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Franklin High School held its Class of '22 Senior Awards Day Wednesday, May 11, on the football field at the school with the student body, school faculty and parents in attendance. Awards were presented in the categories of academics, athletics, vocational, arts, extracurricular and more. The most prestigious awards include the School Spirit Award and the Citizenship Award. The School Spirit Award is given to the young man and woman who best exemplify and promote pride in their school with no regard to personal gain or recognition. Named the winners of the School Spirit Award (left) were Sydney Williams and Andres Perez Cobian. The Citizenship Award goes to the young man and woman who are involved in their community, and continually exhibit honesty and integrity along with a genuine concern for broader issues affecting society as a whole. The Citizenship Award went to Claire Holland and Joe Riddle (right). See next week's issue of The Macon County News for a complete list of award winners and more photos.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter

Candidate profiles: Macon County sheriff Part II

The last day for early voting across North Carolina is Saturday, May 14, at 3 p.m. The Primary election day is Tuesday, May 17. Voters may vote at their designated polling places on that Tuesday. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Leading up to the primary, *The Macon County News* is publishing candidate profiles for local offices. Following is Part II of the sheriff's candidate profiles featuring Brent Holbrooks and Chris Browning. Candidates were asked to provide a short bio and were asked the same questions.



Brent Holbrooks



Chris Browning

goals." He worked for the town of Franklin while waiting to turn 21 when he could begin the BLET [Basic Law Enforcement Training] program.

Holbrooks obtained his law enforcement certification from Southwestern Community College and began working at the Macon County Sheriff's Department in 1999. He left in 2004 to learn a new trade. "But I knew that I would return to law enforcement; and I did just that in 2008. I returned back as

road patrol officer and shortly thereafter, I was promoted to corporal," said Holbrooks.

In 2010, he transferred from road corporal to corporal over civil process and courthouse security. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2016, and just recently promoted to lieutenant over civil process and courthouse security. He has served as team leader on the SWAT team for 15 years while employed at the Macon County Sheriff's Office. He also worked at the

Brent Holbrooks

Brent Holbrooks is 45 years old and was born and raised right here in Macon County. Growing up in Franklin, he attended public school in the Franklin area until his late high school days; when he chose to attend and graduate from Military School. He graduated from the Academy in 1994 and moved back to Macon County "eager to pursue a career in law enforcement and was very focused on attaining my

See CANDIDATES page 2

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Macon Special Olympics holds Spring Games

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CANDIDATES

Continued
from page 1

Multi-Agency Narcotics Unit for a little less than a year, where I bought an array of drugs in Western North Carolina. Though he was gone about three and a half years from 2004 until 2008, he “bought back all of his time, which makes me the candidate with the most years of service at the MCSO; 22-years of service (23 years in May 2022).”

Chris Browning

Chris Browning was born and raised in the Iotla Community. He served in the U.S. Air Force and served for five years as a Macon County Deputy. He has been a Macon County business owner for 17 years. Post military service, he served with the Macon County Sheriff’s Department from 1998 to 2003 as a Road Deputy and Shift Investigator. His current capacity consists of serving the community as a merchant/small business owner at Browning Well and as President of C&S Enterprises for the last 16 years. Browning’s campaign is self-funded.

Why are you running for office?

Holbrooks: “As you would expect, there were a number of things that contributed to my decision to seek election for Macon County Sheriff, not the least of which was my belief that I could make a difference for the people of Macon County. Serving the public through law enforcement is my life, inspired and influenced by my father and grandfather, both having served Macon County in law enforcement for decades. I take great pride in building personal and professional relationships here in Macon County and have become known over the years as a person that listens carefully to what people have to say. It is from this perspective that I have learned a great deal about how our residents view and interact with the Sheriff’s department. I certainly do not know it all, but I do know what our communities are thinking, invaluable in the role of Sheriff. My ability to make a difference in Highlands, Franklin, Nantahala, Otto and throughout the entire county, is based on our residents’ vision for the county and not just how I see it – the reality is ... this is OUR Macon County. I also have a deep commitment to our next generation of children and young adults. This is evidenced by my direct involvement

in our schools and churches and by my passion as a coach, mentor and volunteer. Serving alongside others that are dedicated to our youth and their future will be a cornerstone of my run for Sheriff and a purposeful strategy of the Sheriff’s Office overall. I will press for community-related policies that prompt our deputies to work with other stakeholders as role models so that, together, our investment in the younger generation yields solid and measurable results. The fact is nothing “made” me decide to run for Sheriff. I like to think of it as more of a “calling” – it is what I was meant to be and the timing is perfect.”

Browning: “I understand that our community needs change, and our future depends on it. I am committed to bringing about the change we need in Macon County. I want to give the citizens of Macon County a choice to elect a Sheriff that wants change and will bring complete transparency to the Macon County Sheriff’s Office.”

Macon County, WNC, and NC has an epidemic drug problem. How do you think law enforcement can strengthen its response to this problem?

Holbrooks: I don’t think local law enforcement is ever going to completely wipe out the drug problem. However, I do know the necessary steps in order to decrease drug activity in Western North Carolina. I plan to develop a Multi-Agency Drug Task Force comprised with the far western counties. I’ve already reached out to several surrounding Sheriffs in order to begin those necessary early conversations. I also plan on increasing youth and young adult support and continuing rehabilitation services for those individuals that struggle with addiction(s). My children and my grandchildren are being raised in our communities and I want drug dealers to know that this is not a safe haven for them!”

Browning: “One of my first actions in office will be to form a Highway Interdiction Team to combat the transport of drugs into our community, as well as Western North Carolina. If we stay with the same leadership that has been in office the last 20 years, we will continue to have this drug epidemic explode in our communities.”

Do you think the Nantahala community needs additional officers, and if so, what adjustment would you make within the department/budget to make that happen?

Holbrooks: I’ve already spoken to several people in both

of these communities about increased officer presence. The movement of officers, in order to provide proper coverage, is one of my top priorities.

Browning: “Yes. I will petition the commissioners to add one full time deputy dedicated to Nantahala.”

What do you see as the strongest area within the department?

Holbrooks: We have lots of strong areas within the department. I believe the strongest area is the men and women who work at our department. They come to work each and every day to serve and protect our citizens. I stand behind each and every one of the individuals who work at the MCSO; we have many who have the leadership skills to do great things for our communities.

Browning: School Resource Department

What areas can be improved?

Holbrooks: I feel there needs to be a reconstruction of a few divisions within the office, to properly provide the coverage and services to the communities.

Browning: Narcotics division is in desperate need as there is only one dedicated Narcotics Agent working under the Sheriff. That will change under my leadership as well as overall resources to combat the drug epidemic.

Anything else you would like voters to know about you?

Holbrooks: “I’m humbled by the amount of community support and the support coming from my co-workers at the Sheriff’s department for my candidacy. I am very thankful and I promise to make you proud.

“I am not a politician but I know, as an elected official, that I work directly for the citizens of Macon County – I’ve been looking forward to serving in this capacity ever since my father held the role for 16-years

“I am a lifelong and 9th generation resident of Macon County. I want to preserve and protect Macon County and its citizens.

“Finally, I will come to this role with heart and compassion – I’ll bring my family values to the Sheriff’s Department. But if you are a criminal, don’t confuse my demeanor with weakness. I will serve to protect the law fairly and without compromise and work to ensure every citizen is proud to live in Macon County.”

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Camp SoulShine offers recreational opportunities for autistic children

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that approximately one in 44 children in the United States has autism spectrum disorder (ASD). While various levels of the condition affect children in different ways – from verbal to social to daily function challenges – the reality is that autism is a diagnosis that comes with stigmas and obstacles.

Recreational therapist and activities director for Macon Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Bridget Karcher, has witnessed firsthand the hurdles associated with autism.

“My main motivation for the camp is my younger brother, Connor. Growing up, I saw how difficult it was for him [as he was diagnosed with autism] to be included in the same opportunities that I took for granted. I wanted to change how the world perceives individuals with disabilities, so I chose to go to school for recreational therapy at Western Carolina University and I became a certified and licensed recreational therapist.”

Although a main goal is to develop a program to offer youth with special needs and their families more opportunities to be included in recreational programs, and to provide more general advocacy, 28-year-old Karcher has also organized Camp SoulShine, to be held at Nurture+Nature retreat center in Franklin, June 29 through July 1.

“We are hoping to host five youth [11 years old and older] with autism, and their guardians, for overnight camp, and we have 10 spots available for day campers,” she said. “So far, we have held fundraisers and collected donations for funding on GoFundMe, but we are also partnering with Knights of Columbus at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. We are using donations to cover the costs associated with camp, but we are also hoping to provide some scholarships for youths as well.”

