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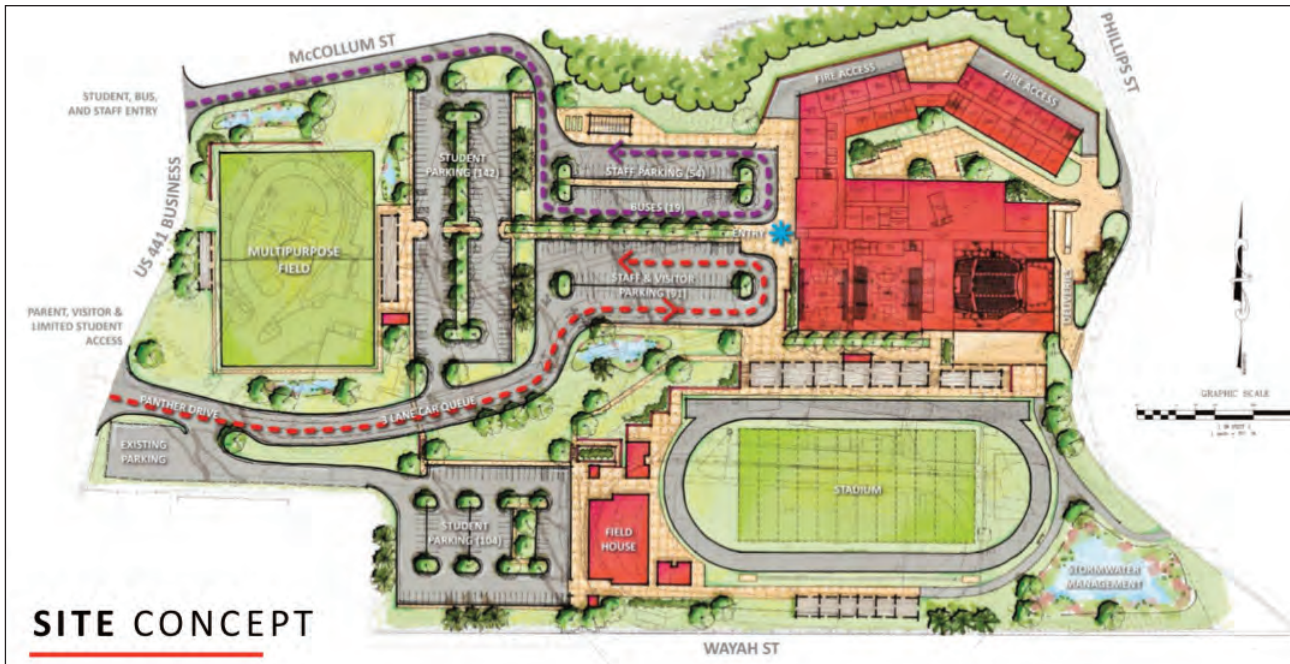
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A Site Concept graphic presented by LS3P Architect Firm indicates a possible design plan for a new Franklin High School. This plan includes a three-story building built on the football practice field (upper right) with elevation changes for the track and football field to address drainage issues. The plan has not been approved by county officials and more design possibilities are likely forthcoming.

## County moving forward with new high school

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

With the support of the board of education, the Macon County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted Tuesday night to move forward with plans to build a new high school facility on the current campus of Franklin High.

The vote gives County Manager Derek Roland the authority to enter into contract negotiations for schematic designs for the new school.

The first brick school building for a high school was constructed in 1910 on a lot between the present Franklin High School and the gym. The school was destroyed in a fire in 1919. A temporary wooden frame building was used until 1923 when a new high school was constructed. The Franklin High School building that stands today was built in the 1950s to replace the 1923 building and at 70 years old, has had substantial issues over the last decade, with the school



The Macon County Board of Commissioners and the Macon County School Board held a joint meeting in the Franklin High School Fine Arts Center to discuss plans to either renovate the existing facilities or build a new high school.

solicit RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for architectural design services for the project. LS3P Architect Firm won the bid and during the Tuesday night joint meeting between the board of commissioners and Macon County Board of Education, Paul Boney with LS3P presented the company's Comprehensive Facility Plan findings.

board and county commissioners pouring in funding every year to keep the school operational.

After a decade of back and forth and talking about the needs at Franklin High School, the Macon County Board of Education sent a formal request to county commissioners in April 2021 asking for a new high school facility to be built on the current site of Franklin High School.

In June 2021, commissioners voted to

See NEW SCHOOL page 2

### IN THIS ISSUE



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# NEW SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

According to Boney, the company's focus during the facility plan looked at traffic and parking, pedestrian circulation, site security, site settlement, accessible routes, drainage, multiple utility meters, and separate fire alarm systems. A focus was placed on facility security, campus ADA compliance [Americans with Disabilities Act], and the long term maintenance of systems infrastructure to meet a 50-year standard. Boney worked closely with a Project Committee comprised of county and school system leaders, members of the community and Callie Roper, a rising senior at Franklin High School.

"When students are excited to go to school, and aren't dreading going there, it enriches their education so much more," Roper said to the audience gathered in the FHS auditorium. "If you don't enjoy going, you aren't going to get the best out of your education."

Roper said it was an honor to serve on the committee and appreciated Boney and LS3P for the comprehensive approach they took.

"They took time to teach me what we were talking about, wanted my input and truly valued my opinions and my input," said Roper. "They aren't here to give us a one size fits all

school — because that won't benefit our community. They truly listened to our community and really took it to heart," said Roper. "School is the center of our community — football games, basketball games, meetings, events, if you grew up here, we all came through FHS, if we can come together to support each other in building something that future generations can benefit from and

### One factor in the overall project cost and impact it would have on property taxes in North Carolina will be decided in November when Macon County residents cast their ballots on a sales tax referendum.

leave that legacy for future generations."

LS3P evaluated every program and building at Franklin High School and analyzed the current and future needs of the school. With a comprehensive needs assessment completed, LS3P then compared the feasibility of accomplishing the set goals and priorities through renovating existing buildings on the campus vs. building an entirely new facility.

LS3P's cost analysis for a new facility was based on a site concept of building a new three story building on the location of the current practice football field. The proposal also addresses issues with the Franklin High School Football Stadium by shifting

the field to the North and raising the field by 5 feet. A retention pond would also be installed to address the drainage issues that have caused flooding damage to the football field and adjacent parking lot.

The design places an emphasis on safety. The current Franklin High School campus has 100 entry points around the campus, making securing the the facility virtually

impossible. The proposed site concept would have one single entry point.

To renovate the high school, LS3P estimated a project cost of \$111,059,378, while the cost for an entirely new facility would be \$118,420,233.

Mitch Brigulio with Davenport and Associates presented a comprehensive look at the county's financial standing and funding options moving forward with the idea of building a new high school facility on the existing campus at Franklin High School.

Based on current estimates with available revenues, Brigulio said the county has several funding options ranging from a 5 cent property tax increase to a 10 cent property

tax increase based on funding sources and timelines.

One factor in the overall project cost and impact it would have on property taxes in North Carolina will be decided in November when Macon County residents cast their ballots on a sales tax referendum.

North Carolina offers individual counties the option to increase the 6.75 percent statewide sales tax to an even 7 percent, with all revenues from the extra quarter-cent going back to the county — the base 6.75 percent sales tax is shared between the county and state.

As it stands, funding for the school system including capital outlay projects and infrastructure needs, are funded out of the county's general budget, which is funded through the county's property taxes, meaning Macon County landowners and homeowners pay the bill. Neighboring counties like Jackson County, and Rabun County, Georgia, have taken a different approach to funding school needs by approving an education-specific sales tax that generates revenue for infrastructure needs. Rather than raising property tax rates to generate additional revenue from property owners, a sales tax revenue would mean anyone shopping in Macon County and paying a sales tax, would be funding the school improvements, rather than just residents.

Sales tax is often rounded up to 7 percent

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already, and those dollars get rolled into the redistribution of sales tax across the state. Out of the 6.75 percent sales tax, less than 3 percent is currently returned to the county. An education-specific 1/4 of a penny tax would be guaranteed to Macon County each year. If approved, the tax could generate more than \$2 million a year for Macon County Schools and SCC.

In order for Macon County to consider the quarter-cent sales tax increase, commissioners would have to vote to put the referendum on the ballot for voters to either approve or deny. By state statute, the entire quarter-cent

sales tax would be returned to the county in which it was generated, while the majority of sales tax collected in the county is disbursed among other counties in the state.

If the referendum is approved in November, the property tax increase needed to cover the debt incurred to finance the project would be about 2 cents less than if the county votes against it.

The next step in the process will take place on Aug. 9 during the next meeting of the county commission when the board will vote on the contract extension with LS3P for the schematic design of the project.

## School board discusses Capital Outlay needs at regular meeting

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The Macon County School Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 25, with a fairly light agenda. Aside from several requests for field trips and yearly fundraising events, capital outlay priorities were discussed.

### Capital Outlay

The sum of \$550,000 was set aside in the budget for building and ground repairs for all district schools. The school board made new fencing a priority for Union Academy, Highlands School, South Macon Elementary and Franklin High School (FHS) with a total cost of \$100,000. East Franklin is in need of enclosed spacing and flooring, which would run about \$10,000. East Franklin Elementary needs a natural gas burner totaling \$26,500. Mountain View Intermediate School's (MVI) parking lot needs repairs, totaling \$20,000. The basketball court at Macon Middle School (MMS) requires \$10,000 in repairs. Highland School (HS) requested funds for new HVAC system controls, costing \$27,000. The rooftop at Nantahala School is in need of repair, which will cost \$30,000. South Macon requested a sound system, which would be part of their security upgrade for \$12,200. MMS, MVI, HS, and IVE each requested a compact floor scrubber to be used daily, costing \$52,000. MVI is in need of new ovens costing \$20,000, as the repair cost to the existing ovens would not be feasible. Security cameras at Iotla Valley Elementary (IVE) and the bus garage would cost \$50,000. Cartoogechaye Elementary (CAE) is in need of a new school intercom system totaling \$45,000. Door swipes at East Franklin and Iotla Valley at a cost of \$20,000, will enhance security on those campuses. A skid steer which can be used where needed would cost \$55,000. All schools in the district will be allotted \$100,000 to divide among each school for needed furniture. The requests pushed the total needed to \$577,700 which is \$27,000

over budget.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin explained that, if needed, he could take the overage out of the furniture budget to meet the original \$550,000 cap. He also stated that some of the requests might come in under budget possibly alleviating the need to tap into the furniture budget.

