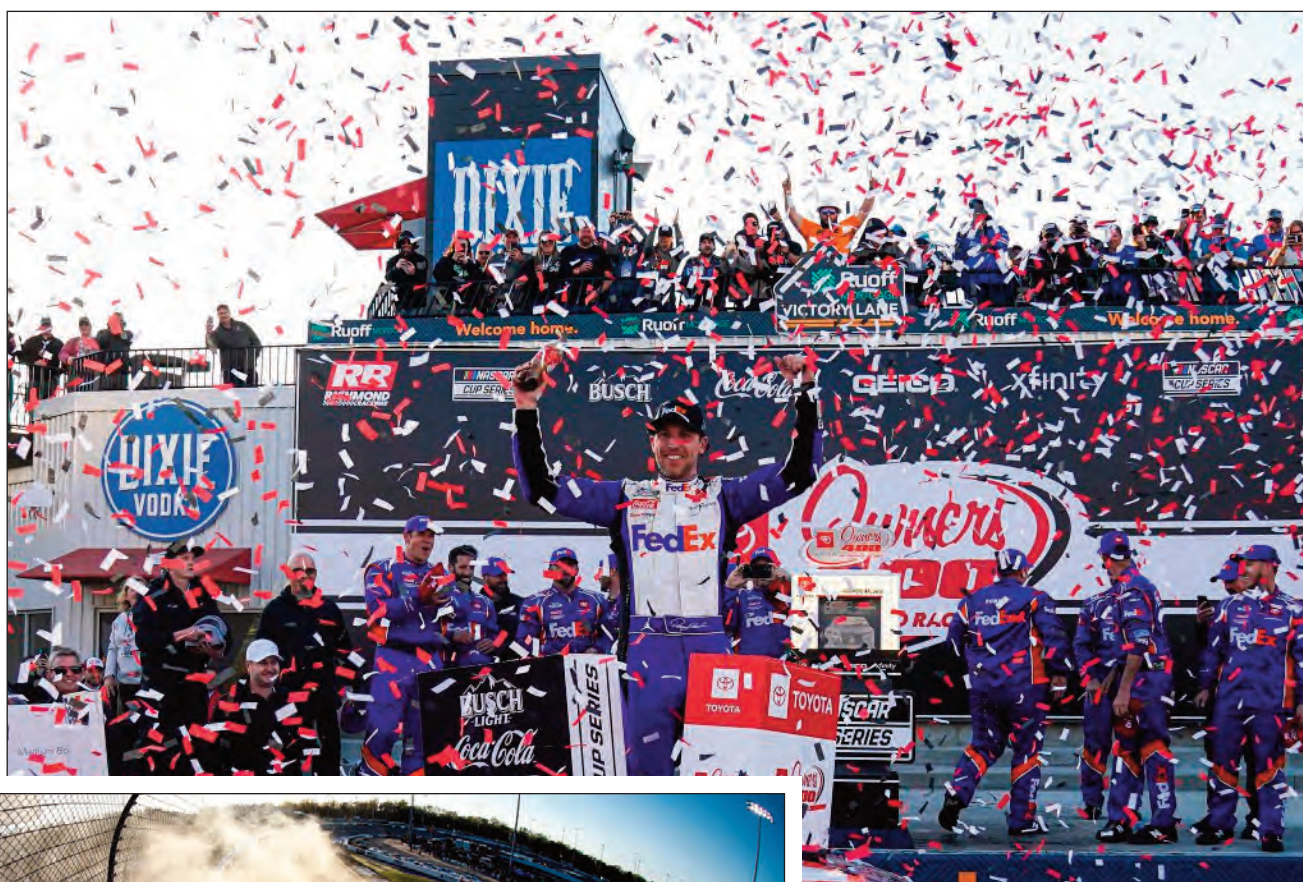
"Really it's the first clean day we've had all year," said the 2014 series champion Harvick. "The cars have been fast and we had a shot there at the end just, I wanted to be close enough at the white [flag] to just take a swipe at him but the lapped cars got in the way and I lost a little bit of ground. Still a great day for us and hopefully a little bit of momentum."

Truex, who has three wins in the last five Richmond races, finished fourth, followed by reigning NASCAR Cup Series champion, Hendrick Motorsports Kyle Larson.