Assisting Karcher with this event are volunteers from the Recreational Therapy Program at Western Carolina University and from other nonprofit organizations such as Special



Her brother, Connor Karcher, was the main inspiration for Macon Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center's recreational therapist and activities director Bridget Karcher to establish SoulShine camps.

Liberty Project, which will be assisting with animal therapy and the camp's mindfulness archery program.

The cost for Camp SoulShine's overnight camp is \$250, while day camp is \$60. Cost includes meals, activities, and “a few surprises,” she said, adding, “Activities such as animal therapy, archery, hiking, arts and crafts, and team-building skills will help the youth grow out of their comfort zones

while connecting with their peers.”

Karcher said the camp's name was inspired by her own family.

“My grandparents were fans of the Allman Brothers Band and they all loved the song ‘Soulshine.’” Her grandfather was notable Highlands' modern architect, Jim Fox.

The family-favorite song includes verses that convey Karcher's intention for students who attend the camps:

“When you can't find the light
That guides you through a cloudy day
When the stars ain't shinin' bright
And you fill like you've lost your way
When the candle lights of home
Burn so very far away
Well you got to let your soul shine.”

“The whole camp will be centered on what's happening on the inside,” she said. “No matter the disability and where you come from, what matters is what shines through.”

She explained that her family will be helping in different ways with the camp, and her main role will be as the recreational therapist. Connor, 19, will also be helping where needed.

Karcher would like to see the camp become an annual event that grows to welcome more students – as well as a monthly activity opportunity for local students. “I'm hoping that this event will be a catalyst for future programming and events offered to the special needs community in our area. I'm working on applying for grants to help with these endeavors. I would also like to build up a staff. Franklin is coming along in terms of helping youth with autism. I would like to build on that momentum. I went to Franklin High School and my brother was in the special needs class there, and I've just seen things open up for special needs kids over the past few years. It's encouraging.”

She would also like to see local autism-related efforts “fill in the gaps” for people like her brother, who age out of educational and recreational services.

Information about the camp and about volunteering for the camp and other activities can be found at www.Nurture-NatureRetreat.com. or by emailing bkarcher94@gmail.com.

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Time: Mon and Thur (6:15/7:30)

 Cost: \$100/team (9+)

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Adam Dixon (706-782-4600)



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Operation Fan Heat Relief distributing fans to eligible recipients May 1–Oct. 31

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Aging and Adult Services is partnering with the N.C. Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers to distribute fans to eligible recipients through Operation Fan Heat Relief May 1–Oct. 31.

People age 60 and older, as well as adults with disabilities, are eligible to sign up for assistance from May 1–Oct. 31 at local aging agencies across the state. Since 1986, the relief program has purchased fans for older adults and adults with disabilities, providing them with a more comfortable living environment and reducing heat-related illnesses.

The program is made possible by donations from Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke Energy Progress, Dominion Resources and Valassis, and allows regional area agencies on aging and local provider agencies to purchase fans for eligible individuals. Local provider agencies can also purchase a limited number of air conditioners based on a person's specific health conditions.

Last year, DAAS received \$85,500 in donations, allowing for the distribution of 3,240 fans and 26 air conditioners.

As individuals age and develop chronic medical conditions, they are less likely to

sense and respond to changes in temperature, and they may also be taking medications that can worsen the impact of extreme heat. Operation Fan Heat Relief helps vulnerable adults at risk for heat-related illnesses stay safe during the summer.

In addition to applying for fans, people age 60 and older, as well as adults with disabilities, can take the following steps during high temperatures:

- Increase fluid intake
- Spend time in cool or air-conditioned environments regularly
- Reduce strenuous activity during the afternoon
- Speak with their physician before summer about how to stay safe while taking medication that can affect the body's ability to cool itself (e.g., high blood pressure medications)

For more details, individuals may contact their area agency on aging or the Division of Aging and Adult Services' housing program consultant at 919-855-3419.

More information about Operation Fan Heat Relief, including tips on preparing for extreme heat and a list of local agencies distributing fans, is available at www.ncd-hhs.gov/operation-fan-and-heat-relief.

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Macon County schools STEM programs going strong this spring

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

The local Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program in the Macon County School System has been abuzz with activity of late.

Jennifer Love, STEM coordinator for Macon County Schools, shared some highlights.

Three STEM teams, representing South Macon Elementary and Macon Middle School, competed in the Smart Tank Competition, which is sponsored by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation and STEM-E Grant through Western Region Education Service Alliance. To compete, these students had to create a product and business plan that they presented to some local “sharks.” The competition took place at Southwestern Community College in Jackson County and included categories for elementary, middle, and high school teams from a seven-county region.

Winners included Lance Parker and Anderson Terrell from Macon Middle School with their idea called Campfire Bowl; the Macon Middle Unslippables team that included Cole Brogden, Gradyann Carpenter, Noah Farias, Garrison Laird, and Jacob Modlin; and the SculptiGals team that involved Penny Allen, Jennifer Huerta Garcia, Edgar Garcia, Brooklynn McMahan, and Hannah Tallent from South Macon. Each group created a product and presented it to judges on April 5.

Said Love, “The Unslippables came up with a product called ‘Sole Savers’ that customers attach to the bottom of their shoes to prevent them from slipping. The SculptiGals decided that pet owners needed a way to preserve their pets’ memories through sculptures called ‘SculptiPets.’”

In addition, STEM elementary students are involved in a program called Wings to SOAR, which is a local live animal program about birds of prey.

“We have several schools participating in this program,” said Love. “And these programs are supported by Suminski Family Books, which donated \$500 of their proceeds from their ‘Animal Stories’ book to the STEM program; plus there is funding from our local Walmart.”



Mountain View Intermediate School participated in the Macon County Soil and Water Poster, Essay and Powerpoint Contest. Poster contest winners (L-R) were Jack Parlier, First Place; Quinnlyn Simple, Second Place; Amethyst Wood, Third Place; Rylee Rogers, Honorable Mention; Divany Rios, Honorable Mention; and Rayne Szpara, Honorable Mention.

During the SOAR programs, students learn how birds of prey play a vital role in the natural world. Students are visited by owls, turkey vultures, hawks, and kestrels. “The best part of the program is the students get to see the birds up close and experience the wind off their wings as they fly over their heads,” noted Love.



From left, Terra Spivey, Tucker McHan and Eli Phillips received Honorable Mention for the essay portion of the contest.

Wings to SOAR was presented at Cartoogechaye Elementary on April 4 and will take place at Iotla Elementary on April 26, Mountain View Elementary on April 28, and East Franklin Elementary on May 5.

Another program, called STEAM Career Exploration, was offered at Mountain View Intermediate School on April 7.

“The whole school was provided materials through the STEM program to participate in four activities related to local careers,” explained Love. “This past year, we were a recipient of a grant through the

Appalachian Regional Council to develop career exploration opportunities. Due to the pandemic, we (grant partners) created videos instead of field trip experiences.”

Love shared that videos can be found at <https://wresa.org/business-externships>. Activities students participated in after watching the local business video in-



Power Point winners (L-R) were Tatum Vanhook, First Place; Savannah Norton, Second Place; and Genevieve Hanners, Third Place.

cluded sun prints and chemical reaction painting, a project linked to The Bascom Center for Visual Arts in Highlands; gardening in a glove, an activity integrating content from the Deal Farms video; and, ziplining, which tied into the Highlands Aerial Park video.

“These videos can now be accessed by any teacher in the region,” said Love. “We appreciate our local businesses who participated in this program.”

April is also when all Macon County elementary schools are participating in hands-

on science stations during the school day through the N.C. Science Festival.

“Kits were purchased through the STEM-E grant and include experiments in chemistry, physics, and engineering,” said Love.

Events for N.C. Science Festival are taking place all over the state. More information can be accessed by visiting www.ncsciencefestival.org.

The Macon Bots robotics competition was held on May 10 at the STEM space located at the Business Industrial Park. Upcoming is the Biodiversity Day at South Macon Elementary. Biodiversity Day, scheduled for Thursday, May 19, is an event that includes stations about salamanders, bird banding, butterflies, and fish. This program involves local partners from Mainspring Conservation Trust, Highlands Biological Station, and Southern Appalachian Raptor Research.

“STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math,” said Love, “but in Macon County, we focus on ‘Strategies That Engage Minds.’”

Macon County Schools currently has four STEM educators (Macon Middle, Mountain View Intermediate, East Franklin Elementary, and Cartoogechaye Elementary) that work to connect the curriculum through hands-on experiences.

