

# The Macon County NEWS

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August 25, 2022 • 24 Pages

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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Folk Heritage Association held its 16th Annual Franklin Area Folk Festival at the Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center last Saturday. The event was a celebration of the Appalachian heritage with demonstrations and exhibits, live music, arts and crafts, quilts, and more. Above, J. Creek Cloggers demonstrate clogging, a traditional dance of the Appalachian mountains. Event goers were also able to visit the permanent displays at Cowee School including the Toy Museum, Fine Art displays, the pottery room and textiles. For more scenes from the folk festival, see page 12.

Photos by Betsey Gooder

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Union named North Carolina EMT Academy



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Travel: St. Croix offers more than just crystal seas

## School board honors top personnel

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The School board met on Monday, Aug. 22 for its regularly scheduled meeting. The Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year and Support Person of the Year were all recognized at the meeting.

### Superintendent presents awards

Macon Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin presented Principal of Iotla Valley Elementary School Michelle Bell with a certificate for Principal of the Year. Third grade teacher Mariah Rascati also from Iotla Valley Elementary School, was presented with a certificate for Teacher of the Year. Franklin High School Assistant Principal Blair King was presented with a certificate for Support Person of the Year.

This year three teachers were also chosen as Exceptional Children's Support Person of the Year and Career/Tech Ed. Teacher of the year. Those accolades went to Jan Barrett, Exceptional Teacher Assistant, Cartoogechaye Elementary and Amber Raby, Speech Pathologist, Cartoogechaye Elementary, and were presented by Brooke Keener, EC director. Colleen Strickland, Principal of Virtual School, presented Penny Moffitt, FHS Business Education Teacher, with an award for Career/Tech Ed Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Baldwin explained the rigorous interview process these teachers go through before being selected. They com-



Iotla Valley Elementary School was well represented in the naming of this year's superlatives. Michelle Bell (L) was named Principal of the Year and third grade teacher Mariah Rascati was named Teacher of the Year.

pete among a large group of teachers from each school, who were all nominated by their peers. The committee that does the interviewing decides who will be the official Macon

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Kyle Larson sweeps Watkins Glen weekend

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# SCHOOL BOARD

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County Teacher of the Year based on their answers to multiple questions and several other criteria.

## PEAK Explorers may be coming to Macon Schools

Cheryl Contino-Conner, Dean of Students at Southwestern Community College (SCC) gave a presentation about PEAK Explorers.

Southwestern Community College and local public schools are working together through the PEAK Explorers program to help lead students to an informed decision about career and college pathways.

PEAK, "Professional Exploration and Knowledge," is a name that encompasses the plan's two goals and their related learning outcomes, that SCC has developed for the plan.

Those goals are: To enhance student learning as related to career exploration and informed decision making; and to strengthen student understanding of career pathways leading to success in career and academic planning

PEAK Explorers can expect to:

- Enhance their self-discovery and awareness by identifying personal values, strengths, and interests

- Have assignments inside of the classroom and activities outside of the classroom that will assist them in exploring and gaining knowledge about different career paths

- Have purposeful career conversations throughout 6th-12th grade with school personnel and SCC faculty/staff members

A Holland Code-based technology software called "Career Coach" is free to area middle and high schools as a platform for career assessment and exploration, along with support from Southwestern Community College personnel. The three letter code is made up of an individual's three

dominant personality types out of six possible choices. (RIASEC) Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising and Conventional.

Career Coach is designed to help find a good career by providing the most current local data on wages, employment, job postings and associated education and training at SCC and beyond.

Through SCC's PEAK (Professional Exploration and Knowledge) program, Career Coach helps inform the best decisions and plans toward academic, occupational, and career goals.

Career Coach offers:

- Career Assessment
- A Job Search tool



Brooke Keener, Exceptional Children's director presented Cartoogechaye Elementary's speech pathologist Amber Raby with Exceptional Children's Teacher of the Year award.

- Education, Skills, Outlook and Salaries related to any Job in this area

Many more components to the PEAK program become implemented as the students' advance in grade levels. Career Exploration Day begins in 10th grade. Job and career

fairness are held for juniors and seniors and a mock interviewing program which allows students to practice interviewing skills. Swain County has already implemented this program and Conner is hoping that Macon County will soon get on board.

## Bus driver shortage addressed

Personnel Director Todd Gibbs addressed the board with concerns regarding the shortage of bus drivers in Macon County. He stated that as of now, they are short two full time route drivers and two half time drivers. The state ordered a mandatory raise for bus drivers to \$15 an hour, which was a \$2 per hour raise. Gibbs feels that offering a retention bonus of \$500 would help keep current drivers on the job. Many bus drivers were already at the \$15 salary and so the raise did not affect them. The board unanimously approved the request for the retention bonus. The bonus will be paid out in December for \$250 and then in May for the remaining \$250. Part time drivers will receive a pro-rated bonus.

## New Communication Platform rolls out Sept. 2

A new app is coming for parents and students on Sept. 2. It is called APPTEGY and will be available for download on the Google store or the Apple Store. This platform will integrate school announcements, website information, central media and more. This platform will be less expensive to run than the current system and will be more comprehensive in delivering important information.

The next board meeting is set for Sept. 26, at Highlands School.



Brooke Keener congratulates Exceptional Children's Support Person of the Year Jan Barrett, Cartoogechaye Elementary.



Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin (R) presents FHS Assistant Principal Blair King with the Support Person of the Year Award.

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# Union approved as NC EMT Academy

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

Students at Union Academy now have the opportunity to become certified EMTs while also completing their high school degree. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction approved Union Academy to be an NC EMT Academy, which will allow the school to offer college-level classes for students to become certified emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

“This will give our students the ability to go directly to work after graduation from high school,” said Union Academy principal Diane Cotton. “It is a well paying job in high demand at this time. We are thrilled to offer this opportunity for success to our students and provide well-trained personnel to our community.”

Diana Cabe will serve as the instructor for the program and will be joined by several local paramedics to help students with certifications of skills.

The first module in the curriculum teaches basics from the history of emergency medical services to how to perform CPR. Then, the students start more advanced learning which includes ride-alongs with medical professionals from Macon County Emergency Medical Services. At the end of the school year, students will have to pass an end-of-course test and a state exam to earn EMT certification. For those who are not yet 18 years of age, their certification will be

held until they reach the minimum age.

“We appreciate all the support from Todd Doster with Macon County EMS, Jeff Ledford with Cherokee County EMS and Colleen Strickland, Career and Technical Education Director with Macon County Schools, have given us in order to get the program started,” said Cotton. “With this much community support, the inaugural class will be a great success and we will be able to provide this training to our graduates for many years to come.”



Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Duties of an emergency medical technician includes performing immediate first aid and triage, and providing hospital transportation in response to medical emergencies. The job requires proper training and certification along with mental and physical stamina. Additional training after graduation can allow EMTs to advance to paramedic level.

For students who might not wish to pursue a career as an EMT or a paramedic, the new course offerings provide valuable skills for any student interested in pursuing a career in the medical field.



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## WNC Civil War Roundtable presents talk on Civil War in Georgia with Michael K. Shaffer

The Western NC Civil War Roundtable will continue its 2022 series of programs on Monday, Sept. 12 at 7:00 p.m. with Michael K. Shaffer speaking about the Civil War in Georgia. The program will take place at the Haywood County Library in Waynesville at 678 S. Haywood St. This program is free and open to the public.

In the presentation, Mr. Shaffer will speak about the research that went into his recent publication *Day by Day Through the Civil War in Georgia*, an account of the conflict which encompasses daily 1,630 entries. Shaffer strikes a balance in this book between the combatants North and South while remembering the struggles of enslaved persons, folks on the home front, and merchants and clergy attempting to maintain a sense of normalcy.

Historian, instructor, lecturer, newspaper columnist, and author, Mr. Shaffer is also a member of the Society of Civil War His-

torians, Historians of the Civil War Western Theater, and the Georgia Association of Historians. He teaches Civil War Courses at Kennesaw State University's College of Graduate and Professional Education and at Emory University. He also frequently speaks to groups and leads tours of battlefields in the north Georgia region.

The WNC Civil War Roundtable meetings will continue on October 10 at 7:00 pm with Dr. Sam McGuire of Western Carolina University speaking about the Grand Army of the Republic in East Tennessee. On November 14, the Roundtable will welcome Michael Hardy who will speak about George Washington Kirk who was both lauded and reviled in Civil War western North Carolina for his raids into the region from Tennessee.

More information on these programs can be found at <http://wncwrt.com>

## Committee presents five resolutions for the NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature

The Resolutions Standing Committee of the NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature (NC-STHL) received 67 proposals during July 2022 from its member body of 84 delegates and 51 alternates. Fourteen of the 67 proposals were assigned to the Long-Term Care (LTC) Issues Committee, chaired by Bill Lamb (Wake), which was tasked to narrow the proposals from 14 to the top three to five for this legislative cycle's slate of resolutions.

After two weeks of deliberation, the LTC Issues Committee has chosen five resolutions to put before the NCSTHL body for vote. The ideas ranged from ensuring counseling and family visit access to extending long-term care insurance to older adults, but these are the five that made the final cut.

The top-ranking resolution is for the state to increase the number of long-term care ombudsmen to meet the federal standard of one ombudsman per 2,000 long term care beds. Currently 33 full-time ombudsmen are covering 88,500 LTC beds; therefore, NC needs 11 additional FTE positions at an expense of \$1.5 million to meet best practices standards and the increased demands of their roles. To learn more about the critical work of the long-term care ombudsmen, visit the NCDHHS website's Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) section at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/aging-and-adult-services>.

The second resolution is to increase the monthly Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) provided to Medicaid residents in nursing homes from \$30 to \$70. The amount of \$30 was established in 1987 and has not been increased since. It is used for items not provided by the facility, such as clothing, shoes, slippers, hearing aids, glasses, books, magazines, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, hair styling, gifts, and snacks. In its last session, the NC General Assembly increased the PNA for assisted living residents from \$46 to \$70. Residents in nursing homes should be granted the same increase.

