

# The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

Free  
independent  
weekly

**MONSTER MASH**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29 • 4-6PM  
DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN  
SEE PGS. 4 & 5 FOR A LIST OF HALLOWEEN EVENTS

October 27, 2022 • 24 Pages

Volume 40 Number 24

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

www.themaconcountynews.com



The Overlook Theatre Company presents *Beauty and the Beast* for the next three weekends at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts – Oct. 28, 29 and Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, at 7 p.m. nightly. Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature, this two-act musical production includes all of the wonderful songs written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Menken and Tim Rice. The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. The enchantment never ends in this romantic and beloved take on the classic fairytale. For ticket information, visit [SmokyMountainArts.com](http://SmokyMountainArts.com) or call (866)273-4615.

## School board candidate profiles wrap up

Early voting is now underway. Voters can cast their ballots at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on Georgia Road Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays through Nov. 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Highlands early voters may vote at the Highlands Civic Center, 600 N. 4th Street, Highlands, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Saturdays through Nov. 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Absentee ballots may be requested through Nov. 1 at [www.maconnc.org](http://www.maconnc.org); [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov); by calling (828)349-2034 or email to [Macon.boe@ncsbe.gov](mailto:Macon.boe@ncsbe.gov).

General Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8. Voters will cast ballots at their respective precincts. Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

*The Macon County News* traditionally provides an opportunity for candidates to address potential voters with their experience and credentials as well as their stance on issues facing the county.

### School board

According to the the Macon County Board of Education policy manual, the school board consists of five members. Terms are for four years with the terms staggered so that as nearly equal to one-half as possible will expire every two

years. Elections are to be held at the time of the November general election in even-numbered years.

Six names appear on the ballot for the nonpartisan position of Macon County School Board member. Two seats are open – one for District 2 and one for District 4. Running in District 2 is Danny Reitmeier, Stephanie Hyder Laseter and Billy Handley. Long time board member Tommy Cabe's name is also on the ballot even though Cabe passed away last month.

Running in District 4 are incumbent Carol Arnold and Diedre Breeden. Arnold was appointed to replace Fred Goldsmith when he resigned in 2020.

Following are District 2 candidate Billy Handley's responses to submitted questions.



Billy Handley

See SCHOOL BOARD page 2

### IN THIS ISSUE



Page 6

Job Corps open house highlights trade education



Page 12

Thousands flock to downtown for PumpkinFest



Page 16

Author's new book named top historical fiction

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**SCHOOL BOARD** Continued  
from page 1

**Billy Handley**  
Billy Handley is the son of Bill and Joyce Handley. His father Bill was the manager of Nantahala Lumber for many years and is a veteran. His mother Joyce retired the first time from First Citizens Bank and currently works at Nantahala Physical Therapy.

Handley is a believer in Christ. He graduated from Franklin High School in 1988. After high school, he attended Western Carolina University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. He has been married to his wife Heidi for 24 years. He has two children, a daughter, Leighanne, who is 20 and an FHS graduate; and a son, Ty, who is 17 and a senior at FHS. Handley has coached youth sports on and off for 30 years and is the manager of Tastingers Floor Covering.

**Why are you running for school board?**  
*Handley:* "The reason I am running for school board is simple. I wanted to continue to serve Macon County kids in a different way. Coaching kids has been a great honor for me but I wanted to do more. I felt the school board would give me a great chance to continue to help with kids futures."

**What do you think the role of a school board member is?**  
*Handley:* "The role of a school board member is to always have the best interest of the students, teachers, and staff when making any decisions. We must be the eyes and ears for the parents and teachers to make sure the state and federal gov-

ernment has the best interests of our kids in mind with their actions. And if they don't, we must stand up for our local children and teachers."

**Do you support parental/community involvement in schools? Explain why or why not.**

*Handley:* "I absolutely support parental/ community involvement in schools. With better parental involvement teachers will be able to concentrate on teaching and parents can continue to parent. It is vital to have parent and teacher trust. I believe we have unbelievable teachers here in Macon county who would welcome more parental participation. The community is where I believe our hidden gems are to be found. With some of our kids falling behind due to the Covid years I feel we must reach out to our community for tutors to help get our kids caught back up."