“Students engage in lessons on computer coding, engineering design process, and much more. These lessons give students a jump start into career exploration, finding their passion, and practicing skills in critical thinking and problem-solving. I couldn’t be more pleased and excited about the projects and experiences we are able to provide our students through our STEM program and our amazing STEM teachers,” said Love.

The STEM acronym was first introduced in 2001 by scientific administrators at the U.S. National Science Foundation. Since then, STEM-focused curriculum has been extended to schools throughout the United States as well as to many other countries.

For more information about the Macon STEM program, visit <https://stem.macon.k12.nc.us> or the Facebook page Macon STEM.

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2022	BMW	530	240
2022	Chevrolet	Corvette 2LT	201
2021	Kia	K5 LXS	4,963
2021	Tesla	Model 3 Standard Range Plus	15,196
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2019	Nissan	Sentra SV	15,009
2019	Buick	Enclave	24,669
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	53,520
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze	34,692
2016	Dodge	Journey	91,004
2015	Nissan	Altima 2.5 S	59,261
2015	Mustang	GT	45,724
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	113,152
2008	Corvette	Coupe	9,007

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2021	Chevrolet	Suburban	388
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	Chevrolet	Equinox Premier AWD	16,427
2020	Grand Cherokee	Trailhawk	26,226
2020	Cadillac	Escalade Premium Luxury	7,309
2020	GMC	Acadia AT4	28,261
2020	Subaru	Crosstrek Limited	14,430
2020	Hyundai	Palisade	34,462

2019	Chevrolet	Equinox Premier AWD	34,109
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	Ford	Explorer	69,517
2018	Kia	Soul	58,573
2018	Jeep	Compass	46,974
2017	Nissan	Rogue	122,708
2017	Toyota	RAV4 LE	83,441
2017	Volkswagen	Tiguan Wolfsburg Edition	59,132
2015	Chevrolet	Equinox LTZ AWD	107,485
2015	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited Altitude	39,030
2014	Ford	Explorer 4x4	68,342
2013	Ford	Escape SE AWD	89,455
2013	Mazda	CX-5	94,754
2012	Chevrolet	Express 2500 VAN	160,946
2005	Mazda	Tribute	162,869

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss	651
2021	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	10,842
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	5,822
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	435
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	16,244
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	8,432
2021	Jeep	Gladiator	2,054
2021	Ram	2500 Tradesman	3,647

2021	Toyota	Tacoma TRD Off-Road	8,507
2021	Toyota	Tacoma 4WD	4,746
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	36,463
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado	31,506
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado	52,944
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500 HD High Country 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 3500 HC Dually	45,535
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 W/T	52,560
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado Z-71	23,542
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	61,657
2016	GMC	Canyon	92,073
2016	GMC	Sierra SLT	61,530
2016	Ram	Diesel Crew 2500	60,495
2016	Toyota	Tacoma	127,336
2015	Chevrolet	Colorado	95,530
2015	Toyota	Tacoma	98,618
2012	GMC	Sierra 2500 Diesel	192,749



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Paid leave available for state employees who get booster

Governor Roy Cooper has signed an Executive Order that encourages eligible state employees to get their COVID-19 booster shot and rewards them with a day of vacation leave. The Order provides up to eight hours of fully paid leave to eligible state employees who, on or before Aug. 31, 2022, provide their agency with documentation of receiving a first booster. The Order applies to Cabinet agencies and any other state agencies that voluntarily adopt the order's measures.

"We have seen the importance of vaccines and their effectiveness in keeping more people from ending up in our hospitals or becoming very sick," said Cooper. "Staying up-to-date on shots and getting boosters will help keep our state employees and communities safe."

In July 2021, Governor Cooper signed an Executive Order announcing that the state would begin verifying the vaccination status of Cabinet agency workers. Unvaccinated employees were required to be tested at least once a week. Since the policy was adopted, Cabinet agencies have seen an increase in the number of employees who received their COVID-19 shots. Across the Governor's Cabinet, the percentage of vaccinated employees jumped from 65% in September 2021 to nearly 78% as of late April 2022.

With the majority of state employees vaccinated against COVID-19 and infection rates relatively low, state government is pausing the testing requirement for most unvaccinated workers and implementing the new plan to provide paid leave to encourage boosters. The paid leave is available not only to employees who receive their first booster shot between May 4 and August 31, but also to employees who have already received their first booster shot. Employees will have until March 31, 2023 to use the extra leave.

The weekly testing requirement for unvaccinated Cabinet agency employees in health care or correctional facilities may continue.

Franklin observes National Day of Prayer



The Franklin community observed the National Day of Prayer last Thursday. Mike Barres open with hymn singing and pastors from area churches prayed for the needs of our nation. Photos by Vickie Carpenter



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PICKIN' ON THE SQUARE



Free Entertainment Every Other Saturday!

Pickin' on the Square is fun, free entertainment every other Saturday night throughout the summer. Main entertainment starts at approximately 6:00 p.m.

For more information call 828-524-2516 Donnie Clay - Coordinator

Well, we start the 2022 season of Pickin' on the Square this weekend. This Saturday, we're having one of your favorites, *Lisa and The Boys*. They do a great variety, including blues, Motown and country.

See you Saturday at the gazebo, downtown Franklin. Don't forget to bring a chair! And remember that Pickin' now starts at 6 p.m.

These concerts are given to you free by the Town of Franklin. This concert season will be every other weekend, next Pickin' will be May 28.

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

The cost of energy is a huge national issue and a major driver of inflation. At the last town board meeting our energy consultant informed us that Duke would be increasing wholesale electric rates in the coming months. He recommended the town approve a rate increase very soon to address this impending increase that the town will pay for wholesale electricity.

At the budget workshop last Thursday the board decided not to pass a rate increase to our customers, at least not at this time. From past cost adjustments and Duke court settlements the town recently received over \$700,000. The board voted to earmark those funds to address future rate increases. So, when the Duke rate increase occurs the town will use those funds to cover the cost. We will hold the line on rate increases for as long as we can, or at least until this earmarked money is depleted. The town may be able to absorb even more, but if energy costs continue to skyrocket, especially natural gas, the town will have to increase rates. Because we have a wholesale contract, Highlands customers have avoided the recent rate spikes that Duke retail customers have experienced. The major expense we have had to deal with has been those sorry coal ash fees that Duke passed to both retail and wholesale customers.

In short, I see a continual increase in power demands in the coming years. The town will have to enter a new wholesale electric contract by the end of the decade with either Duke or another provider. I don't believe everyone in town converting to solar generation will alleviate this increasing demand. The move to green energy sources will be a major development. Duke just announced their plan to double their green energy generating capacity to 24,000 megawatts by 2030. They are asking regulators for generous incentives and tax credits to make this conversion which will also involve closing their six remaining coal plants. Duke is also asking regulatory agencies and the legislature to lower the costs they reimburse folks who sell back power to them through solar generation. I believe Duke's rationale is that they will have the biggest impact on green energy generation rather than individual household units. The final decision by regulatory agencies should happen in the coming months.

One may question my view that the production of electric power will have to significantly increase in the coming years. As the country transitions to electric vehicles, the energy to power those vehicles will require an abundant source.

Letters to the Editor

From a son to his mother

Not quite sure where this letter brings me to, but trying to place a hurting heart within words which cannot describe hurt is not in any way possible. As I write this farewell note I speak of the heart of one of the most dearest people I've ever known. The loss of one who's had such a profound impact in what love is, and the sharing of this love towards the family she loved so dearly. Life could not be lived in its fullness without her being in every part of it.

From a young boy growing up in the warmth and nurturing arms of a loving mom, to a young man trying to find his way, I find her Godly values directing me towards what life was meant to be. From one who has instilled and nurtured me, I now pass this value of love and respect of our Divine Creator in nurturing to my own family in a direction of life within its fullest meaning. Her examples are endless in a life well lived and will always be cherished until my own passing. Then it is my hope, those who I have touch as she did me, may carry the example of a life well lived, and I pray this would never find its ending until God our divine creator calls for the closing of time as we know it. If her life could only be magnified for all to see and lived as she lived, in a love and faith towards God her creator, which made sense and reason for a life well lived. It is then my wish would be that every boy or girl, man and woman could experience such a blessing of a God-seeking mother, who showed what love is truly meant to be, and this depth of love is only found in the one called "Christ."

In honor of a loving Mom & Mother, who's taken a part of her son's heart with her.

Deni Shepard - Franklin, N.C.

Crowds were as good as ever at Pickin'

Some erroneous information regarding this weekly, now bi-weekly event. The crowds were as good as ever last year following the Pandemic 2020 season, with the exception of a few rain outs. I know our previous mayor didn't like the event other than to photograph people and puppies and was a compete no show last year. His attitude towards me and others, including tourists is "why should we as non-city residents get to enjoy what the town has to offer at his expense!" I guess he didn't take that economics class in high school or college.