### Business and Finance

A discussion regarding substitute teacher pay resulted in the board voting to raise the current \$100 per day for non-certified substitute teachers to \$125 daily and certified teachers will be raised from \$125 to \$150. Personnel Director Todd Gibbs explained that it is often difficult to locate substitute teachers, especially during holidays such as spring break, when they tend to take their vacations, raising the pay rate might incentivize folks to sign on as subs. The board also felt that they would not be in need of as many subs as they did during the height of the pandemic.

The Internal Revenue Service Mileage rate was increased to 62.5 cents a mile from 58.5 cents, as per the new state budget order.

### Public School Capital Fund

Dr. Baldwin also noted that the Capital Funds that were previously requested from the State, will have another go round, where he said he hopes to receive the full \$50 million which had been requested by Macon Schools last year. Baldwin said he feels optimistic since Clay County received its full allotment request.

The next board meeting will be held on Aug. 22, a week before students return to school on Monday, Aug. 29.



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## P-EBT benefits issued for summer

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has begun issuing Pandemic-EBT benefits for summer 2022. Between July 20 and 30, the families of approximately 948,000 children in the state will each receive a one-time payment of \$391 to purchase healthy meals during summer break.

With these benefits, NCDHHS has now issued more than \$2.16 billion in total P-EBT benefits to North Carolina families since the COVID-19 response began in 2020, helping families buy food for 1.48 million North Carolina children.

"Kids need enough healthy food every day to grow, develop and stay healthy, and that doesn't change just because school is out for the summer," said NCDHHS Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "Supporting children is a top priority and we are going to keep using every tool we have to support them and their families."

Children who received free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program in May 2022 are automatically eligible for Summer P-EBT.

"Food fuels the body and mind for students to learn and grow both inside and out of the classroom," said Catherine Truitt, N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction.

"While summer is about adventures and play, students need access to healthy meals to fuel their fun. I'm thankful we've been able to make such a difference to students and families through P-EBT."

Eligible children can still receive Summer P-EBT benefits if they apply for free or reduced-price school meals through the National School Lunch Program or apply for the Food and Nutrition Services program, by Aug. 31, 2022. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, parents should contact their student's school or school district. To apply for FNS, go to [www.ncdhhs.gov/FNS](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/FNS). If approved, these families would receive Summer P-EBT benefits in late September or October.

For more information about P-EBT and how to become eligible, visit [www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT). Families can check their eligibility for Summer P-EBT using the new P-EBT eligibility quiz on the P-EBT website at [covid19.ncdhhs.gov](http://covid19.ncdhhs.gov).

P-EBT is a temporary food assistance program authorized and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the NC Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with the NC Department of Public Instruction.

## NCDMV implements a new way to avoid waiting in line for service

The N. C. Division of Motor Vehicles continues to implement projects to improve the experience of its customers. The division's latest endeavor is the Q-Anywhere project.

Q-Anywhere allows customers at driver license offices to check in by scanning a QR code and texting a short message to get and hold their place in line. Customers are then free to queue anywhere – they can wait their turn in their vehicle, or they can run other errands in the immediate area while they pass the time. Customers are alerted via text to enter the lobby when staff is ready to serve them.

"We continue to work to improve customer service at our DMV offices across our great state," DMV Commissioner Wayne Goodwin said.

"This project frees people up to not have to wait in line at our offices, but rather, after scanning a QR code to check in, they can go to the bank across the street or grab a bite to eat while they wait for a text letting them know when we are ready to serve them."

For customers without a cellphone, DMV

is working to implement a mobile paging system like those used in the restaurant industry.

Q-Anywhere is up and running in just over half of the state's 116 driver license offices. The remaining offices will be added in the coming weeks. It builds on previous DMV initiatives, including an ever-increasing number of services being offered online at [MyNCDMV.gov](http://MyNCDMV.gov) and online appointment scheduling available at [SkipTheLine.ncdot.gov](http://SkipTheLine.ncdot.gov).

"We encourage customers to skip the trip to the DMV and do their business online, if at all possible," Commissioner Goodwin said. "If you must come into a driver license office for service, please make an appointment well in advance. And finally, make sure you bring all the needed documentation with you on appointment day."

Summer is the DMV's busiest time of year. In order to meet the increased demand across the state, DMV has hired more than 50 new driver license examiners, extended office hours at 25 locations, and added Saturday walk-in only hours at 16 locations.

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2022	BMW	Alpina XB7	536
2022	Chevrolet	Corvette 2LT	201
2022	Edge	Sport	101
2022	Volkswagen	Taos AWD	7,825
2021	Tesla	Model 3 Standard Range Plus	15,196
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2020	Jaguar	XE AWD	5,214
2019	Buick	Enclave	24,669
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan SXT	55,584
2019	Nissan	Sentra	19,622
2019	Nissan	Sentra SV	15,009
2019	Toyota	Corolla LE	11,095
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	53,520
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze	34,692
2018	Cruze	LS	25,170
2018	Focus	SE	44,403
2018	Traverse	LT AWD	95,105
2015	Nissan	Altima 2.5 S	59,261
2015	Mustang	GT	45,724
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	113,152
2014	Ford	Focus SE	84,984
2009	BMW	i28	86,081
2008	Corvette	Coupe	9,007
1990	Corvette		125,701

## SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	GMC	Yukon XL	53,356
2021	Grand Cherokee	L	13,279
2021	Tahoe	LT	16,432
2020	Cadillac	Escalade Premium Luxury	7,309
2020	GMC	Acadia AT4	28,261
2020	Grand Cherokee	Trailhawk	26,226

2019	Chevrolet	Equinox Premier AWD	34,109
2019	Chevrolet	Tahoe LT	46,162
2019	GMC	Terrain	63,316
2019	Kia	Sedona EX	40,858
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox LT	23,569
2018	Chevrolet	Tahoe	84,386
2018	Ford	Explorer	69,517
2018	Forerunner	TRD Sport	65,055
2018	Kia	Soul	58,573
2018	Nissan	Murano	53,903
2017	Rogue	SV	58,866
2017	Toyota	RAV4 LE	83,441
2016	Land Rover		61,419
2016	Lexus	RX 350	72,919
2016	Sorento	LX	112,933
2016	Toyota	Sequoia	96,869
2015	Chevrolet	Equinox LTZ AWD	107,485
2015	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited Altitude	39,030
2015	Suburban	LT	92,352
2014	Ford	Explorer 4x4	68,342
2013	Ford	Escape SE AWD	89,455
2012	Chevrolet	Express 2500 VAN	160,946

## TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	2500	High Country	10,050
2022	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss	651
2022	Ram	2500	5,273
2021	2500	LT 4x4	16,442
2021	Chevrolet	1500 4x4	10,243
2021	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	10,842
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	5,822
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	8,432
2021	Colorado	Z-71	12,912
2021	F-150	Crew 4x4	32,251
2021	Ford	F-150 SuperCrew Cab	32,251
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	2500	30,233
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	36,463
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado	52,944
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	GMC	Sierra 1500 AT4	15,588
2020	Ram	2500 Longhorn Diamond	23,286
2020	Silverado	1500 Regular Cab	21,430
2020	Toyota	Tacoma SR	12,448
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	30,903
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500 HC Dually	45,535
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	44,359
2019	Colorado	WT 4x4	6,261
2019	GMC	Sierra 1500	18,811
2019	Nissan	Frontier SV 4x4	60,592
2019	Toyota	Tacoma SR5	43,420
2019	Toyota	Tacoma TRD 4x4	43,577
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado Z-71	23,542
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	31,379
2018	Colorado	ZR2	36,012
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	44,668
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 Denali	25,059
2017	F-150	Reg Cab	113,305
2017	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	61,657
2016	Chevrolet	1500 LT Crew	118,872
2016	GMC	Sierra SLT	61,530
2016	Ram	Diesel Crew 2500	60,495
2016	Toyota	Tacoma	127,336
2015	Chevrolet	Colorado	95,530
2014	Ram	1500 Sport Crew 4x4	107,828
2012	GMC	Sierra 2500 Diesel	192,749
2008	Avalanche	LTZ	66,581
2006	Chevrolet	2500 Diesel	194,159



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# Feeding war-torn Ukrainians is Franklin missionary's current focus

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

When 64-year-old Loren Kennedy reflects on his life and experiences, he believes many skills he has learned managing logistical companies and as a missionary in Africa prepared him for his latest venture. A Franklin resident for 31 years with his wife, Jeri, and their six, now grown children, Kennedy said, “God put on my heart that I needed to do something to help Ukrainians.”

On Feb. 24, of this year Russia invaded Ukraine, and the invasion of Russian soldiers in the country, as well as bombings of densely populated cities and villages, caused millions of Ukrainians to flee the country or be left in Ukraine homeless or in areas without basic necessities.

Kennedy and his wife prayed about what helping might look like.

“We felt, because of my background – especially having spent time working out details for people in war-torn Sierra Leone when I was there as a missionary – that I should actually go to

Ukraine and see what could be and needed to be done for the people there. I had seen a lot of the horrors of war in Africa, and I wasn't afraid to be in that environment. And I knew I could figure all the logistics out, once I was there, of getting food, supplies, medicines, to the people in need.”

Thus, with the help of a niece, Kennedy updated the website of his established min-

istry, Sanctuary Relief, which he originally founded several years ago when he was a missionary in Africa, to focus entirely on relief efforts for Ukraine. The site provides a short film of Kennedy's recent travels to first Warsaw, Poland, and then into Ukraine, and the coordination of at least 1,000 food/supply boxes as well as opportunities to encourage and share the Gospel with Ukrainians who have been dramatically affected by the war. Anyone watching the

country was actually more affordable – and helped the fragile Ukrainian economy – more so than purchasing in other parts of Eastern Europe and then transporting the goods. Prices outside the country are often inflated, and the elevated gas prices are partly to blame, he said.

Once the provisions were secured, Kennedy worked with church staff and members to make up boxes to be handed out.

“We had to stay inside because the Russian satellites are looking for groups of people who congregate and then they use that information to shell areas,” he said. “I heard air raid sirens going off at least three times a day. The Ukrainian missile defense takes care of many of the shells, but obviously many find their way in.”

“Each box feeds a family for two weeks, for the cost of \$20,” he said. “These people that I've met are proud, resilient, and steadfast. They will take the boxes of food and supplies because they need them for their families, but they are reluctant to take any financial help (to repair their homes, etc.) because they tell me they will do it. But they are also a people who appreciate the hope that is being offered to them through encouragement and through hearing the Gospel.”

Before he even left Franklin, Kennedy, who is a diabetic, purchased 50 vials of insulin from Wal-Mart (valued at around \$1,500) to take to diabetics in need. A recent report, in fact, indicated that Ukrainians on medications for conditions such as diabetes are in dire need because they have limited access to medications. He plans to purchase more insulin in the future as well as band-aids, over-the-counter pain relief, antibiotics, and more.