JRG driver Christopher Bell was sixth, followed by Penske Racing's Ryan Blaney, the polesitter who led the first 128 laps of the race – most on the day. Hendrick Motorsports' Alex Bowman recovered from a pit road penalty to finish eighth. Kyle Busch recovered from a late race penalty as well, to claim ninth place and Richard Childress Racing driver Austin Dillon was 10th.

Blaney (first) and Truex (second) each won a stage and are the only three-time stage winners so far this season.

Blaney and Elliott are now tied for the NASCAR Cup Series championship lead with a 19-point advantage on third



Denny Hamlin, driver of the No. 11 FedEx Express Toyota, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage Victory Lane after winning the Toyota Owners 400 at Richmond Raceway.



place Truex.

The NASCAR Cup Series next races on the half-mile Martinsville Speedway in next Saturday night's Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 400 (7:30 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Truex is the defending spring race winner.

Ty Gibbs Pushes Past Teammate John Hunter Nemechek for Richmond Win

Ty Gibbs bumped his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate John Hunter Nemechek out of the lead on the final lap to claim his third NASCAR Xfinity Series race win of the season – by a mere .116-seconds over Nemechek in the ToyotaCare 250 at Richmond Raceway.

The two JGR drivers dominated the afternoon – combining to lead all but one of the 250 laps on the .075-mile track – the first short track test of the season. Nemechek paced the field for a race high 135 laps in the No. 18 JGR Toyota and was within checkered flag sight when Gibbs got into him, pushing Nemechek's Toyota high up the track and then motoring on for his series best third win of the season and seventh of his young career.

In his previous two victories (at Las Vegas and at Atlanta) this season, the 19-year old Gibbs had led only 14 total laps. He was out front 115 on Saturday.

"I definitely deserve one back but we're racing for wins and

they are hard to come by so you have to take it," said Gibbs, after climbing out of his No. 54 JGR Toyota.

"Short track racing," he added with a smile. "Got our third win so want to keep it going. What a great car."

"I deserve one back for sure but we're racing for wins and I've got to do what I can to win."

The second-generation driver Nemechek, who races full-time in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, climbed out of his car and offered a smile to the television cameras, but the 23-year

old was clearly miffed at his teammate.

"Him and I will settle it one day," Nemechek said. "I don't want to say too much and get myself in trouble. Just got drove through. He didn't even try and make the corner there."

"But racers never forget, that's for sure."

It was a career day for another teenager as well. Not only did 18-year old JR Motorsports driver Sam Mayer earn a career best third place finish but he also secured the \$100,000 Dash 4 Cash incentive prize offered by series sponsor Xfinity.

"By the end of the day our Chevrolet Camaro was as fast as Xfinity internet, so that's a really good, feels-good moment for us and obviously, my career best finish," Mayer said. "Unbelievable. This team definitely deserves it."

Now the top four eligible drivers from Saturday's race in Richmond – Mayer, race winner Gibbs, fourth place finisher A.J. Allmendinger and fifth-place finisher Riley Herbst will have an opportunity to contend for the prize money next weekend at Martinsville Speedway.

Although he won't be eligible for bonus money, reigning series champion Daniel Hemric had to be happy with his results on Saturday. Hemric rallied from the rear of the starting grid to finish sixth, followed by Josh Berry, Brandon Brown, Ryan Sieg and Parker Retzlaff.

Noah Gragson came into the weekend leading the points standings, but his No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet suffered



Ty Gibbs, driver of the No. 54 Monster Energy Toyota, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage Victory Lane after winning the ToyotaCare 250 at Richmond Raceway.

Chastain said. "In Charlotte and Mooresville (N.C.), there are a lot of people that have helped get me here that have been a part of this journey.

"But when you look at the people back home, they weren't paid to do it. They had no real reason other than they liked racing or they were my family. Talking to them, hearing the stories of where they were at towards the end of the race, seeing a couple of videos of them reacting to the race – that's when it really sank in. That's when it felt real."

standings, but his No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet suffered brake problems all afternoon and ultimately finished 21st, a lap down. The misfortune cost him the championship lead. Allmendinger, the only driver to have Top-10 finishes in all seven races this year, now leads Gibbs and Gragson atop the standings by 20 points.