The third resolution is to make permanent the rate increases for Medicaid and State/County Special Assistance (SA) implemented during COVID19 and implement initiatives to improve benefits and supports and salaries for direct care workers in long term care facilities. A study released last fall reported that only 1% of nursing homes and 4% of assisted living facilities indicated that they were fully staffed. As a result, 2/3 of nursing homes and 1/3 of assisted living are limiting new admissions, which results in increased challenges for family caregivers struggling to care for their loved ones at home who would be better accommodated in a facility. Most direct care workers have annual salaries less than \$30,000, which qualifies them for low-income services. The temporary rate increase for Medicaid and State/County Special Assistance implemented during COVID-19 enabled long term

care facilities and assisted living providers to increase wages and benefits to staff, which served to sustain quality of care for residents.

The fourth resolution recommends legislation to streamline recruitment, training, and retention of the health care direct care workforce including: increasing wages, providing financial assistance for training, making childcare available for direct care workers, and requiring training materials and exams to be available in both English and Spanish.

The fifth resolution recommends legislation which establishes either mandatory standardized HPPD (hours per patient daily) or minimum staff-to-patient ratios for direct patient care, including enforcement standards and consequences to ensure quality care in nursing homes in the state of North Carolina, regardless of whether they are a for-profit or private non-profit organization. This proposal was first submitted by the NC-STHL to the NC General Assembly in 2014 and has yet to gain traction for support. It has been resubmitted to the NCGA for the past four years, but faces resistance from corporate owners of facilities. The federal Nursing Home Reform Act (NHRA), as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1987, requires minimum staffing levels for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and a minimum educational training for nurse's aides (CNAs), but fails to establish a specific requirement for minimum caregiver/resident ratio or a minimum standard for the number of hours per patient day that a resident should be receiving.

As far back as 1999, the NCSTHL has requested legislation to fund and protect residents in LTC settings, with varying degrees of success. In October, the voting of the NC-STHL body will decide which of these five resolutions will be chosen as legislative recommendations for the NC General Assembly's consideration. The Long-Term Care Issues Committee has completed its work and demonstrated the nonpartisan model that focuses on the issues for the betterment of the lives of North Carolina's older adults.

### About the NCSTHL

The North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature was created as a nonpartisan, unicameral body by the North Carolina General Assembly with the passage of Senate Bill 479 in July of 1993. Its purpose is to identify the most pressing issues facing older adults across the state and propose new legislation that will improve their quality of life to the NC General Assembly. The NCSTHL is comprised of delegates and alternates representing each of North Carolina's 100 counties, supported by the area agencies on aging serving the state's sixteen service areas.

For more information about NCSTHL, visit [www.ncseniortarheellegislature.org](http://www.ncseniortarheellegislature.org).

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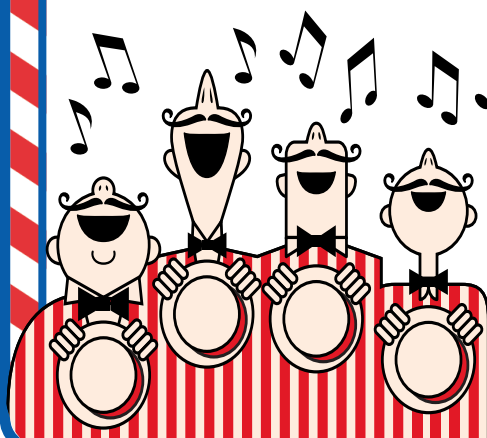
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# County releases Schedule of Values for upcoming property revaluation

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

North Carolina counties are required to perform a revaluation on property every four years to establish market values. At the August meeting of the Board of Commissioners Macon County Tax Administrator Abby Braswell presented the Schedule of Values for the property revaluation.

The property revaluation process involves collecting property sales data and reviewing the number of sales, analyzing construction costs, visiting properties, developing the Schedule of Values to use across the board and finally, sending out notices to property owners letting them know the updated value of their property and how much in taxes they will pay in the coming year.

According to Braswell, not only did Macon County experience unprecedented growth in property sales, the values of properties in Macon County also skyrocketed in the midst of the COVID19 Pandemic.

“In July 2020 right after COVID hit, it was like somebody flipped a switch on,” said County Revaluation Coordinator Kevin Ford to commissioners. Ford said the COVID19 surge in home sales and values was unlike anything he had ever experienced in his career.

Braswell presented data from home sales over the last year and to date for 2022 which showed an increase of 1,471 taxable properties since 2019. In 2019 Macon County reported 42,542 taxable parcels in the county with a taxable value of \$7,969,346,695. As of Aug. 1, 2022, Macon County now has 44,013 taxable parcels with a taxable value of \$12,029,130,971. During the 2015 property revaluation, the total taxable value in Macon County was \$8 billion. That number grew to just \$8.1 billion by 2019.

The Town of Highlands has experienced the largest increased in taxable parcels, reporting a 57.07 percent change. In 2019, Highlands reported 2,900 taxable parcels

with a value of \$1,792,600,040. According to Braswell, the 2023 taxable parcel number is currently 3,020 with a value of \$2,815,585,960. For comparison, the town of Franklin saw the smaller change at 36.36 percent. In 2019, Franklin reported 2,530 parcels with a value of \$666,017,810 and by the 2023 report, the town had 2,739 taxable parcels with a value of \$908,165,360.

In addition to the growth in the number of parcels, the value of qualified sales increased substantially over the last year. In 2021 Nantahala reported 112 qualified sales with the highest qualified sale being \$1,250,000. As of August 1, 2022, Nantahala has 49 qualified sales with the highest sale being \$1,925,000, with four months left on the year. The highest home sale in Highlands in 2021 was \$5,500,000. So far in 2022, Highlands has reported a sale totaling \$8,000,000.

Commissioners approved setting a date for the public hearing on the proposed Schedule of Values presented by Braswell for the Sept. 13 Board of Commissioners meeting. The Schedule of Values determines the base rates and ranges for different types of properties and offers appraisers guidelines when reviewing properties. It explains the methodology and procedure for appraising real property at its market values to establish equitable and uniform values for all property in Macon County. Macon County utilizes a computer-assisted mass appraisal software system to apply the Schedule of Values to each property in the county. During the public hearing, the public is invited to ask questions about the proposed Schedule of Values prior to its approval by commissioners in October.

According to Ford, who works as a consultant for various counties conducting property revaluations, he has never had any comments from the public regarding the Schedule of Values, however questions that would be anticipated would be related to what the Schedule of Values is and how the tax office applies the schedule for the property revaluation.

Totals by Township						
TOWNSHIP	TAXABLE PCLS	2019 TAXABLE	TAXABLE PCLS	2023 TAXABLE	\$ INCREASE	%CHANGE
FRANKLIN	8,283	\$ 997,103,790	8,656	\$1,524,533,490	\$ 527,429,700	52.90 %
MILLSHOAL	3,695	\$ 334,969,420	3,778	\$ 502,225,610	\$ 167,256,190	49.93 %
ELLIJAY	3,207	\$ 310,357,090	3,335	\$ 476,502,760	\$ 166,145,670	53.53 %
SUGARFORK	1,518	\$ 194,362,320	1,580	\$ 279,393,040	\$ 85,030,720	43.75 %
HIGHLANDS	4,002	\$1,739,098,960	4,114	\$2,683,235,400	\$ 944,136,440	54.29 %
FLATS	1,192	\$ 260,842,500	1,244	\$ 376,402,250	\$ 115,559,750	44.30 %
SMITHBRIDGE	4,471	\$ 478,812,430	4,523	\$ 723,088,570	\$ 244,276,140	51.02 %
CHARTOOGECWAY	3,169	\$ 390,172,790	3,216	\$ 570,046,570	\$ 179,873,780	46.10 %
NANTAHALA	2,548	\$ 312,068,235	2,587	\$ 458,758,821	\$ 146,690,586	47.01 %
BURNINGTOWN	1,281	\$ 143,169,350	1,314	\$ 196,876,840	\$ 53,707,490	37.51 %
COWEE	3,746	\$ 349,771,960	3,907	\$ 514,316,300	\$ 164,544,340	47.04 %
FRANKLIN CITY	2,530	\$ 666,017,810	2,739	\$ 908,165,360	\$ 242,147,559	36.36 %
HIGHLANDS CITY	2,900	\$1,792,600,040	3,020	\$ 2,815,585,960	\$ 1,022,985,920	57.07 %
	<b>42,542</b>	<b>\$7,969,346,695</b>	<b>44,013</b>	<b>\$12,029,130,971</b>	<b>\$ 4,059,784,278</b>	<b>50.94 %</b>



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# U.S. territory island of St. Croix more than just fun and sun

**Deena C. Bouknight**  
Contributing Writer

The Caribbean and Virgin islands may be considered for their beach-activity worthiness, but one island in particular – St. Croix – offers much for history nerds and hiking enthusiasts as well. On the history side of St. Croix, one of America's founding fathers, Alexander Hamilton, grew up there. For avid hikers, hiking options are available on both the tropical end and the desert end of this 27.96 mile long by 6.8 mile wide island.

Prior to the pandemic, the U.S. Virgin Islands territory of St. Croix received an average of two million visitors annually. Since mask mandates and travel restrictions have loosened, numbers of visitors are again increasing, with 2021 reportedly a “banner year,” according to U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism. While St. Croix may not be on many travelers' radars, direct flights from Atlanta, Ga., and comparable mainland U.S. accommodation and gas costs on the island make it a bucket list-worthy destination.

From its crystal clear, turquoise-hued, shallow waters to a plethora of brightly colored and varied sized fish, and numerous seldom-seen sea creatures, St. Croix is a snorkeler's and diver's paradise. Practically anywhere on the island is available to pull



Not only is St. Croix known for its crystal clear azure seas and spectacular views, the Caribbean island also offers hiking enthusiasts opportunities to hike both the tropical end and the desert end of this nearly 28-mile long territory.

over and view sea life. Even walking along the many marinas and boardwalks affords a view of underwater activity because of the clearness of the water.

