

# The Macon County NEWS

## & Shopping Guide

Free  
independent  
weekly



**FREE**  
Health Services  
& More!  
**September 10-11**  
9AM - 3PM  
Macon County  
Community Building

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September 8, 2022 • 24 Pages

Volume 40 Number 17

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Overlook Theatre Company presents *Tommie Sawyer and Huckmary Finn*, a new twist on the classic tale by Mark Twain. The two friends witness a murder one night in a graveyard and their friend Muff gets blamed for it. Tommie and Huckmary make a plan to redeem Muff and expose the real killer, which leads to an adventure along the banks of the mighty Mississippi River. The one-act comedy is filled with laughs, thrills and a loads of friendship. The show stages this weekend Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. nightly at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. For ticket information, visit [smokymountainarts.com](http://smokymountainarts.com).

## Town Council honors public works employees

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

The Town of Franklin Council meeting on Sept. 6 kicked off with Mayor Jack Horton recognizing Public Works for its role during recent waterline breaches within the city. Public Works Director Bill Deal and employees Jeff Alexander and Chris Green were each thanked by Mayor Horton on behalf of the council. Further agenda recognitions included introduction of Code Enforcement Officer Frank Belanger by Town Planner Justin Setser as well as Life Saving Awards presented by Franklin Police Department (FPD) Captain of Field Operations Devin Holland.

Capt. Holland explained the circumstances surrounding the life-saving incident.

“On Friday, Aug. 19, 2022, Melissa Maner was traveling south on U.S. Highway 23 bypass in Franklin. ... She went airborne between two bridges and landed on U.S. Highway 64 (Highlands Road) underneath the bridges. Maner’s vehicle then caught fire, at which time Alan Cochran with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and Jeremy Reed of Clayton, Ga., pulled Maner from the fiery vehicle.”

Cochran and Reed were also presented a FPD challenge coin for their heroic efforts that day. The accident victim was present at the meeting and tearfully thanked both recipients for their “bravery.”

Two proclamations included Constitution Week and Day

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FHS Panthers lose rainy season opener

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# COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

of Service and Remembrance for 9/11. Mayor Horton read the Constitution Proclamation in the presence of Mary Victoria W. Baker, Regent, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), Battle of Sugartown Chapter. The proclamation states, "September 19 2022 marks the two hundred thirty-fifth (235) anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Con-



Mayor Jack Horton thanked the Public Works Department for efficient efforts regarding recent incidents; representing the department (from left) was Jeff Alexander, Chris Green, and Director Bill Deal.

stitutional Convention," and that "... all citizens are encouraged to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained ..."

The other proclamation, which was not an agenda item, was presented by Mayor Horton in the presence of Chief of Police Bill Harrell and Fire Chief Ben Ormond. Sunday, Sept. 11, has been declared a day of service and remembrance in honor of those lost during the events of Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.

The council heard two presentations, one by Marianne Martinez, executive director of Vecinos and Russ Harris, executive director, Southwestern Commission. Martinez delivered a summary of Vecinos, a nonprofit organization

focusing on medical care on behalf of Macon County low income residents, most of whom are farm workers. Harris delivered an Affordable Housing Report which included area growth statistics, population demographics, and a study based on 2020-2025 projected housing needs. The report indicated that an influx of younger people, 30-39 years old, are moving into Macon County and affordable housing is needed to accommodate the changing demographics. The report found that based on national statistics, if someone is spending more than 30% of their income for housing and utilities, housing is not affordable. Anyone who is making under \$46,000 a year may not be able to afford housing in the area, explained Harris. The report listed occupations averaging under \$46,000 a year as teachers, police officers, food service employees, and more.

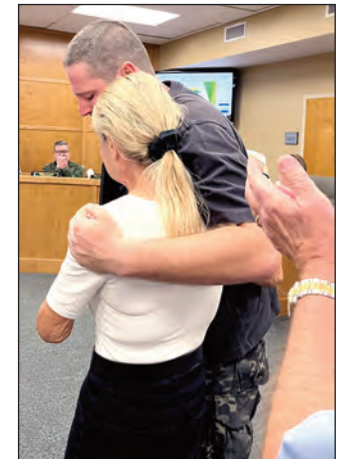
The Consent Agenda was approved and the public speakers session included Dave Linn, who thanked the Council for their support of '80s Flashback Weekend, which raised \$20,000 for Shriners and will benefit 115 children. Also speaking was Beverly Butcher, who presented climate change concerns.

### New Business

In new business, two Franklin residents, who reside on the dead-end section of Riverview Heights Street, requested a speed limit reduction from 25 to 15 miles per hour for their street, which includes six homes and where speeding has been an issue. Franklin Town Attorney John Henning recommended the council issue an official ordinance directing the speed limit reduction if approved. Additionally, Mayor Horton offered for the Council to consider alternate steps in the event a speed limit reduction does not adequately address



Jeremy Reed and Allen Cochran were recognized by Franklin Police Department Captain of Field Operations Devin Holland for their efforts in saving Melissa Maner from a burning vehicle.



Melissa Maner thanked Jeremy Reed and Allen Cochran for saving her from her burning vehicle during an Aug. 19 accident.

residents' concerns.

Three street closure requests were approved; they include: Nikwasi Lane for Trail of Tears National Conference, Sept. 20; Iotla Street for a concert at the Gazebo, Oct. 8; and a portion of Carolina Mountain Drive for a Sk828 fundraiser at Altered Frequencies on Oct. 29.

In a closed session, the council discussed a parcel of land that is adjacent to an existing town-owned property that has become available and would allow for improved sewer line access. The council discussed the necessity to access utilities and potential for future greenway connectivity with this purchase. Council Member Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper, to approve purchase of a parcel of land, approximately 14 acres, from Mainspring Conservation Trust for a price of \$22,000. This purchase will provide access to Franklin sewer lines and authorize Town Manager Amie Owens to execute the contract contingent upon the approval by the Mainspring Conservation Trust's board. The motion was approved.

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 3.

The Never Forget 5K and Lil' Engine That Could Fun Run/Walk will be Saturday, Sept. 10. Build a Scarecrow at the Gazebo, sponsored by the Streets of Franklin Heritage Association, will be held Sunday, Sept. 11.

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## Good Neighbor Clinic this weekend

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

The first annual Good Neighbor Clinic (GNC), planned for Sept. 10-11, is expected to meet the needs of upwards of 400 people. On Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and then from 1-3 p.m., at the Robert C. Carpenter Building (Macon County Community Building) 1288 Georgia Road in Franklin is an opportunity for uninsured, underinsured, and underserved individuals to receive and/or inquire about free services, such as hair cutting and dental care. A food pantry and an NC Works jobs' booth will be onsite. Habitat for Humanity will provide an opportunity to apply for free home repairs, while the Macon County Sheriff's Department will present child car seat resources and more.

Good Neighbor Clinic director David Benjamin Graham, who is the Community Services Carolina Conference Director for Seventh Day Adventists, serving North and South Carolina, explained that the pandemic slowed down plans a year ago to offer the GNC. However, multiple professional "partners" have come together to provide various services, and corporate and private grants were secured to assist financially so that the event's resources are free.

"The GNC seeks to provide resources to aid people in breaking the poverty cycle through spiritual, emotional, and tangible

means," pointed out Graham. "Our mission statement is to meet the healthcare needs and other needs of the underserved in Macon and surrounding counties. We expect skepticism. People will say, 'Is it really free?' It certainly is. We just want to help people."

Inspiration for GNC came from the Smoky Mountains Veteran Stand Down, which occurred Aug. 25 this year; this event also provides various free services and information – but for veterans only.

"The GNC will help veterans as well as the general community," said Graham. Although hearing services were advertised, they may not be offered this weekend due to complications with the provider volunteers. However, Graham expects many people will come to GNC because of the dental services.

"We have dentists who will be on hand to alleviate immediate suffering as well as other issues. Many people are concerned about the cost of dental care, but the GNC provides an opportunity for dental assessments and basic treatments. Anyone who needs additional dental care will be able to make an appointment and be seen in a dentist's office by a dentist.

The Good Neighbor Clinic is a Christian ministry of the Franklin Church of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For more information, visit: <http://www.goodneighborclinics.org>.

## GREAT grants to connect 2,700 households, businesses in Macon County to high speed internet

Governor Roy Cooper announced recently that nearly 85,000 households and more than 2,400 businesses in 69 counties across North Carolina are set to receive access to high-speed internet thanks to more than \$206 million of Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grants. This is the state's largest round of GREAT grant awards to date. With this announcement, over \$260 million in GREAT grants have been awarded to providers since July 2022. Additional grants are expected to be announced this fall.

"The Broadband money is being distributed to providers currently and more money is available but the providers need to apply," said Senator Kevin Corbin. "Contact your provider and ask for an update and remind them to apply. You may call the North Carolina Broadband Office to obtain specific information on which providers have applied and where they are located. Money is being provided to all Western North Carolina counties."

In Macon County, the \$3.7 million grant to Frontier Communications will connect 2,700 households and businesses and will require a \$665,000 match.

The N.C. Department of Information Technology's (NCDIT) Broadband Infrastructure Office, part of the Division of Broadband and Digital Equity, awarded GREAT grants to expand broadband infrastructure to the following internet service providers in WNC:

- Buncombe County: Frontier Communications of The Carolinas (Frontier)
- Cherokee County: Blue Ridge Mountain EMC (Blue Ridge Mountain EMC)
- Graham County: Zitel LLC
- Haywood County: Spectrum Southeast, LLC (Charter Communications dba Spectrum)
- Henderson County: Cebridge Acquisition, LP (Optimum)
- Jackson County: Spectrum Southeast, LLC (Charter Communications dba Spectrum)
- Macon County: Frontier Communications of The Carolinas (Frontier)

• Swain County: Zito West Holding, LLC (Zito Media)

According to the N.C. Office of Digital Infrastructure once the final grant agreements are signed in about a month, contractors will have two years to deliver the projects.