The NASCAR Xfinity Series races next on Friday night in the Call 811 Before You Dig 250 (7:30 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Berry is the defending winner, earning his first career series victory there in 2021.

Chastain's warm reception

As you might expect following a career first victory in NASCAR's premier NASCAR Cup Series, Ross Chastain conceded he had a busy last week. The driver of the No. 1 Trackhouse Racing Chevy earned the win last week at COTA in a dramatic action-packed final lap – edging Bowman and colliding with A.J. Allmendinger on the last corner before racing off to his first trophy.

The 29-year old Floridian said he did not get much sleep in the immediate hours after his career-changing win at Austin road course. He did extra media interviews, worked with sponsors and just spent time celebrating with friends and his new team. Trackhouse Racing only expanded to two cars – and added Chastain – this season.

"The highlights have been talking to people back home,"

New era, new style?

Defending Richmond Raceway NASCAR Cup Series winner Alex Bowman addressed the media Saturday morning and acknowledged that the style of competition in all three national series has become increasingly aggressive.

Bowman, who was involved in a pair of accidents in the frantic last laps of racing in both the Camping World Truck Series and NACAR Cup Series events at Circuit of the Americas (COTA) last week, said he agreed with series veteran Denny Hamlin who questioned the level of early-season intensity on social media this week.

"I think the Playoff format has a lot to do with that, but I think we've seen that over the course of the years," said Bowman, who finished runner-up at COTA in the NASCAR Cup Series race after a last lap tussle with race winner Ross Chastain.

"You've seen people spin people out at the end of the races and get pretty physical at the end of the races for a long time. I think there's some new guys in the series that are extremely aggressive. Everyone knows how aggressive Ross (Chastain) is at all times. A.J. (Allmendinger) is an aggressive driver too.

"I don't necessarily think it has changed as much as Denny (Hamlin) thinks, maybe," he continued. "But I think there's a reason and if you have to put your finger on it, it would be the Playoff format How much winning matters and sometimes you can overcome those guys hating you for that trophy."

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1. "We all fall down" pre-ceder
6. Zedong of China
9. W of gridiron's WR
13. Short for betwixt
14. Second-largest bird, by height
15. *The Taming of the _____
16. Godfather's family
17. Make a choice
18. Bridal veil fabric
19. *Like Rock Hudson's and Doris Day's talk
21. *Katherine Heigl wore 27 of these
23. Dumbo's big one
24. Gift for the naughty
25. *"I Was a Male _____ Bride" starring Cary Grant
28. Inauguration ball, e.g.
30. Eyelid drooping
35. Half of binary code
37. Ruptured
39. PayPal money
40. Part of colliery
41. Avoid, as in taxes
43. "The Sun _____ Rises"
44. "Colorful" announcement
46. Fifty-fifty
47. Bit of slander
48. Rookie
50. Tolstoy's Karenina
52. Hitherto
53. Hammer part
55. Canada's neighbor
57. *Sleepless in which city?
61. *Drew Barrymore has never been what?
64. Don't mention it
65. Akira Kurosawa's 1985 movie
67. Erasable programma-

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| <p>ble read only memory</p> <p>69. Seize a throne</p> <p>70. Gold medalist Nathan Chen's turf</p> <p>71. Smooth transition</p> <p>72. Post-deductions</p> <p>73. "But I heard him exclaim, _____ he drove out of sight, Merry Christmas..."</p> <p>74. Sound like Wilbur</p> | <p>7. Unit of electric current</p> <p>8. One up</p> <p>9. "_____ Afraid of Virginia Wolf?"</p> <p>10. Novelist Murdoch</p> <p>11. Expunge</p> <p>12. Bo Peep's females</p> <p>15. Gracefully slender</p> <p>20. Perform on a dais</p> <p>22. Eminem's genre</p> <p>24. Wagon train, e.g.</p> <p>25. *Julia Roberts played a pretty one</p> <p>26. Old and feeble</p> <p>27. Extend subscription</p> <p>29. *It's crazy and stupid?</p> <p>31. South American tubers</p> <p>32. *Who did Harry meet?</p> <p>33. Question in dispute</p> <p>34. Like small distance</p> | <p>36. Belgrade native</p> <p>38. *She starred in "I Dream of Jeannie"</p> <p>42. Boredom</p> <p>45. A-one</p> <p>49. Slippery reef dweller</p> <p>51. Appraise</p> <p>54. Like a haunted mansion</p> <p>56. Colorado skiing destination</p> <p>57. Render speechless</p> <p>58. Facilitate</p> <p>59. Adjoin</p> <p>60. Suit material</p> <p>61. Leg joint</p> <p>62. "Cogito _____ sum"</p> <p>63. Brooding</p> <p>66. Acronym, abbr.</p> <p>68. NYC art museum's nickname, with the</p> |
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FARMERS MARKET 8-12, Every Saturday. Please Come Out and Support Your Local Farmers Market. Spring Vegetables, Honey, Fresh Chicken, Pastries, Cookies, Preserves, Eggs. 200 Block East Palmer.