#### The History

Few Americans are aware that St. Croix is

where Alexander Hamilton was raised from age 10. Hamilton was born on Jan. 11, 1755, on Nevis, a British West Indies island about 150 miles from St. Croix. During the 18th century, many traders and merchants from places like England and Holland were setting up businesses on the islands, which is

how Hamilton came to be on St. Croix. The reason for the family's move from Nevis to St. Croix was because Hamilton's father, James, was sent to St. Croix to collect a debt on behalf of an employer back on St. Kitts, which is a dual island with Nevis. While waiting for the court proceedings to conclude, the Hamilton family settled in the main port city of Christiansted. Hamilton's mother, Rachel, set up a small shop in Christiansted, and at the age of 11 Hamilton went to work as a clerk in the countinghouse of two New York merchants who had established themselves on St. Croix. He worked so hard that in 1772 he advanced from bookkeeper to manager. Eventually, he was sponsored to attend a preparatory school in Elizabethtown, N.J., and the following year he entered King's College (later Columbia University) in New York.

The rest is, literally, history. Americans know Hamilton as serving in the American Revolution under George Washington, becoming a prolific political writer and

author of The Federalist essays, and not only accepting the appointment as the United States first Secretary of the Treasury but advocating for and establishing the country's first central banking system. His achievements and acclaim are so vast, in fact, that his life story became the topic of one of the

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most popular musicals on Broadway, Hamilton, based on the extensive 2004 biography, "Alexander Hamilton," by Ron Chernow.

In Christansted, St. Croix, visitors can walk the same historic streets that a young Hamilton walked, tour the Customs House where he worked, see the Scale House, where items that came in by boat were weighed, and visit the same fort that existed during his life there. There are even some churches still standing and at least one still offering services that were around during Hamilton's youth. A restaurant also bears his name.

**Hiker's paradise**

Hikers used to the steep, rocky climbs throughout Western North Carolina will enjoy the challenges of St. Croix's ascents. Ham's Bluff has an abandoned metal lighthouse that requires a short but uphill climb; from the base of the lighthouse or in the tower of the lighthouse are views of the island's west end. On the opposite end of the island, one passes a Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA) station, one of 10 national radio astronomy telescopes, to arrive at Point Udall, which in fact is also the easternmost point of the United States. Here, there are plenty of opportunities to hike and even stop and snorkel at some of the accessible



beaches. However, because of the arid climate, which affords an opportunity for a variety of cactus and desert-like foliage to grow, the air is so dry that hikers must plan to carry plenty of water and/or electrolyte drinks.

Plus, all over the island are opportunities to rent glass-bottom kayaks to view interesting creatures in shallow waters. At East End Marine Park visitors can see plenty of iguanas in trees on the shoreline and the distinct Cassiopeia genus of non-stinging jellyfish lying by the hundreds on the ocean floor. Cassiopeas resemble the shape of snowflakes – from small dime or nickel size to small plate size. Because the water is so shallow, kayakers can reach down and scoop a jellyfish up with their hands and examine them before returning them to the water.

The history of St. Croix, before it became a U.S. territory in the early 20th century, is varied, with the island inhabited by native peoples, Dutch, French, British, people of African origin, and more. Therefore, even though full-time residents can claim American citizenship, the island presents a melting pot of people and cultures.



# Wildwood produce topic of presentation

"Wildwood Produce In Appalachia" is the title of the presentation by Ila Hatter for the Sept. 1 meeting of the Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society. In the days of our Appalachian ancestors, there were no well stocked grocery stores just down the road. People raised their food and lived off the land. They took advantage of earth's bounty, including bees, honey, hunting, wild mushrooms, ramps and many other delicacies native of the area. Hatter, raised on nature's bounty, grew up learning about harvesting and use of the natural world and developed a love and respect for nature. In her adult journey, she has explored the uses of native plants in many places, but especially in Southern Appalachia and the Great Smoky Mountains. Hatter's mission is to tune people into the many ways they can make Mother Nature's cabinet their own. This evening with Ila Hatter will explore the heritage of Wildwood Produce in Appalachia.

Hatter, known to some as "The Lady of the Forest," has more than 25 years of experience in teaching the cultural heritage of native plants. She is also an interpretive naturalist,

artist, wildcrafter, and gourmet cook, and published a wild foods cookbook, "Roadside Rambles." Hatter has hosted many public television programs about wild foods and medicinals, has made appearances with A & E and TurnerSouth shows, and was a consultant about natural remedies during the filming of the TV series "Christy." She has been featured in *Our State* magazine and has served as a staff instructor in a variety of settings including the John C Campbell Folk School and the University of Tennessee's Smoky Mtn. Field School, and others. Hatter and her husband/partner Jerry Coleman were instrumental in the Great Smokies Association publication of "Plants of the Cherokee." The couple now resides in Swain County.



Ila Hatter

This presentation will be held on Sept. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center, 45 East Ridge Drive, Bryson City. East Ridge Dr. is a right turn off Buckner Branch Road which is west of Ingles. Conversation and refreshments will follow the presentation. This event is free and open to the public.

# Mountain Voices

## Summer Concert

*A Mountain Tradition you don't want to miss!*

### Thursday, September 1 at 7:00PM

### First United Methodist Church

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*Mountain Voices, a 50-voice chorus, has members from Franklin, Dillard, Clayton, Scaly Mountain and Rabun Gap. Join Mountain Voices and area instrumentalists for an evening of fun and uplifting musical entertainment.*

## FREE ADMISSION

Donations will be requested to support Mountain Voices

## New musician at FPC

Frank Armato has accepted a position on the staff of First Presbyterian Church Franklin as organist, pianist and choir director. His musical capabilities are expected to enhance future charity concerts, events and worship services, said Tempe Fussell in a statement.

Armato graduated from Stetson University in Deland, Fla., with a major in piano performance. He began a career as



Frank Armato

church musician in various churches in Florida. He has played everywhere from halls and sanctuaries to nursing homes and jails. He and his partner moved to Franklin in 1987. Here, as

he established his business at Bear Prints, he has also played for local churches, filling in for weddings, funeral, concerts and worship services usually undertaken without musical notation in front of him.

Armato's first Sunday at First Presbyterian Church will be at the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Sept. 4. The congregation bids farewell to the former musician, Anne Tauber at a reception on Aug. 21. Tauber had faithfully and lovingly served as musician and director at FPC for nine years, and is looking forward to travel and to retirement in Hickory.



## FHS Class of 1967 meets for reunion

The FHS class of 1967 held their 55th reunion on July 16th and agreed to hold the next reunion in July 2025 rather than wait another five years. The following were in attendance: Kathy Zickgraf Stuart, Martha Perry Tallent, Martha Duncan Ray-side, Alvin Holland, George Crockett, Bill Fagg, Jackie Southard, Jean Cheek Crane, Debbie Salain, Mary Margaret Bulgin, Jearlene Davis Talley, Eva Willis Clontz, Sharon Cabe Holland, Sarah Mann Raby, Rita Morgan, Barbara Higdon Mashburn, Selma Minnrich Hogsed, Bobby Simpson, Charles Monroe Franks, Tommy Pangle, Gail Seabock Barrett, Wilma Dills Anderson, Reba Cloer Rogers, Gail Cabe Shope, Evelyn Evans Henson, Judy Cabe Queen, Sue Green Blaine, Sue Cabe Hunter, Sylvia Murphy Sprinkle, Jane Hastings Hooper, Charles Henson, Jack Dendy, Mack Dendy, Marion Stamey, Vaughn Shepherd, Ron Slagle, Clarence Shields, Paul Edwin Blaine, Rick Woodlee, David Bingham, Elaine Rogers Lyons, Tommy Vanhook and Jay Enloe. Present but not pictured were David Duvall, Class President, and Rick Brigden.



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



We are excited to have the band Intermission back with us Saturday night, September 3rd. They play a great variety of music and are a returning favorite all the way from Alabama.

So leave your cares and be sure to bring your lawn chair! These concerts are given to you by the town of Franklin, free, no admission. We start at 6:00 p.m. at the gazebo in downtown Franklin. See ya there!!

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## The Legislative Review

Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

This week's legislative newsletter will focus on highlighting key aspects of the health and human services portion of the state budget. After the passage of the 2022 short session budget, the total appropriation for Health and Human Services amounts to approximately \$6.5 billion for FY 2022-23 (12.5% increase above FY 2021-22).



Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

Substantial Health and Human Services legislation passed and signed into law in the 2021-2022 sessions

- HB224: Occupational Therapy Interstate Compact, makes North Carolina part of the Occupational Therapy Interstate Compact, thereby removing barriers for occupational therapists. The act will be effective when the tenth member state enacts the Compact.

- HB436 - Support Law Enforcement Mental Health, requires psychological screening examinations for law enforcement officers prior to employment; educates officers on maintaining good mental health; makes officers statewide aware of mental health resources; and creates a study on the benefits of physical fitness testing to officers.

- HB608 - Dignity for Women Who are Incarcerated, establishes certain requirements for the housing and treatment of incarcerated females. This act includes various changes, including:

- > Limits the use of restraints and body cavity searches on pregnant females and during the postpartum recovery period.

- > Requires proper nutrition for pregnant females and during the postpartum recovery period.

- > Prohibits restrictive housing for pregnant females and during the postpartum recovery period.

- > Requires lower bed assignments for pregnant females and during the postpartum recovery period.

- SB257 - Medication Cost Transparency Act, requires pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) to be licensed. It adds to the consumer protections in G.S. 58-56A-3, restricts PBMs from prohibiting pharmacies from taking certain actions, and establishes rules for claim overpayments and PBM networks. PBMs and health benefit plans are required to provide coverage for biosimilars and credit all amounts paid on behalf of

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Art Association appreciative of support for ArtFest

Thank you for celebrating our 60th Anniversary with the Macon County Art Association and its Uptown Gallery this month.