"High-speed internet access is critical for people to work, learn, access telehealth and connect with one another," said Governor Cooper. "Thanks to this significant GREAT grant award funding, many more North Carolina families and small business owners will have the tools they need to succeed in today's digital world."

As part of the application process, Senator Kevin Corbin and Rep. Karl Gillespie, and other leaders in WNC provided letters of recommendation in support of specific projects to improve internet for rural areas of the state.

"I wrote a letter of recommendation for Zito West Holding to be granted this \$3.9 million with a required \$702,000 match," said Corbin. "All the counties in my district are set to receive grants with applications in and being processed."

Clay County was awarded a GREAT grant as part of the application process last month.

For Swain County, the \$3.9 million GREAT grant will connect 1,619 households and businesses. Jackson County service provider Spectrum Southeast was awarded a \$3.8 million grant to connect 1,156 households and requires a \$674,000 match.

The GREAT grant program provides matching grants to internet service providers and electric membership cooperatives that may partner with individual counties to compete for funding to expand high-speed internet service to unserved and underserved areas of the state. The GREAT grant awards are in addition to the \$23.4 million awarded on July 18 and the \$30.8 million awarded on August 1 of the \$350 million total funding for this round.

*Brittney Lofthouse contributed to this article.*

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# Community invited to sneak preview of new Angel Medical Center

**Clint Kendall – CNO/CEO  
Angel Medical Center**

It has been quite the journey for everyone here at Angel Medical Center (AMC). What started as an ambitious vision for the future of healthcare in Franklin and Macon County in 2018 has culminated into a beautiful, state-of-the-art healthcare facility at 124 One Center Court.

The time we've been waiting for impatiently has finally arrived. Every Angel Medical Center team member is excited to be able to share what our new hospital looks like. We're able to do just that by offering a series of behind-the-scenes tours at our Open House event, scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 13, from 1 to 7 p.m.

Touring our hospital is a great way to show pride in our community and support the incredible folks who have served the community tirelessly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic two-and-a-half years ago. The Angel Medical Center team is proud of their new home — and how that translates into even better patient care.

During the Open House, tours will be led by hospital staff, and visitors will get to see all the areas of the new hospital — even those that non-hospital staff wouldn't usually be allowed in, so get ready to ignore those "Authorized Personnel" signs with your tour guide!

Visitors won't just see an impressively designed new facility with sparkling finishes and the latest in medical technology, however. Making the trip to our Open House event will en-

able community members to realize yet again that Angel Medical Center is still our community hospital, filled with dedicated and compassionate providers and staff. Their goal is to provide the best care to patients and offer support in many different ways to their families, whether that means updating someone about their spouse's condition or providing a space where a visitor can enjoy a comforting meal.



Though the services we will offer are the same as those we provided in our previous facility, they will be enhanced by improved technology and a physical space that is spacious and beautifully updated.

One of the most exciting features of the tour will be our upgraded Emergency Department. Its enhancements will allow us to treat patients whose needs are more medically complex. Visitors will also get the rare chance to see and hear how we

keep our community safe through a sophisticated emergency preparedness plan.

Another exciting area included in the tour is our Radiology department, which is equipped with new MRI, CT, nuclear medicine, X-Ray, ultrasound, and 3D mammography machines. If healthcare is less your thing and you prefer to see how things work, we have building automation systems and super-efficient chillers and boilers that utilize technology to ensure we are able to maintain a safe environment.

Come on out on Sept. 13 to show your support for Franklin's hospital. We are all here to serve and care for you, ensuring that the most advanced healthcare is right in your backyard.

I would also like to take a moment to introduce you to Cara Smith RN, BSN, our newest leadership team member. She will be helping the clinical team as the Director of Clinical Operations. Her responsibilities will be focused on providing excellent care to every patient, every time.

Cara is from Franklin and comes from a family of caregivers and nurses. She received her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Bob Jones University. Cara lives here and is supported by her husband and two daughters.

The gifts of a gleaming new hospital and team members like Cara should make all of us grateful. I hope to see you at our Open House so we can celebrate our community and the dramatic advancements that the new AMC will fuel.

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



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# Believer Archery offers challenges, activities for all skill levels

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

When area archery clubs waned or disappeared, Beau Bishop and his father, Dennis Bishop, decided to found Believer Archery, a Scholastic 3D Archery (S3DA) organization. At events such as last weekend's Realistic 3D tournament, archers of all levels and ages sign up to try their skill at hitting 25 3D targets that resemble various animals. S3DA is similar to



S3DA involves participants walking from station to station to shoot targets – foam animals – in order to score points.

golf in that participants walk from station to station and shoot targets – foam animals – to score points.

“These targets are set to present a physically, mentally, and spiritually challenging course. In fact, we host a shoot about once a month from about January through September,” Beau Bishop explained.

Believer Archery was started three years ago as both a Christian ministry and an activity that can earn participating students scholarship opportunities typically available to traditional athletes, such as football players or cross country runners, but seldom accessible for archers.

Believer Archery shoots involve various activities including opportunities to swap, trade, and sell hunting, fishing, or archery gear as well as raffles.

“I’ve been involved in archery for about 15 years,” said Beau. “I began competing on a national level and determined there are programs out there to get kids involved. S3DA is a national program that offers students starting at eight years old a chance to accumulate scholarships. A few have gotten full rides through Believer Archery in the past few years.”

Beau learned archery from his father.

“He got me into it when I was

little, and I began to hunt deer with a compound bow.”

Beau pointed out that Believer Archery is as much about sportsmanship and skill as it is about hearing and sharing the gospel of Jesus.

“Sometimes before our events, a local pastor will give a message and offer a prayer. Whatever the Lord lays on our hearts is what we share with others.”

He added, “Our main goal is to spread the gospel and we do something we love through this sport. With the shoots, we have a printed gospel presentation out on the course.”

Beau has competed on the national level through the Archery Shooters Association and has achieved up to 45 yards in competitions. He placed third nationally this year as Shooter of the Year.

“The biggest benefit of archery is the camaraderie and fellowship,” pointed out Beau. “We go to events and we might be with 2,000 other shooters. Great people. They help and encourage one another. It’s like a big family. I’ve even met shooters from other countries.”

Money raised during Believer Archery events goes to purchasing food, targets, and other supplies for the club. Plus, donations are



Believer Archery provides an opportunity for archers of all skill levels and ages to enjoy the sport as well as compete in other activities.

made to local charities, such as Baptist Children’s Home.

“Many local families have become involved in Believer Archery, and we’ve had people come from surrounding counties and states to participate in our events,” said Beau. “It’s the only club of its kind in this area.”

More information on Believer Archery is available on its social media sites or by emailing [believerarchery@yahoo.com](mailto:believerarchery@yahoo.com).

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# Project Leader Workshop for Operation Christmas Child this Saturday at Holly Springs Baptist Church

Hundreds of locally led volunteer teams are scheduled to host more than 500 events across the nation during the second weekend in September for Operation Christmas Child, a global project of Samaritan's Purse that shares the true meaning of Christmas with children in need around the world.

Western North Carolina volunteers are gathering at Holly Springs Baptist Church in Franklin (366 Holly Springs Church Road) for our Annual Project Leader Workshop on Saturday, September 10, from 11 am to 2 pm.

Workshop is to support and connect volunteers with those who are leading their families, community groups, and churches to pack gift-filled shoebox gifts. This is a free event that is open to anyone wishing to help encourage their church, business, or community group

promote their community efforts to pack shoeboxes with school supplies, hygiene items, and fun toys which will contribute to the project's global goal of reaching more than 11 million children in Jesus' name. You can register or direct questions to June Trull, at email: [jtrull.occ2017@hotmail.com](mailto:jtrull.occ2017@hotmail.com); however registration is not required to attend.

Light lunch will be served.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child, visit [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ). Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination. Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse [samaritanspurse.org/buildonline](http://samaritanspurse.org/buildonline) to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement. Boxes built online go to hard-to-reach countries.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 198 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. This year, Operation Christmas Child will collect its 200-millionth shoebox!



**Project Leader Workshop 2022**  
**Saturday, September 10th—11 am-2 pm**  
**Holly Springs Baptist Church—Franklin, NC**  
**366 Holly Springs Church Road, Building B, Chapel**  
**Free Event—Open to the Public**

# School consolidaton topic of lecture series

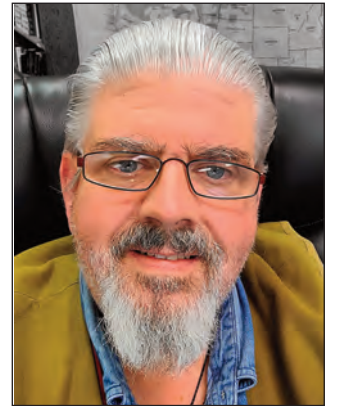
On Monday, Sept. 19, the lecture series Where We Live: History, Nature, and Culture will present a program on "The Consolidation of Macon County Schools from 1920 to 1950 – the Costs and Benefits of a Progressive Philosophy in Public Education."

John deVile will speak about this movement that transformed rural community schools.

Macon County had approximately 59 schools in 1925 and currently has 11 schools operating in 2022. How and why did that happen and what were the reasons for school consolidation in Macon County, across the state, across the nation? What were the political philosophies guiding that transition? What was the nature of the frequently hot debate over consolidation? What were the costs and benefits of school consolidation to students and our communities? And finally, what ripples were set in motion which still impact public education in 2022?

John deVile is a Macon County native, a product of Macon County Schools, a son of a Macon County public school teacher, and has taught American History, Government, and Philosophy at Franklin High School since 1996. He holds a BA in philosophy from UNC Chapel Hill and a BS in social science education from Western Carolina University. He advocates for education in the region and state. He has taught free online classes to adults in the areas of U.S. history and philosophy since 2019.