Kennedy's next trip to Ukraine is in August, and he has already planned trips for October and November as well. He plans to be on the ground in Ukraine for at least two weeks each visit, and his goal is to feed as many people as possible while in the country. He added that 100% of donations to Sanctuary Relief is used for food and supplies. He is personally paying for his own travel as well as any overhead costs.

Being in Ukraine, instead of handling the ministry's logistics from Franklin, allows Kennedy to not only secure relationships with the people, pastors, and supply entities but also to make sure the right goods are getting to the right people at the right time – that no corruption can occur. “It's about doing



Loren Kennedy is working with a church in Poland on the eastern border of Ukraine to help refugees with basic needs.

Sanctuary Relief video can visually “walk” through bombed out areas of the country to see where Kennedy is going to find the people in need.

Kennedy explained that as soon as he arrived in Poland, he began to align his ministry with that of a nondenominational church in Ukraine. He especially began working closely with a 34-year-old pastor “who spoke fluent English and is involved in the planting of churches and rehabilitation centers.” Kennedy learned through the pastor that many Ukrainians who could not flee the country had left their homes during the worst fighting and shelling and had returned to what remained when the Russian soldiers moved on. Many were living in the remains of their homes, apartment buildings, and other structures – often with no running water or electricity.

He was able to arrange for someone to take him to a Poland/Ukraine border crossing, where he walked across and was met by someone from the church to pick him up in a vehicle and drive him to areas where he arranged to purchase supplies of food and other items. He pointed out that securing provisions of canned meat, rice, pasta, oil, soup, flour, and other staples inside



While back in Franklin, Loren Kennedy explained how his work for Sanctuary Relief was providing war-weary Ukrainians with basic food and medical supplies. He returns to Ukraine in August.



Last month, Franklin resident Loren Kennedy worked with the staff and members at a nondenominational church in Ukraine to make up boxes to be handed out to needy Ukrainians affected by the current war.

everything in real time and making the most use of the monies people are giving,” said Kennedy.

He is concerned about the war dragging on into the winter months.

“Then we will all see things really get bad,” he said. “The media is covering this war less and less, but it's definitely still raging. And if things are not settled by winter, we will see a people greatly affected by food shortages, no power or water, and more.”

He added, “I wonder all the time, what difference can one person, one ministry, one donation make? Is this just a band-aid? But when I see the folks' faces light up when they know someone cares and has taken the time to help them ... the smiles, the hugs. I know that this effort is leaving them with a little light in their darkness. You look around and there is such devastation, but a box of food and a kind word does so much more than people might think. I think it's really important to support Ukrainians in any way we can. Sanctuary Relief focuses specifically on the people, not on the politics.”

Besides the work that Kennedy is doing in Ukraine, he would like the community to know that recently, “The Lord opened the door for the Franklin community to host a family coming from Ukraine; all the paperwork was already worked and they will be here mid-August.”

Anyone interested in donating to Sanctuary Relief or assisting Ukrainian refugees can visit the website or contact Kennedy at [sanctuaryrelief@gmail.com](mailto:sanctuaryrelief@gmail.com).



## Red Sand Project set this Saturday

Zonta Club of Franklin along with Rotary Club of Franklin and Rotary Club of Franklin Daybreak is hosting the Red Sand Project Saturday, July 30, at 10 a.m., in the downtown Franklin Gazebo.

Members of the local community are invited to take part in raising awareness of human trafficking.

Join the movement by filling cracks in

the sidewalk with red sand (sand provided). The approach is symbolic, with the grains of sand representing those individuals who fall through the cracks of the nation's social, political and economic systems.

The number for the National Human Trafficking Hotline available 24/7 is 1-888-373-7888 or text: BeFree to 233733.

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## What makes a local bank "local"?

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## Ribbon cuttings at Franklin Food Truck Park

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed The Franklin Food Truck Park located at 320 Siler Road to the Franklin Business Community.

This unique business offers food trucks the opportunity to park in one of three drive thru sites year-round which include electric and water hook ups.

Owner Edward Jug invited interested parties to contact him at (828)200-1996 or email [rentetcllc@gmail.com](mailto:rentetcllc@gmail.com) for details. Visit them at [www.FranklinFoodTruckPark.com](http://www.FranklinFoodTruckPark.com).

The first tenant in the Franklin Food Truck Park was welcomed to the business community with a ribbon cutting conducted by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently. Brain Freeze Fun Frozen Custard is located in The Franklin Food Truck Park at 320 Siler



The Franklin Food Truck Park is not open and has openings for two more trucks. At left, Brain Freeze Fun is open six days a week at the Food Truck Park at 320 Siler Road.

Road.

Family owned and operated, Brain Freeze Fun Soft Serve Frozen Custard is open year-round, six days a week. Who doesn't love ice cream? Well, frozen custard is the Rolls-Royce of ice cream. Drive-Thru or stay a bit onsite and enjoy some creamy goodness. Brain Freeze serves vanilla, chocolate and swirl every day with a special flavor offered every few days with lots of toppings to add even more fun flavor. Stop by and give them a custard flavor suggestion.

For more information contact owner Lori Jug at (828)200-1996.

## Series of education opportunities for outdoor business entrepreneurs

Mountain BizWorks is announcing a call for outdoor entrepreneurs to enroll in its Foundations for Outdoor Businesses and Waypoint Accelerator programs. These courses are designed to support entrepreneurs and businesses in the ideation and growth phases respectively. While the Waypoint Accelerator's application is open for its fourth cohort, Foundations for Outdoor businesses will welcome its first cohort on a first come, first-served basis with no prerequisites.

It is no surprise that outdoor entrepreneurs in Western North Carolina are in need of custom-tailored business resources. Boasting a greater density of outdoor-focused companies than anywhere else on the east coast, Western North Carolina serves as the perfect launching point for any outdoor entrepreneur interested in capitalizing on the growth potential of the outdoor industry.

"It became very obvious that the demand for outdoor industry-specific business classes is overwhelming," said Matt Godfrey, lead facilitator for Foundations for Outdoor Businesses and the Waypoint Accelerator. "By offering courses that are designed for beginning and growing businesses, we feel that we can adequately support our outdoor industry and continue to solidify WNC as the outdoor industry hub of the east coast."

The Waypoint Accelerator is the first program of its kind east of the Rockies, and is facilitated through a partnership between Mountain BizWorks, the NC Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC), and the Outdoor Gear Builders of WNC. It is designed for businesses that have already launched, and are planning for their next phase of growth. This 12-session intensive program provides the unique ability to be embedded in a strong network of mentors and peers that can help refine their business model, provide critical feedback, and offer guidance toward their next waypoint for growth.

Interested outdoor companies can apply to Waypoint until Oct. 6, with a live Info Session and Q&A set to take place on Aug. 26 from 12 to 1 p.m. Registrations for Foundations for Outdoor Business will be open until the class starts on Sep. 7.

Full program details and the online applications are available at [mountainbizworks.org/outdoors](http://mountainbizworks.org/outdoors).

## Franklin Chamber welcomes H & H Softwash to business community

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting celebration to welcome H & H Softwash to the Franklin business community.

H & H Softwash is veteran owned and operated by Bill and Pam Hutson. With 30 years of washing experience, the H & H offers pressure washing of homes, buildings, businesses and roofs using safe low pressure.

"Our detergent kills the algae and then we simply rinse it away. All of our products at 100% biodegradable and safe for the environment," said Hutson.

Bill also teaches classes mentoring others interested in starting a pressure washing business. This has been a passion of his for the past 20 years.

H & H Softwash is proud to offer discounts to all veterans and first responders. Bill and Pam can be contacted by calling (828)200-7495, email at [tabletalk617@yahoo.com](mailto:tabletalk617@yahoo.com) or by facebook messenger at [wncwash](https://www.facebook.com/hhsoftwash).

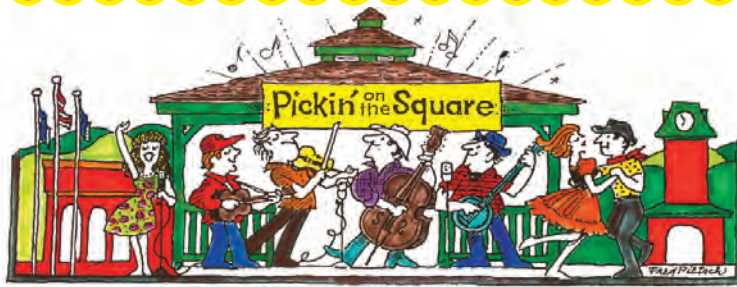
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# PICKIN' ON THE SQUARE



## Free Entertainment Every Other Saturday!

Pickin' on the Square is fun, free entertainment most Saturday nights throughout the summer. Main entertainment starts at approximately 7:15 p.m.

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



You are in for a delightful evening this Saturday August 6th. We have the Caribbean Cowboys, who will have you dancing before the night is over, playing some of the best beach music around.

Be sure to bring your lawn chair! These summer concerts are given to you by the town of Franklin, free, no admission. We start at 7:15 p.m. at the gazebo in downtown Franklin this week, due to uptown events. See ya there!!

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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## The Legislative Review

Rep. Karl E. Gillespie



Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

The General Assembly adjourned its legislative short session after passage of the state budget on Friday, July 1. According to the adjournment resolution, the legislature is scheduled to periodically reconvene throughout the remainder of the year. However, those sessions are expected to be nonvoting.

Until the long session begins in January 2023, The Legislative Review will focus on highlighting key aspects of North Carolina's budget and significant legislation passed during the biennium. This week's newsletter will focus on the education portion of the state budget.

There are significant increases for education funding in the budget. In addition to increases in teacher pay and support staff, there is significant funding for literacy coaches, school lunches, and school safety.

### Education funding highlights in the 2022 State Budget

- Total \$16.5 billion for education in FY 2022-23 (6.7% increase above FY 2021-22). Amounts to 59% of the entire budget.
- \$581 million for school construction and capital improvements in FY 2022-23 (\$1.1 billion over the biennium).
- Provides funds to cover copays for students qualifying for reduced-price lunches.
- Funds additional 124 literacy coaches and early learning specialists to aid in early literacy efforts.
- Expands funding and eligibility for Opportunity Scholarship Program to increase school choice options for low-income families.
- Creates \$250,000 recurring grant for schools to purchase feminine hygiene products in schools.

### School safety funding highlights in 2022 State Budget

- Adds \$32 million in School Safety Grants to support students in crisis, safety training, and equipment in schools (\$41.7 million total).
- Expands funding for school resource officers by at least \$41 million.
- Additional \$15 million for the School Resource Officer Grant program for elementary and middle schools.
- Increases state match for the School Resource Officer Grant program to \$4 per every \$1 for low-wealth counties.