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to improving Macon County Schools?**

*Handley:* "The greatest challenge for improving our schools always comes down to funding. As a school board member I will be relentless in trying to get a new Franklin High School and upgrades at the Nantahala and Highlands schools. We must find ways to fund these projects now. If we don't invest in our children then I believe we are short-changing their future."

"In closing I would like to thank the other candidates in this race. We have kept it clean and I appreciate that. I truly hope I win but if I don't I will support whoever does."

- Sincerely, Billy Handley, Candidate for Macon County School Board District 2.

STREETS OF FRANKLIN  
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# HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



- 👻 Franklin Christian Church Trunk or Treat will be held on Friday, Oct. 28, 6 p.m. outside parking lot. The church is located at 156 Belleview Park Rd., Franklin.
- 👻 Uptown Gallery's Annual Witches Walk through town Saturday, Oct. 29 at 11 a.m. Little witches and four legged friends are all welcome. Meet at the Franklin Clock Tower Gardens at the witching hour of 11 a.m.
- 👻 Monster Mash & Boo Bash Trunk or Treat Oct. 29, 4 to 6 p.m. in downtown Franklin. Presented by Streets of Franklin Heritage Association partnering with Franklin Fire & Rescue and Pharoah's of WNC.
- 👻 5K Halloween Hustle Saturday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m. at Parker Meadows Recreation Complex. Pre-register or race day registration. Forms can be picked up at FHS. Call (828)421-6785. Presented by FHS Interact Club.
- 👻 Trailer Treat Saturday, Oct. 29, 2 to 4 p.m. The Macon County Horse Association presents a day of tricks and treats at the Wayne Proffitt Memorial Fair Grounds on Georgia Road. Horse obstacles course starts at 10:30 a.m. with a costume contest to follow. The public is invited.
- 👻 Monster Mash Movie Night "Hocus Pocus" Saturday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. in the lower level parking lot at Franklin Town Hall. Presented by the Town of Franklin in partnership with Ruby Cinemas.



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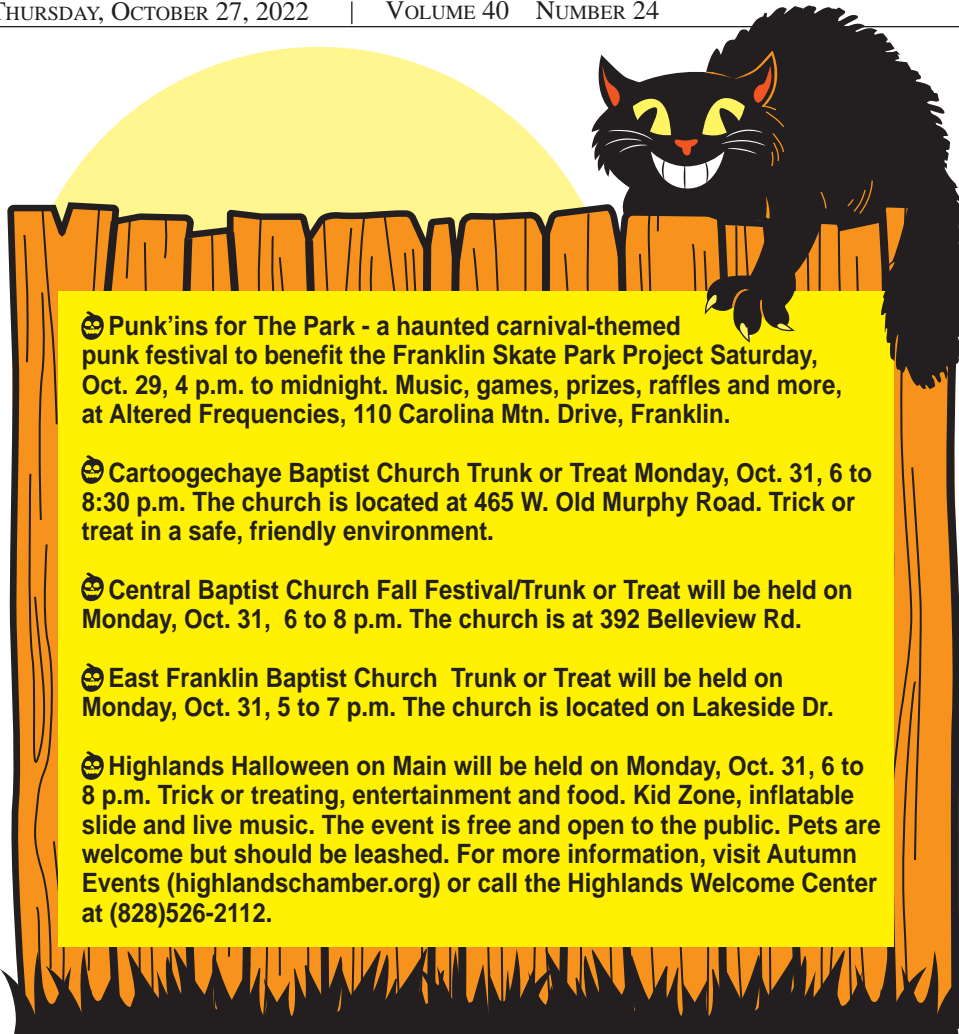
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**👻 Punk'ins for The Park** - a haunted carnival-themed punk festival to benefit the Franklin Skate Park Project Saturday, Oct. 29, 4 p.m. to midnight. Music, games, prizes, raffles and more, at Altered Frequencies, 110 Carolina Mtn. Drive, Franklin.