The program will be held at the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center at 51 Cowee School Drive in Franklin, beginning at 6:30 p.m.



John deVile



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# FHS Panthers lose rainy home opener against Swain

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

After two wins on the road to start the season, Franklin High School (FHS) lost its first home game in overtime to the Swain County High School (SCHS) Maroon Devils last Friday in the Panther Pit. While steady rain was not forecasted, nearly the entire second half was played in a downpour. In addition to the challenging conditions, FHS lost its star tailback/linebacker Ty Handley (#15) before halftime to a nagging shoulder injury.

With Handley out, backs Daniel Ensley (#3) and Brayden Watts (#14) did their best to help secure another win for the Panthers. However, with the adverse playing conditions came turnovers - four total; two for FHS and two for SCHS.

After back and forth action in the first quarter that included a fumble committed by each team, plus a turnover on downs by the Maroon Devils, FHS had SCHS at 4th and 18 to start the second quarter after a sack on third down by Ensley. Instead of punting, Swain went for it and quarterback Gabe Lillard connected with running back Joshua Collins for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead. FHS was fortunate at half time to only be down one score as SCHS began every first half possession in Panther territory.

At 9:02 in the third quarter, FHS finally broke through and tied the game on a 10-yard touchdown run by Watts and extra point by kicker Daniel Riddle (#17). That would be the last scoring in regulation due to rain and good defense

played by both teams. Overtime started with FHS having first possession at the 10-yard line, going in. After three downs the team had to settle for a field goal from Riddle for a brief 10-7 lead. On SCHS's first play, a sweep around the right side resulted in a touchdown and six points for a final score of 13-10, Maroon Devils.

FHS Head Coach Josh Brooks pointed out that, "we missed some major opportunities on offense." The Panthers had some short field opportunities in the second half of the game but prior to the overtime field goal were unable to score. Coach Brooks expressed disappointment in Handley's ongoing shoulder woes but also said, "we have to do our part to make sure he is 100 percent healthy before he returns."



Brayden Watts scores from 10 yards out for the Franklin Panthers in the third quarter. Daniel Riddle kicked for the extra point tying the game at 7-7.

With a week off before playing their next game, which is on the road, Brooks expressed hope that the team will not only be healthy but will also take something positive away from a tough loss.

According to the head coach, "...the old say-

ing is you will get a lot better after your first loss. I'll look forward to seeing how our team responds."

Franklin's next game is September 16, at East Henderson High School (Eagles), which stands at 1-2 for the season.



Players take the field for first home game of the season.



Excitement was high for the Panthers first home game as the FHS cheerleaders welcomed the players on the field.



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Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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## The Legislative Review

Rep. Karl E. Gillespie



Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

The reconvening of long session begins in January 2023. Until that time, The Legislative Review will continue highlighting key aspects of North Carolina's budget as well as significant legislation passed during the biennium. This week's legislative newsletter will focus on the topic of justice and public safety.

### Justice and Public Safety highlights in state budget

- Total \$3.4 billion for Justice and Public Safety in FY
- Court Positions: Creates and funds the costs (\$12.0 million recurring/\$225,000 nonrecurring) associated with 158 new positions across the Judicial Branch to address workload deficiencies. The new positions consist of 83 Deputy Clerks, 10 Assistant Clerks, 38 Judicial Support Staff, 13 Magistrates, 11 Assistant District Attorneys, two Assistant Public Defenders, and one Administrative Assistant.

- Crime Lab Positions: The Act creates and funds the costs (\$428,000 recurring) associated with four additional Crime Lab Scientist positions in the Department of Justice, in addition to the eight provided in the 2021 Appropriations Act, for a net of 12 new scientist positions at the State Crime Lab for the biennium.

- Juvenile Facilities: The 2017 Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (Raise the Age) expanded the scope of juvenile jurisdiction, thereby increasing the number of juveniles served in detention and youth development centers. The 2022 Appropriations Act provides for 83 FTE to staff and operate the 60-bed Rockingham Youth Development Center and 39 FTE to staff and operate the 24-bed Perquimans Detention Center. Total funding for these juvenile facilities is \$5.7 million.

- \$1.9 million for specialized mental health and reentry Probation and Parole Officers. The 19 FTE will support the needs of offenders on community supervision with persistent mental health and substance abuse issues and facilitate access to services and programs that support successful reentry.

- \$4.5 million to the State Highway Patrol to replace outdated and out-of-warranty tasers and related equipment.

- \$2 million to State Bureau of Investigation for equipment and information technology needs.

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### The challenges for America's future continue

Every American should be troubled, attentive and very concerned about the mishandling of classified documents by the former president discovered by the FBI during their lawful investigation at Trump's resort in Florida. Politics aside, the slow but steady erosion of respect for state secrets and the uneven prosecution of those who willfully violate long-standing laws governing security of classified material; in particular, the coddling of the powerful and the harsh punishment of subordinates creates the inevitable extension of our seriously broken system.

In 2003, on two separate occasions, Samuel (Sandy) Berger entered the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and stole sensitive government documents, stuffing them into his socks and pants.

Two years later, after he left his job as President Bill Clinton's national security advisor, Berger pleaded guilty to the theft. He was fined \$50,000, sentenced to three years probation, 100 hours of community service and denied a government security clearance for three years.

In 2016, a U.S. Navy sailor pleaded guilty to unauthorized use of sensitive information for taking selfies inside a nuclear submarine. The sailor, Kristian Saucier, was sentenced to one year in prison, then home confinement with an ankle bracelet and three years of supervision.

The Berger and Navy sailor examples were violations of the laws forbidding the possession or illegal use of security secrets. In Berger's case, he was preparing for congressional testimony. In the sailor's case, he was excited to be on a nuclear submarine and forgot his duty.

In January 2021, just hours before Joe Biden was sworn in as president, Donald Trump shipped a dozen boxes of classified government documents to Mar-a-Lago. These boxes were then stored in an unsecured basement room allowing Trump aides to access them freely (it's on videotape). These documents were clearly labeled "Top Secret" (among other terms) some so sensitive that protocols require them to be read, but not removed from, secure locations like the White House Situation Room.

In their search, the FBI listed documents relating to national security, the President of France, even nuclear matters. Obviously there is no legitimate reason to have this kind of material in one's home.

Donald Trump has always considered himself to be above the law and apparently thought he could take what ever he wanted after he lost the election, lie to the FBI about it, and not be held accountable. The reality is, the truth is, American citizens have gone to prison for a lot he former president is renown for his absolute disregard for the rules of law but this inconvenient fact seems to bother his disciples, including the majority of the Republican Party, not at all. That does not speak well for the men and women who have made a clear and purposeful choice to violate their oath of office,

emulating a man who willfully placed this nation (the nation he too was sworn to protect) in extreme danger.

The battle for the soul of the Republican Party is over. The challenges that will determine America's future, from this point on, continue unremittably. Trump proved beyond all reasonable doubt how ill-prepared America's institutions were to deal with an unapologetic authoritarian who, throughout his entire adult life, has believed rules that apply to the rest of us do not pertain to him.

We must not, for any reason or perceived circumstance, out of fear, allow the Republican Party (or anyone) to normalize his criminality.

David Snell - Franklin, N.C.

### Thanks for being honest

I humbly and gratefully thank the honest man who found my card and returned it to my bank. What a special way to help someone with no reward sought.

Merrilee Bordeaux - 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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### Liberal policies systematically destroying our nation

Did you realize that on Jan. 6, 2021:(1) Gas was \$1.93 a gallon, (2) there was no inflation, (3) no supply chain interruptions, (4) the economy was strong (5) the border was secure and controlled, (6) the Taliban was not armed with U.S. Artillery (7) there was no lack of laborers to fill labor needs (8) the stock market was performing at a record high (9) interest rates were at a record low and (10) We, as a nation, were energy independent. This was the State of the Union left to Joe Biden.

Today, we have sky rocketing gas and food prices, supply shortages, a questionable economy, labor shortages, and we are begging for oil from enemy nations. What is wrong with this picture? The answer? The Democratic party, overtaken by extremists, is systematically destroying us as a nation.

Let's just focus on one of the issues that has developed and escalated during the last 19 months: the unsecured southern border.

1. Five million undocumented, illegal immigrants (not counting those who sneaked in) have entered our country since Biden took office. These are people who need food, shelter, transportation, and medical care. They are here illegally, but need and get all these services. Who do you think is paying for it? Our tax dollars are. Now I am all for helping the poor but I am not for encouraging them to invade our borders illegally. While many Americans are facing homelessness without any help, and our veterans denied some needed benefits, our government is providing all these needs to those who have broken the law.

2. Our border cities are being overwhelmed while Washington just sits by and refuses to enforce immigration law.

3. Among those entering are terrorists (there is a list of them that are known to be in our country at the present time) and drug lords from Mexico and criminals.

4. Border Patrol has made 1.82 million arrests at the Southern border in the last 10 months according to the federal government's own stats. This shows just a hint how many criminals are among those pouring in.

5. In July alone, 2,100 pounds of fentanyl made it's way into our country. fentanyl is just a little pill, so calculate that into 2,100 pounds, just in July. This is an increase of 200% over last year.

6. So far this year, again, according to federal government: 18,000 pounds of cocaine has been seized, 138,000 pounds of methamphetamine, and 1,300 pounds of heroin, all making its way into our country. Thousands of Americans are dying because of fentanyl alone and many others are becoming addicted to drugs, and when the drugs reach the cities, gangs are fighting each other and law enforcement for control of the drug traffic and committing violent crimes in the process. An example: Recently a 13-year-old boy in Colorado was given fentanyl and he died. It's that dangerous and that available.

7. President Biden refuses to continue to build a wall at the border BUT \$500,000 of taxpayer money is being spent to build a wall around his own beachfront property! President Biden refuses to enforce our immigration laws.