For three days, more than 425 children, adults, residents, returning visitors and tourists from all over participated in the 30 art experiences at the Macon County Public Library, and at our capstone fundraising concert at Tartan Hall featuring Blue Jazz.

It was a fantastic weekend! The visiting and local artists who shared their time and talents at the library were wonderful. Adults attending the sessions said they learned new tips and techniques; children got really creative and smiled a lot; and many parents said they hoped we would do it again.

But the event wasn't just about fun. It was also about fundraising: To support art programs and art teacher professional development in the Macon County Public Schools.

ArtFest developed from a desire for MCAA to step beyond its continuing community support for art enthusiasts, school students and veterans, with portraits to celebrate their service.

We are so appreciative of the financial support we received from advertisers in our event program, in-kind contributions from supporters, the media, and from sponsors, who encouraged us throughout our planning and execution. Special thanks to the Macon County Tourist Development Committee (TDA), Town of Franklin Tourist Development Authority (TDA) and the Arts Council of Macon County ARTReach Program, Highlander Roofing Services, Smoky Mountain Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram, and Mossy Rock & the new Pink Peonies on Main Street.

Thank you to Library Director Karen Wallace, and Library Assistant Kristina Moe, and the library staff for their support in promoting and sharing space for our art events. Thank you to the First Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use their Tartan Hall venue, and Blue Jazz trio.

Thank you all for helping our community ensure our public school students have what they need to learn about the visual arts and to develop their own creative expressions.

Maryellen Tully, MCAA President

### NCSBE website contains variety of election facts

I've been a casual visitor to Highlands for years, becoming more of a seasonal visitor and now contemplating becoming a full-time resident. I love that North Carolina is a purple state—I remember when most states were. My other state is very much one color, which means that voters of both parties have very little incentive to vote, because it

seems your vote doesn't matter. Honestly, it barely resembles a democracy.

I'm writing to express my appreciation of the recent letter to the editor discussing the importance of electing judges who are impartial, knowledgeable, and experienced, regardless of party affiliation. The list of characteristics and meaningful experience to look for is very insightful. I would also like to remind voters to "follow the money." Who are the large donors and PACs backing each candidate? Are they hoping to gain something?

I found a very useful website that collects and posts a wide variety of election facts and figures, including campaign finance information, and belonging to the North Carolina State Board of Elections online at NCSBE.gov. As I am learning and familiarizing myself with local and state government and candidates, this site has been very helpful. It's worth visiting and digging into the trove of information there. I encourage voters to take a look for themselves.

Nan Cummins – Highlands, N.C.

### Most politicians corrupt in one way or another

Let me start by saying I am neither Democrat or Republican.

In reading Mr. Snell's letter it seems that the Republican Party is the only corrupt party in Washington, DC. I myself think most politicians are corrupt in one way or another. You mentioned that McConnell wanted to make Obama a one term president, well the Democrats have been trying to make sure that Trump does not get elected again since he was elected in 2016.

As far as donations go, I would think Democrats get donations also. Does Accountable.US track donations made to Democrats?

What we need to remember is that above everything else we are Americans before we are Democrats or Republicans.

Skip Keener – Franklin, N.C.

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

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### Another North Carolina county joins lawsuit

Folks, we have "good news" and "bad news." Which one do we want to hear first? Being a positive kind of person I'm always inclined to prefer hearing something good!

Last time [7/28] I wrote to you about the Asheville/Buncombe County lawsuit against the cruel corporate raiders, aka HCA/Mission, and others that had joined the suit. Good news today! Madison County, North Carolina has joined the suit as well. Wow! It's time to Praise God and thank Jesus! Our prayers are being heard. A small victory but if you add them all up we have a major chance of correcting a horrible, greedy mistake.

Sure there is enough guilt to go around but no time to point fingers. We just have to change that ill-begotten decision that some politicians made without considering all the people.

Bad news! Last Friday I was waiting at the bank and struck up a conversation with a pretty lady and her kids. She said she was "local" so of course I asked if she had read the paper the day before (my article). She, like so many others I've asked said "No." I asked why? She said, "They don't tell us what we need to hear." I was shocked. I pushed a little further to hear her opinion of the HCA/Mission take-over and the new hospital. She said, "I worked as a nurse at Angel Hospital for six years and loved it but when those [expletives] from HCA took over I quit! I would never work for those people."

I could see the anger that she was still dealing with. She's local, has a family, spent all those years no doubt getting

her education in a wonderful career and then because of the corruption of a few it's all gone. Now multiply her times 17 counties of healthcare workers giving up their calling because of the Devil's greed. How many families do you think this has affected? No one really cared about them.

It must have been a hard decision for hundreds of doctors to quit a lifetime profession and put their Hippocratic Oath before HCA/Mission profits. They have my sincere admiration.

It takes a heartless stockholder to deny a chemotherapy patient a juice box and crackers during their IV treatments at the Asheville Cancer Center operated by HCA/Mission. "Corporate" says it costs too much money to continue the food service. Really? HCA's PROFIT last year was \$6,960,000,000. You would think they could give a sick kid a damn cracker.

While we the folks are living and dying in 3/4 time, HCA's stock is trading at \$212 per share and the company is worth \$61,000,000,000, the largest private, for-profit healthcare corporation on the planet.

I'm looking forward to touring the new hospital here in Franklin but I sure hope I don't have to suffer and die in all that new state-of-the-art technology because there was no one there to turn it on.

Folks keep praying. God still performs miracles. Remember David and Goliath.

God bless all y'all. In the Spirit,

G.M.Newton – Franklin, N.C.

## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

At the board meeting last week, I did a rather long mayor's report concerning initiatives I want the board to address in future meetings. Let me briefly review several of these items.

First, the master sidewalk plan needs to be updated to include several important projects. Sidewalks on the NC 106 and US 64 corridors need to be included. These corridor sidewalks are on the Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, so inclusion in the town sidewalk plan is needed for consistency. How these very expensive sidewalks are funded will be a major challenge. Are there state funds available, or are will it be necessary to obtain town and private funding? I suspect, if private and town resources were available, the state would expedite their contribution and time table.

Second, I also believe we need to complete a sidewalk loop on the east side of town. This year's budget includes the completion of a sidewalk on 1st Street that will create a sidewalk loop for the west side of town. The east side loop would entail extending the sidewalk on Chestnut and possibly building a sidewalk on 6th Street.

Third, I also want the board to consider moving forward with the replacement of the recently demolished Houston House at the Highlands Recreation Center. The

old, dilapidated Houston House was the site of the after school and summer camp programs that the recreation department operated. There is a critical need for after school programs for kids, and the town needs to build a new facility.

Finally, our staff, as well as the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, is still researching the installation of electric car charging stations in the downtown areas. It is not a simple process. We currently have the space and electric power needed to install rapid charging systems.

Although the need for charging stations is currently limited, the need will rapidly increase. Ford Motor Company and General Motors are "All In" when it comes to electric cars and towns across America. Cities, towns and states need to start embracing the idea of this change in cars and the resulting power grid requirements. As with Duke Energy, down the road Highlands will have to upgrade our electric grid to handle this demand which is driven in part by future electric vehicles and other usage factors.

The plans I have outlined above will take time to complete. Careful planning and new funding sources will need to be considered.

The public hearing concerning short term rental amendments to the Highlands Unified Development Ordinances is this afternoon, Thursday, Aug. 25. The hearing begins at 5 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field. Procedures for tonight's public hearing can be found on the town website.

On Tuesday, Aug. 30, the town board will hold a work session at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center to begin drafting the final STR amendments. This meeting will be open to the public, but there will be no public comment. This work session may be first of possibly several before a formal vote and adoption is made.

# GILLESPIE

Continued from page 10

insureds toward cost-sharing requirements for certain drugs.

– SB586 - Study Lipedema requires the Legislative Research Commission to study medical issues surrounding lipedema and to report findings and any proposed legislation to the 2022 Regular Session of the 2021 General Assembly.

**HEALTH CARE FUNDING  
2022 N.C. BUDGET**

- ✓ \$15M for mental health programs.
- ✓ \$3M for recruiting rural health providers.
- ✓ \$1.3M for the 988 Crisis Helpline.
- ✓ \$15M for combating the opioid crisis.
- ✓ \$3M for services for abused children.

N.C. firefighters with cancer are starting to receive money to offset medical costs. There are 40 N.C. firefighters who have cancer and have received money this year to help pay for medical expenses. The program that began in January was funded by \$15 million in the 2021 two-year state budget.

#### Did You Know?

Did you know that North Carolina's official state vegetable is the sweet potato? North Carolina is the nation's number one producer of sweet potatoes, with 1.7 billion pounds produced in 2020. More than 65% of U.S. sweet potatoes are harvested in North Carolina, according to the NC SweetPotato Commission.

#### Let Us Know What You Think

Do you have a suggestion? Concerned about a particular issue? Contact my office and we will assist you in any way we can.

E-mail: Andrew.Bailey@ncleg.gov  
Telephone: 919-733-5859



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# Scenes from the 16th Annual Franklin Area Folk Festival



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Tallulah McCall



Junette Pell, Chair Caning



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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 Aug. 15 - 21.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

### August 15

Callie Elizabeth Rogers, was charged with second degree trespass. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

### August 16

Jessica Rita Smith, was issued a true bill of indictment for offenses committed in jurisdiction. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Austin McCall, was charged with failure to appear. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Harold Andrew Williamson, was issued a true bill of indictment. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Luther Victory Stinnett IV, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Anthony Shamal Bryson, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

### August 18

Meghan Judith Woody, was charged with violation of conditions of release. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

### August 19

Jacquelyn Elyssa Miller, was charged with possession of

methamphetamine and possession of a schedule II controlled substance. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Blake Sanders, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine and possession of a schedule II controlled substance.