**👻 Cartoogechaye Baptist Church Trunk or Treat** Monday, Oct. 31, 6 to 8:30 p.m. The church is located at 465 W. Old Murphy Road. Trick or treat in a safe, friendly environment.

**👻 Central Baptist Church Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat** will be held on Monday, Oct. 31, 6 to 8 p.m. The church is at 392 Belleview Rd.

**👻 East Franklin Baptist Church Trunk or Treat** will be held on Monday, Oct. 31, 5 to 7 p.m. The church is located on Lakeside Dr.

**👻 Highlands Halloween on Main** will be held on Monday, Oct. 31, 6 to 8 p.m. Trick or treating, entertainment and food. Kid Zone, inflatable slide and live music. The event is free and open to the public. Pets are welcome but should be leashed. For more information, visit Autumn Events ([highlandschamber.org](http://highlandschamber.org)) or call the Highlands Welcome Center at (828)526-2112.

# RE-ELECT Gary M. Shields

*Macon County Commissioner  
District 2*



## Why build a New High School?

- Not safe for students with 100+ entrance in present school.
- Buildings and campus not ADA Compliant
- Main building 70 years old
- Go to [Maconnc.org](http://Maconnc.org) and click on HOME to find the feasibility study
- “Viability of renovation versus New Construction Franklin High School.”
- Check out campus map building legend from 1 to 7 including main building built in 1952 and Gymnasium built in 1954.



# TOYS FOR TOTS Cruise-In

**November 12<sup>th</sup> 10 am - 2 pm**

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MACON COUNTY SCHOOLS

**BUILDING LEGEND**

1. MAIN BUILDING, 1952	Elevation: lower floor 2206.12, upper floor 2218.04
2. FINE ARTS BUILDING, 1970	Elevation: lower floor 2138.07, upper floor 2158.13
3. ENGLISH BUILDING, 2000	Elevation: lower floor 2204.46, upper floor 2212.77
4. CAREERS CENTER, 1972	Elevation: lower floor 2206.24, upper floor 2212.27
5. MEDIA CENTER/CAFETERIA, 1985	Elevation: 2212.50
6. VOCATIONAL BUILDING, 1992	Elevation: lower floor 2087.19, upper floor 2209.97
7. GYMNASIUM, 1954	Elevation: 2208.6