So, while Biden has not only done nothing to benefit our

country, he is directly causing the problems and chaos that is happening around us. Before Biden, we were energy independent. Now we are paying our enemies to produce more oil! Shutting down the pipeline and making it harder to produce American oil from day one, Biden's actions are directly related to the problems we face now. I don't need to spell out how inflation is causing so much harm to working Americans. Half the country is living paycheck to paycheck as it is. If any of them lose their job, they are out on the street.

Look at our economy. Businesses are finding it hard to get help; you can see all the help wanted signs around town. But Biden continues to pay people to sit at home and be supported by the federal government.

Liberal prosecutors refuse to prosecute crime so people are no longer safe in the cities. Criminals are let go without bond on a regular basis. There are multiple cases of repeat offenders committing felonies and being released without bond. Poor black people in drug infested inner cities are being murdered on a regular basis and their liberal mayors are doing nothing to stop it. Chicago is a prime example. But any big city run by a liberal faces the same escalating crime rate.

There are different theories as to why all this is being allowed to happen. Some believe it is the next step to converting our country into a socialist state and allowing the federal government to take over. Some believe these liberals simply believe in their socialist and communist philosophy of big government and control over every aspect of our lives. Whatever it may be, it is literally tearing our country apart, destroying our ethics and laws, eroding our freedoms and brainwashing our youth.

Newt Gingrich pointed out that we cannot just defeat candidates, we must defeat ideas. The Democratic party has been overtaken by the extreme left and they believe in overturning our Democracy. The only answer is to defeat them in the midterm elections so we can try to put a halt to the damage already done. That in itself will be an overwhelming challenge.

Right now there are two dangerous trends happening. 1) Massive big government spending (bankrupting our country) to obscure these realities we are experiencing now. Free money tends to sedate the senses. (2) And, with the invasion of the FBI on Trump property, the media is sure to spin all kinds of tales daily, (based on "anonymous sources") to keep the focus on Trump and off the real issues we face and somehow convince us that we can trust the federal government. Please do not be fooled.

The Democratic Party, having been hijacked by the extremists, has betrayed working Americans. Anyone who votes Democratic in November is saying a big YES to: Completely open borders, increasing inflation, ongoing recession, anarchy and the resulting chaos, socialism, brainwashing our youth and putting the seal on the loss of our personal freedoms. We don't get another chance after this because Biden will have two more years to complete the destruction.

So please make up your mind to go to the polls in November and vote conservative to put a halt to this madness. This is indeed our last chance to save what little is left of the free America we have known, and such a democracy as we have had will never exist again if we don't fight NOW to keep it.

Please do your part and vote Conservative! And pray that Almighty God will have mercy on us.

Loretta Hastings - Franklin, N.C.

**What's on your mind?**  
Email Letters to the Editor to  
maconcountynews@gmail.com

## GILLESPIE

Continued from page 10

- \$2 million to extend and expand the Public Safety Broadband Network.
- \$2 million for Cyber Security and Risk Management, as well as \$550,000 for the state match for federal cybersecurity grants.

### Substantial Justice and Public Safety Legislation

Increase penalties for organized retail theft and "smash-and-grab" robberies (SB 766) -Senate Bill 766 increases the punishment for organized retail crimes and adds additional penalties for property damage and assaults committed during a theft.

Clarify rape victims cannot be billed for exams (HB 674) - House Bill 674 prevents sexual assault victims from being charged for forensic exams and requires those convicted of domestic violence and assault to be added to the state's DNA database.

Increase penalties for arson and fires that injure first responders (HB 315) - House Bill 315 increases the punishment for arson offenses, adds additional penalty for injuring a first responder, and strengthens criminal history background checks of applicants to fire departments.

Strengthen domestic violence protective orders (Jordan's Law/HB 615) - House Bill 615 allows judges to renew a domestic violence protective order to fill the gap in time between an order's expiration and an upcoming court hearing.

### Literacy gains in early grades

North Carolina's education department says early-grade students made marked improvements in reading and literacy skills during the last school year. The gains came during the first full school year of a new initiative contained within a 2021 state law designed to improve reading proficiency.

### Did You Know?

The North Carolina State Flag displays two dates. May 20, 1775, is the date thought to have been the time of the issuance of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. This document made a bold statement in favor of independence for the colonies. It stated that English laws were no longer in effect in Mecklenburg County.

April 12, 1776, is the date of the Halifax Resolves. In this document, North Carolina authorized its delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence from England. These dates celebrate the fact that North Carolina was one of the first colonies to encourage independence from England, well before the famous date of July 4, 1776.





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# Shoppers come out for Fall Market Day

The rain didn't stop dedicated bargain shoppers from hitting the downtown area for Fall Market Day on Saturday. Vendors and merchants were on hand to welcome visitors making the most out of the soggy weather. Photos by Betsey Gooder



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## Pickin' on the Square

Pickin' on the Square is held every other Saturday night at the gazebo in downtown Franklin. Last Saturday, the town hosted Intermission from Alabama. The next Pickin' will be Sept. 17 and will feature fan favorite Paradise 56. Photos by Betsey Gooder



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Election 2018

# Arrest Report

*The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests August 20 - September 4. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



## **Macon County Sheriff's Department**

### **August 26**

Justin Messer, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

### **August 29**

Robert Michael Phillips, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, communicating threats and assault with a deadly weapon with minor present. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

### **August 30**

Bonnie Rung, was charged with second degree trespass. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Jamie Bell, was charged with violating domestic violence protective order violation. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

### **August 31**

Nicholia Lamb, was charged with failure to appear. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

Jaric Thomas Keener, was charged with assault on a female. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

### **September 1**

Doyle Dooger Ramirez, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Madeleine Marie Taylor, was charged with contempt of court. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Howard Lee Dorton, was charged with assault on a female. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

### **September 2**

Elijah Todd Lam, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

### **September 4**

Nathan Roy White, was charged with warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

## **Franklin Police Department**

### **August 20**

Marcus Tyler Stamey, was charged with driving while impaired. J.A. Riles made the arrest.

Jamie Patrick Oneal, was charged with trafficking a schedule I controlled substance by possession, trafficking a schedule I controlled substance by transportation, maintaining a vehicle for use/sale/keeping a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance on jail premises, alter criminal evidence, possession of drug paraphernalia, fail to yield light/siren and driving while license revoked. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

### **August 21**

Juan Manuel Gonzalez-Arvizu, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver marijuana, maintain a vehicle for use/sale/keeping of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. R. S. Dula made the arrest.

Casey Wayne Mckeehan, was charged with trafficking methamphetamine, maintaining a vehicle for use/sale/keeping of a controlled substance, possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine/possession of drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

### **August 25**

Robert Drew Houston, was charged with first degree trespass enter/remain. G.D. Hovis made the arrest.

### **August 29**

Henry Stacey Phillips, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

### **August 30**

Issac John Carrion, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

### **September 1**

Michael Anthony Lalka, 38, of Live Oak Dr., was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny and break or enter a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set.

## **Jackson County Sheriff's Department**

### **August 19**

John Roy Russell, 46, of Three Cabin Rd., Bryson City, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Charles Michael Nash, 34, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was issued a true bill of indictment for felony larceny. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

### **August 20**

Melissa Ann Starchild, 66, of Bear Ridge Rd., Tuckasegee, was charged with felony possession of marijuana. No bond was set.

### **August 22**

Mathew Paul Leonard, 42, of Cornflower Lane, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of stolen goods/property and attempted larceny. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

### **August 23**

Obed Rueda Valentin, 26, of Charles St., Kings Mountain, was charged with assault inflicting serious injury. No bond was set.

James Colby McCoslin, 39, of Oak Hill Dr., was charged with misdemeanor child abuse and breaking and entering non-forcible. No bond was set.

Ronnie Lee Queen, 43, of Keepsake Lane, Whittier, was charged with intimidating witness. No bond was set.

### **August 24**

Heather Nicole Moose, 32, of Gardina Lane, was charged with failure to appear for school attendance law violation. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

### **August 25**

Carl Logan Luker, 41, of Luker Branch Rd., Tuckasegee, was charged with failure to appear for felony probation violation for out of county, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Cletus James Herron, 51, of Ela Rd., Whittier, was charged with carrying a concealed weapon and assault by pointing a gun. No bond was set.

### **August 26**

Clinton Alexander Obrien, 40, of Tarragon Dr., Cashiers, was charged with warrant services for other jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$1,200 was set.

### **August 28**

Mike Alexander Green, 42, of Peppermill Lane, Was charged with attempted break or enter a building and second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Stacey Cameron Hoyle Lowe, 30, of Leatherwood Rd., was charged with failure to appear for trespassing. A secured bond of \$6,500 was set.

John Dustin Stanley, 40, of Shady Rest, Cashiers, was charged with communicating threats and breaking and entering. No bond was set.

Tammy Lynn Cucumber, 48, of Catolster Johnson Rd., Cherokee, was charged with resisting a public officer and driving while impaired. No bond was set.

### **August 29**

Angela Marie Wiggins, 46, of Boot Hill, Whittier, was charged with child support purge. A secured bond of \$369.59 was set.

### **August 30**

David Charles Robert, 42, of Jim Sellers Rd., was charged with assault causing serious bodily injury. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Raven Cordell Cabe, 22, of Billy Cove Rd., was charged with sexual battery and assault on a female. No bond was set.

### **August 31**

Jamie Lynn Reynosa, 40, of Snowdrift Lane, was charged with contributing to the delinquency of minor, resisting a public officer, failure to heed lights and siren and assault on a government official/employee. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Caleb Wesley Scott, 19, of Chapman Dr., Asheville, was charged with failure to appear for injury to personal property. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

William Joseph Conner, 31, of River Park, was charged with larceny after breaking or entering and breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Susan Murphy Rice, 53, of Heady Mountain Rd., Cashiers, was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. An unsecured bond was set.

### **September 1**

David Sancheze Mills, 43, of Sylva, was charged with true bill of indictment, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises and felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$155,000 was set.