We spent money every time we went to town at one of the local businesses and in fact I mentioned to Bob Scott that if it was such a burden to him or the town to finance Pickin on the Square, then pass the hat. We've had more attendance per season than all high school sports events combined. We all would have gladly thrown in \$5 or \$10 each week. Donny Clay did an excellent job the past 25-plus years hosting and setting up this weekly event. I'm sure many of us, regular

weekly attendees, will be disappointed that it is now bi-weekly. It was a part of living in and visiting Franklin, North Carolina. It's an end to an era! Thanks again Donny Clay.

Ken Bowden - Franklin, N.C.

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

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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Harvest ramps responsibly to enjoy for many years to come

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Some people refer to them as wild leeks, but the pungent smelling native plant is accurately called *Allium tricoccum*, or ramp. Ramps have been described as a cross between a green onion and garlic and have been a culturally important flavoring food for centuries. According to Michelle Baumflek, research biologist for the Forest Service's Southern Research Station in Asheville, ramps are even sought after by chefs all over the United States.

"The green part and the leaves are delicious," she said. "They can be sauteed with vegetables, put it in meatloaf, eggs – all kinds of dishes."

Baumflek, an ethnobotanist, studies the relationships between people and plants.

"And, ramps are a big one in that category," she said.

"Ramps have been harvested in this area for thousands of years; in fact, there are so many people in Franklin and other areas of Western North Carolina who harvest ramps. Although I study them, the native people know more about ramps because of their multigenerational family experiences in the harvesting and eating of ramps. I am always open to learning from them."

Ramps mature in the Appalachian Mountains from March through April and are one of the earliest spring greens, playing important cultural, nutritional, and socioeconomic roles for many communities, including for Cherokee peoples.

"There are a few ongoing projects involving ramps ... one of those is with the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians," said Baumflek.

Retired U.S. Forest Service scientist Joan Walker monitored populations of ramps in the mountain coves of western North Carolina for many years. Last year, she presented at Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center, sharing not only the importance of ramps to the local culture, but she also focused on sustainable harvesting practices.



Ramps, a wild, native, edible plant of the Appalachian Mountains, have been harvested and used for centuries. However, the plants must be harvested accurately and respectfully so that they continue to thrive in the area.

"She set up a population monitoring study in the Nantahala National Forest due to concern about over-harvesting of ramps," said Baumflek, who explained that each national forest has specific regulations regarding harvesting ramps, whether for personal or commercial use. For example, an individual might be able to harvest a small bag of ramps in the wild without any restrictions. But if someone wants to harvest larger quantities, to sell commercially at a roadside produce market, for instance, he or she will need to register with a ranger station and acquire a permit.

"Ramps are perennial plants," said Baumflek. "If they are starting from a seed, it might take five to seven years for a plant to get large enough to harvest. People have really different opinions about whether to take the bulbs,

take the whole plant, or just take part of the plant."

One sustainable way to harvest ramps is to cut only one leaf and leave the bulb and second leaf to continue growing. Baumflek suggested harvesters "at least leave some of the bottom of the bulb part, where the roots are, in the ground and then the ramps have a better chance of growing back."

To responsibly take part of a ramp's bulb, a harvester can insert a knife into the dirt at an angle and slice off a part of the bulb but still leave most of it so the roots continue growing.

"We've seen unmitigated poaching and

the law enforcement capacity to enforce the limits," Martin added. "The correct way to harvest them is pain-staking; you need a sharp knife and you must leave the threads in the ground. I've seen people use regular shovels making it look like Russian boars have ravaged the place."

"A lot of people harvest properly and respectfully, but some people do not," noted Baumflek. "It's important not to over-harvest one spot."

For individuals who find a ramp patch growing in their yard or woods, they can nurture the patch and just take a few ramps for use annually or harvest the green parts like a green onion and leave the bulbs and roots underground to continue maturing.

Don Deal, Deal Farm, who sells produce weekly at the Franklin Farmer's Market, sells ramps in season. He said a ramps patch was

started about 20 years ago and has re-seeded to include approximately one-half acre of the aromatic plants.

"You can either put the whole plant in the ground to start a patch or at least part of the bulb," he said. "They need to be planted in full shade, in moist soil ... ideally above or near a stream."

Deal said he has always eaten ramps and suggested that soups, fried potatoes, eggs, and salads

and salad dressings benefit from the flavor of the wild native plant.

Anyone uncertain about identification of ramps in the wild or proper harvesting techniques can consult online instructional videos, and additional information is available on Forest Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture websites.



decimation of some patches particularly at Standing Indian and Jones Creek areas," explained Angela-Faye Martin, who owns and operates Alarka Expeditions/Institute with her husband Brent, the executive director of the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy.

"The unfortunate thing is that the USFS [United States Forest Service] doesn't have

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Recently the Lee Talley Tree Company took down a yellow pine tree that was threatening a nearby structure. Tree climber Brandon Elliott wielded the saw, first cutting the top of the tree, as crane operator Luke Cook guided it and two other sections to the ground where it was cut into 12-foot logs by Dustin Daves and Lee Talley. The process took about two hours. Photos by Betsey Gooder



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Chris is committed to:

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- ✓ Protecting the Constitutional rights of Macon County Citizens
- ✓ Serving ALL Macon County Citizens equally
- ✓ Providing safe communities for our families and children
- ✓ Working for YOU, Macon County

Background

- ✓ Born & Raised in the Iotla Community
- ✓ Served in the US Air Force
- ✓ 5 years as a Macon County Deputy
- ✓ Macon Co. business owner for 17 years
- ✓ Self-funded campaign

Experience

Post military service, I served with the Macon County Sheriff's Department from 1998 to 2003 as a Road Deputy and Shift Investigator. My current capacity consists of serving the community as a merchant/small business owner at Browning Well and as President of C&S Enterprises for the last 16 years.

Commitment

From public service at the national and county levels to a lifetime member of the Macon County community, I understand that our community needs change, and our future depends on it. I am committed to bringing about the change we need. I am committed to protecting your 2nd Amendment rights. I will never enforce an unconstitutional gun law against the citizens of Macon County.

I humbly ask for your vote in the upcoming Sheriff's election. I am prepared to serve the citizens of Macon County with honesty, leadership and integrity.

Thank you, Chris Browning

Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests April 25 - May 8. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Franklin Police Department

April 28

Jonathan Andrew Hunt, was charged with driving under the influence. E.D. Kirkland made the arrest.

May 3

Nikelus Orion Hughes, was charged with simple assault and communicating threats. A.R. Holland made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

April 25

Jasmine Victoria Deans, 32, Hicks Wood Rd., of High Point, was charged with failure to appear for false report to police station. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Robert Mitchell Rice, 30, of Heady Mountain Rd., was issued a warrant for arrest for assault on a female. No bond was set.

April 26

Pamela Kay Thompson, 63, of Manor Trace, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses and misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jeffrey Allen Debaere, 47, of Frosty Ridge, was issued an order for arrest for failure to complete community service, larceny, injury to real property and assault with a deadly weapon. A secured bond of \$1,750 was set.

Amber Irene Brake, 37, of Frosty Ridge Rd., Bryson City, was issued an order for arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

Rhodalee Brenda Cochran, of Shadrack Lane was charged with failure to appear for fictitious/alterd/title/registration card/tag and driving while license revoked impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Laranzo Daniel Wilnoty, 35, of Wolfetown Rd., Cherokee, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation and failure to appear for misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Alexandria Jade Jackson, 29, of Old Mission Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for obtaining property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Glenn Paul Young, 21, of Cullowhee, was charged with

larceny after breaking and entering and breaking and entering a motor vehicle. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Daryl Denver Rice, 30, of Heady Mountain Rd., Cashiers, was issued a warrant for arrest for assault on a female. No bond was set.

April 27

Earland Rebel McKay, 42, of West Main St., was charged with sex offender on child premises. A secured bond of \$40,000 was set.

Natasha Belle Kirkland, 34, of Peppermill Lane, was charged with failure to appear for possession of a controlled substance on jail premises. A secured bond of \$80,000 was set.

James Brent Gloyne, 37, of Viola Queen Rd., Cherokee, was charged with warrant service for other jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Amanda Lynn Gonzalez, 35, of Rainbo Dr., was charged with reckless driving to endanger. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Luis Angel Mejia-Garcia, 26, of Littlerock Circle, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation for out of county. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Candida Lashawn Wiggins, 50, of Rose Haven St., Charleston, was charged with impede traffic sit/stand/lie. No bond was set.