Building elevation data taken from 2022 campus topographic survey

APPENDIX A - CAMPUS MAP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	3
GENERAL INTRODUCTION .....	5
CAMPUS ASSESSMENT .....	7
<b>BUILDING ASSESSMENTS</b>	
1. MAIN BUILDING .....	15
2. FINE ARTS BUILDING .....	27
3. ENGLISH BUILDING .....	39
4. CAREERS BUILDING .....	49
5. MEDIA CENTER/CAFETERIA BUILDING .....	61
6. VOCATIONAL BUILDING .....	73
7. GYMNASIUM .....	87

*Paid by the Committee to Elect Gary M. Shields*



*Goodbye,  
'Cowboy'  
Rick Miller*



Rick Miller passed away October 17, 2022.  
An outdoor memorial service will be held  
Sunday, November 6 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the  
Clock Tower Park, Main Street, Franklin, NC.  
Reception to follow at Diva's on Main.  
Sarah Miller 777-757-7500




## Open House spotlights Job Corps' commitment to trade education

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

In mid-October, the Franklin-based site of the Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps on Wayah Road, hosted an open house to allow local dignitaries, the media, and the general public a chance to learn what the 58-year-old federal technical/trade program offers. On a sunny fall day, close to 60 enrolled students volunteered to speak to visitors about the skills they are learning.

Job Corps, was created in 1964 during the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson as part of Johnson's War on Poverty and Great Society initiatives. The purpose of the program was to expand economic and social opportunities for primarily underprivileged Americans. Job Corps are operated through the U.S. Department of Labor with 125 campuses nationwide and at least 24 on U.S. Forest Service land – including the one in Franklin, which is part of the Nantahala National Forest.

For students coming out of high school that may not be interested in attending college, who may not have the financial means to pursue college, or who may not be academically focused, Job Corps offers opportunities. Career technical training areas include electrical, plumbing, culinary arts, urban forestry, welding, and much more.

The Franklin-based Job Corps site was originally a Civilian Conservation Corps site established during the Great Depression; thus, some of the same 1930s buildings, built primarily of local stone, are still in use. Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps is operated on about a 10-acre site with multiple buildings for everything from housing to food services to laundry to hands-on education. Some of the buildings' walls and walkways were built by past students in bricklaying and cement masonry programs. There is even an area for recreation, and some students participate in intramural sports and compete

Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps opened its doors in October for a day when the public could take tours, speak to students, and learn what the 50-plus-year campus offered in terms of training programs.

with students enrolled at other regional Job Corps sites.

Local Liaison Specialist Keith Bowers explained that students gravitate to Job Corps from all walks of life and from all over the United States. They spend at least two weeks at a site taking aptitude tests, career interest profiles, and various other evaluations to learn what course of skill training they should pursue.

“Because this site is with the Forest Service, some pathways involve job opportunities with the Forest Service,” he said.

Students receive individual instructions



Liaison Specialist Keith Bowers took Job Corps visitors on tours during the October open house.

### YOUR LOCAL LENDING TEAM



<p><b>Missy Norton</b> NMLS#816135 828.306.2141</p>	<p><b>Josh Owens</b> NMLS#506645 828.306.2160</p>	<p><b>Crystal Crupi</b> NMLS#509124 828.306.2112</p>
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Welding is one program sought by many Job Corps students, including Jeff Webb, who is interested ultimately in aerospace welding.

and plenty of practical skill-based training, rather than just spending time in classrooms.

“Everything is free to them and they are free to go at any time,” said Bowers.

“I had no idea this existed,” said Jeff Webb, enrolled in the welding program. “I’ve been here three months and eventually want to pursue aerospace welding.”

Webb is also interested in acquiring the skills and experience to possibly pursue a position on a Forest Service fire crew.

“Trade [training facilities] like Job Corps needs to be more promoted – not just colleges – and become more of a consideration. So many people I know go into debt because they think they have to go to college, but there is money to be made in many of the hands-on trades taught at Job Corps.”

“I may think about college later,” said Ken’shawn Sweatt, also in the Job Corps welding program, “but if I do, I will already have skills in welding and can make money to pay for college.”

Several students expressed appreciation for all that Job Corps offers.

“As long as you put in the time, they [Job Corps] provides all that you need,” added Sweatt. “It’s amazing, and I’m so glad I learned about Job Corps. I’ve learned good adulting!”