Enrique Patino Paredes, was charged with assault on a female. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

### August 20

John Lyman Boyce, was charged with sex offender on child premises, trespass on posted property and open container after consuming alcohol. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Derik Cooper, was charged with assault on a female and possession of methamphetamine. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Ismael Palacios-Romero, was charged with driving while impaired. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

### August 21

Joyce Winn, was charged with failure to appear. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

### August 15

Nathan Roy White, was charged with misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. G.D. Hovis made the arrest.

Anthony S. Bryson, was charged with break or enter a motor vehicle, simple assault, interfere with emergency communications and communicating threats. J.A. Riles made the arrest.

### August 16

Samuel Ray, was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle. L.C. Beegle made the arrest.

Wilburn Wesley Holt, was charged with second degree tres-

pass of real property. L.C. Beegle made the arrest.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

### August 15

Justin Charles Brooks, 39, of Mimosa Lane, was charged with second degree trespass, domestic violence protective order violation, child support purge and misdemeanor larceny. A \$9,500.78 bond was set.

Kimberly Ann Santy, 41, of Newport Dr., was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$100 was set.

Daniel Edward Franklin, 34, of Shuler Rd., Bryson City, was charged with child support purge. A secured bond of \$705 was set.

### August 16

Charles Thomas McCall, 54, of Zeb Alley Rd., Cashiers, was charged with child support purge. A \$2,000 bond was set.

### August 17

Zachary Chase Wood, 22, of Throwing Stones Rd., was charged with failure to appear for injury to personal property, injury to real property and break/enter to terrorize/injure. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Kary Ann McGoldrick, 20, of Crawford Cemetery Rd., was charged with simple affray. No bond was set.

Regina Pace Hunter, 59, of Pilot Knob Rd., Glenville, was charged with simple affray. No bond was set.

### August 18

John Edward Bradley, 48, of Cattle Dr., Whittier, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a dwelling for a controlled substance and maintain a vehicle for a controlled substance. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

## Democratic Women boost school library collections for new school year

When Macon County elementary students return to school this term, their librarians and principals will greet them with a new set of hardback books about accepting those who are different, thanks to the Democratic Women of Macon County.

"Knowing that our local schools have limited funds for new materials and wanting to help expand their selection of books celebrating diversity, we offered to purchase a few books for Macon County's Public Elementary Schools," said Linda Tyler, a member of the Democratic Women's Outreach Committee.

Committee member Rebecca Sexton had come across the book "Eyes that Kiss in the Corners" about a young Asian girl who notices that her eyes are shaped differently from those of her classmates. Sexton suggested the committee explore other books that would complement elementary school libraries' current books about people with different backgrounds and experiences.

After receiving suggestions from the Macon County Public Library staff, the committee compiled a list and discussed the idea with Assistant Superintendent Josh Lynch. He forwarded the list to the county's six elementary schools, and each chose two of the books to add to their library collections.

"It's wonderful to know that our community values and contributes to meet the needs of our students," said Sandra McMahan, principal of East Franklin Elementary School. "A good



Members of the Democratic Women's Outreach Committee discuss their donation of new books about differences in backgrounds and experiences among children with East Franklin Elementary School Principal Sandra McMahan. Each of the six Macon County elementary schools chose two books for their library collections from those donated by the Democratic Women organization. Seated in the East Franklin School library are Rebecca Sexton, Principal Sandra McMahan, Linda Tyler, Mary Judernatz, and Joan Palmroos.

book can bring people together and open up a world of inquiry and understanding for the smallest of readers. East Franklin School greatly appreciates the donation of the books on diversity from the Democratic Women's organization."

In addition to contributions by the Democratic Women, committee member and award-winning artist Mary Judernatz donated money raised from selling her notecards and pictures at last spring's Democratic Women's Potato Supper.

For more information about Democratic Women of Macon County contact Jean Wright at [jean.work.wright@gmail.com](mailto:jean.work.wright@gmail.com)

The following is the list of books donated to Macon County Public School Libraries by Democratic Women of Macon County.

- "Just Ask," by Sonia Sotomayor, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, talks about kids who are different due to medical issues (diabetes, asthma, Down Syndrome, deafness, ADHA, etc.) and other behavioral differences. The book shows racial diversity in pictures,

but does not discuss those specifically.

- "Fry Bread," by Kevin Noble Maillard, focuses on Native American culture. It talks about fry bread as a food that links Native Americans and has recipe for fry bread at the end.

- "The Boy Who Loved Everyone," by Jane Porter, is a story about a new boy in preschool, who feels alone at first. However, he learns that when he shares his kind words of love, others respond with kindness.

- "The First Blade of Sweetgrass," by Suzanne Greenlaw, is a Native American story about caring for the environment and the older generations teaching the younger ones.

- "Eyes that Kiss in the Corners," by Joanna Ho, is about a young Asian girl who notices that her eyes are shaped differently from those of her classmates. She learns that she has beautiful eyes. It's a story of self-acceptance and love.

- "Hair Love," by Mathew Cherry, is about an African American dad who helps fix his African-American daughter's hair.

- "Too Many Tamales," by Gary Soto, is a story about a young Hispanic girl named Maria, who is delighted to be asked to help make tamales for Christmas dinner. However, in the process, she loses her mother's valuable ring. The whole family comes together to help her and to make a wonderful family Christmas.

Submitted by Jamie Starbuck Plant





## Southern Vantage makes Sylva debut August 26 at Concerts on the Creek

The 13th annual season of Concerts on the Creek continues from 7-9 p.m., on Friday, Aug. 26 when the series welcomes Southern Vantage to Sylva for the very first time.

Southern Vantage is a three-piece band based in Northeast Georgia. They specialize in southern rock, country and classic hits. They cover a variety of genres and 3-part harmony hits.

Concerts on the Creek are held Friday nights 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. Dogs must be on a

leash. No smoking, vaping, coolers or tents allowed in the park. Food trucks will be on site.

Wrapping up the season on Friday, Sept. 2, will be the Alma Russ Band, Americana, country/bluegrass originals and covers, from 7-9 p.m.

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

## Macon County Arts Council sponsoring Barbershop Chorus in Franklin Aug. 28

Land of the Sky Barbershop Chorus will sing Sunday, August 28, at 3:00, in Tartan Hall at Franklin's First Presbyterian Church. The men's chorus performs light-hearted renditions of old-time and contemporary melodies, sung unaccompanied in four-part Barbershop-style harmony, mixing lots of laughs with their music.

The chorus will open with their rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." The fast-paced program features music styles ranging from traditional Barbershop to pop, Gospel, and beyond, including entertaining arrangements of Ray Charles and Bob Dylan hits. In addition to the full chorus, some small ensemble Barbershop singing and the ever popular '50s-style doo-wop group will be featured, along with plenty of audience participation. Complimentary ice cream sundaes will be served.

Chartered in 1948, Asheville-based Land of the Sky Chorus draws members from throughout Western North Carolina. Tartan Hall is wheelchair accessible from the parking lot behind the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary at 26 Church Street, a block north of Main Street. Admission is by donation; \$10 is suggested. Doors will open at 2:30. This event is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County. For more info, phone 828-524-ARTS or email [arts4all@dnet.net](mailto:arts4all@dnet.net).



## Monarch Festival at Gorges State Park

Gorges State Park in Transylvania County will host the first Mountain Monarch Festival Saturday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the park's visitor center. The festival will celebrate the monarch butterfly during its migration and bring attention to the species' declining numbers.

The park lies along the monarch's migratory route. The butterflies can be seen in late September each year flying over the park's visitor center on their way south to the high-elevation fir forests of Mexico's Neovolcanic Mountains, where they overwinter.

The festival will offer educational programs and exhibits featuring the monarch butterfly, including monarch-themed children's crafts, live music, a food truck, a festive photo board, local art for sale and a Monarch Migration Passport to lead families through monarch-themed activities. A keynote presentation will be offered by Heyward Douglas, an entomologist who has worked as a park naturalist and served on the Foothills Trail Conservancy's board of directors since 1989. Douglas has visited the monarch's wintering area in Mexico.

The Mountain Monarch Festival is spon-

sored by Friends of Gorges State Park and organized in partnership with Monarch Watch, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, and N.C. Department of Commerce. Admission, music, and programs at the festival will be free. The park requests that those who plan to attend



Gorges State Park in Transylvania County lies along the monarchs' migratory route south to the high-elevation fir forests of Mexico's Neovolcanic Mountains.

register by emailing "Monarch Festival Registration" and the number of people in your party to [gorges@ncparks.gov](mailto:gorges@ncparks.gov). The festival will be held rain or shine. For details, visit [www.ncparks.gov/events-and-programs](http://www.ncparks.gov/events-and-programs).

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# September sees Hawk Watch return to Grandfather Mountain

Grandfather Mountain, the not-for-profit nature park run by the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation, is gearing up for its annual Hawk Watch, which takes place throughout the entire month of September and is included with park admission. Visitors can grab a front-row seat to one of nature's most stunning spectacles – thousands of raptors migrating over the mountains and heading south toward their wintering grounds.

Guests are invited to join the mountain's naturalists as they count and celebrate the number of passersby in the sky.

Participants will be able to observe the migration from viewing locations on Linville Peak (across the Mile High Swinging Bridge) and Half Moon Overlook (the first major overlook when entering the park).

Raptors are birds of prey, such as hawks, eagles, owls and vultures. The telltale signs of the raptor are sharp talons, a hooked upper bill and keen eyesight. While some raptors remain in place during winter, most will travel south, where food is more abundant.

Grandfather Mountain is a prime spot for viewing this phenomenon because it sits along the eastern escarpment of the Appalachian Mountains, and its rocky peaks generate strong thermal uplifts and allow excellent visibility.

Perhaps the most dramatic visual display comes courtesy of the broad-winged hawk, which migrates in groups of hundreds or thousands, called kettles.



Spectators are welcome and encouraged to witness the annual phenomenon of Hawk Watch on Grandfather Mountain throughout the month of September, during which visitors can grab a front-row seat to one of nature's most stunning spectacles – thousands of raptors migrating over the mountains and heading south toward their wintering grounds. Photos courtesy of Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation / Monty Combs



Guests are invited to join the mountain's naturalists as they count and celebrate the number of passersby in the sky. Weather permitting, participants will be able to observe the migration from viewing locations on Linville Peak (across the Mile High Swinging Bridge) and Half Moon Overlook (the first major overlook when entering the park).