Animals

VOLUNTEERS & DOG WALKERS Needed at Macon County Animal Services. 18 years and older. Call Debbie (941)266-7084.

Real Estate

2 ACRES UNRESTRICTED Land w/30x50 Metal Building on HP McCoy Just North of Cowee \$149,000. Call (352)603-4249.

Community Fundraisers

SENIOR GAMES FLEA MARKET Saturday, April 9, 8am-1pm. Carpenter Building, Booths \$20. Call Cody (828)349-2093.

HABITAT RE-STORE 56 W Palmer St., Franklin. Furniture, Lighting, Plumbing, Building Materials, Doors & Windows, Appliances & More! (828)524-5273. Sylva Re-Store, 1315 W. Main St. (828)586-1800. Hours for both Stores Mon./Wed./Fri./Sat. 10-4pm

REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow, open Tues.-Sat. 10am-3pm. Benefits Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. Information call (828)369-2040.

Garage & Yard Sales

SENIOR GAMES FLEA MARKET Saturday, April 9, 8am-1pm. Carpenter Building. Booths \$20. Call Cody (828)349-2093.

2 FAMILY Saturday, April 9, 8am-2pm, 61 W. Depot St. Lots of Rugs, Carpet Rems, Tools, Office Equip. (828)421-3410.

YARD SALE AT MAPLES Park Clubhouse, Lake Emory Rd., Friday & Saturday, April 8-9, 8am-1pm.

ATTENTION: CRAFTERS & YARD Sellers, Multi-Vendors Sale on April 8-9 and April 14-16, 8am-4pm, Daily, Otto Community Center located at 60 Firehouse Rd., in Otto, NC. Partial proceeds benefits Cystic Fibrosis. Items will include: Crafters Fabric & Artificial Flowers, Easter Decorations and Supplies, Prom Accessories, Home Decor, Collectibles, Ladies Clothing, Christmas Items (Great Gift Ideas). Numerous items \$1.00 or less! More Information Betsy (828)332-7192.

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SKILLED CERTIFIED NURSING Assistant/Companion, Available 12-hour Shifts, Cooking, Cleaning, Laundry. Experience working with matters of dementia and sundowning. (845)807-4121.

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SQUID'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR & Service, 867 Highlands Rd., by Franklin Flea Market. (828)342-5135.

PROFESSIONAL KNIFE and scissor sharpening Mon-Sat. Kitchen Sink Inc. 72 E. Main Street, Franklin (828)524-2956.

CRANE BROS. WELL Drilling, 6" Drilled Wells for Farms Homes and Industries, Free Estimates. 248 Crane Circle, Franklin. (828)524-4976.

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FREE LAWN CARE Estimates, \$5. Off With Ad, Fall Clean Up & Care, Mulch/Fertilizer, Pressure Washing, Gutters Cleaned. No Yard Too Large or Too Small. Bob (828)342-5273.

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Help Wanted

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR in Sylva looking for helper electricians. Must have tools, transportation, references, and willingness to work with others. Pay based on experience- Call (828)631-0341 for interview.

Help Wanted

IF YOU ARE A REGISTERED NURSE licensed in the State of North Carolina and want less stress than the typical medical, hospital structure requires we need your nursing skills to supervise the daily operations of home care services provided through Home Care Partners. This position supervises the aides, scheduling, training and day to day activities to assure our clients can remain independent in their home environment. No medical services administered. Mon-Fri 40 hours per week. Benefits include vacation, sick, holidays and dental, life, health insurance. Please call Julie Van Hook at 828-507-6065 for more information. You can apply at Disability Partners, 525 Mineral Springs Drive, Sylva, NC 28779.