See GILLESPIE on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### A primer on how government is supposed to work

One of the most revealing, declarative statements ever uttered by a politician in the last 50 years was that voiced by Senator Mitch McConnell (R/Ky.) shortly after Barack Obama's election to the presidency in 2008 when he expressed, in no uncertain terms, "My aim in life is to make Barack Obama a one-term president." Please allow those words to sink in.

Those 12 words speak volumes about Mitch McConnell's (and the Republican Party's) view on governing. Someone might remind the seven-term senator; you can pull strings, you can lay down the law, you can exercise authority and you can control – but in a democracy – that's not governing.

Yes, Mitch McConnell failed in his attempt to make Obama a one-term president, but he did manage to demonstrate (many times over) that obstructionism works. In addition, he established among the GOP rank and file that not governing, but simply hindering the other side from doing so, is acceptable.

I believe the course heading the 21st Century GOP has adopted is wrong and, in fact, dangerous and severely imperils our longevity as a free nation. I would remind the Republican Party how we arrived at this point in our history.

Three major concepts define American government and in order to survive we must insure they continue to function as intended. First, we enjoy a representative democratic type of government, which is framed in and enforced by the Constitution of the United States so that it serves the will of the people and gives them direct access to their government through the political process. I'm doubtful that a majority of Americans trust even this first component of American government is working as it should. I certainly don't.

Second, our government is federal, with powers divided between a central government in Washington, DC and several local governments; states, cities, towns and other authorities and governing bodies.

Third (and this may be the most difficult feature to accomplish), our government is limited in nature, in that the government does not have ultimate authority over the people, each of us has certain rights which (in theory at least) can not be taken away. Associated with that limited make up (what many refer to as "power distribution"), we commonly know as the three branches of government: Executive, Judicial and Legislative and kept in place (ostensibly) by a system of checks and balances. Together, these concepts are designed to ensure that the American government lies in the hands of the people (us).

The United States Constitution wasn't composed haphazardly, willy-nilly, or with thoughtless unconcern. It was crafted by men who labored long and hard to design a document that would stand the test of time and persevere into a future world the framers could not possibly have envisioned.

We're witnessing how the best laid plans can unravel and go terribly awry. We have a political party that banishes members who stand up for what is right, who endeavor to tell the truth. We're a divided country, those who accept as inviolate the peaceful transfer of power and those who justify violence when they lose. We live in a country where men and women who do not believe in representative democracy would eagerly overturn the outcome of an election based on fake and fraudulent claims.

Those of us who believe in democracy, who took an oath to defend it, are obligated to push back against those who would destroy it. Former president Trump incited an armed attack on our nation's Capitol which cost several defenders their lives. He must be indicted for sedition for attempting to overthrow the government of the United States. To do otherwise will have unimaginable and incomprehensible consequences creating an incalculable danger to our Republic.

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

### New best friend saved his life

You saved my life! Over five years ago I had a heart attack. My heart stopped beating for 25 minutes. After three days, the doctor woke me up from a coma and told me that I had died, but he brought me back to life. Later, the doctor advised me, because I weighed over 500 pounds, I must eat less, lose weight and exercise or I would not live a good life. I listened to him and a month later I went back to work 20 pounds lighter.

I was happy to be living and working again, but I felt there was something missing. I prayed five or six times a day. Then one day, I woke up and God told me "I am sending you someone that will change your life for the better! You're going to feel happy and feel better about yourself." I said a prayer of thanks and went to work that day. The next day at work was when I heard the name of my best friend. She was just hired and when I met her, that's what saved my life. She helped me start exercising and losing a lot of weight, and before you knew it, I had more energy, I was feeling better and looking better.

To this day I am still working out and keeping my weight in check. I thank God she came into my life and is always there, good times or bad. I am very proud of my hero – she is graduating college and is in the military – and I am so grateful to her. I can't say thank you enough. Thank you to the one and only Caitlyn Goembel.

David Scott – Franklin, N.C.

**What's on your mind?**  
Email Letters to the Editor to  
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# LETTERS

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## It will take a miracle to fix healthcare in WNC

It appeared to be a ray of hope that the NC Attorney General answered my humble letter regarding our loss of medical care and services here in Macon County. I penned another short letter to him again concerning the fear we had of losing our cardiologist. His letter of response came a day or two later.

Then I knew that my efforts were all in vain. He sent the same letter as the first time, word for word! Just a “rubber chicken” form letter just like another RN in Asheville had received, exactly the same! Well, at least he admitted that he had negotiated the dirty deal.

Then there is the ex-elected official that told me if I would write a letter to the editor about our experience he would come along side and write about the situation because he had confidential information concerning the sale. So much for that! He hasn’t written a word yet! Am I to surmise from this that politicians will lie?

Then there’s the old Bob Dylan phrase – “You got a lot of gall and all,” which applies to the Attorney General attending a fund raiser (grabbing money) in Asheville a few days ago for his re-election. Really?

Didn’t hear anything about him going to Mission Hospital to see the “trash runneth over” entrance to the emergency room, or the dead bodies in the hallways or the man who laid waiting for 10 hours in emergency with a blood clot and no one to care for him, or the water outage on an entire floor

with no commodes flushed, no water to wash hands with or drink and the staff cut way back. They immediately made a 10% increase in everything on every bill but cut the pay for all those wonderful nurses and staff. Got to make that bottom line multimillion dollar revenue for the stock holders and maintain that \$20,000,000 per year salary for the CEO.

Don’t take my word for all this. Just go to Mountain Maladies on Facebook and read all the “heartbreak” you could ever imagine.

I’m really sorry for all the folks here in Franklin and over in Asheville and all the new patients to come with accidents and acute emergency situations. To change this “monopoly seizure” and subsequent corporate greed we’re going to need a miracle and an exorcist. Anybody got ties to the Pope?

Obviously our politicians are worthless as teats on a boar hog! God bless all y’all,  
In the Spirit,

G.M. Newton – msgreta@gmail.com

*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.*

## What’s new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Last week Sallie and I took our grandchildren on our annual trek to Jekyll Island. A goal was to include some educational experiences on the vacation schedule. So, we took a dolphin tour and did a turtle walk on the beach at night.

The impact of climate change, including massive droughts, wildfires and the loss of habitat for creatures that share space with us on this big “blue marble” can be distressing. Both the dolphin tour and turtle walk made me think about our own special space on the Highlands Plateau. Jekyll Island, and for that matter all the Georgia marshes and barrier islands, have faced challenges of balancing the need for economic progress with the critical need to preserve that special environment.

On the dolphin tour, the boat captain didn’t just show the group dolphins, he also talked about preserving the marsh environment of the Georgia coast. The tides and geography of the Georgia coast create an abundant and thriving marsh network that is critical for the survival of marine life. For many years I have been following the challenge of managing development on these barrier islands and marsh estuaries. Back in the 1980’s and 1990’s there was a heated debate about how much development should be allowed in these areas. The debate continues. Nevertheless, places like Jekyll have tried to balance public access, economic development and ecological preservation. That dynamic reminds me of the pressures facing the plateau and Western Carolina.

The sea turtle night walk was presented by members of the University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant programs. The staff and students of these programs have conducted studies and preservation projects for decades.

About 25 people went on the turtle walk, with experts leading us using flash lights that emitted a red light that did not bother the sea turtles.

I have been under the impression that the sea turtles were doomed to decline due to human actions such as net fishing and overdevelopment of critical beach habitat. That may not be the case. The turtles dig a nest and lay about 100 eggs per nest. The leaders of the turtle walk were sky high with enthusiasm about this year’s egg laying season. They informed us that Jekyll had a record number of turtle nests on the beach this year. The previous record was 204, but this year at the time of the walk researchers had identified 239 nests. They showed us one of the nests.

These dedicated researchers attributed this increase to primarily changes in human activities. First, the shrimp boats have converted to trawl nets that allow turtles to escape. Second, they believe that public education concerning changes in beach activities to accommodate the turtles’ breeding practices is having an impact. For instance, experts continue to remind the public to keep curtains to beach front accommodations closed at night in order to avoid disturbing the turtles. Finally, the research practices of identifying, monitoring, and protecting nests from threats, like egg eating raccoons, are paying off.

Organizations such as the Highlands Biological Station, The Nature Center, The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, and the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, are equally dedicated to preserve our environment. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated, and enhance the living in Highlands every day. I hope folks living and visiting the Highlands Plateau will also continue to be mindful of activities and interactions that impact living organisms here in this unique environment. I still have hope.

# GILLESPIE

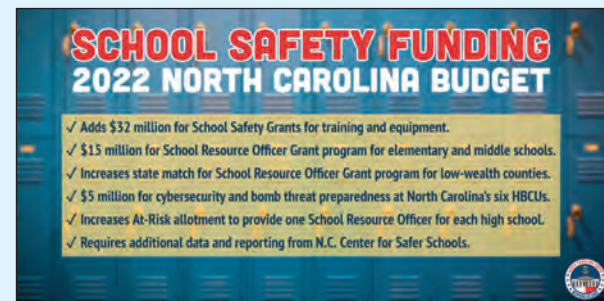
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- Increases the At-Risk allotment to reflect the current salary necessary to provide one School Resource Officer for each high school.

- \$5 million for cybersecurity and bomb threat preparedness at North Carolina’s six HBCUs.

- Requires the Center for Safer Schools to gather additional data on school safety systems, policies, and procedures, and to report information and recommendations for improving school safety to the General Assembly.

Significant education funding was included in the original budget (2021 Appropriations Act), such as:



## Elementary and secondary education

The 2021 Appropriations Act includes targeted funding increases in the Department of Public Instruction and University of North Carolina (UNC) budgets to support students in grades kindergarten through twelfth (K-12) and responds to the COVID-19 pandemic using multiple approaches, such as:

- A “hold harmless” for K-12 public school units to address enrollment decreases below anticipated FY 2021-22 Average Daily Membership (ADM).

- \$35 million to fund the impact of additional children with disabilities and other students if actual enrollment exceeds projected levels.

- \$338.7 million in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to multiple statewide programs, which are largely focused on addressing learning loss and the particular needs of students especially impacted by the pandemic, such as economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

The 2021 Appropriations Act also supports other initiatives intended to benefit K-12 students.

- Creates a new funding allotment for school psychologists that will provide support for 115 new school psychologist positions, one for every local school administrative unit (LEA) in the State.

- Provides \$13.2 million in additional recurring funds to serve a greater percentage of school-age children with disabilities. School districts will receive \$4,600 for each child identified with disabilities up to 13% of the school district’s ADM. Previously the funding was capped at 12.75% of ADM. These funds enable school districts to address the individual needs of students with disabilities.