Those sightings are most common around the second or third week of September.

During 2015's Hawk Watch, Grandfather Mountain President and Executive Director Jesse Pope spotted a kettle of some 4,800 broad-wings passing over in less than 30 minutes, along with numerous other kettles of considerable size, amounting to nearly 10,000 raptors in one day.

Aside from offering quite a show, Hawk Watch serves an important purpose. The annual counts from Grandfather Mountain and other locations help track hawk populations and migration routes over time and provide important data to inform land management decisions.

In fact, Grandfather Mountain is one of more than 300 Hawk Watch sites officially designated by the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

Counts will be conducted every day the weather permits – the hawks don't typically fly in fog or storms – from an area inaccessible to the general public and will be posted daily at Hawk-

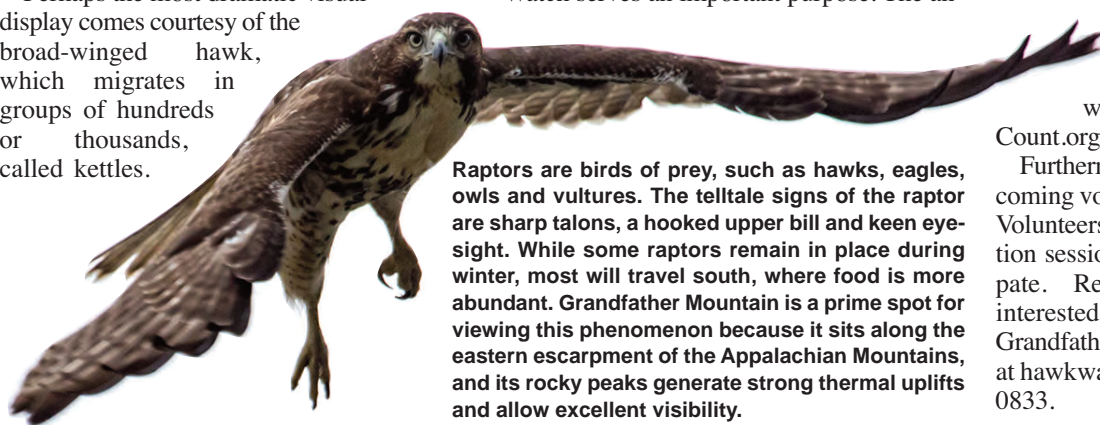
Count.org. Furthermore, Grandfather Mountain is welcoming volunteers to aid in the official count. Volunteers must attend a mandatory orientation session on Aug. 26 at 1 p.m. to participate. Registration is required. Those interested should contact Jacob Morse, Grandfather Mountain's research coordinator, at hawkwatch@grandfather.com or 828-737-0833.

"This is just one of those truly awe-inspiring experiences that makes Grandfather Mountain such a special place, and one where you can take in the natural world in all its glory," said John Caveny, director of education and natural resources with the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation. "It's so rewarding to see our guests have the opportunity to witness these creatures on their fall migration and share in the wonder with our staff and volunteers."

Along with the migration, September is a very transformative month and a time when Grandfather sees a number of seasonal changes, where the mountain goes from the flora and fauna of summer to those of autumn.

To learn more about Hawk Watch at Grandfather Mountain, visit [www.grandfather.com/hawk-watch](http://www.grandfather.com/hawk-watch).

The nonprofit Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation strives to inspire conservation of the natural world by helping guests explore, understand and value the wonders of Grandfather Mountain. For more information, visit [www.grandfather.com](http://www.grandfather.com).



Raptors are birds of prey, such as hawks, eagles, owls and vultures. The telltale signs of the raptor are sharp talons, a hooked upper bill and keen eyesight. While some raptors remain in place during winter, most will travel south, where food is more abundant. Grandfather Mountain is a prime spot for viewing this phenomenon because it sits along the eastern escarpment of the Appalachian Mountains, and its rocky peaks generate strong thermal uplifts and allow excellent visibility.

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## NC Secretary of State visits SCC service area

During a brief walking tour of downtown Sylva on Monday, N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall tried her hand at fly-tying.

She also met with community leaders, sampled some handmade chocolates and toured a local craft brewery.

However, Marshall's visit was about more than enjoying the typical tourist experience. She visited the region to check out the impact of Southwestern Community College's Small Business Center and her own Rural RISE (Resources for Innovators, Start-Ups and Entrepreneurs) NC Initiative.

"I'm real pleased to see the entrepreneurial activity here in the Jackson

County area, and a lot of it gives credit to the small business assistance that's available through Southwestern Community College," Marshall said. "We really want to emphasize for those who are thinking about starting a business, or those who've already started one and run into some problems: Contact your community college. Go ahead and make an appointment. They are experts and helpful. They know how to make connections and can help you with business plans and so much more."

Marshall's day started with a listening session in Bryson City, where she heard from entrepreneurs about some of the challenges they face in the rural part of the state.



Elaine Marshall (center), N.C. Secretary of State, poses for a photo with Marne Harris (left), Director of SCC's Small Business Center, and Dr. Don Tomas (right), SCC's President, during her tour of downtown Sylva on Monday, Aug. 22.

She then visited Tuckasegee Fly Shop, Baxley's Chocolates and Innovation Brewing in Sylva. Accompanying her on the tour were several local elected officials, Jackson County Economic Development Director Tiffany Henry as well as Don Tomas, SCC's President, and Marne Harris, who oversees SCC's Small Business Center.

"We were glad to have Secretary Marshall visit the area and meet with some of the entrepreneurs who make this such a wonderful place to live," Harris said.

For more information about SCC's Small Business Center, contact Harris at 828.339.4211 or [m\\_harris@SouthwesternCC.edu](mailto:m_harris@SouthwesternCC.edu).

## CFNC marks Distance Learning Day with resources for adults

Remote work opportunities are on the rise — and online education is paramount in preparing for the jobs of tomorrow. Aug. 31, 2022, marks Distance Learning Day, and College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) has valuable resources to support adult learners who want to return to the classroom from the comfort of their own homes.

It's estimated that a quarter of professional jobs will be remote by the end of 2023. Distance learning is ideal for adult learners with busy lives, jobs, and children. Recent data highlights the experience of North Carolina adult learners in higher education:

- 58% of adults ages 25 to 64 have less than an associate degree.
- More than half of the students at North Carolina Community Colleges were adult learners in the 2020-2021 school year.
- The University of North Carolina (UNC) System offers more than 400 fully online programs. More than 40,000 students, including adult learners, use online services every year.

"There are so many opportunities and resources for adults and nontraditional learners who want to pursue higher education to reach their career and life goals," said Laura Morgan, Vice President of Communications, Savings, and Legal Affairs at College Foundation, Inc. (CFI) "Our state is full of talented individuals who want to return to the classroom, whether online or on campus. CFNC has the tools to help

students of all ages research programs and majors at local colleges, submit applications, access financial aid, and more — right from their own home."

Employers across the nation are rapidly trying to fill remote positions in human resources, accounting and finance, customer service, marketing, sales, and more. Pew research finds that 60% of workers who now work from home would choose to continue to do so.

CFNC has free online resources for adult and nontraditional students who want to pursue higher education for the first time or need to get back on track to finish their degree:

- Financial Aid for Adults – All students, no matter their age, should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for each year they plan to be in school.
- Scholarships – Free money is available for adult learners. Use the CFNC Scholarship Tool to research state and local scholarships.
- Adult Student Prep Checklist – Not sure where to start? Find helpful tips to get on the education and career path to achieve your goals.
- Military Resources – Education benefits are available for veterans, service members, and their families.
- Credit for Prior Learning – Experience counts! See if you can get credit for prior course credits and work experience.

To learn more, visit [www.CFNC.org/AdultLearner](http://www.CFNC.org/AdultLearner).

## Jones, Davidson begin terms on SCC Board

Two longtime leaders have begun new four-year terms on Southwestern Community College's Board of Trustees.

Vance Davidson, who serves as Vice-Chair, and Mark Jones were sworn in on Aug. 9 at the college's Jackson Campus in Sylva.

"We're grateful for all the men and women who serve on our Board of Trustees," said Dr. Don Tomas, SCC's President. "Mr. Jones and Mr. Davidson have both been tremendous advocates for Southwestern over the years, and I look forward to working with them in their new terms."

A member of the board since 2010, Davidson is a retired trust banker and attorney from Alabama. Since moving to Jackson County, he's served on multiple non-profit boards and foundations. He has been a driving force for SCC's annual fundraising gala since its inception in 2015.

Meanwhile, Jones originally joined SCC's Board of Trustees in 2014. The Front House manager for Mica's Restaurant & Pub in Sapphire, Jones is a member of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. He is also the Jackson County representative on the Fontana Regional Library Board.

The new terms for Davidson and Jones will run through June of 2026.

For more information about Southwestern and the programs it offers, visit [www.SouthwesternCC.edu](http://www.SouthwesternCC.edu), call 828.339.4000 or drop by your nearest SCC location.



Kelly Rich (right), Assistant Clerk of Court for Jackson County, swears in Vance Davidson of Yellow Mountain (left) for a new term on SCC's Board of Trustees on Aug. 9 in Sylva. At center is Dr. Don Tomas, SCC President.



Mark Jones (left) of Cashiers is sworn in for a new term on SCC's Board of Trustees by Kelly Rich (right), Assistant Clerk of Court for Jackson County, during a meeting on Aug. 9 in Sylva. At center is Dr. Don Tomas, SCC President.



# Deaths & Funerals

## Greta Ann Ballreich Wilkins

Greta Ann Ballreich Wilkins, 88, of Franklin, N.C., and formerly of Angola, Ind., passed away on Aug. 19, 2022.