April 28

Amber June Franks, 22, of Cabe Rd., was charged with failure to appear for release order. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Whitney Erin Rhodes, 37, of Pump Mountain Dr., was charged with resist/obstruct/delay. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Charles Kyle Doalson, 31, of Biddle Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, maintain a vehicle for a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, trafficking opium or heroin by possession and trafficking opium or heroin by transportation. A secured bond of \$250,000 was set.

Terry Eugene Cribb, 38, of North Dr., Thomasville, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Ronald Stephen Ellsworth, 54, of Rockdale Rd., Whittier, was charged with resist a public officer. A secured bond of \$250,000 was set.

April 29

Stephen Van Sheridan, 61, of Rainbow Dr., was charged with possession of a weapon of mass destruction and possession of a firearm by a felon. A secured bond of \$35,000 was set.

Charles Joe Allmon, 30, of Whittier, was charged with damage to property, larceny and breaking and entering. No bond was set.

Makaylyn Victoria Davis, 20, of Climbing Fern Ave, Riverview, Fla., was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

April 30

Demetrius Shamus Kline, 42, of Old River Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for open container and fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Robert Seth Harris, 37, of Tall Oaks, was charged with second degree trespass, possession of stolen goods/property and misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set.

Amanda Grace Brock, 36, of Old River Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

May 1

Christina Benton Filan, 55, of Jonquil Dr., was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Lisa Monique Hawkins, 55, of Rockdale Rd., Whittier, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

May 2

Courtney Faith Orr, 26, of Rockdale Rd., Whittier, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Alvin Drew Burrell, 37, of Sparks Dr., was charged with failure to appear for maintaining a vehicle dwelling place and trafficking in methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$200,000 was set.

May 3

Benjamin Grayson Fagan, 20, of Westridge Dr., Asheville, was charged with drug equipment violations, felony flee elude and drug/narcotic violations. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Candice Sage Mathis, 28, of Ela Rd., Bryson City, was charged with child abuse and failure to report a crime against a juvenile. An unsecured bond of \$10,000 was set.

May 4

Garrett Shane Melton, 19, of Airedale Ridge, was charged with harassing phone calls, cyberstalking and communicating threats. No bond was set.

May 5

Joseph Eugene Jones, 52, of Brigadoon Branch, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

May 6

David Joseph Walsh, 33, of Webster Rd., was charged with assault causing physical injury to emergency personal. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

May 7

William Bennett Boud, 42, of Cullowhee, was issued a warrant for arrest for misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set.

Ramona Teesatuskie Standingdeer, 66, of Yellowhill Rd., Cherokee, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses. No bond was set.

May 8

Joann Laura Frazier, 58, of Fisher Creek Rd., was charged with cyberstalking. No bond was set.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Macon County Master Gardener Association will meet on May 13, 10:30 a.m., at the Environmental Resource Center on Lakeshore Drive. Speaker will be Bill Messina, garden manager at Ace Hardware. The public is welcome.

Nantahala Hiking Club will meet on Thursday, May 12, 6 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library. After announcements, the movie "The Grandma Gatewood Story" will be shown. Emma Gatewood was the first female to solo thru-hike the Appalachian Trail at age 67. All who are interested are welcome to attend. No monthly meeting in June.

Valley River Arts Guild will be offering a Fish Sculpture Class for Kids, on Saturday, May 14, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, class is appropriate for ages 7 to 12, an Official Bob Ross Technique Class, on Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Murphy Art Center. Classes are open to the public. For more information, call (828)360-3038.

Macon County Republican Women's Club will meet on Tuesday, May 17, noon, at Fat Buddies BBQ Restaurant. Guest speaker will be Sheriff Robbie Holland. All Republican women are invited.

Democratic Women of Macon County will meet on Thursday, May 19, 5 p.m., at Noah's Play and Train.

Nequassa Chapter #43, Order of the Eastern Star will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary on Saturday, May 21, 2 a.m., at the Masonic Lodge, 50 Church St., in Franklin. Reception will follow. Everyone is invited to attend.

Taste of Scotland Society will meet on May 18, and May 25, 4:30 p.m. at Frog Quarters. Anyone who is interested in helping with the taste of Scotland festival to be held on June 17-19, is invited to attend.

Free Sports Physicals will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2 p.m., at Franklin High School, 100 Panther Dr. All rising 6th-12th grade students that will participate in NCHSAA sanctioned sports, must undergo a state-mandated sports physical prior to trying out for any sport. Parents/Guardians should plan to attend the sports physical, in order to answer questions the medical team may have during the exam. For more information, contact Lynette.Gibson@HCAHealthcare.com and Justin.Byland@HCAHealthcare.com

Wayfarers Chapel's Free, Monthly Summer Concert Series will start on Sunday, May 22, from 2 to 4 p.m., on the deck at Wayfarers Chapel, 182 Wayfarers Lane, by Estatoah Creek in Dillard. Bring your favorite folding chair and enjoy classic rock & roll and southern rock favorites with the local group "Sweet Charity." For more information, call Jennifer Utley at (901)581-2404.

Macon County Senior Center Lunch and Learn: Gallbladder Health and Surgery will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 1 p.m., 108 Wayah St., Franklin. Dr. Gilberto Robles from Harris Sugical Associates will share information about gallbladder health and surgery. RSVP by calling (844)414-3627.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, May 25, 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.

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Meetings are held Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd.; Sunday, 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave.; Tuesday, 8 a.m., and

Thursday, 12 noon at St. Agnes Episcopal Church on 66 Church St.; Wednesday, 7 p.m. at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd. On-line meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org. To speak with a member of A.A., call (828)349-4357.

The Town of Franklin Water/Sewer Division will implement temporary road closures continuing into early June, on West Palmer Street in front of the Franklin Fire Department and on Maple Street to improve an existing sewer line. A hard closure will commence from a point at the intersection of Commerce Street and West Palmer Street to include both lanes and continue to Maple Street. Signage will be in place for the closure area and detours. For more information, call Public Works Department at (828)524-2516 x 397.

Thursday Painters has moved to Mondays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at The Uptown Gallery located at 30 East Main Street in Franklin. All skill levels and mediums are welcome. Bring your project and supplies and a bag lunch. For more information, call Pat Mennenger (828)421-5194 or Uptown Gallery (828)349-4607.

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.

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

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

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

Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Community Services are open on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to help Macon County residents in need with rent, power bill and a fully stocked food pantry. The church is located at 93 Church St., Suite 212. For more information, call (828)369-9000.

Habitat for Humanity of Macon/Jackson County needs volunteers to share skills or gain some experience learning new ones. From carpentry to cleaning, marketing to moral support, computer skills, planning and organizing or just plain common sense, the greatest gift you could ever give is time. Any amount is good. Some great times, lasting friendships and rewarding experiences await. Call (828)369-3716 or (828)371-5442.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church will be holding Sunday Service on May 15, 10:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages will be held at 9:30 a.m., Pastor Evan Jensen will be speaking on 1 Timothy 1. Ted Duke will perform special music. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next door to Trimont Christian Academy).

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, May 15, 11 a.m., Donna Corso will share on "Don't Worry Be Happy"; Monday, May 16, all levels yoga class, at 6 p.m.; on Wednesday 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email your church events to maconcountynews@gmail.com

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

4	6	2	9	4	7	8	1	3	2	9	4
9	3	5	7	3	5	7	2	4	1	8	6
8	1	7	6	5	9	3	4	2	1	8	6
6	4	3	8	9	5	6	8	3	4	7	1
1	2	9	4	7	6	8	3	5	1	8	6
7	5	8	2	3	1	9	6	4	8	3	5
3	9	6	5	4	2	7	1	8	3	5	9
5	8	1	9	6	7	4	2	3	9	6	5
2	7	4	1	8	3	6	5	9	2	7	4

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

L	A	M	I	A	W	O	K	W	O	K	N	E	A	P
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B	A	G	G	I	B	E	S	E	S	A	W	R	E	A
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S	I	T	A	R	A	L	E	A	R	G	A	L	A	L
P	O	E	M	D	A	Y	L	S	O	L	L	O	S	O

Special Olympics holds Spring Games at MMS with Star Wars theme



Special Olympics Macon County hosted its annual Spring Games on May 4 with the theme "May the Fourth Be With You" featuring "Star Wars" movie characters. Members of law enforcement carried the torch joining the athletes on the Middle School track to the Opening Ceremony. Mayor Jack Horton welcomed attendees and participants. Special Olympics athletes from across the county competed in various athletic events which was followed by the presentation of medals.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter





Ubuntu presents music from around the world

The Ubuntu Choir of the Great Smoky Mountains, directed by Tom Tyre, performed a program of uplifting music from around the World on Mother's Day Sunday, May 8, in the First Presbyterian Chapel in Franklin. Founded in 2009, the Ubuntu Choir sings a cappella music from diverse traditions and cultures. Sunday's program featured songs from many foreign countries, plus ample opportunities for audience members to sing along. Ubuntu is a worldwide movement open to all people who share a passion for harmony singing. The local Ubuntu group is a member of the Worldwide Ubuntu Choir Network, and is composed of members from Macon and Jackson counties. Tyre has received Ubuntu training in British Columbia and is a member of the Natural Voice Network in the United Kingdom.