William Kenneth Drasdo, 42, of Craft Circle, Dillsboro, was charged with resist/delay/obstruct and first degree trespass. No bond was set.

### **September 2**

Michael Brandon Curd, 38, of Middle Ridge Rd., was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

George Arthur Pohl, 40, of Trout Creek, Glenville, was charged with fugitive warrant for identity theft, drive/allow motor vehicle with no registration, reckless driving to endanger, resisting a public officer and flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Ryan Keith Watty, 27, of Hallie Manor Ct., was charged with failure to appear for violation of a court order, traffic offense and possession of a stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$500 was set.



A&E BRIEFS

Community Chorus begins rehearsals

The Western Carolina Community Chorus will hold its first rehearsal on Sunday, September 18 at 3 pm in Room 357 of the Coulter Building on the WCU campus. They will be preparing Handel's MESSIAH, complete with orchestra and soloists, which will be performed in the Coulter Recital Hall on November 20, 2022. The chorus is under the direction of Dr. Robert Holquist, retired WCU Director of Choral Activities. Lorie Meservey will serve as rehearsal accompanist.

Interested singers, high school and older, are invited to attend the first practice. Any questions may be addressed by emailing Holquist at holquistbstn@aol.com or calling 828 506 5951. "It is especially appropriate that we perform this work for our first effort following the "shutdown" from COVID issues. Dr. Dooley, who formed the chorus in 1970, did this work as the first concert. James passed away in May of 2021," Holquist said.

Support for the ensemble is provided by the NC Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, the Jackson County Arts Council Grassroots Arts Program, and Western Carolina University.

Danita Dodson poetry reading at City Lights

Danita Dodson will visit City Lights Bookstore on Saturday, September 10th at 3 p.m. She will present her poetry collection, Trailing the Azimuth. Her collection guides the readers down various trails through striking imagery, resonant language, and intensity of vision. Linked by allusions to the "azimuth," the poems in this collection represent the search for direction in a world that is complex and uncertain, prompting the journey toward light and more mindfulness of self, others, and God. These lyrical compasses exhibit a multiplicity of style and subject informed by the poet's travels, interest in hiking, and cultural awareness.



Danita Dodson

Danita Dodson is co-editor of Teachers Teaching Nonviolence (2020). Her critical articles have been published in various literary journals. This is her first book of poetry. She holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Southern Mississippi. Combining a love of scholarship and diverse experiences, she has been a Fulbright-Hays fellow in Turkey, a professor in Nicaragua, an amateur archaeologist in the Southwest, and a Spanish teacher in Appalachia. She lives in East Tennessee, where she teaches English and Humanities at Walters State Community College.

To reserve copies of Trailing the Azimuth, call City Lights Bookstore at 828-586-9499.

Local business supports folk festival activities

The Macon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors have not only made a financial investment in their community, but they also give so much more. The 16th Annual Franklin Area Folk Festival was fortunate to receive funds once again from them to help offset costs associated with this year's event, (they have been sponsors for the previous four festivals). The Franklin Area Folk Festival is unique in that its major focus is on heritage demonstrations through the efforts of all the many volunteers who participate to us accomplish this goal.

Macon County Farm Bureau Board Chairman Kenneth McCaskill spent the day showing kids how to use a corn sheller by providing hands-on demonstrations. Aside from setting up the Macon County Farm Bureau's tents loaned for the day as part of the children's area festivities, he was involved along with others in site preparation for this year's event.

In addition to the festival funding, the board of directors



Kenneth McCaskill demonstrates an old fashioned corn sheller.



Farm Bureau donations to the Folk Heritage Association were used to build a "cow" to acquaint children with the mechanics of milking.

also gave an additional \$800 to the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County (FHAMC) to be used for children's heritage-based educational projects. One item funded so far was the milk "cow" crafted by Jenny Collins with help from Franklin High School FFA [Future Farmers of America] and it was a big hit at the festival. Future educational projects on the horizon will be designed to complement activities at 4th Grade Heritage Days and Cowee Christmas, and more. Both FHAMC and the Macon Farm Bureau Board of Directors share in the mission to help keep Macon County's heritage alive through education, demonstration, and preservation. The FHAMC board appreciates not only their financial support but also their willingness to get involved. Visit the website for more information: FolkHeritageAssociation.org or FranklinFolkFestival.com.

Submitted by Theresa Ramsey

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# Porchfest back after testing the waters in 2021

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Last September, the first Porchfest took place in Highlands, and its success prompted organizers to continue offering it this year. The second annual Highlands Porchfest takes place Sunday, Sept. 18, from 1-6 p.m.

Organizing this year's event, which is a compilation of performers and presentations around the Macon County town, is Center For Life Enrichment (CLE), which is a 30-year-established, Highlands-located, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a goal of offering life enrichment opportunities through educational lectures, gardening, art, nature, travel, and music to area residents and visitors.

More than 30 musicians are scheduled to perform on Sept. 18, including nationally recognized performers and



Franklin's own Blue Jazz will play jazz, blues and soul music at The Bascom from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Sunday, Sept. 18 Porchfest in Highlands.

locally known talent. Downtown Highlands' venues hosting performers throughout the afternoon include The Bascom, Midpoint, Founders Park, Playhouse, Highlands Smokehouse, Satulah Brewing, Ugly Dog, High Dive, Presbyterian Church, Town Square, The Wine Shoppe, and Asia House.

Performing musicians include some a couple of groups from Franklin including Blue Jazz and the Mountain Dulcimer group Lady and the Tramps.

The free event is made possible due to the support of Porchfest sponsors and volunteers, listed at [www.highlandsPorchfest.com](http://www.highlandsPorchfest.com). The

website also provides more details about the performers and where and when they will perform. In fact, Fallon Hovis, CLE's executive director, pointed out, "Details are constantly being updated on Highlands Porchfest social media pages and through the website, so anyone interested can 'follow/like' Highlands Porchfest social media pages to stay up to date on details as we release them."



Lady and The Tramps, a Mountain Dulcimer group from Franklin will be performing at Ugly Dog Pub from 1 to 2 p.m.



The audience at Highlands Wine Shoppe listens to guitarist, Chris Kohne at last year's Porchfest. Kohne returns to the wine shoppe again this year and will perform from 4:30 to 6 p.m.



The audience listens to Jerius Duncan (American Idol final contestant) at The Bascom at last year's Porchfest. Duncan will perform at The Highlands Playhouse from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Sunday, Sept. 18 Porchfest in Highlands.

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## Deaths & Funerals

### Thomas (Tommy) Harvey Cabe

Thomas (Tommy) Harvey Cabe, 79, entered the gates of heaven Thursday, Sept. 1, after heart surgery in Asheville, N.C.

He was born Dec. 13, 1942, in Franklin, N.C. He was preceded in death by his parents Harvey and Bonnie Cabe and a sister, Loretta McDonald.

He graduated from Franklin High School, class of 1961, and joined the Navy. He served his country in the Naval Submarine Service on the Lewis & Clark and Tecumseh. He received the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal and was honorably discharged May 18, 1970. He returned to Franklin and became a Registered Land Surveyor. He loved his country and community. He served on the Macon County School Board for 20 years and was a member of the Franklin High Booster Club for many years. Visiting the schools and sharing stories with all the students and staff was a regular occurrence and filled his heart with joy. He was known as "Mr. Tommy" throughout the school system. He loved to travel and see the world. He would be on one trip and scheduling the next. He had just returned from out West and shared with a laugh that he walked all the way to the "Delicate Arch" passing several not even half his age.

Tommy lived life to the fullest and never let illness slow him down. He was filled with strength and courage to handle anything and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by the "Love of his Life," Janice Jordan; three children, Michaelle Runken (Jeff), Mitchell Cabe (Gloria) and MaAron Cabe (Melissa), all of Franklin; two step children, Jeremy Jordan of Atlanta, Ga., and Nick Yuzzi of Franklin; three siblings, Wenona Curtis, Delores Mason of Franklin and John Cabe of Murphy, N.C.; four grandchildren, Elijah Henry, Logan Cabe, Blair Mersereau and Cody Cabe; and six great-grandchildren; Emma, Becca, Fiona, Audrey, Leia and Carolina.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, Sept. 10, at 4 p.m., at the FHS Fine Arts Center. Visitation will be from 3 to 4 p.m. prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to 828 Vet Toys for Tots, 53 E Main St. Ste K Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

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

### Katherine 'Katie' M Kennedy Vann

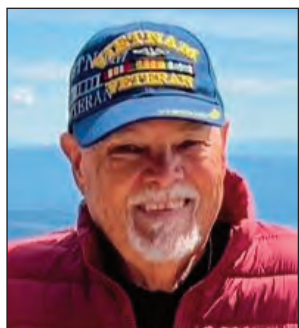
Katherine "Katie" M Kennedy Vann, 41, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022, at the Augusta Burn Center. She was born Jan. 6, 1981, in Fort Riley, Kan.

She was a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church. She was a very loving and caring person. She brought joy and great love to everyone and she never met a stranger.

She is survived by her husband, Troy Vann; a daughter, Nicole Vann; a son, Johnny Bowman; her mother, Loretta Young; and many special loved ones.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, Sept. 11, at 3 p.m., at Zion Hill Baptist Church with Rev. Eddie Stillwell officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family to help with funeral expenses.



Thomas Harvey Cabe



Katherine Vann

### Sandra Jo Feneis Merritt

Sandra Jo Feneis Merritt, 55, of Otto, N.C., passed away at her residence on Sept. 1, 2022.

She was born to Gregory and Altha Feneis in Miami, Fla., then she moved to the mountains of North Carolina, to make her home and raise her family. She is preceded in death by her father, Gregory Andrew Feneis, and her husband, Richard Merritt.

She loved gardening, working with her flowers and vegetables was her passion. She collected porcelain dolls and angels. She loved playing chess, backgammon and traveling. She loved traveling to see all of God's beauty and to visit with family and friends. She was of the Catholic Faith.