## Reduction in tuition costs at participating UNC schools

The 2021 Appropriations Act also supports affordable access to the UNC system. It provides an additional \$15 million in FY 2021-22 and \$31.5 million recurring in FY 2022-23 for the NC Promise Tuition Plan. This program reduces tuition costs to \$500 per semester for resident students and \$2,500 per semester for nonresident students at four participating UNC institutions (Western Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke).

## ‘Dowsing’ topic of genealogical meeting Aug. 4 in Bryson City

Marty Cain will present “The Ancient Art of Dowsing” for the Aug. 4 meeting of the Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society.

Dowsing is the ancient skill of using specific tools such as the L-rods, the traditional forked stick or Y-rod, or others to gather information not perceived by one of the five human senses. Dowsing was used by the ancient Egyptians, by persons in the Middle Ages to find coal deposits, water and on down through time. During the United States Colonial period, a dowser was a respected member of their community and thousands of wells were the result of their efforts. Dowsing has been used by utility companies, by those in archaeological and geological work, as well as those trying to find unmarked graves and old house sites. In this presentation, Cain will be discussing the ethics of dowsing, how dowsing works, experiences with dowsing and the use of dowsing in historical and genealogical research.

Cain, who learned dowsing from her Lithuanian grandfather, has been dowsing for many decades. Her formal dowsing education began in 1986 when she attended the American Society of Dowser's school and convention. Following that, she co-directed the National Convention's Beginning Dowsing School for six years. She is now a member of the Appalachian Chapter of the American Society of Dowsers as well as serving on the board of the Chapter, and a member of the Living Waters Dowsing Chapter in New Hampshire. Cain has presented dowsing workshops, has worked as a dowsing consultant, and has written about dowsing. In her work as a dowser, she has traveled extensively and worked in ancient sites and sacred places, such as Stone Henge. She was a founding member of the Labyrinth Society and her labyrinth designs are located across North America, in Brazil and South Africa. She is also an artist, having exhibited her work in numerous galleries, created environmental sculptures in state parks and other public places and has taught art at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and Tufts University.

Monthly meetings are held at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center, 45 East Ridge Drive, Bryson City. From Bryson City, East Ridge Dr. will be a right turn off Buckner Branch Road. Refreshments will follow the presentation. The meeting is open to the public.

## OT assistant students visit Full Spectrum Farms

In June, Southwestern Community College's Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program teamed up with Full Spectrum Farms to allow SCC students to work with the children during the farm's kid's camp. This doubles as a learning experience and also a day full of fun for both the students and kids.

Full Spectrum Farms is a non-profit organization that was established in 2002. Located in Cullowhee, the farm is dedicated to serving those with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Farm Director Erin McManus oversees operations and works with SCC's OTA program coordinator, Anna Walls, to get the students on the farm, working for several days with the children.

“With SCC, we have worked together and evolved this camp over many years,” said McManus. “We would not be able to do our kid's camp without SCC. Our clientele get one-on-one OTA attention and can grow leaps and bounds within a short amount of time with that attention.”

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program provides students with the tools they need to learn how to take care of those who are overcoming mobility or motor-skills limitations. OTA students learn about human growth and development and practice various therapeutic activities to help people like the children at Full Spectrum Farms.

Activities on the farm included tabletop games like checkers, working in the garden to plant seeds and dig up special items, and a refreshing snack time.

“It is such a joy to watch the children progress during the



Students with the participants of the Full Spectrum Farms kid's camp are, back row from left: Kristen Sawyer of Bryson City, Elisabeth Trantham of Waynesville, Western Carolina University student Pierce Muth, Erin Hyde of Robbinsville, Haley Hamrick of Sylva, Amanda Canzone of Franklin, Leah Cody of Robbinsville and Ashley Mull of Waynesville.

week of camp,” said Walls. “It really connects classroom learning to community service. It is a wonderful experience for everyone to be a part of a team that is dedicated to providing children with a camp experience that fosters their physical, social and emotional development. The OTA students learn the most from the children they are privileged to work with, and they also have the opportunity to learn from Erin.”

SCC and Full Spectrum Farms have been working together since 2016, giving OTA students experience needed for their field of study by working one-on-one with the children.

To learn more about Full Spectrum Farms, visit [www.full-spectrumfarms.org](http://www.full-spectrumfarms.org).

To learn more about SCC's OTA program, contact Walls at [a\\_walls@SouthwesternCC.edu](mailto:a_walls@SouthwesternCC.edu) or 828.339.4334.

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# Pickin' on the Square



Residents and visitors alike are bringing their chairs to downtown Franklin every other Saturday night to listen to town-sponsored concerts on the square in Franklin. Last Saturday night Conrad Hefner and Friends (left) entertained the crowds. Below is Appalachian Smoke who entertained on July 9. Next up on Aug. 6, is The Caribbean Cowboys. Because of events planned downtown that Saturday, the music will start at 7:15 p.m.



Photos by Betsey Gooder

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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 July 11 - 24. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

July 18

Austin Shane McNutt, was charged with possession of firearm by convicted felon, alter/remove/destroy/deface/firearm/gun/serial number, carrying a concealed gun, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and fugitive from out of state. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

July 19

Seth Odell Williamson, was charged with assault and battery. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Amber Lynn Williamson, was issued a true bill of indictment and probation violation. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Christopher Allen Lauffer, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

July 20

Dianna Pauline Queen, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

July 22

Joseph William-Ferro Grier, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Amanda Jo Dixon, was charged with failure to appear. Lieutenant Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

July 14

Kevin Allen Johnston, was charged with assault on a female, injury to personal property and interfere with emergency communication. M.S. Bingham made the arrest.

July 16

Kyle Benjamin Cabe, was charged with defrauding an innkeeper. E.D. Kirkland made the arrest.

Krystal Marie Downing, was charged with defrauding an innkeeper. E.D. Kirkland made the arrest.

Bryan Scott Garringer, was charged with motor vehicle theft and possessing a stolen vehicle. E.D. Kirkland made

the arrest.

Jamie Patrick Oneal, was charged with driving while license revoked. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

July 17

Ronald Anthony Moss, was issued an order for arrest for failure to report accident. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

July 20

Aljandro Reyes-Cruz, was charged with all other offenses. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

July 21

John C. Debrowsky, was charged with financial card theft, obtain property by false pretense, identity theft and larceny. J.A. Riles made the arrest.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

July 11

Sarah Chantelle Bailey, 47, of Cave Springs Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with domestic criminal trespass. No bond was set.

David Christian Griffith, 43, of Blind Side Lane, Cashiers, was charged with a true bill of indictment/carrying a concealed weapon. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

July 12

Sara Jane Ferrin, 36, of Cashiers, was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order, failure to appear on a misdemeanor, simple assault, possession of an open container after consuming and possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. No bond was set.

Kasia Jade Bird, 22, of Stillwell Branch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with violation of a court order. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

July 13

Jennifer Renea Morgan, 21, of Walnut Run, Bryson City, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

July 14

Samuel Jacob Crisp, 26, of Mariah Dr., was charged with communicating threats and assault on a female. No bond was set.

Richard Vance Jones, 64, of Sleepy Hollow Dr., Whittier, was charged with driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

July 15

Franklin George Hill, 51, of Markham Rd., Charleston, S.C., was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Kerry Hawk Otter, 36, of Teleski Dr., Cherokee, was charged with probation and possession of controlled substances on jail premises. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

July 16

Brent Adam Brooks, 33, of Roads Cove Rd., was charged with misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Christopher Ian Cotterman, 38, of Adams Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

James Phillip Howell, 64, of Arnold Hill, was charged with a true bill of indictment/possession of drug paraphernalia, indictment/felony conspiracy and indictment/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$250,000 was set.

Michael Dustin Brooks, 37, of Camden Place, was charged

with resist/obstruct/delay. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Joe Edward Messer, 56, of Beck Branch, Whittier, was charged with driving while impaired. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

July 17

Kayla Ansley Welch, 29, of Wolfetown Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer and failure to appear for drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Richard Burgess Kinsey, 34, of Stompin Grounds Farm Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with cyberstalking. No bond was set.

July 18

Jonathan Lee Brown, 32, of Frosty Ridge, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

James Colby McCoslin, 39, of Oak Hill Dr., was charged with assault on a female.

July 19

Walter Willis Fuller, 45, of Ben Cook Rd., was charged with child support purge. No bond was set.

Debra Crowe Bailey, 33, of Hallmark Lane, Whittier, was charged with child support purge. A \$3,209 bond was set.

Dylan Samuel Hoyle, 27, of Begonia Lane, was issued a true bill of indictment for habitual felon and possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

July 20

Timothy Jackson Brunett, 41, of Walkabout Trail, Whittier, was issued an order for arrest for failure to appear for expired registration and driving while licensed revoked. A secured bond of \$750 was set.

July 21

Tamara Jessica Woodring, 29, of Tradewinds Lane, was charged with second degree trespass, failure to appear for resisting a public officer, no liability insurance, fictitious/altered/registration card/tag, speeding, expired registration card, possession of stolen motor vehicle and possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$16,000 was set.

July 22

Charles Timothy Holland, 44, of Tahala Trail, Cullowhee, was charged with assault inflicting serious bodily injury. No bond was set.

Brooke Amara Lagace, 31, of Ralph Taylor Rd., Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for larceny. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Jessica Myraah McCoy, 28, of Furman Smith Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Samuel Jacob Crisp, 26, of Mariah Dr., was charged with cyberstalking. No bond was set.

July 23

Wyatt Alexander Whitmire, 20, of Plateau Ridge Rd., was charged with failure to appear for assault on a female. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Bronson Eli Howard, 20, of Allen Hinson Circle, was charged with failure to appear for failure to complete community service. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

July 24

Nathan Thomas Cox, 37, of Walter Ashe, was charge with child support purge. No bond was set.



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# Presentations of Minerals of Mars added to the 55th Annual Gemboree

Rock Hounds from all across the United States will be in Franklin, North Carolina for the 55th Annual Macon County Gemboree which opens Friday, July 29, at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building just off U.S. 23/441 South. The gem and mineral show is the second oldest event of its kind in the Southeast.

The event is a joint effort of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin.

“We’ve had a great partnership over the years and that has led to the success of this show,” said Linda Harbuck, executive director of the Franklin Chamber. Many of our long standing vendors and some new vendors are joining us this year. These dealers will have a tremendous variety of items for sale. We’ll

be utilizing every available space at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building for the Gemboree.”

This year the Faceter’s Frolic will be held at the Factory.

Those attending this year’s Gemboree will find an unmatched selection of rough and cut gems and minerals, fine jewelry, lapidary equip-

ment, fossils and will even be able to observe the fine art of faceting stones and more through demonstrations by the Gem & Mineral Society. Hourly door prizes will also be given away throughout the run of the event.