“More people need to know about it,” said Webb. “Job Corps doesn’t just make sure you learn skills and have opportunities to intern so that you can go into the job field, have a career, and make a good living, the instructors teach life and social skills ... finances, taxes, investing, loans ... They get you out of your bubble.”

Job Corps in Franklin typically enrolls 300 students or more annually, with Job Corps nationally enrolling upwards of 60,000 to study more than 100 career technical areas throughout the United States.

Before the pandemic, Job Corps in Franklin regularly housed approximately 120 students. That number is around 70, currently, but the federal government is expected to soon allow Job Corps sites to once again pursue maximum capacities.

Students live in male and female dorms and are provided all meals. Guidance and mental health counselors are available, as are nurses and access to physicians.

“Some of these students are away from home for the first time and have anxiety, and some have had a background that means they are lacking academically and need academic or vocational skills,” said Bowers.

Instructors are well-versed in their professions, and some of the instruction is conducted by professors with Southwestern Community College.

Jason Buchanan, a career pipe welder, recently began working with Job Corps to share his skills with students.

“I’ve taken a liking to instructing them, and I try to share with them tricks of the trade. It’s so rewarding, especially when you see students that are motivated.”

In the welding building, 16 booths enable students to don protective gear and safely work on various projects. Once they learn various skills, they are directed by Buchanan to accomplish building gates for the Forest Service as well as decorative welded art pieces that adorn buildings on the campus.

“When we are doing projects, like the Forest Service gates, I establish a real-world situation so they know what it’s going to be like when they get a job in this field,” said Buchanan.

Bowers pointed out that after students learn skills, they have opportunities to enter apprenticeships either on the Franklin campus or they can apply for apprenticeships on other Job Corps campuses. And, for students who do not have a high school diploma, Job Corps has a full academic program that allows students to choose between an online high school diploma or North Carolina high school equivalency track.



Along with building gates for the Forest Service, welding students also create decorative welded art pieces that adorn buildings on the campus.



*Re-Elect*  
**Ronnie Beale**  
**COMMISSIONER**

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*Thank you,*

*Ronnie Beale*

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**Election Day is Tuesday Nov. 8th!**

**Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Ronnie Beale**

# Macon Middle School sports teams go undefeated, 38-0

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

Many local residents are familiar with Franklin High School sports over the years, be it football, soccer, volleyball, etc. Whether up years or down record-wise, at least people are generally aware of accomplishments made by varsity and junior varsity teams. But middle school? Few outside of those families with students participating likely follow or may even know that competitive sports exist at that level. But they do. In fact, Macon Middle School (MMS) just finished a first semester sports schedule that resulted in four of its sports programs going undefeated, an aggregate 38-0. The football, soccer, volleyball, and swim teams did not lose a game, match, or meet – the entire season.

MMS Athletic Director Zach Tallent, who has been in charge of school sports for only the past two years, believes there is a solid reason for the success.

“The common denominator between all of

the undefeated programs is a competitive student body. They put a lot of work and effort into what they do,” said Tallent.

According to Tallent, community support is also a key factor, as is so often the case.

“We have an extremely supportive administration and staff. Coaches are really good at what they do. Support from parents to teachers to bus drivers makes a huge difference.”

He also pointed out that social media in today’s information dissemination really helps



Pictured are the members of the MMS football (front row, L-R) Joseph Stempling, William Rauers, Cayden O'Brien, Cooper Contino, Slade Chapman, Lance Parker, Gabe Harrison, Anderson Terrell, Damion Bowles, Ashton Rostallion; (second row) Christopher Jones, Levi Blanton, Paxton Sutton, Hunter Dills, Cayson McAllister, Isaiah Dees, Ryder McCoy, Garrett Young, Antonio Pineda, Hayden Perez, Blaze Carpenter; (third row) Conner Pittman, Payton Lansing, Liam Daniels, Seth Owle, Maceon Jowers, Mac Sinclair, Black Garber, Weston Alberry, Bailey Bryant. Fourth Row: Wesley Maxon, Gabriel Conjano, Brayden McConnell, Billy Dinning, Aiden Garrison, Juan Olvera, Clayton Robbins, Robert Orth 3rd; (fifth row) Jairo Lopez, Chance Norman, Brady Norman, Myles Queen, Christopher Mason, Landon Plouffe, Devlin Bailey, Daiveon Hall, Hadley Holbrooks.

get the word out for middle school level athletics. Altogether, MMS has 15 sports programs comprising 6th to 8th graders, except football, which is mandated by the North Carolina Department of Instruction to be restricted to 7th and 8th grade students.