POSITION AVAILABLE Are you someone with a disability who has overcome obstacles relating to a personal disability and will use that strength to help others with disabilities set and reach goals to live more independently. If so, DisAbility Partners has a full-time position available for you. Work experience and education will be considered. Benefits vacation, sick, holidays and dental, life and health insurance. Mon-Fri 40 hours per week. You can make a difference. Applications available at DisAbility Partners, 525 Mineral Springs Drive, Sylva or on our website; disabilitypartners.org. Call Barbara Davis for more information (828)226-8263.

WE CAN WORK AROUND your schedule starting at \$12.00 per hour to provide in home aide services based on the consumer needs through the Home and Community Block Grant. You can make a difference in someone's life age 60 and older in Jackson County. Benefits for full time PTO, dental, life and health insurance. Part time positions available. Please apply at 525 Mineral Springs Drive, Sylva NC or call Home Care Partners at 828-586-1570 for more information.

WNC SPORTSZONE is hiring an Embroidery Specialist - Previous experience preferred. Must possess good time management, willing to learn, dependable, attention to detail. Apply online at: WNCsportsZone.com/contact-us

DALTONS CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE is hiring Retail Sales Associate -Excellent customer service, people skills, dependability. Apply online at: Dalton'sChristianBook.com/contact-us

CASHIERS COLOR CENTER IS looking to hire a full-time individual to assist in the paint department. Duties will include mixing paint, assisting customers with color selections and sundry items, stocking shelves and daily cleaning. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. This individual must be dependable, self-motivated, have great customer service skills and be willing to learn. We will offer on-the-job training, so experience is not necessary. For more information, call Derek Taylor @ (828)200-9226, or stop by Cashiers Color Center to fill out an application.

PATHWAYS FOR THE FUTURE INC. dba Disability Partners is seeking a dynamic, forward thinking person for the position of Executive Director. Disability Partners is a local Center for Independent Living serving 14 Counties in Western North Carolina, with offices in Sylva and Asheville, North Carolina. People with disabilities are served through the Center for Independent Living, Homecare Partners and Person First Services, a provider of the Innovations Waiver through Vaya. The Executive Director Job Description and application can be found at <https://www.disabilitypartners.org/employment-opportunities>. All applicants must submit by email: Cover Letter, current Resume and a complete application to: ssacco@disabilitypartners.org. The deadline to apply for the position is April 29, 2022 at 5:00pm. Documents submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply for the position.



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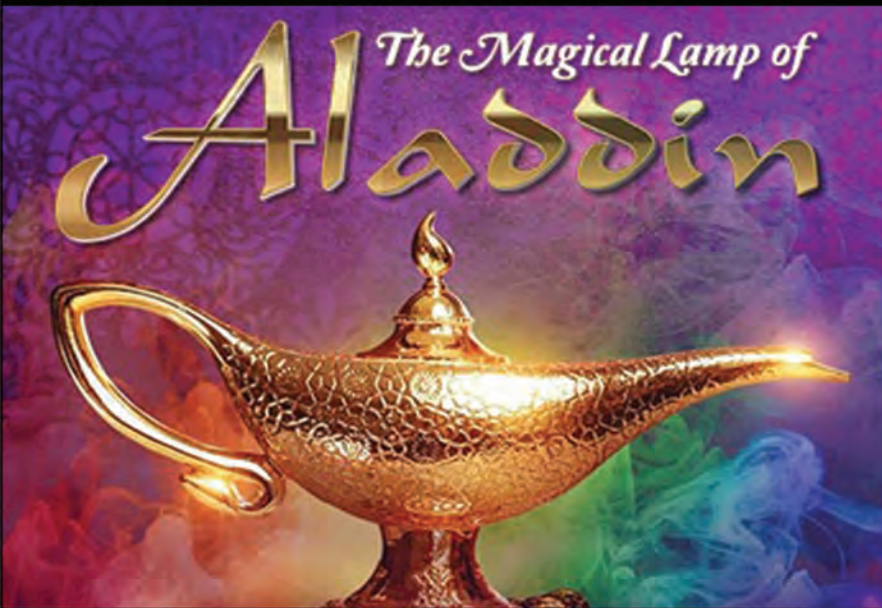
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