New this year will be presentations about the minerals NASA is finding on Mars presented by Ken Brandt, M. Ed. Brandt is the director of the Robeson Planetarium and Science Center in Lumberton, N.C. He is a US Navy veteran, a former high school teacher, and is Nationally Board Certified. In addition to his duties at the planetarium, he is also an astronomy lecturer at USC Beaufort. He will be doing two presentations about the many Minerals of Mars and will be giving free materials to the attendees on Mars exploration. His presentations will take place on Friday, July 29 at 3 p.m. and again on Saturday, July 30 at 11 a.m. The programs are suitable for all ages.

The 55th Annual Macon County Gemboree will run from Friday, July

29 through Sunday, July 31. Hours for the event are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Daily admission is \$3 for adults with those ages 12 & under admitted free. Cards good for \$1 off admission are available at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum. Look for the ad in this paper for a \$1 off coupon.

For more information on the 55th Annual Macon County Gemboree, contact the Franklin Chamber of Commerce at (828)524-3161.

- 2022 Macon County Gemboree Dealers
- Amber America - Bath, PA
  - Bary's Gems - Bellerose, NY
  - Bradley Prospecting - Bakersville, NC
  - Clare Thanhauser - Marietta, GA

- Dan Dee Rocks - Ft. Wayne, IN
- Danosgems - Hendersonville, NC
- Darklyn Inc. - Eustis, FL
- Ellie Gem Arts - Raleigh, NC
- Fantastic Stones - Metairie, LA
- Jewel Passage - Raleigh, NC
- LaPoma & LaPoma - Franklin, NC
- PAK Designs - Denver, NC
- Pamela's Jewelry - Myrtle Beach, SC
- Pema Arts Inc. - Duluth, GA
- Robbins Jewelry - Plant City, FL
- Rocks and Bones - Orlando, FL
- S & J Jewelry - Franklin, NC
- Sebastian's - Hays, NC
- SKW Enterprises - Franklin, NC
- Spark Something - Laceyville, PA
- Tarheels Gems and Fossils - Charlotte, NC
- Todd Wacks - Tucson, AZ
- Warseck/Galbrecht - Franklin, NC
- Xingy Creations - Dallas, TX



For 55 years, the annual Gemboree has been held in Franklin drawing rock hounds and exhibitors from all over the country. The Gemboree is being held at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building Friday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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## Zahner Lecture Series: 'Managing the Coastal Zone in a Changing Climate'

Join the Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) on Thursday, July 28, at 6 p.m. for the next installment of their annual Zahner Conservation Lecture Series. This free program will feature Dr. Rob Young, director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shoreline at Western Carolina University, as he presents "Managing the Coastal Zone in a Changing Climate: Everything We Are Doing Is Wrong."

In this presentation, coastal geologist Rob Young will explore how climate change is impacting the coastal environment and coastal development in the U.S.

Dr. Young is a professor of Coastal Geology at Western Carolina University and a licensed professional geologist. He received a BS degree in Geology (Phi Beta Kappa) from the College of William & Mary, a MS degree in Quaternary Studies from the University of Maine, and a PhD in Geology from Duke University where he was a James B. Duke Distinguished Doctoral Fellow. Dr. Young has approximately 100 technical publications, serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Coastal Research and Environmental Geosciences, and is a frequent contributor to popular media outlets like the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Architectural Record*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and the *Raleigh News and Observer*, among others. He currently oversees more than \$3.5 million in grant-funded research projects related to coastal science and management.

The HBF's free Zahner lectures which will be held at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road on Thursday evenings through Sept. 8. To preview HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, visit [www.highlandsbiological.org](http://www.highlandsbiological.org). The Highlands Nature Center is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of WCU.



### Talent show at SMCPA July 30

Who Wants to be a Star? Talent Competition will be held at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts Saturday, July 30, beginning at 7 p.m. Twenty-two acts have been selected for this evening of talent, fun, entertainment and laughs in which a Grand Prize of \$1,000 will be given to the first place winner. Scoring will be based upon 50 percent audience votes and 50 percent guest judges votes. Tickets can be purchased at [ctcilife.org](http://ctcilife.org) or at the door the evening of July 30. All proceeds go towards Christian Training Center International's ministry to missionaries, families and young people from around the world who are seeking healing, restoration and transformation. Pictured are 2021 Winners Emme Albers, 1st place; Patrick Brannon, 2nd Place (right); and Daniel Riddle, 3rd Place (middle).

## Shane Meade & The Sound jammin' at Concerts on Creek

The 13th season of Concerts on the Creek continues Friday, July 29 with a performance by Shane Meade and The Sound from 7-9 p.m. at the Bridge Park in Sylva, N.C.

Shane Meade & the Sound is soul-infused folk rock, with a splash of jazz & mountain funk. You can learn more about them at [www.shanemeade.com](http://www.shanemeade.com).

Through a diverse mix of acoustic and full band performances, SMS has established a career marked by steady artistic growth and relentless touring efforts throughout the southeast, Virgin Islands, and selected cities nationwide. SMS has appeared in line-ups with the likes of Edwin McCain, Michael Glabicki & Rusted Root, Yonder Mountain String Band, Tim Reynolds, Graham Sharp, Southern Avenue, Robert Randolph & the Family Band and many more.

Over the years, the group has grown quite fond of not only performing and sharing their music in the Western North Carolina region, but also getting to know the fine folks and businesses that make up the wonderful communities in the area.

SMS has also gained recognition for their 2014 release - All Walks of Life. Their much anticipated fourth album, *Livin' In The Moment*, was released in the Fall of 2021. Rave reviews early on, and high praise fan testimonials have triggered quite the buzz in anticipation of their Spring & Summer 2022 "Livin' In The Moment" tour dates.



Shane Meade & the Sound

Concerts on the Creek are held every Friday night from 7-9 p.m. at the Bridge Park in Sylva, from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. These events are free but donations are encouraged and welcomed. Dogs must be on a leash. No smoking, vaping, coolers or tents are allowed in the park. There will be food trucks on site.

These concerts are organized and produced by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Sylva and the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, call the Jackson chamber at (828)586-2155, visit [www.mountainlovers.com](http://www.mountainlovers.com) or Concerts on the Creek's Facebook page.

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# Franklin Rocks group paints and hides 696 rocks

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

Last Saturday morning a group of artists met for the second consecutive year at the Gazebo in downtown Franklin and counted painted rocks one by one until the very last — the 696th rock — was counted. The rocks were painted blue and featured a red heart in the center — the original design of the Paint a Rock, Hide a Rock event held around the world on July 24.

A movement to share random acts of kindness has spread across the country and taken root in Franklin over the last few years. The rock painting group held an event over the weekend to send a special message.

Brenda Thorn first pitched the idea of the event to other members of the Franklin NC Rocks Facebook group in 2021 after coming across the idea of The Paint a Rock, Hide a Rock first proposed by Nancy Powell Pierson. Pierson, whose original rock group is North-east Ohio Rocks, started in 2016.

In 2021 the group painted 540 rocks that were hidden all over Macon County and beyond. In the event's second year, Thorn said the final tally for painted rocks were 696.

The rocks were taken by members of the group after the event and hid around town and on various travels.

The celebratory rock holds a special meaning — the blue represents the world and the red heart represents the kindness created by painting and hiding rocks. The design was kept simple, so artists of all abilities and talents could participate.

The public Facebook group for the event has more than 5,000 members and featured participants from all over the



Members of the Franklin Rocks Group got together last Saturday to paint 696 rocks with a red heart on a blue background for the annual Paint a Rock, Hide a Rock event. The blue represents the world and the red heart represents the kindness created by painting and hiding rocks.

world in places such as Germany, California, Connecticut, and England.

Members of the Franklin Rocks Group have been working on the 2022 rocks since the inaugural event concluded and hope to continue to grow the event each year.



## Deaths & Funerals

### James 'Jim' Walsh

James "Jim" Walsh, 63, passed away Tuesday, June 28, 2022, in his Scaly Mountain, N.C., home. He will be dearly missed by his wife of 28 years, Laure Swanner Walsh, and their two children, Ali Mae Walsh and James Walsh Jr.

Born in Boston, Mass., he was the son of the late John and Joan Clouse Walsh. He had five siblings, Johnny Walsh Jr. (Debbie), Joe Walsh (Patti), Judy Almeida (Brian), Jackie Johnson (Troy), and his late sister Joanne Snyder (Stephen), all with whom he made great memories spending summers of their early years together in Onset, Cape Cod, Mass.

He graduated Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1980 and became a Ship Captain in the oilfield industry, navigating offshore supply vessels around the world.

Jim and Laure met in Mississippi where they would later build and enjoy "The Barn" on weekends with their children. His close friend, Darrell, provided him an infinite amount of friendship and support in caring for the property.

He became the Golf Course Superintendent of Chateau Country Club in Kenner, La., in the 1990s taking on a multi-year renovation of the golf course.

When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005, he helped restore the Country Club and his family's homes all while commuting on the weekends to visit his wife and children at their new home in Highlands, N.C.

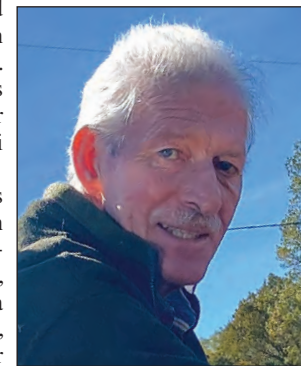
Shortly after, Jim and Laure built a beautiful home together in Scaly Mountain where he had room to continue his love of working outdoors with his tractor, bobcat, excavator, and his righthand man, José.

He avidly supported the Scaly Mountain Women's Club and their mission to further the education of local children. He developed dear and everlasting friendships with the husbands of the club members through the start of annual parties at his home. As an active member of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, he continued a legacy of serving on the altar for nine years with his children.

He loved boating, fishing, crabbing, building fires, and spending time with family. He was an incredible father, wonderful uncle and a beloved addition to Laure's family. Jim and Laure's best memories were made together over Charbroiled Oyster Feasts and his most fantastic Crawfish Boils. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial mass will be held Wednesday, Aug. 3, at 10 a.m., at Our Lady of the Mountains in Highlands officiated by Father Jason Barone.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Scaly Mountain Women's Club Scholarship Fund: P.O. Box 64, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775.



James Walsh

## Summer Block Party features classic cars



WNC Pharaohs Car Club and Gem Capital Car Club held a Summer Block Party last Saturday at Westgate Plaza. Car enthusiasts from all over came to see the dozens of classic vehicles. Participants paid \$10 to register for the show and trophies were awarded for multiple categories.