She is survived by her mother, Altha Feneis; her two sons, Greg Dills and wife Kelsey Rector of Charlotte, N.C., and Johnathan Dills and wife Whitney Dills of Honolulu, Hi.; and two sisters, Cynthia Dills and Susan Miller of Franklin; and three grandchildren, Ella Grace, Abigail May, and Evelyn Coralee Dills.

The family will receive friends Friday, Sept. 9, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. at Macon Funeral Home followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m.

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

Macon Funeral home is in charge of the arrangements.



Sandra Jo Merritt

### Susie Faye Carpenter Stanley

Susie Faye Carpenter Stanley, 82, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late James Coil and Bonnie Sanders Carpenter. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Eva McCall and an infant sister.

"Miss Susie" was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and caregiver. She was always taking care of others, especially her husband of 65 years, Chester Stanley. She retired as Cafeteria Manager at Cartoogechay Elementary school. She was known for being a great seamstress and an excellent cook, especially for delicious cinnamon rolls. She was presented the Louise Sublett Award, which is the highest cooking award for someone working in school cafeterias. May 27, 1995 was declared "Miss Susie Day," and she was given a parade and cookout in her honor. She was loved by all who knew her and will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her husband, Chester Stanley; son, Chuckie Stanley and wife Teresa of Franklin; daughter, Melissa Stanley Cook of Franklin; honorary daughter, Beverly Stanley Adams and husband Eddie of Piedmont, S.C.; two sisters, Francis Norris of Franklin and Emma Edsell of Rural Hall, N.C.; and one brother, J.B. Carpenter of Franklin; five grandchildren, Chet Stanley (Heather), Tyler Cook, Katie Wiggins (Brad), Miranda Cook and Mekenzie Cook; six great grandchildren, Pender Wiggins, Maelee Wiggins, Brenley Stanley, Casey Stanley, Kobe Wiggins and Eli Wiggins; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members surviving.

A celebration of life was held Tuesday, Sept. 6 in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Don Moffitt and Rev. John Franklin Howard officiated. Burial was in the Gillespie Chapel cemetery.

Pallbearers were Chett Stanley, Tyler Cook, Brad Wiggins, Eddie Adams, Scottie Stanley and Gary McCall. Honorary pallbearers were Pender Wiggins and Casey Stanley.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Gillespie Chapel cemetery fund or Macon County Community Care (attn: Joey Gibson).

The family would like to thank Dr. Steven Queen, Elsie Williamson, Kristin Flowers, Jessica Baker, and Terry Nugent for the excellent care and love, that each of you showed for Susie.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Susie Faye Stanley

### James Hardin Sherard Jr.

It's not easy condensing a man's life of almost 101 years, especially one as sweet and kind as Jimmy Sherard. Known for his compassionate heart and gentle spirit, he peacefully passed through God's heavenly gates on the morning of Aug. 26. As always, his adored wife of 80 years, Veda, was by his side.

Born in Abbeville, S.C., on Oct. 17, 1921, to James H. Sherard Sr. and Minnie Blount Sherard, he was devoted to his mother and father and always credited them for their many sacrifices to provide for him and his beloved sister, Nanette.

At age 16, he left Abbeville for Clemson University for his pre-dental training. Upon graduating in 1939 he entered Atlanta Southern Dental College (Emory University School of Dentistry). He loved to tell the story that on the first day of school he "spotted the cutest little freckle-faced girl I had ever seen" from Clinton, Tenn. Veda Sanders was her name, he was smitten and that was that. They married March 20, 1942, and remarkably celebrated their 80th anniversary this year.

Upon graduating in November 1943, he proudly served in the United States Navy, Dental Officer 2nd Lieutenant in Pensacola before boarding the USS Curtis stationed in the China Sea until the end of WWII in 1946. He continued to serve in the Naval Reserves until 1960. Dr. Sherard belonged to many professional organizations, and was at some point president of all of them. He was a pioneer and an expert in his field of Endodontics. He wrote chapters in many textbooks and lectured all over the world.

During their years in Atlanta, Jimmy and Veda often visited the Highlands/Cashiers area. So, in 1972, when dear friends extended an invitation to visit for the weekend, they accepted. They enjoyed their experience so much, they bought the little house next door. It would be a weekend retreat from the hustle and bustle of Atlanta. By the time he retired in 1989, their family had grown and so had the little house. They left Atlanta, the city they loved for 50 years for Highlands, the town they have loved ever since.

Jim loved his church and was an active member at Trinity Presbyterian and First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta and First Presbyterian Church in Highlands. He loved to volunteer in any capacity needed. He never met a stranger and had a way of making everyone feel special, noticed and appreciated. He had a genuine charm and love for people. He loved telling stories and it was always fun to listen because his delivery was priceless.

In addition to Veda and family, his number one passion was golf. He began playing in the Navy and continued until he was 96 years old. He was a member of the Atlanta Athletic Club, Cherokee Town and Country Club and Wildcat Country Club. He was a fierce competitor and a stickler for the rules. He loved the etiquette of the game, the countless friends he made on the course, and most of all, playing on Sundays with Veda-Lee. They were the perfect team.

He was a perfect southern gentleman. He was the kindest most caring son, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, cousin and uncle. He loved each and every one and let them know at every opportunity. He will be greatly and dearly missed.

He was predeceased by his parents, James H. Sherard, Sr. and Minnie Blount Sherard; sister, Nanette Hamilton; brother-in-law, William Hamilton; daughter, Sandra Sherard Bethea; granddaughter, Mabry Morris Spence; and great grandson, Whitaker James Morris.

He is survived by wife, Veda Sanders Sherard; sister-in-law, Joan Sanders; son-in-law, Robert P Bethea (Leslie); adopted son, David Jones (Vesta); daughters, Laura Sherard Mitchell (George), Robin Sherard Ritchie (James); adopted daughter, Marwen Payne McDowell (Stewart); grandsons, Robert P. Bethea Jr. (Joy), Hardin Sherard Bethea (Dowell), Tyson Andrew Morris (Kim); great grandchildren, Ridge, Elloise, Sanders, Nora, Samuel, Hunter, Wyatt, Beau, Hardin, Veda Kate and Penny Jane; nieces, Sherri Hamilton, Paige Parsons; nephews, Hugh Hamilton and Mark and Sandy Sanders; cousin, Rufus Sherard (Mary).

The family gratefully appreciates the many special acts of love by dear friends and caregivers over the years. May God bless you all.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic at 110 US-64, Cashiers, NC 28717; or Highlands Community Child Development Center (HCCDC) at 89 Church St., Highlands, NC 28741.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, Aug. 30.

Online condolences at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com)

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



Dr. James Sherard



# Deaths & Funerals

## Darlene Buckler Heinemann

Darlene Buckler Heinemann, 80, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022. She was born Jan. 26, 1942, in Roscommon, Michigan to the late Granville and Jennie Jackson Buckler. She was a homemaker and entrepreneur. She worked in real estate, florist, and a Bed & Breakfast. She was a member of Community Bible Church. She was a very big-hearted and selfless person.



**Darlene Heinemann**

She is survived by her six children who she loved deeply, William Murray, Robert Murray, Janine Martin, Martin Murray, Larry Murray, and Lisa LeBlanc; a long time loving friend; 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Jeanette Robinson.

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." - 2 Corinthians 5:8

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be sent to St. Jude, 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105.

Online condolences at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

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

## Ronnie Alan Crowe

Ronnie Alan Crowe, 64, passed away Sept. 1, 2022. He was born Jan. 15, 1958, in Rabun County, Georgia, to the late Alvin C. Crowe Jr. and Eleanor Keener Blankenship.



**Ronnie Alan Crowe**

He was a member of the Highlands United Methodist Church. He loved his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed being outdoors camping, hunting, and fishing. He also enjoyed gardening, canning, woodwork, candy, and spending time at the beach with his wife, Terri.

Survivors include his wife, Terri Crowe; three daughters, Heather Dalton (Paul), Natalie Dendy (Nathan Kemper), Michelle Pendergrass (Travis); three grandchildren, Camren Dalton, Russel Dalton, and Taylor Pendergrass; three brothers, Robert Crowe (Susan), Kenneth Crowe (Patty), and Brian Crowe (Dawn Geren); two sisters, Cheryl Jenkins (James Cooper), and Kayla McClain (Josh).

A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, Sept. 10, at 2 p.m., at Highlands United Methodist Church with Rev. Randy Lucus officiating. A visitation will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. prior to the service at the church.

Online condolences at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

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

## Kathryn Louise Kiser Angel

Kathryn Louise Kiser Angel, 97, passed away Thursday Sept. 1, 2022. She was born Sept. 24, 1924, in Macon County to the late J. B. and Nina Gillespie Kiser. She was a lifetime member of Mt. Hope Baptist Church. She loved her family and friends. It was her joy to sit on the porch and visit.



**Kathryn Louise Angel**

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Ada June Dowdle and Clara Shields; two brothers, Jack Kiser and Julian Kiser; a grandson, Gregg Gibson; and a great great-grandson, Carson Watts.

Surviving are her daughter, Joyce Angel Gibson (Richard); two sons, Doug Angel (June) and Mike Angel (Nolita) all of Franklin; six grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; five great great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, Sept. 6, at Woodlawn Cemetery with Rev. Roy Lowe officiating. Pallbearers were Gary Shields, Ryan Angel, Charlie Dowdle, Eugene Shuler, Colton Gibson, Rodney Chastain, Ryan Anderson, Seth Shuler, and Jerry Wilson.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC P.O. Box 815 Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

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

## Edward Francis Richmond

Edward Francis Richmond, 77, of Franklin, N.C., formerly of Long Island, N.Y., passed away on Aug. 30, 2022. He was born in Patchogue, N.Y., on May 27, 1945, to the late Raymond and Mildred Richmond.