She was born Sept. 20, 1933, to the late Albert and Dora Dorrance Ballreich in Indian River, Mich. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Dan Howard Wilkins; a daughter, Cheryl Ann Wilkins, of Otto, N.C., and a brother, Albert Neil Ballreich.

She loved spending time with her family and felt this was very important. She loved to travel throughout the United States and abroad, visiting the Bahamas, Aruba, China, and Thailand. She graduated from Petoskey High School, Petoskey, Mich., in 1951. She attended Michigan State University and was an avid Spartan fan. She was a member of Angola Methodist Church, a former member of the Rho Chapter, Psi Iola Fi, and a member of the Angola Elks.

She is survived by her son, Randall "Randy" Steven Wilkins of Ft. Wayne, Ind.; and two grandchildren, Liu Bo Wilkins and Isabella Si Qing Wilkins of Franklin, N.C.; and her special adopted family, "The Cabes."

No funeral services will be held. A graveside service will be held at a later date. Burial will be in Oakhill Cemetery, Indian River, Mich.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to one of the following, Macon Tracs, P.O. Box 101, Otto, NC, 28763; Community Humane Shelter, P.O. Box 204, Angola, IN 46703, or Appalachian Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 81, Franklin, N.C. 28744.

Online condolences at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).  
Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Greta Ann Wilkins

## David Paul Lippy

David Paul Lippy, 74, was born on July 7, 1948, in Oswego, Ill., to Carole Jean (Panikis) Lippy and Glenn "Whitey" Ray Lippy. He received his first degree in 1970 from the University of Illinois, Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. In 1976, he received a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Central Florida. He worked in Orlando, Fla., at Lockheed Martin as an engineer for 38 years. The day he retired in 2008, he moved to Otto, N.C.

He was married to Kimberly (Higbie) Lippy for 33 beautiful years. He was an incredible bonus dad to Jason Davis Preston and Nicole (Preston) Casavant. He leaves behind his two siblings, Duane Lippy and Cindy (Lippy) Hearn; nieces, Dawn (Lippy) Albanese, Andrea and Sarah Lippy; and six grandchildren, Preston, Sydney, and Corbin Casavant, Nathan, Shelby, Andrew and Jenna Preston.

His greatest love was the Lord. His interest and hobbies included mountain dulcimer, gardening, church, and civic volunteering including three years as president of the Nantahala Hiking Club and serving on the Macon County Baptist Association Board.

A Celebration of Life ceremony will be held Sept. 10, at 3 p.m., at Grace Bible Church, 235 Dotson Street, Mountain City, Ga.

As an avid supporter of the right to life, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Center as per his request.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.  
Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfunerals.com](http://www.moffittfunerals.com).



David Paul Lippy

## Tina 'Teeter' Walkingstick Frizsell

Tina "Teeter" Walkingstick Frizsell, 42, of Mountain City, Ga., and formerly of Cherokee, N.C., was senselessly taken from her family and friends on the morning of Monday, May 16, 2022, one day prior to her 43rd birthday. Born in Cherokee, on May 17, 1979, she was the daughter of Norman J. Walkingstick of Cherokee and Deborah D. Cloer of New Orleans, La.



She was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, Joe Mike Walkingstick "Papaw Joe"; paternal grandmother, Rosie Hornbuckle "Granny"; Tina Walkingstick Frizsell and maternal grandparents, Albert Carl Cloer and Agnes Hastings Cloer "Mamaw."

Having spent most of her childhood in Cherokee and partly in Lyman, Wash., Tina moved back to North Carolina as a teenager and lived there into her adulthood. Along her journey, she became interested in nature and anything having to do with mountains and rivers, whether it was hiking, camping, or fishing. She loved to just sit and take in the scenery around her. She also loved to capture the beauty of the outdoors by taking photos. It would do her heart good to be in the company of her loved ones with laughter; she had a unique laugh and contagious smile. Hanging around a good fire, listening to music, was good for her soul.

Left to cherish her precious memories, in addition to her parents, are her two children who she loved and adored very much, Alden Walkingstick-Wike and Graci Frizsell; five siblings, Gregory N. Justus, Misty Walkingstick Ramirez, Norman R. Walkingstick, Cory Walkingstick and Patience "Bop" Walkingstick; and numerous nieces, nephews, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Her loved ones, from Florida to Washington (throughout the United States and Native Lands), will always love Tina and miss her dearly.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 5 p.m. in the Chapel of Appalachian Funeral Services & Crematorium, 165 Skyland Drive, Sylva. A gathering of family and friends will immediately follow the service at the funeral home. A private graveside service will be held at Lloyd Sequoyah Cemetery in Cherokee.

Shuler Funeral Home in Hendersonville, N.C., is assisting the Walkingstick/Cloer family.

## Mildred Penland Everest

Mildred Penland Everest, 94, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, but called this area her home for 82 years. She was the daughter of the late William and Beulah Cabe Penland. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert F. Everest and sister, Edna Lucille June.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church and attended Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church. She was actively involved with the Macon County Public Library, a member of the Daughters of American Revolution, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She was also a member of the Nequassa #43 chapter of The Order of the Eastern Star.

She is survived by her daughter, Heather Dussault (Jerry) of Barneveld, N.Y.; nephew, William June (Whitney) of Roswell, Ga.; and special friends, Lewis Penland, Rosanne Bradley, and Glenda Peek.

A funeral service was held Friday, Aug. 19, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Burial followed at Woodlawn Cemetery. Revs. Margaret Freeman and Vic Greene officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Macon County Public Library, 819 Siler Rd., Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).  
Macon Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.



Mildred Penland Everest

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The entire family of the late Robert (Bob) Cabe, Sr. sincerely appreciate all the loving prayers, wonderful food, caring phone calls, and beautiful cards of support and sympathy that were sent during his illness and death.

Rev. Margaret Freeman & Rev. Vic Greene, from First United Methodist Church; Doctors and Staff of Angel Medical Center, Care Partners of Mission Hospital in Asheville; Bryant Funeral Home, and the Military Honors Team, that he had proudly served on for many years, all helped buy us much comfort and peace.

God bless you all!  
The Family of Bob  
& Elizabeth Cabe



# Kyle Larson sweeps the weekend at Watkins Glen

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

For the second-consecutive day Kyle Larson took his first lead of the race with five laps remaining and held off road course ace and fellow Californian A.J. Allmendinger for a trophy. Larson completed the rare weekend sweep at Watkins Glen (N.Y.) International Sunday afternoon with a clutch win in the NASCAR Cup Series' Go Bowling at the Glen.

Larson made a dramatic pass on his Hendrick Motorsports teammate Chase Elliott on a restart with five laps to go on the historic road course. As the race leader, Elliott got to choose where to lineup alongside Larson for the green flag and chose to start on Larson's outside, setting up the dramatic contention for position.

Larson maneuvered past Elliott in the wide-sweeping turn with both Allmendinger and Joey Logano able to get around Elliott as well. Allmendinger gave chase to Larson, but for the second day in a row, Larson, the driver of the No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet again proved too much.

It was the second-consecutive NASCAR Cup Series victory for Larson, 30, at Watkins Glen - finishing .882-seconds ahead of Kaulig Racing's Allmendinger. It's Larson's 18th career win and second of the 2022 season for the defending NASCAR Cup Series champion.

Team Penske's Logano finished third just ahead of Elliott, who could take some considerable consolation in officially securing the 2022 Regular Season Championship – his first – at the end of Stage 1 on Sunday.

Larson immediately addressed the winning move.

"That was really my only opportunity (to go for the lead), I'm not proud of it," Larson said, "But being in the inside lane, the right lane, being the leader, choosing the left lane, it definitely wins out. But when it gets late in the race, it's definitely risky.

"I knew that was my only opportunity to get by him. I feel like our cars were pretty equal today. Had a lot of fun after rate green flag cycle trying to chase hi down. Kind of burned my stuff up a little bit.



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after taking the checkered flag at the NASCAR Cup Series Go Bowling at The Glen at Watkins Glen International on Aug. 21, 2022 in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

German driver Mike Rockenfeller – a sports-car ace and former Rolex 24 at Daytona winner – posted the best finish (30th) among a series-high seven international entries at Watkins Glen.

Formula One world champion Kimi Räikkönen had a solid effort in his NASCAR Cup Series debut – running as high as eighth place in Stage 2 before pitting. His day in the No. 91 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet came to an early end, however, when he was nudged off-track and into a tire barrier while racing among a large group of cars on the ensuing restart.

Räikkönen 41, of Finland, climbed out of his car and appeared fine physically. Although disappointed with the finish to what looked like a promising day, he said he was still overall happy with his debut in NASCAR's big leagues.

"It was good fun, you know, and I felt more confident all the time and had some good battles and the car felt like it had a lot of speed in there, but that's how it goes sometimes," said Räikkönen, who officially finished 37th in the 39-car field.

With one race remaining in the regular season and one spot still to be settled for the 16-driver Playoff field, Team Penske's Ryan Blaney holds a 25-point advantage over Joe Gibbs Racing's Martin Truex Jr. for the final transfer position should no new winner emerge next week. They finished 23rd (Truex) and 24th (Blaney) on Sunday and both drivers are still looking for their first victory of the year.

Blaney heads into the regular season finale next week at Daytona International Speedway as the defending race winner. The Coke Zero Sugar 400 in Daytona Beach is set for Saturday night (7 p.m. ET, NBC, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) with the 16 drivers qualifying for the 10-race Playoffs that begin Sept. 4 at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway.



"But the restarts kept me in it and kept our team in it. I'm proud of my guys. Good to get another win here at Watkins Glen and get some more bonus points going into the Playoffs, we haven't had a lot here this year."

Larson said he anticipated having a conversation with Elliott and reiterated that he was only making a move, he felt necessary, to go for the victory. Something he thought El-

liott would have done as well.

"We have a competition meeting tomorrow," Larson said. "I think if I was in his shoes, I would understand the risk that I'm taking, taking the left lane also. I'm not proud of it but I did what I felt like I had to do to get the win."