Photo by Betsey Gooder



Deaths & Funerals

Sandra Robin Waldroop

Sandra Robin Waldroop, 58, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of Annie Dee Buchanan Harmon and the late Lester Conley Waldroop Jr. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her husband, Scott Grawey; and a son, Anthony Ray Gravitt. She loved music, playing the guitar, singing, painting, and working in her flowers.



Sandra Robin Waldroop

She is survived by her mother, Annie Dee Buchanan Harmon of Franklin; son, Joey Blosser Jr. of Franklin; and numerous other family members and friends.

A celebration of life was held Tuesday, May 10, at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the American Heart Association.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

William 'Butch' Beck

William "Butch" Beck, 75, of Highlands and Scaly Mtn., N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, May 4, 2022.

He was born in Macon County. The son of the late James William and Beulah Henry Beck. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two grandchildren, Sarah Beck and Gavin Johnson; four brothers, Jimmy Beck, Sammie Beck, Jake Beck, and Gilbert Beck.

He was retired from the Town of Highlands where he worked in the sanitation department for more than 20 years. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and a friend to all. He loved the outdoors, hunting, working in the garden, growing flowers, and most of all spending time with family, friends, and all his babies.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Frankie Speed Beck; sons, Lamar of Walhalla, S.C., Scott (Angela) of Franklin, N.C., James of Highlands, Sam Johnson (Holly) of Franklin, and a daughter, Rhonda Oakley (Wayne) of Highlands; grandchildren, Jeffrey Beck, John Beck, Raven Briley, Jaimie Beck, Annabelle Beck, Kaylee Oakley, Jasmine Oakley, Rylee Johnson; six great-grandchildren; one brother, John Beck; and many many special babies.

A service was held Monday, May 9, at Highlands First Baptist Church with Pastor Oliver Rice and Pastor Clay Webb officiating. Burial followed at Highlands Memorial Park.

Pallbearers were Craig "Yogi" McCall, Clay Talley, Craig "Boo" James, David Leffler, Mike Beck and Jon Shaheen

Honorary pallbearers were Lamar Billingsley, Kenneth Norris, Kenneth Wilson, Dale "Mac" McMahan, Larry Holt, Kent Henry, Petey Bryson.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



William Beck

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Deaths & Funerals

Lucy 'Merle' Bradley Adameit

Lucy "Merle" Bradley Adameit, 89, of Otto, N.C., passed away Wednesday, May 4, 2022. She was born May 3, 1933, in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late Erwin Bradley and Sybil Moss Bradley. She was the oldest of eight children. She worked in food service and worked at the Dillard House with Carrie Dillard who was the original owner, all of her children worked at the Dillard House. She was a good cook and liked eating at the Cracker Barrel, playing cards and reading. She loved her family and her pets, Nikki, Buddy and Kitty Girl. She attended Asbury United Methodist Church.

She is survived by two daughters, Linda Brown (Tim) and Janice Tyler; two sons, Eddie McDowell and Tracy McDowell; siblings, Freda Justus (Horace) and Richard Bradley; three grandchildren, Brooke Kilby (Lance), Dalton McDowell and Matthew McDowell; three great grandchildren, Trey Tyler, Jaelin Kilby, and Maddie Kilby.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Elden Adameit; a son, Charlie McDowell; a grandson, Brian Tyler; and siblings, Lawrence Bradley, Geneva Potts, Gene Bradley, Judy Green and Noreen Gibson.

A funeral service was held Sunday, May 8, at the Bryant Grant Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Tim Hunnicutt officiating. Burial followed at the Asbury United Methodist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Asbury United Methodist Church Cemetery fund, PO Box 113, Otto, NC 28763.

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

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

Charles Southard

Charles Southard, 69, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on May 1, 2022.

He was born in Macon County to the late William "Ernie" Southard and Margie Ledbetter Southard. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, James Southard, and his sister, Teresa Southard.

He worked his whole career with Hedden Brothers Well Drilling. He enjoyed camping, fishing, and gardening. He was a big family person and loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Cindy Southard; children, Sonya Southard, Tony Southard (Emily), and David Southard (Christie); one grandchild, Emily Ann Southard; siblings, Sherri Ross, Tommy Southard, and Kevin "Steve" Southard; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

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



Lucy 'Merle' Adameit



Charles Southard

James Patrick View

James Patrick View, 36, passed away unexpectedly on May 6, 2022. He was born on Oct. 3, 1985. He grew up in Highlands, N.C., and was a graduate from Highlands High School in 2004. He had a calling to serve his country and joined the Marines immediately after graduation. He served two tours in Iraq and one tour in Afghanistan. He was honorably discharged in 2014.

He is survived by his son, Jason View. Jason was the most precious and valuable person in James' life. A father's love could not be any stronger. He is also survived by his parents, Patrick (PJ) View and Liz View; a loving sister, Nancy View, Aunts, Margaret Taylor, Nancy Manning (Richard), and Dominique (Brad) Skaith; Cousins, Richard Manning (Carrie), Taylor Calvert, Ryan Skaith, Aaron Skaith, and his grandmother, Nancy Taylor (Ahmah).

He was a very kind soul. He touched so many lives with the love he carried in his heart. Starting at a young age, he was spreading happiness and cheer in the halls of elementary school. He continued his good-natured ways through high school and was voted Homecoming king in 2003. PJ and Liz are overwhelmed by James' passing.

A Celebration of life will be held Saturday, May 14, from 1-4 p.m., at the home of his parents, 596 Flat Mountain Rd., Highlands.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfort Road Suite 300 Jacksonville, FL 32256, or at www.woundedwarriorproject.org; or to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, New York 10306.

Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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



James Patrick View

Mary Verran

Mary Verran, 83, passed away on May 9, 2022. She was born in Saint Petersburg, Fla., on Jan. 4, 1939, where she later met Jim, her husband of 56 years. They resided in Saint Petersburg for most of their lives and later moved to Franklin, N.C.

She was a member of Saint Francis Catholic Church. She enjoyed playing bingo, shopping and enjoyed spending her free time at the Senior Citizen Center visiting with friends. She will be missed and always remembered for her kind and caring heart.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim.

She is survived by her three children, Jimmy of Franklin, Bob of Franklin, Ann of St. Petersburg; and granddaughter, Rebeca of St. Petersburg.

No local services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



Mary Verran

Barbara Shirley Adams Shepard

Barbara Shirley Adams Shepard, 94, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Thursday, May 5, 2022.

Born in Detroit, Mich., she was the daughter of the late Alton and Violet Burlingame Adams. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother Al Adams. She was very dedicated to her church and loved working for the Lord. She was a member of Holly Springs Baptist Church in Franklin.

She is survived by her husband and best friend of 75 years, Paul Luke Shepard; two children, Sandra Barber (Robert) of Ft Myers, Fla. and Deni Shepard (Wendy) of Franklin; a sister, Joan Tierney of Texas; four grandchildren, Kimberly Manning, Robert Barber, Sarah Curtis, and Aden Shelton; three great grandchildren; two great great grandchildren; and numerous other family and close friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, May 15, at 3 p.m., at Holly Springs Baptist Church with Rev. Donnie Seagle officiating.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m. prior to the service at the church.

Memorial donations can be made to Good Samaritan Baptist Missions, PO Box 430, Villa Rica, GA 30180.

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



Barbara Shepard

Daniel Roger Knepp

Daniel Roger Knepp, 78, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

Born in Mifflin County, Pa., he was the son of the Robert Elwood and Beatrice Mae Slear Knepp. He served in the Army during the Vietnam conflict. He retired from the automobile repair business, and later worked at various convenience stores which included Hot Spot and Express Mart. He always worked hard and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Janie Maxine Keener Knepp; children, Robbie Knepp of Franklin, Darin Wood of Otto, and Jeff Wood of Franklin; one sister, Clydene Vermeulen of Sarasota, Fla.; eight grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

No services are planned.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations 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.

Marylyn Ann Merritt Lowe

Marylyn Ann Merritt Lowe, 85, passed away on May 4, 2022. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced at a later date.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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

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Deaths & Funerals

Dorothy Bell 'Dot' Roberts

Dorothy Bell "Dot" Roberts, 78, of Etowah, N.C., passed away on Sunday, May 8, 2022. A native of Franklin, N.C., she was the daughter of the late J.R. and Grace Norton Bell. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her sister, Sue Bell Nicholson.