## MMS Football

Football Coach Nathan Raby was effusive while complimenting his players.

“I find the amount of attention to detail that these guys had fascinating,” he said. “We enjoyed every single one of the victories this year, but come Monday morning the guys were ‘locked-in’ and ready to go to work on the next team. There were multiple games that we knew we were going to be the much better team and our guys didn’t take anything for granted. Also, the amount of effort that our team played with the entire year was astounding.

We studied film as a team weekly. Every time we turned the film on, we would see guys playing from whistle to whistle.”

Raby reported that the program returned numerous 8th graders from last year on the offensive and defensive lines. That allowed the team to “successfully control the game and play as fast or slow as we wanted.

“We dominated the line of scrimmage against every team that we faced this year. We returned a bunch of 8th graders on the offensive and defensive line. This allowed us to successfully control the game and play as fast or as slow as we wanted.”

The team rushed and passed for more than 1,000 yards. Raby went on to say, “Individually, we had great quarterback play from a first-year player, Anderson Terrell, who threw the ball for 1,115 yards, and 14 touchdowns, with a 76% completion rate on the season.



MMS undefeated soccer team pictured (L-R) Ken Modlin, Hudson Stringer, Sal Rios, adu adire, Kevin Torres, Jesus Gutierrez, Jose Dominguez, Caden Mason, Jacob Morales, Malik Walker, Miles Caldwell, Anthony Martinez, Jack Parlier, Adrian Cruz, Pablo Odilon, Cameron Lyons, Sebastian Miranda, Elliot Stockdale, Joaquin Lopez, Jose Luna, Edgar Modox, Oliver Martinez, Samuel Et'o, and Christopher Ortiz.

# FROG FAIR



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MMS Volleyball team are pictured (front row, L-R) Kyleenne Hervey, Bristol Brooks, Alyssa Awtrey; (middle row) Anna Stiles, Shelby Adams, Halle Shields, Aubrey Newsome, Olivia Anthony, Ella Raby, Lass Ward; (back row) Coach Rebekah Blanton, Audrey Pressley, Finley Moffitt, Layla Maloy, Bailey Wooten, Kamden Reis, Danni Ledford, and Coach Brooke Watson.

William Rauers is an extremely athletic receiver who led the receiving core while catching 17 passes for 438 yards with eight touchdowns, along with Damien Bowles.”

Running backs Garrett Young and Paxton Sutton combined for more than 700 yards rushing and nine touchdowns.

“Overall, we were a very potent team on offense and had stifling defensive play, outscoring opponents, 228-54. We never allowed more than 14 points in a single game and shut out two opponents,” concluded Raby.

**MMS Soccer**

The soccer team, which also suffered no defeats this season, had a motto that helped them persevere. According to Head Coach Sam Vargas, “a championship will cost you” and “you must be willing to pay it forward every day with how hard you train on and off the field.”

He went on to say the team took that advice and inspiration to heart and it showed in their play. Like with the football team, Vargas credited returning 8th graders who had not seen much playing time in 2021 but who gained experience regardless and entered 2022 fiercely determined to chase a championship. This season was the fourth in a row in which MMS Soccer was in the championship game and the program is now 2-2 in those games. Vargas went on to say that while the team has learned how to win, more importantly, “they have learned to lose – I see great potential for this group of young men as they continue on into high school.”

**MMS Volleyball**

Almost predictably, MMS Volleyball Head Coach Brooke Watson emphasized one word repeatedly when describing the way her girls went about approaching their championship season: “Wanted.”