For his part after the race, Elliott said only, "Congratulations to Kyle and everybody on the 5 team and at Hendrick Motorsports for getting the win."

Elliott - who led a race high 30 of the 80 laps - again took the company line when asked what he would say to Larson, "Congratulations. ... always good to see HMS win. The boss [Rick Hendrick] deserves all the great wins that come for this company."

Trackhouse Racing driver Daniel Suárez finished fifth, followed by Front Row Motorsports' Michael McDowell, who led 14 laps.

Richard Childress Racing's Tyler Reddick, Joe Gibbs Racing's Christopher Bell, RFK Racing's Chris Buescher and Petty GMS Racing's Erik Jones rounded out the top 10.

**Kyle Larson's late-race luck earns him Xfinity Series win at Watkins Glen**

In the moments after claiming the checkered flag for the Sunoco Go Rewards 200 at the Glen Saturday afternoon, Kyle Larson smiled and conceded he was a bit fortunate.

"I got lucky," he told the USA Network television audience.

Or perhaps more accurately, he was in the right place at the right time. Running third on a restart with five laps remaining in the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at historic Watkins Glen (N.Y.) International, he shot to the front when his Hendrick Motorsports teammate – and race polesitter - William Byron and Joe Gibbs Racing's Ty Gibbs spun out at the front of the field while dicing it up for the race lead.

Byron, who set a track record in qualifying earlier in the day and led a race best 36 of the 82 laps, and Gibbs, who led the second most laps (25) collided in a door-to-door battle in the famed "bus stop" portion of the 3.366-mile road course. And Larson bolted through to take the lead.

Still, the reigning NASCAR Cup Series champion had to hold off the sport's all-time best on road courses, A.J. Allmendinger in the remaining laps to claim the day's trophy - ultimately taking his 11th series win by a



Kyle Larson, driver of the #88 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Sunoco Go Rewards 200 at The Glen at Watkins Glen International on Aug. 20, 2022 in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images



slight .273-seconds in the No. 88 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet.

"I think my only shot was if the 17 and 54 – Willy and Ty got really racing," conceded Larson, who spent much of the race just behind his Hendrick Motorsports teammate Byron and Gibbs.

"The seas parted and I was able to get through but then I had A.J. (Allmendinger) be-

hind me so just trying to hit my marks best I could. He definitely made me nervous with me being out in front of him.

"So cool to get a win here and Rick Hendrick is here too. Wish William and I could have fought for the win there though."

Rookie Sammy Smith, an 18-year old from Iowa in only his fourth NASCAR Xfinity Series start finished a career best third place in the No. 18 JGR Toyota and led an impressive – also career high – seven laps midway through the race.

JR Motorsports' driver Noah Gragson finished fourth, followed by Kaz Grala. Sam Mayer, Riley Herbst, Sheldon Creed, who was the highest finishing rookie, Josh Berry and Jeremy Clements rounded out the top 10.

Byron and Gibbs, who had contact again farther back in the field during the final laps, ultimately finished 25th and 27th, respectively.

On the cool down lap after the race Byron told his crew, "Sorry guys, I wish we could have won that one. We were in position and got wrecked."

Allmendinger's runner-up showing, combined with Gibbs rough day and an early exit by Justin Allgaier – who wrecked only four laps into the race – really boosted Allmendinger's lead atop the Xfinity Series standings. With four races remaining to set the 12-driver 2022 Playoff field, he now holds a 61-point advantage over five-race winner

Gibbs and is 70-points up on fellow three-race winner Allgaier.

The NASCAR Xfinity Series returns to action next week at Daytona International Speedway with the WaWa 250 Powered by Coca-Cola on Friday (7:30 p.m. ET, USA Network, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Kaulig Racing's Justin Haley is the defending race winner.



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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT  
CROSSWORD

THEME: FOOTBALL

ACROSS

- 1. '90s Don Johnson TV character
- 5. India's smallest state
- 8. Light on one's feet
- 12. Arctic floater
- 13. Mouthful, swallowed
- 14. Rocks at mountain base
- 15. Reading helper
- 16. Serve soup
- 17. Clean & \_\_\_\_\_, in a work-out
- 18. \*QB's target
- 20. Wholly engrossed
- 21. Religious ritual table
- 22. Scot's woolen cap
- 23. Relating to milk
- 26. Oil-producing plant
- 30. Shakespearean "fuss"
- 31. Crowd
- 34. Like the White Rabbit
- 35. Chip feature
- 37. Mozart's "L' \_\_\_\_\_ del Cairo"
- 38. Asian goat antelope
- 39. Turn sharply
- 40. Yield
- 42. Compass bearing
- 43. \*When QB changes play at line of scrimmage
- 45. \_\_\_\_\_ identity
- 47. Failed Molotov cocktail
- 48. Alicia Keys' instrument
- 50. Final notice
- 52. \*It results in change of possession in football
- 55. Off-white color
- 56. Actor Pitt
- 57. Type of ore
- 59. Classic TV's "lovely lady"
- 60. Stiff hair
- 61. Vegetative state

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- 62. Distinctive elegance
- 63. Prior to, prefix
- 64. \*Tom Brady's 2008, 2018 or 2021 award
- 10. Catch one's breath
- 11. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band
- 13. Malfunction
- 14. Hair product
- 19. Chosen few
- 22. Dress like Ancient Greeks
- 23. Butterfly, pre-metamorphosis
- 24. Bye, to ...lisabeth Borne
- 25. Encrypted
- 26. \*a.k.a. hike
- 27. Dog-\_\_\_\_\_ pages
- 28. Do penance
- 29. Not as old
- 32. Casanova, e.g.
- 33. Two before Dec.
- 36. \*NFL playing field
- 38. Shorthand
- 40. Antediluvian
- 41. Idi Amin's country
- 44. Butane derivative
- 46. Not an expert
- 48. Less adulterated
- 49. All worked up
- 50. Like Joe Biden's office
- 51. \_\_\_\_\_ Bora
- 52. Chef's amt.
- 53. Son of Aphrodite
- 54. Boisterous play
- 55. \*\_\_\_\_\_ the kicker
- 58. "Uh-uh"

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## Community Fundraisers

**"FEED THE NEED"** Destiny Church Outreach Event, Saturday, August 27, 11am-2pm, BBQ Pork Sandwich Plates, 2 Sides, Dessert. \$10. Add \$5 Donation to purchase and send plate to home-less/shelterless individual of Macon County. Delivery available for home bound seniors, & handicap within 15 mile radius. Drive-thru pick up available, limited sit down seating. Proceeds Benefit Community Outreach Projects: homeless, widows/widowers, and at risk children/families in need.

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

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

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

## Garage & Yard Sales

**HANDYMAN YARD SALE** Doors, Lights, Appliances, Supplies, Kayak, Canoe etc. at Cinnamon Hill Gelato Shop, 180 Wayah St. Near High School. Saturday, 9-12.

**PALLET CONTENTS SALE** August 26-28, Fri 8-4, Sat 8-4, Sun 8-2, Macon County Fair Grounds building D right across from Ingles.

## Animals

**ADOPT A PET** AARC Animal Shelter, 851 Lake Emory Rd., Franklin. Call for an Appointment. (828)524-4588.

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

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## Wanted

**NEED RIDE** to Blue Ridge Courthouse and back to DMV Franklin, 8am to 6pm, 61 year old male. Pays Well. Text (828)200-6109.

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## CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	BMW	Alpina XB7	536
2022	Edge	Sport	101
2021	Kia	Optima EX	20,010
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2020	Toyota	Corolla SE	20,740
2019	Dodge	Challenger SXT	16,993
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan SXT	55,584
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	Focus	SE	44,403
2018	Traverse	LT AWD	95,105
2017	Dodge	Journey	110,982
2016	Chevrolet	Cruze RS	30,685
2015	Nissan	Altima 2.5 S	59,261
2015	Mustang	GT	45,724
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	113,152

## SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	GMC	Yukon XL	53,356
2021	Grand Cherokee	L	13,279
2020	Buick	Encore	34,808
2020	Chevrolet	Suburban Premier	58,652
2020	GMC	Acadia AT4	28,261
2020	Grand Cherokee	Trailhawk	26,226
2020	Kia	Telluride	71,254
2019	Chevrolet	Blazer RS	45,231
2019	Chevrolet	Equinox Premier AWD	34,109
2019	Chevrolet	Tahoe LT	46,162

2019	Chevrolet	Trax AWD	16,288
2019	GMC	Terrain	63,316
2019	Honda	Pilot EX	40,801
2019	Jeep	Cherokee 4x4	65,409
2019	Kia	Sedona EX	40,858
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox LT	23,569
2018	Chevrolet	Tahoe	84,386
2018	Forerunner	TRD Sport	65,055
2018	Kia	Soul	58,573
2018	Nissan	Murano	53,903
2017	Rogue	SV	58,866
2016	Lexus	RX 350	72,919
2016	Sorento	LX	112,933
2016	Toyota	Sequoia	96,869
2015	Chevrolet	Traverse AWD	121,286
2015	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited Altitude	39,030
2015	Suburban	LT	92,352
2014	Jeep	Wrangler	59,335

## 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	1500 RST	34,026
2021	Chevrolet	1500 High Country	17,551
2021	Chevrolet	Colorado	8,980
2021	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	10,842
2021	Chevrolet	LT Trailboss	34,069
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 4WD	4,746
2020	Chevrolet	2500 Diesel	8,241
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	Colorado	Ext Cab ZR2	26,842
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 TRD 4x4	43,577
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado Z-71	23,542
2018	Colorado	ZR2	36,012
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	44,668
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 Denali	25,059
2017	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	61,657
2016	Chevrolet	1500 LT	126,328
2016	Chevrolet	1500 LT Crew	118,872
2016	GMC	Sierra SLT	61,530
2016	Toyota	Tacoma TRD	48,689
2015	Ford	F-150 Platinum	83,899
2015	Ram	3500 Laramie	184,881
2014	Ram	1500 Sport Crew 4x4	107,828



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