A 1961 graduate of Franklin High School, she graduated from Western Carolina University in 1965 before studying at the Spanish Institute at Furman University in 1966. She received her B.A. in Education and Reading Certificate K-12. During her extensive teaching career she was able to touch the lives of many students in Brevard, Charlotte and Hendersonville, and was honored as Hendersonville City Schools Teacher of the Year in 1984-1985 school term. She was an active member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority.

Watching the progress of her students as she sought to teach more than just academics but to teach them to be successful in life, was very important to her.

Her greatest joy, however, came from her family – her husband of 55 years, Nicky Roberts; their children, Mark and Jay, and especially their four grandchildren, brought joy to her heart and a smile to her face.

Her loving survivors include her husband, Nicky Roberts; children, Mark and Jay (Krista); grandchildren, Jackson, Camryn, Dean and Ryann; her sisters, Betty Ann Bell and Sally Gilbert (Ricky); and nieces and nephews, Michael McDowell, Laura Todd, Heather Dye, Chris Gilbert, Ryan Gilbert and Reilly Gilbert.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 11, at Etowah United Methodist Church with Rev. Richard Buff officiating. Interment followed at Blue Ridge Gardens of Memory in Pisgah Forest.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be made to the Alzheimers Association, 31 College Place Suite D-320, Asheville, NC 28801.

To leave a condolence for the family of Dorothy Roberts, visit "Tributes" at www.mooreblanchard.com

Moore-Blanchard Funerals & Cremations is honored to serve the family.

Judith Anne Fertic

Judith Anne Fertic, 83, passed away May 2, 2022.

No local services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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

George Andrews

George Andrews, 72, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

He was born Nov. 4, 1949, in Baltimore County, Maryland, to the late Joe and Mary Martin Yalich. He was a program manager, and had worked for Oak Ridge National Lab and for General Motors. He was a Catholic by faith and he loved painting and fishing.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Janice Andrews, two sisters, Mary Wetmore and Bernadette Bertsch and a brother, Tim Yalich.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Goodier; a son, Ahren Andrews of Stanley, N.C.

No services are planned at this time.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and crematory is serving the Andrews family.

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

Harold Neville Neely

Harold Neville Neely, 73, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Monday, May 9, 2022. He was born Nov. 19, 1948, in Rabun County, Georgia to the late Harry Preston Neely and Carrie Dendy Neely. He always had a smile when you saw him that followed with a good story or joke and was always willing to help others out. He had a love for dogs, collecting rocks and quartz, guitar music and wearing his western boots. He had worked as a computer programmer at Western Carolina University. He was a member of Highlands First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his son, Matthew Neely (Sarah); three nieces, Lynn O'Dwyer, Stephanie Norris and Gloria Neely.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Connie Neely; a granddaughter, Marigold Neely; a brother, Herman Neely.

A funeral service was held Wednesday May 11, at the First Baptist Church of Highlands with Rev. Dr. Mark Ford officiating. Burial followed at the Macedonia Church Cemetery.

Online condolences can be sent to www.bryantgrantfuneral-home.com.

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

Patricia VanBusKirk

Patricia VanBusKirk, 92, passed away May 4, 2022. She was born Sept. 29, 1929, in Port Huron, Mich., and reared there, later resided in the Tampa, Fla., area before becoming a Franklin, N.C., resident in 1985.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Howard VanBuskirk; her parents, Jacob and Margaret Borkowski; and her sister, Marjorie Pearson.

She is survived by her brother, Jacob Borkowski; and her children, James VanBuskirk of Otto, N.C., Cathy Chase of Franklin, and Donna McCann of Pembroke Pines, Fla.; and her grandchildren, David Chase, Andrew Chase, Jennifer Critser, Robert McCann III, Alicia Gray, Jeffery McCann, Patricia Demoret; seven grandchildren; and 19 great grandchildren.

With her faith in her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, she delighted in reading her Bible, and greatly appreciated her family's visits. She enjoyed taking care of her grandchildren. For years, she provided care for other's children, some of whom remained friends with her for decades. She was an accomplished seamstress and relished the pastime of creating puzzle art of beautiful countryside scenes that she lovingly framed for family members.

As a member of Holly Springs Baptist Church, she will rest near her husband Howard at the church cemetery there awaiting our Lord's promise given in her favorite passage John 14:2, 3: In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."

Marvin Leon Carpenter

Marvin Leon Carpenter was born on Sept. 22, 1942, and passed from this life on May 3, 2022. He was the son of John and Icia Stamey Carpenter and is preceded in death by his parents, three sisters, and five brothers.

He will be remembered for his generosity and his caring spirit. He would give whatever he had with an open heart. He was also known for having a mischievous streak and for enjoying a good laugh. He absolutely loved his family. In fact, they knew without a doubt he was crazy about each of them.

He liked traveling and seeing new sights. His sidekick was Bootsie, a black poodle who truly thought she was part human. No matter what the trip, even just to the store or to work, Bootsie was always ready to go. She and Marvin reached an understanding early on that dog food was for ordinary dogs; and, therefore, he made sure she dined solely on people food.

He was an enthusiastic sports fan. He enjoyed watching the Atlanta Braves, North Carolina Tar Heels, and NASCAR. He also always looked forward to and had great fun on fishing trips to Michigan. He installed commercial textile cleaning systems and owned the company, MCC.

He is survived by his children, Rebecca Abreu of Asheville, N.C., and Marty Carpenter (Melody) of Franklin, N.C.; his grandchildren, Cheyenne Deyoung, Robbie Carpenter, Brayden Cline, and Bailey Welch; his great-grandchildren, Jaxon Deyoung, Haven Welch, and Lawson Welch; and his companion, Geraldine Wakenshaw.

Graveside services were held on Friday, May 6, at Black Mountain Baptist Church Cemetery. VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108 Honor Guard conducted military honors. Pallbearers were Kevin Holland, Mitchell Cabe, Jamie Stiles, Keith Stamey, John Allen and Greg Carpenter.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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

Doris Cheek

Doris Cheek, 86, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on May 4, 2022, peacefully at home.

She was born in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late Rev. Lester and Annie Guffey Sorrells. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene "Gene" Ray Cheek; brothers, Herman, T.J., Ralph, Marshall, and Floyd Sorrells; and three sisters, Margaret Bennett, Hazel Johnson, and Virginia "Sis" Frazier.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She was a member of the Black Mountain Baptist Church, a member of Macon County Coon Club Association for 30 years, she was pianist for over 40 years for churches in the surrounding area.

She is survived by her son, Michael Eugene Cheek; her daughter, Cathy Helen Holland; sisters, Lessie Miller, Kathryn Solesbee, Ethel Sheffield; brother, Jack Sorrells; four grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren.

A service was held Tuesday, May 19, at Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Cale Stancil officiating. Burial followed at Union United Methodist Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Mitchell Bowman, Justin Poindexter, Jay Gwinn, Derek Lehnert, David Elliot, and Kenny Elkins.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Black Mountain Baptist Church.

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

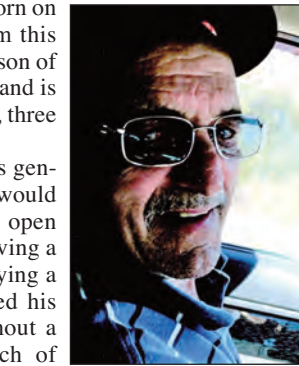
Macon Funeral Home will handle the arrangements



Dorothy Bell Roberts



Harold Neely



Marvin Carpenter



Doris Cheek



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Joey Logano bumps his way to a win at Darlington

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

Executing a decisive bash-and-run on the next-to-last-lap of Sunday's Goodyear 400 at Darlington Raceway, Joey Logano wrested the lead from William Byron and ended a NASCAR Cup Series 40-race winless streak dating to March of 2021 at the Bristol Dirt Track.

After Logano gave Byron's Chevrolet a jolt entering Turn 3 on the white-flag lap, Byron shot up the track into the outside wall and fell back to 13th at the finish.

Driving a No. 22 Ford sporting the throwback paint scheme of his first quarter-midget racer, Logano beat runner-up Tyler Reddick to the finish line by .775 seconds to earn his first victory at Darlington and the 28th of his career.

Logano now has won at least one race in 11 consecutive Cup Series seasons.

"Yeah, you're not going to put me in the wall and not get anything back," Logano said, apparently referring to earlier contact from Byron's car. "That's how that works. Man, super proud of the Shell-Pennzoil team, getting a victory here in Darlington. You know what it's like—I've never won here in a Cup race before."