Photo by Betsy Gooder

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# Deaths & Funerals

## Joseph Paul Orr

Joseph Paul Orr, 25, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, July 23, 2022.

He was born in Macon County to Linda Mathis Orr of Franklin and Terrance Victor Orr of Annapolis, Md.

He was an employee at the Georgia Road Ingles and a dedicated volunteer firefighter. He was a member of Rukkus Athletics. He enjoyed hiking, history and reading. He was a talented woodworker and artist.

He is survived by his parents, Linda Orr and Terry Orr; siblings,

Terry Orr Jr. of Franklin, Alexa Orr of Franklin, and MaryAnn Orr (Michael) of Goodyear, Ariz.; aunts, Lisa Dunlap (Stan) of Carmel-By-The-Sea, Calif., Janice Homewood of Stuart, Fla.; Toni Gerrior (Phil) of Annapolis, Md.; niece, Kleo Fitzpatrick; and nephew, Saint Fitzpatrick.

A visitation will be held on Friday, July 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Macon Funeral Home.

A service will be held Saturday, July 30, at 11 a.m., at Macon Funeral Home. Burial to follow at Woodlawn Cemetery.

The Clarks Chapel Volunteer Firefighters will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Clarks Chapel Volunteer Fire Department, C/O Joey McCollum, 270 Fulcher Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

## James Arthur McCall Jr.

James Arthur McCall Jr., 73, of Highlands, N.C., passed away July 12, 2022. He was born Sept. 25, 1948, in Walhalla, S.C., to the late James Arthur McCall and Myrtle Louise Gibson. He was a Private in the Army and served in the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal with V Device for Valor. He enjoyed bass fishing, making jewelry, and listening to rock and roll.

He is survived by two sons, Herbert McCall and James McCall; one daughter, Malena Hamilton; seven grandchildren, Tyler McCall, Kobe McCall, Brendan Hamilton, Kristen Jackson, Marlee Hamilton, Hayley Hamilton, and Aubrey Hamilton; three great grandchildren, Carter Jackson, Leighton Jackson and William Jackson; a sister, Marie Schulz; a brother, John Elbert McCall; nephews, Willie Heath, James Heath, John McCall, Leroy Smith and John Nix; nieces, Marsha McCall, Sandra Copeland, Isabell Cartwright, Christina Davis and Jannette Nix.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Patricia McCall; two sisters, Elenor Nell Heath and Mildred Louise Barnett.

A private service will be held at a later date in Florida.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the McCall family. Online condolences can be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).



Joseph Paul Orr



James Arthur McCall Jr.

## Audrey Bernice Tallent Buchanan

Audrey Bernice Tallent Buchanan, 65, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, July 21, 2022.

She was born in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late Rev. Wallace Eugene Tallent and Virginia Nannie Moore Tallent. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, James Keith Tallent.

She was a member of Windy Gap Baptist Church where she was the church pianist and also the chairperson for the bereavement meals. She was the longtime pianist and vocalist at Macon Funeral Home. In her free time, she enjoyed cross stitching, cooking, and vacationing at the beach. She loved spending time with her family and her dog, Mossy.

She is survived by her husband, Coleman Buchanan of Franklin, N.C.; son, Jesse Buchanan (Candace) of Clyde, N.C.; grandson, Oakley Buchanan; aunt, Betty Holland; uncle, Harold Moore, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Sunday, July 24, at Windy Gap Baptist Church, with Rev. Mark Bishop, Rev. Brian Browning, and Rev. David Lee Williams officiating.

Burial followed at Windy Gap Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Jude's Children Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Audrey Buchanan

## Joe Paul Anderson

Joe Paul Anderson, 83, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Friday, July 22, 2022.

Born in Madison County, he was the son of the late John Cling and Paris Jervis Anderson. He was a dedicated husband/father and he loved spending time with his family and friends. He was deeply concerned for children and freely gave of his time to help any in need. He had many talents including gardening and farming; he loved being outdoors and tending to animals, especially cats, dogs and goats. He shared his love for animals with his family and often rescued uncommon wildlife such as owls, snakes, opossums and even spiders. He was an avid reader and a big fan of UNC Tarheels basketball and Alabama football. He received his B.S. in Education from East Tennessee State University. He and Margaret were educators in Michigan, North Carolina, and Arizona. He was of the Baptist faith and attended Cowee Baptist Church in Franklin.

He is survived by his wife of 60-plus years, Margaret May Anderson; daughters, Paula Anderson Cabe (James Ray Anders) of Franklin, N.C., and twins, Darlene Anderson Epley (Carl) of Marion, N.C., and Marlene Anderson-Roden (Keith) of Fletcher, N.C.; grandson, Chad Cabe (Katelynn Loftin) of Franklin; step grandchildren, Maggie Roden Owens (Brent) of Kalispell, Mont., and Brock Roden of Eagle River, Ark.; great grandchildren, Brady and Lyla Owens; brother, Gerald Locke Anderson; and nephew, Daniel Anderson both of Barnardville, N.C.; and numerous other nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at Cowee Baptist Church on Sunday, July 31. The family will receive friends at 2 p.m. and the service will start at 3 p.m. Rev. Jason Smith and Rev. Ronnie Branson will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([stjude.org/](http://stjude.org/)), Appalachian Animal Rescue Center ([appalachiananimalrescuecenter.com/](http://appalachiananimalrescuecenter.com/)), or Doctors Without Borders ([doctorswithoutborders.org](http://doctorswithoutborders.org)).

Online condolences can be left at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com). Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



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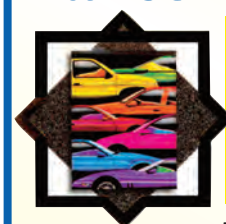
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# Elliott wins Cup race at Pocono after Hamlin, Busch fail post-race inspection

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

Denny Hamlin won the pole position for Sunday's M&M's Fan Appreciation 400 at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway and then hoisted the race trophy after the checkered flag flew. But Hamlin's supposed history-making seventh victory at the storied venue was short-lived.

Chase Elliott was declared the winner of Sunday's M&M's Fan Appreciation 400 at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway after first and second place finishers, Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Denny Hamlin and Kyle Busch were disqualified following post-race technical inspection.

It's a series-best fourth race victory for the driver of the No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, who now leads the championship standings by 105-points over Ross Chastain and 111-points over Ryan Blaney.

It is the first time this season a race winner has been disqualified.

"Yeah, unfortunately we were doing our post-race inspections, which we do," said NASCAR Cup Series managing director Brad Moran. "There were some issues discovered that affect aero of the vehicle. The part was the front fascia. There really was no reason why there was some material that was somewhere it shouldn't have been, and that does basically come down to a DQ. It is a penalty, both for the 11 of Denny Hamlin and the 18 of Kyle Busch have been DQed. Their vehicles are being loaded in the NASCAR hauler and they're going to go back to the R&D Center."

Hamlin won the pole position, led 21 laps, and ultimately crossed the finish line .927-second ahead of Busch for the apparent win in an action-packed afternoon at the 2.5-mile Pocono track.

But both of the JGR cars failed post-race inspection leaving the victory to the 26-year-old 2020 series champion Elliott, who now has a series-best four victories – three wins and a pair of second-place finishes in the last five races alone.

The updated finishing order of the race includes a runner-up showing now for Richard Childress Racing's Tyler Reddick, Trackhouse Racing's Daniel Suarez, JGR's Christopher Bell, and Hendrick Motorsports' Kyle Larson – who won Stage 1 of the race – round out the top five.

Front Row Motorsports driver Michael McDowell was sixth, followed by JGR's Martin Truex Jr., the Hamlin-owned 23XI Racing's Bubba Wallace, Petty GMS Racing's Erik Jones and RCR's driver Austin Dillon.

The NASCAR Cup Series returns to action next week at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Road Course with Sunday's Verizon 200 at the Brickyard (2:30 p.m. ET on NBC, IMS Radio Network and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

A.J. Allmendinger is the defending race winner.

## Gragson holds off Gibbs to win wild Xfinity race at Pocono

Two of the most determined, talented, young drivers in NASCAR put on a show for the ages in the closing laps of Saturday's Explore the Pocono Mountains 225 at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway with 24-year-old Noah Gragson ultimately holding off Ty Gibbs, 19, by the blink of an eye to take the victory.

Gragson's No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet crossed the finish line at the storied 2.5-mile track by a mere .281-seconds ahead of Gibbs' No. 54 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota – the last 15 laps the duo staying within .3-seconds of one another.

Gibbs earned three of his four race wins this season on a last lap pass, but Gragson didn't allow it Saturday – so happy with the effort he climbed out of his car and joined his team scaling



Chase Elliott was declared the winner of Sunday's M & M's Fan Appreciation 400 at Pocono, Pa., Raceway after both Denny Hamlin's and Kyle Busch's cars were disqualified in a post race inspection. The win makes Elliott the leader in the championship standings by 105 points over Ross Chastain and 11 points over Ryan Blaney. Getty Images

the fencing in front of a boisterous and approving crowded frontstretch grandstand.

"That was probably the best I've ever driven there," said the Las Vegas native Gragson, whose three wins this season already ties his single season high mark. "I'm worn out. Working my ass off out there to keep the 54 back. He's pretty fast.

"I had to work for it," Gragson said still catching his breath from climbing the fence. "It was tough. Kept getting tight, tight, tight and with 15 to go I didn't think I could hold him off. But we just keep digging."

That summed up a dramatic ending to an action-packed day.

Gragson's JR Motorsports teammate Justin Allgaier started from pole position and led the first 23 laps to win Stage 1. Gragson was seventh and Gibbs' fourth in the opening run. But Gragson took the lead on the ensuing pit stop and won Stage 2 – his seventh and the JR Motorsports series' best 21st stage win of the year.

Ultimately, good pit strategy made the difference for Gragson, whose Chevrolet was able to benefit from a four-tire and gas stop with 38 laps to go. He re-started sixth – behind Gibbs' who did not take tires – and worked his way forward, taking the lead for good with 22 laps to go.

"It definitely hurt us giving him a tire advantage," Gibbs said. "But I was so surprised to be able to hang with the 9 (car) when he was on [fresh tires]. Had a great car, just didn't put it together. I just made some mistakes and we'll come back next weekend."

Gragson's teammate Berry finished third, followed by Xfinity Series driver standings leader Kaulig Racing's A.J. Allmendinger and Richard Childress Racing's rookie Sheldon Creed.

Two more JR Motorsports drivers, Sam Mayer and Allgaier finished sixth and seventh – a particularly impressive comeback for Allgaier who was penalized for speeding on pit road during his last pit stop.

RCR's Austin Hill, Kaulig's Daniel Hemric and NASCAR Cup Series regular Cole Custer rounded out the top 10.