**Edward Richmond**

He retired from the New York City School system where he worked many years. He gardened had a produce stand in Long Island. He worked as a clammer and fisherman while living in New York. He and his wife moved to Otto, N.C., in 2001. Upon moving he worked with the Rabun County School System for several years. His love of gardening continued and was a favorite hobby. He was also an avid reader. Most of all he was a family man and enjoyed spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia, of 57 years; four children, Lisa Dillon, Eddie Richmond, Esther Peters, and Ray Richmond; one granddaughter, Rebecca Dillon; one brother, Ray Richmond and numerous nieces and nephews.

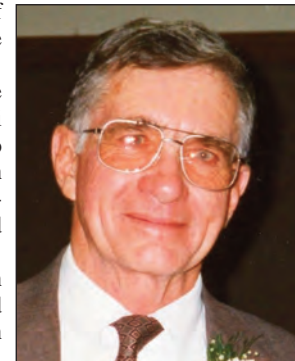
A funeral was held on Friday, Sept. 2, at Macon Funeral Home with Pastor Burt Johnson officiating. Burial was at Woodlawn Cemetery.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

## George Alfred Baumann

George Alfred Baumann of Franklin, N.C., went to be with the Lord at the age of 91.



**George Alfred Baumann**

He was the son of the late George Emil Baumann and Naomi Pauline Baumann. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Katherine Marie Baumann, and brothers, Harold and William.

He is survived by his sister, Joan Young (Myron); brother, Edmund (Carol); daughter, Sandra Ann Caldwell (John); son, Karl William (Virginia); two granddaughters, Elyse Marie Caldwell, Lillian Grace Baumann; grandson, Caleb William Baumann; and several nieces and nephews.

He was a loving husband, father, and friend. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean war and retired from BellSouth in 1991 after 35 years of service. He lived in Davie, Fla., prior to moving to Franklin in 1996 and was a devoted member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

He was a lifelong car enthusiast and enjoyed collecting antique cars, caring for them, showing them, and developing strong friendships with fellow car enthusiasts. He had a strong will, but also a kind and generous heart, and will be dearly missed.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. on September 7th, at Macon Funeral Home. Military honors will be presented by American Legion Post 108 and VFW post 7339 at 5 pm on September 7th prior to visitation.

A funeral service was held Sept. 8, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Military honors were presented by American Legion Post 108 and VFW post 7339 on Sept. 7 prior to visitation.

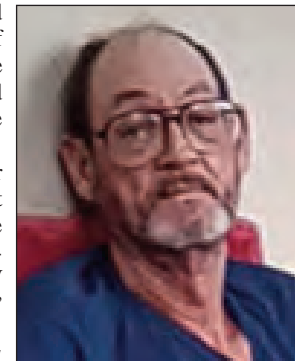
In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, <https://act.alz.org/site/Donation>.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements

## Donnie Ray Hooper

Donnie Ray Hooper, 64, passed away Sept. 4, 2022. A native of Macon County, North Carolina, he was born Feb. 1, 1958, to Fred Junior Hooper and Margie Lee Cabe Hooper.



**Donnie Ray Hooper**

He was a dump truck driver for more than 20 years primarily at Franklin Grading Company. He enjoyed fishing, ginseng harvesting, and watching his favorite TV shows "Goldrush," "Gunsmoke," and "The Rifleman."

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Teresa Mae Hooper; his daughter, Ashley Hooper Stepp (Joshua); his grandchildren, Lucas, Bridgette, and Jaxson Stepp; and two sisters, two brothers, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Cheryl Denise Hooper, his parents, and three brothers.

A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Donnie's family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfunerals.com](http://www.moffittfunerals.com).

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## Erik Jones holds off Denny Hamlin in Southern 500

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

DARLINGTON, S.C. – In a race that had more twists and turns than a Victorian melodrama, Erik Jones put the vaunted No. 43 Chevrolet back in Victory Lane for the first time since 2014.

In a remarkable run to the finish in the season's first NASCAR Cup Series Playoff race, Jones held off Denny Hamlin in a 20-lap run to the finish to win the Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway for the second time.

The Sunday night race took its toll on more than a handful of Playoff drivers, as Jones became the first non-Playoff driver to win the first postseason event since NASCAR introduced the elimination format in 2014.

The victory was Jones' first of the season, the third of his career, and the first for Petty GMS Racing since that organization was former by merger before the 2022 campaign. The win was No. 200 for the 43 car number, which NASCAR Hall of Famer and car owner Richard Petty drove to seven series championships.

"Richard hasn't been to Victory Lane at Darlington probably since he last won here," said Jones, referencing Petty's 1967 victory in the Southern 500. "It's just awesome. Just so proud of these guys, Petty GMS and (sponsor) Focus Packer Crew.

"We've been so close all year, and I didn't think today was going to be the day. It was going to be a tough one to win, I knew, but no better fitting place. I love this track. I love this race. On that trophy twice, man. I was pumped to be on it once, but to have it on there twice—pretty cool."

The victory was the first in the Cup Series for crew chief Dave Elenz. Jones won his first Southern 500 in 2019, driving for Joe Gibbs Racing but was released after the 2020 season in favor of Christopher Bell. On Sunday night, Jones held off a former teammate in Hamlin, who ran out of time in his pursuit of Jones and finished in the runner-up spot, .252 seconds behind the race winner.

"Well, I mean, I never lost any belief in myself through any of it," Jones said. "I knew I could still do it, and I just knew we needed to grow the program to do it, and we have. We've brought on a lot of great people in the last year. Dave Elenz called a great race today. His first Cup win—that's pretty cool for him.

"I'm excited, man. We've been talking about this day a long time, and it is redemption in a lot of ways. Very fitting that it's here at this race again. I felt like this was the race that saved my job the first time around, and coming back here with this win, I guess it puts you back on the map."

Tyler Reddick ran third, followed by pole winner Joey Logano, who vaulted to the top of the Playoff standings, six points clear of second-place William Byron, who finished eighth on Sunday.

Jones got his chance at the front of the field when Kyle Busch, who had led a race-high 155 laps, suffered a blown engine as he prepared for the final restart. Busch had inherited the top spot when his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate, Martin Truex Jr., suffered a similar failure on Lap 333 of 367.

But those retirements barely scratched the surface of the drama that unfolded throughout the race. Disaster befell Chase Elliott and Kevin Harvick. Kyle Larson and his team accomplished an amazing salvage job.

And the Playoff picture remained just as uncertain as it had been entering the grueling 500-mile contest at the Lady in Black.



Erik Jones, driver of the #43 FOCUSfactor Chevrolet, celebrates in Victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway on September 04, 2022 in Darlington, S.C.

Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

Flames erupted on both sides of the car. Harvick parked the No. 4 Ford on the apron and scrambled from his smoke-filled cockpit. Harvick exited the race in 33rd place and dopped to the bottom rung of the Playoff standings, 13 points below the current cut line.

Larson, the reigning series champion, brought his car to pit road on Lap 79, sensing his engine was about to expire. He lost three laps as his team worked under the hood of the No. 5 but returned to the track and the "gremlins" disappeared after a few laps.

Using wave-arounds and his status as beneficiary under caution to advantage, Larson regained the lead lap and finished 12th, averting a major hit in the standings.

Notes: The last driver to win a race in the No. 43 was Aric Almirola, who took the car to Victory Lane on July 6, 2014 at Daytona... Logano led the first 37 laps from the pole and 64 overall, but an issue with the left front tire cost him valuable time during a green-flag pit stop on Lap 75, and he never regained the track position he lost... Ross Chastain lost a lap when he returned to pit road for an unscheduled stop on Lap 160 to address a loose wheel. He finished 20th, one lap down... Cindric, Austin Dillon, Briscoe and Harvick are the four drivers below the current cut line with two races left in the Round of 16.

After a catastrophic Playoff opener, Elliott, the regular-season champion, is the series leader no more. Elliott spun sideways in Turn 2 on Lap 113—two laps short of the end of Stage 1—cracked the back of his No. 9 Chevrolet and slid down the track into the path of Chase Briscoe, who couldn't avoid the collision. Elliott nursed his car to pit road where his team tried in vain to repair the damage, but with the right rear toe link and upper and lower control arms broken, the task was hopeless. The 10-minute time allotment under NASCAR's damaged vehicle policy ran out, and Elliott retired from the race in last place (36th). The 15-point advantage Elliott carried into the Playoffs was gone. Elliott scored the minimum one point for his efforts at Darlington and fell to ninth in the Playoff standings, 14 points ahead of 16th-place finisher Austin Cindric in 13th.

"I just hit the wall in (Turns) 1 and 2 and broke something in the right-rear," Elliott said succinctly. And how would he approach the next Playoff race at Kansas Speedway? "A lot better than we did today."

A solid run by 2014 series champion Harvick went up in flames on Lap 275. As he lost speed while running ninth, Harvick radioed to his crew, "My rocker panel's on fire."

turned to the track and the "gremlins" disappeared after a few laps.

Noah Gragson triumphs in wild NASCAR Xfinity Series duel at Darlington

DARLINGTON, S.C. – At the end of a thrilling three-car battle that wasn't decided until the last corner of the last lap Saturday at Darlington Raceway, Noah Gragson stole a victory from Sheldon Creed and charging Kyle Larson to score his fourth victory of the NASCAR Xfinity Series season.

After passing Gragson for second place on Lap 144 of 147, Larson got a strong run on Creed, then the leader, coming to the white flag. Larson steered his No. 17 Chevrolet to the inside of Creed's Camaro, and the drivers raced side-by-side through the first two corners.

Creed brushed the outside wall, and Larson got loose beneath him, allowing Gragson to gain ground. Creed cut down his right front tire and buried his car into Turn three, hitting the outside wall in a shower of sparks.