An incensed Byron clearly thought Logano crossed the line with his aggressive maneuver.

"We were really close off of (Turn) 2, and I think it spooked him and got him tight, and he was right against the wall, and I got the lead," Byron said of a restart on Lap 268. "He's just an idiot. He does this stuff all the time. I've seen it with other guys."

"He drove in there 10 miles an hour too fast, and with these Next-Gen cars, he slammed me so hard it knocked the whole right side off the car, and no way to make the corner."

"Yeah, he's just a moron. He can't win a race, so he does it that way. ... yeah, it was close racing on the restart. We were faster than him. Obviously, at the end the right rear (of Byron's car) started to go away, and, yeah, he didn't even make it a contest."

Justin Haley ran third, followed by Kevin Harvick, who posted his 13th straight top-10 result at the Lady in Black—a track record. Chase Elliott started at the rear of the field in a backup car and finished fifth.

A massive wreck off Turn 2 on Lap 261 of 293 took out more than a handful of frontrunning cars and set up the final restart. Martin Truex Jr., who had restarted on the inside of Row 2, lost momentum in the corner and slid back between the Chevrolet of Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and the Ford of Kevin Harvick.

Truex's Toyota made slight contact with Stenhouse's Camaro in the outside—but enough to start Truex spinning sideways. The wreck collected the cars of Kurt Busch, Bubba Wallace, Cole Custer, Denny Hamlin, Erik Jones, Chase Briscoe, Ryan Blaney and Elliott, which suffered damage ranging from minimal to terminal.

Ill fortune led to the demise of three of the strongest cars before the race reached the halfway point. On Lap 114 second-



Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Shell Pennzoil Ford, takes the checkered flag to win the NASCAR Cup Series Goodyear 400 at Darlington Raceway on May 8, 2022 in Darlington, S.C. Photo by Emilee Chinn/Getty



new asphalt). I just got loose on the transition and spun out."

By the time the race ended, 13 of the 36 cars already were in the garage, equaling the number of DNFs last month at Talladega.

Logano's victory in a Ford kept Chevrolet winless at Darlington since Harvick's victory there in 2014.

Justin Allgaier breaks drought with impressive NASCAR Xfinity win at Darlington

The numbers tell the story of Justin Allgaier's impressive victory in Saturday's Mahindra ROXOR 200 at Darlington Raceway.

First and foremost, in defending the NASCAR Xfinity Series victory he claimed last spring at the Lady in Black, Allgaier broke a 34-race drought dating to that 2021 win.

For the second straight race, JR Motorsports posted a 1-2 result, with Noah Gragson trailing Allgaier to the finish line by .259 seconds in a two-lap dash to the end of regulation.

JRM drivers now have won three straight races in the series and three straight at Darlington, with Gragson having triumphed at the 1.366-mile track last fall.

Beyond the numbers, though, the key element on Saturday was the flawless execution of Allgaier's pit crew. After Allgaier finished third behind Gragson and Ty Gibbs in Stage 2, the crew got the No. 7 Chevrolet out first during a Lap 92 pit stop.

place starter Kyle Larson brought his No. 5 Chevrolet to pit road and retired with engine failure.

Lap 167 brought the downfall of Kyle Busch, who had led 19 laps. The No. 6 Ford of Brad Keselowski pounded the outside wall in Turn 2 and collected the Toyota of Busch, eliminating both cars from the race.

Ross Chastain collected the second stage win of his career in Stage 2, but his elation was short-lived. Moments after the subsequent restart on Lap 196, Chastain's No. 1 Chevrolet spun to the inside of Hamlin's Toyota near the exit of Turn 2 and nosed into the inside wall, ending his race.

"We were fighting the balance all day," Chastain said. "We were racing with those guys for the lead. I just thought I could run the bottom there off of Turn 2 at the exit of the patch (of

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On the two stops that followed, Allgaier was first off pit road among the drivers who came in for service. When nine cars stayed out under caution for Joe Graf Jr.'s crash on Lap 136, Allgaier restarted 10th on Lap 141 and advanced to second before Tyler Reddick slammed the outside wall on Lap 142.

On the subsequent restart on Lap 146 of 147, Allgaier quickly grabbed the lead from AJ Allmendinger, who had 16-lap older tires, and held the top spot to the finish, as Gragson pursued.

"This team right here—the pit stops today were killing it," said Allgaier, who had finished a close second to teammate Josh Berry a week ago at Dover. "They were awesome. This Hellman's Camaro was so fast. Just a testament to the 7 guys, but everybody at JR Motorsports—they've been working so hard. ...

And by the way, it was awesome racing my teammates. That was probably the coolest part, racing my teammates all day, so hats off to those guys."



Justin Allgaier, driver of the #7 Hellmann's Chevrolet, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Mahindra ROXOR 200 at Darlington Raceway on May 07, 2022 in Darlington, S.C. Photos by James Gilbert/Getty Images

Gragson delivered his eighth top-five finish of the season, including victories at Phoenix and Talladega.

"A 1-2 finish for our company, that was great," Gragson said.

"We had great points today. Two stage wins and a second place. I wanted that win. I was ripping the top. I went on a bike ride this morning with Justin Allgaier, right at sunrise. He said, 'Man, I'm going to run the bottom,' and I knew he was going to run the bottom.

"We ran at the fence all day. He got the win. Hopefully, we're selling T-shirts out on the concourse for ripping the top. I don't know if anyone was higher than us, and there's barely scrape on the right side."

Riley Herbst ran third, extending his string of top-10 finishes to five. Friday's NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race winner, John Hunter Nemechek, came home fourth, followed by JRM's Sam Mayer.

Landon Cassill, Brandon Jones, Allmendinger, Austin Hill and Daniel Hemric completed the top 10. Allmendinger has finished in the top 10 in all 11 Xfinity Series races this season.



John Hunter Nemechek, driver of the #4 Mobil 1 Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Dead on Tools 200 at Darlington Raceway on May 06, 2022 in Darlington, S.C.

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THEME:
THE 1950s

ACROSS

1. a.k.a. vampire
6. Asian cuisine pan
9. Type of tide
13. Make more attractive
14. Lawyers' grp.
15. China grass
16. **"West Side Story's" Tony and _____
17. Mourner's acronym
18. Utilizing
19. *a.k.a. "The King"
21. *Kitschy art movement begun in '50s (2 words)
23. Mortar carrier
24. Back of the neck
25. *Kelly or Chanel 2.55, e.g.
28. Hurtful remark
30. "_____ Margery Daw," nursery rhyme
35. Paper unit
37. Duds
39. Eurasian antelope
40. Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
41. Unaccompanied
43. Disgust with sweetness excess
44. Brandish
46. Track competition, e.g.
47. Frustrated driver's recourse
48. Legendary King of Pylos
50. Tsar, tzar or _____
52. Greek letters on campus
53. Deprivation
55. Greek R
57. **"A Streetcar Named Desire" star
60. *Popular type of 1950s restaurant
64. Pro athletes' move
65. Sea in Spain
67. Narcotics agent

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68. Stringed instrument of India
 69. Brewpub offering
 70. Shakespearean "ergo"
 71. *Gwendolyn Brooks' "Annie Allen" entry, e.g.
 72. *Doris of "Que Sera, Sera" fame
 73. Disinfectant brand
- DOWN**
1. Statue of Liberty: "I lift my _____ beside the golden door"
 2. Sixth month of civil year
 3. Encore!
 4. *Like Maureen O'Hara and Samuel Beckett
 5. Not digital
 6. On one's guard
 7. _____-Wan of "Star Wars"
 8. Fraternity K
 9. *Space program established in 1958
 10. Arabian chieftain
 11. Are not
 12. Margaret, for short
 15. Raja's money, pl.
 20. Changes to a manuscript
 22. Military moves
 24. Fail to care
 25. *_____ v. Board of Education
 26. Eagle's nest
 27. Kr and Xe on the periodic table, e.g.
 29. *Postwar prosperity
 31. Per person
 32. Farm structures
 33. Ancient market
 34. **"Rio Grande" and "Rio Bravo" star
 36. Lose skin
 38. *Egypt's disputed canal
 42. Sir Richard Starkey of the Beatles
 45. Like certain Debbie
 49. Unit of absorbed radiation
 51. Relating to nose
 54. Frances McDormand's Oscar-winning 2020 role
 56. Estrogen producer
 57. Spiritedness
 58. Equal to distance divided by time
 59. Actor Driver
 60. Squirrel's nest
 61. Units of work
 62. International Civil Aviation Org.
 63. Hall of Fame Steelers coach
 64. Cooking meas.
 66. Fla. neighbor

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