It was a dramatic race from start to finish, including a red flag period during Stage 2 for a high-speed accident involving five cars. Santino Ferrucci's car got loose exiting Turn 3 and was hit from behind by Ricky Stenhouse Jr. whose car catapulted toward the pit road wall, colliding with Jeb Burton's car, spinning and flipping Burton's car over on its hood.

The NASCAR AMR Safety Crew immediately responded, checked that Burton was okay and then carefully right-sided his car back onto its tires. Burton climbed out un-assisted and the wreckage was cleaned up. The red flag lasted a little more than eight minutes and the race resumed.

Gragson's victory marked the seventh win in the last 11 races for JR Motorsports, which is enjoying a summer of success. And Allmendinger now leads Allgaier by 16 points atop the series driver standings.

The series' next race is Saturday's Pennzoil 150 at the Brickyard on the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Road Course (3:30 p.m. ET on NBC, IMS Network and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Austin Cindric is the defending race winner.

## Chandler Smith wins Truck Series race at Pocono; Zane Smith claims Regular Season Championship

Chandler Smith earned his second NASCAR Camping World Truck Series victory of the season, taking the trophy in the CRC Brakleen 150 regular season finale at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway Saturday afternoon while another Smith – Zane -



Noah Gragson, driver of the #9 Bass Pro Shops/TrueTimber/BRCC Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Explore the Pocono Mountains 225 at Pocono Raceway on July 23, 2022 in Long Pond, Pa.

Photo by Logan Riely/Getty Images



"These guys did everything they were supposed to and worked their rear ends off with TRD (Toyota Racing Development) and worked on the simulator, working on getting our set-ups better and we were really good on the short runs, we had a way better truck than where we finished," Crafton said.

"Take your gloves off and do whatever it takes," he said of the racing for his fourth title now.

Last year's Regular Season Champion John Hunter Nemechek was third, followed by rookie Corey Heim and Carson Hocevar.

Austin Hill, Ty Majeski, Christian Eckes, Kraus and Tanner Gray rounded out the top 10.

Former two-time NASCAR Camping World Truck Series champion Todd Bodine finished 36th in his 800th and final NASCAR national series start. He was collected in an accident on Lap 13.

"I've been so blessed to be able to do what I love for 800 times," said Bodine, who now works as a race broadcaster for FOX Sports. "Pretty blessed life to have."

As for the early ending, "That's racing," Bodine said managing a smile. "I've been here before. I've been wrecked before. That's part of the game."

After adjusting the standings according to Playoff po-

sitions the 10 drivers to advance to the upcoming seven-race Camping World Truck Series Playoffs include (in points order) Zane Smith, Chandler Smith, defending series champion Ben Rhodes, Nemechek, Friesen, Eckes, Majeski, Hocevar, Grant Enfinger and Crafton.

The 2022 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Playoffs begin next week with Friday night's TSport 200 at Lucas Oil Raceway (9 p.m. ET on FS1, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

The series last raced at the formerly-named, "Indianapolis Raceway Park" back in 2011 with Timothy Peters winning the race. No former winners are currently competing fulltime in the series.

### Two-time Cup Series Champion Kyle Busch's future

In recent weeks there has been a lot of speculation over where two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Busch will race after his current contract with Joe Gibbs Racing expires this year.

Conventional thinking expects Busch to continue driving the No. 18 Toyota for the Joe Gibbs Racing organization where he's raced for the last 16 seasons (dating back to 2008) and earned 56 of his 60 race wins and a pair of series championships in 2015 and 2019.

And while there doesn't appear to be any immediate news on the situation, the race team has said it wants Busch back and is looking intently for a sponsor. On Saturday at Pocono Raceway, Busch also echoed his desire to remain at JGR.

"We're all working as hard as we can obviously, and the goal hasn't changed, and that goal is for me to be able to continue at Joe Gibbs Racing with Toyota and have that chance to continue to race for race wins and race for championships," Busch said.

"That's what everybody is striving for. That's the first goal and we'll continue to try to push for that."

Busch has already qualified for the 2022 NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs with a victory in the Bristol (Tenn.) Dirt Race this Spring. He has six top-five and 11 top-10 finishes (including that win and runner-up showings at Charlotte and Gateway) through the opening 20 races.

"I mean, you'd like to be done obviously," Busch said of making sure the contract talks don't distract from his title hopes. "So certainly, that would be key but obviously, you've got to kind of weigh out everything that's in front of you and see what the best thing is not only for myself, in Kyle, for my family and of course, the KBM (Kyle Busch Motorsports) family."

coolly collected his first Regular Season Championship.

It marked the seventh race win for a Kyle Busch Motorsports (KBM) team in the last eight Pocono races with Smith leading a commanding 49 of the 60 laps in the No. 18 KBM Toyota Tundra. The 20-year-old Georgia native had to hold off a final lap charge from Ryan Preece, however, and did so by a close .262-seconds to hoist his fourth career trophy.

"We've been going through a little bit of a struggle here recently, but just when we needed to shine and we started shining," Chandler Smith said of the victory – his first since a win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway in March.

Front Row Motorsports driver Zane Smith finished a distant 13th in his No. 38 Ford F-150 dealing with throttle issues early in the race. But with the regular season title in hand, the series-best three-race winner will start the Playoffs with that all-important 15 bonus Playoff points. He's hoping to become the first Regular Season Champion to win the season title since 2017.

"Long day, once we did get it right still fought a really, really tight truck, but there's no giving up," Smith added. "Glad we're on to the Playoffs and ready to get this postseason started."

The other end of the Playoff drama, veteran Matt Crafton was able to hold onto his 10th and final Playoff transfer position – finishing 15th in the race, but with a 17-point edge on 19-year-old Derek Kraus, who finished ninth. Crafton, a three-time series champion, has now qualified for the series Playoffs every season since its inception into the series in 2016.



Chandler Smith, took the trophy in the CRC Brakleen 150 regular season finale of NASCAR Camping World Truck Series at Pocono Raceway on July 23, 2022 in Long Pond, Pa. Zane Smith was named the regular season champion.

Getty Images

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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THEME: SUMMER DAYS

### ACROSS

1. Candy bar Baby
5. New York baseball player
8. \* \_\_\_ days of summer
11. Southern cuisine pod
12. Austin Powers' charm
13. Phlegms
15. Finish with plaster
16. Balanced
17. Shy
18. \*Usually June 21
20. Wood sorrels
21. Between septet and nonet
22. Stir fry pan
23. \*"Out" for most kids in summer
26. Popular white fish
30. \_\_\_ Tsu
31. Pavlov's conditioned \_\_\_
34. Part of cathedral
35. Dwelling
37. \*It's often hot and muggy in summer
38. Be in accord
39. Physicist Niels \_\_\_
40. Like some wedding cakes
42. A Bobbsey twin
43. Comparative of staid
45. \*Like waterskier's dream lake surface
47. Jean-Claude \_\_\_ Damme
48. Not our
50. \*Dangle them in the pool?
52. \*Tossing around, pl.
55. Drunkard
56. Falling out
57. Like one deserving of a Christmas gift

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59. On and on (2 words)</li> <li>60. Black tropical cuckoos</li> <li>61. Bob ___ of boxing industry</li> <li>62. JFK's brother</li> <li>63. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band</li> <li>64. Typically 5 of these in a men's tennis match</li> </ol> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Arabian Nights" bird</li> <li>2. Luau strings</li> <li>3. Crosby, Stills and Nash, e.g.</li> <li>4. Attention-grabbing shout</li> <li>5. *Summer blockbuster</li> <li>6. DVD player button</li> <li>7. Muscle quality</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Russian parliament</li> <li>9. "Sittin' On The Dock Of The Bay" singer</li> <li>10. Cowboy's heel prod</li> <li>12. Courage to carry on</li> <li>13. Counter seat</li> <li>14. *Summer activity: berry ___</li> <li>19. Game status</li> <li>22. Car wash option</li> <li>23. Granite store units</li> <li>24. Explorer John ____, a.k.a. Giovanni Caboto</li> <li>25. Commotion</li> <li>26. German mister</li> <li>27. Farm structure, pl.</li> <li>28. Part of an eye, pl.</li> <li>29. *Adjective for bikini?</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32. *County event</li> <li>33. Tall tale</li> <li>36. *#5 Down venue</li> <li>38. Improvise</li> <li>40. Sophomore's grade</li> <li>41. Antonym of ingests</li> <li>44. Old hat</li> <li>46. NBA venues</li> <li>48. Threesome</li> <li>49. No-distortion sound reproduction, pl.</li> <li>50. Arctic floater</li> <li>51. Augmented</li> <li>52. Brawl</li> <li>53. Republic of Ireland</li> <li>54. Hare's tail</li> <li>55. *Uninvited picnic guest</li> <li>58. Ambulance squad, acr.</li> </ol> |
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## Garage & Yard Sales

ESTATE/GARAGE/TOOL SALE - 299 Maclor Forest Rd., Friday 29 and Saturday July 30, from 9.30 - 2.30pm. Huge selection of household goods, memorabilia, Freemasons collectibles, knives, DVDs and other great items. Basement sale of tools at really low prices.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, 8AM-? - Furniture, Lots of Tools, Motorcycle Leathers, Helmets, Glasswares, Electric Motorized Chair. 30 Parrish Lane off 28 North. Rain or Shine.

MULTI-FAMILY - July 30, 8-2, Name Brand Kids and Adult Clothing, Children's Items, Household Items, 441 S. (L) on Prentiss Bridge Rd., to Macon Co. Coon Hunters Club.

MOVING SALE - Rain or Shine, July 29, 8am-4pm, July 30, 8am-12 noon. "138 Old Mater Farm Rd."

HUGE INDOOR/OUTDOOR - Church Yard Sale Friday July 29, 8:30am-5pm and Saturday, July 30 from 8:30am-4pm., St. Mary's Catholic Church Conference Center 22 Bartlett Street Sylva, Rain or Shine.

## Community Fundraisers

HUGE INDOOR/OUTDOOR - Church Yard Sale Friday July 29, 8:30am-5pm and Saturday, July 30 from 8:30am-4pm., St. Mary's Catholic Church Conference Center 22 Bartlett Street Sylva, Rain or Shine.

FRIENDS OF GREENWAY - Rappin' Up the Summer Children's Singer/Songwriter Event, Wednesday's, July 27, Aug. 3, 10:30-11:30am, Frog Quarters, 573 E. Main St. \$4 Registration Fee; Under 2 yrs., Free. (828)369-8488.

APPALACHIAN ANIMAL RESCUE Thrift Store, Open Tuesday thru Saturday, 9am-4pm, 1521 Old Murphy Rd., (828)369-3046.

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REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow, open Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, Benefits Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. Information call (828)369-2040.

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