Gragson found room to the inside, slapped the outside wall near the exit of Turn 4 as Creed rode the fence and powered ahead in the last 200 yards to claim his second victory in the last three races at the Lady in Black and the ninth of his career.

The late-race pyrotechnics took place under the lights after a rain delay that stopped the proceedings for 2 hours, 37 minutes, 22 seconds.

"All you fans, was that cool—did we put on a show for you guys?" Gragson shouted to the crowd from Victory Lane. "Sheldon Creed was really fast... I watched, during that rain delay, him running the top in (Turns) 1 and 2, and I knew there was a lot of



Noah Gragson, driver of the #9 Bass Pro Shops/TrueTimber/BRCC Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW Help A Hero 200 at Darlington Raceway on September 03, 2022 in Darlington, S.C.  
Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

prophetic, as the two cars ahead of him made contact.

"I was trying to hold on," Creed said. "I had a really fast car. It was just a little too free to run their speed there at the end. They could run up the hill in (Turns) 1 and 2 and then really get a good run down the backstretch. I had to stay really low to keep the rear of the car underneath me.

"I was hoping they were going to get to racing behind me. When Kyle got next to me, my only opportunity was to side-draft as hard as I could. We got that wall, and I felt the right-front start to go down (as I was) going down the backstretch."

Creed held onto second place, crossing the finish line .794 seconds behind the race winner. In the last-lap chaos, Larson slipped to fifth behind Justin Allgaier and AJ Allmendinger.

"It was a lot of fun," said Larson, who will begin defense of his NASCAR Cup Series title in Sunday's Cook Out Southern 500, the first of 10 Playoff races in NASCAR's top division. "I was just trying to be patient as I caught them two... I was able to get by Noah, and I saw Sheldon was really loose in front of me, so I was just trying to stay patient behind him.

speed there.

"So I went up there (after a restart on Lap 134), and I found something, and Sheldon pinched me off, and the 17 (Larson) got by me when it was like three (laps) to go, and I was like, 'Oh, they're going to get into each other—they're racing too hard.' (Sheldon's) got nothing to lose, He's racing his tail off, and Kyle's going for a win."

Gragson's vision of the immediate future proved

"Coming to white, I didn't want to get inside him on the frontstretch, because I knew what would happen, but I had such a good run off of (Turn) 4 that I had to make a move. He sat on my door and got me really loose. I had to chase him up the track..."

He was racing really hard for his first win. It was just a lot of fun from all of our seats. Crazy to be a part of a finish like that."

A victory would have put Creed into the Xfinity Series Playoffs. Instead, he leaves Darlington 13th in the standings, 16 points behind 12th-place Ryan Sieg. There are two races left before the 12-driver Xfinity Playoff field is set.

Gragson led four times for 82 laps and dominated the action before the rain delay.



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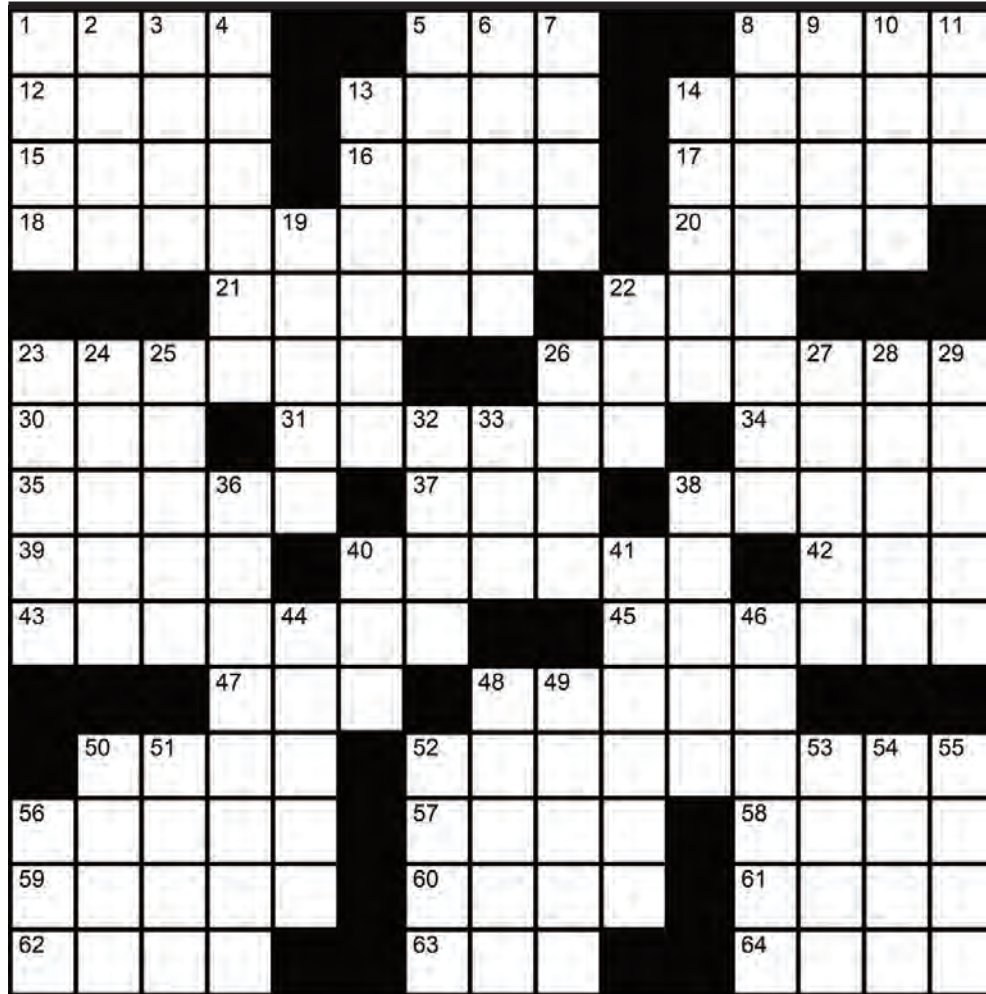
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AWARD-WINNING DRAMAS

- ACROSS
- Radiant light
  - Ceiling prop
  - Sweatshirt attachment
  - Auricular
  - Lightly colored
  - Like a certain lass
  - Rotterdam or Singapore, e.g.
  - Greek god of love
  - Event host
  - \*1960 Golden-Globe winner with Kirk Douglas
  - The Bee \_\_\_\_\_
  - Rowed
  - Costa del \_\_\_\_\_
  - \*1922 Pulitzer-winning "Long Day's Journey into Night" author
  - \*James Cameron's 1997 Oscar-winner
  - Steal
  - "Killers of the Flower Moon" tribal members
  - All's opposite
  - \*2021 "royal" Emmy winner
  - "One Fish Two Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Fish..."
  - More eccentric
  - Assistant
  - Expels
  - Before, old-fashioned
  - Consummate professional, in music
  - Mid-body narrowing, pl.
  - Feather glue
  - Library offerings
  - Cry like a baby
  - \*"The \_\_\_\_\_", 1972 mafia Oscar winner
  - Jeopardy, not the game



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57. Type of molding
58. This location
59. Full of blood vessels
60. Christian of haute-couture
61. Suite cleaner
62. Mountain goat terrain
63. D.C. bigwig
64. Middle of March
- DOWN
- Brewer's perennials
  - Perching place
  - Italian money
  - Type of local tax
  - Travesty
  - Not silently
  - Loch \_\_\_\_\_
  - \*2012 Emmy-winning espionage thriller
  - Fairy tale opener
  - Half of binary code, pl.
  - Yellow #5, e.g.
  - Bits of wisdom
  - Fathered
  - Bird of prey's weapon
  - Female sib
  - \_\_\_\_\_'s razor
  - Waterwheel
  - Horace's poem
  - Danson and Kennedy
  - Lymph "containers"
  - Lacking vigor
  - Roman counterpart of Greek Demeter
  - \*Ben Affleck's 2012 Golden Globe best drama winner
  - Wow
  - \*2000-2003 White House Emmy winner, with The
  - Port city in Japan
  - Get it wrong
  - BOGO offer
  - Total amount
  - Isthmus, pl.
  - Railroad car undercarriage
  - Theater, to Socrates
  - Samuel Adams, e.g.
  - Operatic solo
  - Hermes and Apollo
  - Cabbage amount
  - Great Lake
  - \*Best Director Oscar-winner Warren Beatty's 1981 film
  - Rubber substitute, acr.

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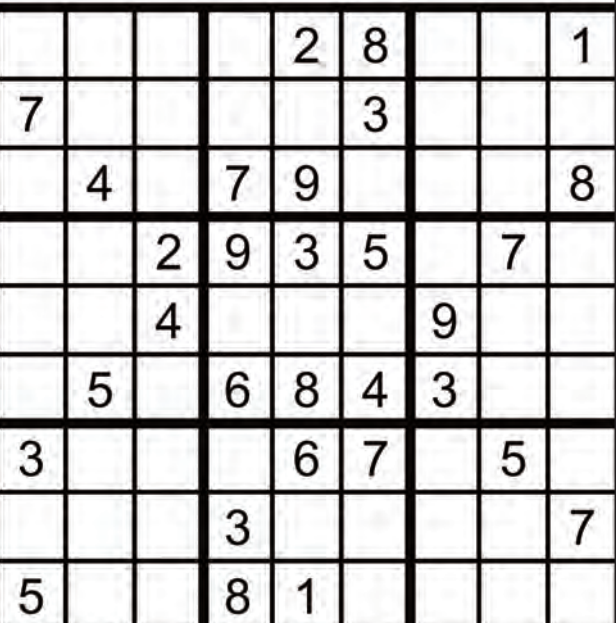
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2022	BMW	Alpina XB7	536
2022	Edge	Sport	101
2021	Kia	Optima EX	20,010
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2020	Toyota	Corolla SE	20,740
2019	Dodge	Challenger SXT	16,993
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan SXT	55,584
2019	Nissan	Sentra SV	15,009
2019	Toyota	Corolla 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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