“They wanted to work hard, they wanted to get better, they wanted to stay after practice, and they wanted to watch game film,” Watson said.

Watson shared that some of the players would even meet on weekends in an effort to improve and they “played as a team, with their whole heart and left everything out on the court.”

Coach Watson also lauded the players for always playing as a team, being unselfish, and trusting one another, which she pointed out as being “huge at the middle school level.” When asked how such success can be beneficial at this level, Watson believes that “winning championships is something they are capable of doing if they work hard and don’t give up.”

Having such dedication at such a young age speaks volumes, not only for the individual students, but for their coaches and their parents. The recurring theme from every person interviewed was how determined the students were, and how much time and effort they were not only willing, but eager to put in to be better.

# Highlands volleyball incident makes national news

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Head and neck injuries sustained by a Hiwasee Dam High School volleyball player Sept. 1, due to the spike by a transgender player, is receiving ongoing national attention from such media outlets as *New York Post*, *Washington Examiner*, and *Turning Point USA*. Because the kill shot resulted in significant injuries, Hiwasee Dam School chose to forfeit the Oct. 11 game to Highlands School.

On Oct. 20, “Athletic Business” reported that the Cherokee County school board voted to forfeit all matches for its schools’ women’s volleyball teams against Highlands School. The 5-1 vote led to board member Joe Wood commenting that he made his decision based on safety and not on the athlete’s sex.

A spectator at the September game filmed the game and posted the play on YouTube. The one-and-a half minute video shows the shot, taken by the Highlands School player, hitting the Hiwasee Dam player’s head, resulting in the Hiwasee player tumbling to the floor, unable to rise. The clip has garnered close to 19,000 views and 136 comments so far, including: “As an ex-college football athlete, I have seen many women’s volleyball games throughout my college career and to see this man come back 14 to 15 feet and elevate to the net like he does ... should tell you to stay with the gender you were born with when it comes to sports!” “This is beyond unacceptable! The teenage boy and his family along with Highlands High should be responsible for her injuries.”

An Oct. 11, “Education First Alliance NC” article shared: “The Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research also confirmed male dominance in the sport. The jump height and explosive power of males are significantly higher than those of

females, according to scientists.”

After the decision by the Cherokee County School Board to forfeit all matches for its schools’ volleyball teams against Highlands School, David Payne, Hiwasee Dam High School’s athletic director, commented in an Oct. 22 *New York Post* article: “... a statement needed to be made ... that it’s unfair and unsafe.”

The Post further noted, “Transgender athletes competing in women’s sports has become a controversial topic, especially after Lia Thomas, a biological man, won a NCAA championship in women’s swimming earlier this year.”

Although the incident that resulted in the Hiwasee Dam player’s injuries, from which she has not yet been cleared by physicians to resume playing, is just recently bringing national attention to Western North Carolina, the controversy over whether transgender males can play female sports is resulting in a myriad of states writing bills and passing legislation to protect biological female athletes.

In North Carolina, the N.C. High School Athletic Association makes provisions for student-athletes to compete based on gender identity. The NCHSAA handbook states, “When a student’s gender identity differs from the gender listed on the student’s certificate of birth, the Gender Identity Request Form must be submitted by the member school to the NCHSAA prior to any participation by the student under circumstances that would constitute ineligibility. The request should be based on the gender identification of that student in current school records and daily life activities in the school and community.”

*(Athletic directors at both schools involved were contacted by telephone and email to comment directly for this article and did not respond.)*



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## What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

The town board meeting last Thursday was a marathon session, with almost every item on the agenda taking longer than anticipated. Let me hit some of the highlights, or rather the “long lights.”

We had a request from Dave Healy, the chairperson of the Mountain Theatre Company, concerning the Highlands Playhouse. The theatre company has had a tremendous season. The plan is for the theatre ensemble to relocate and merge efforts with the Performing Arts Center by the end of May. Until then, they will remain in the Playhouse and produce several important youth theatre programs. The board agreed to extend the current lease until they transition to the new PAC Performing Arts Center. I know they will deliver outstanding productions in this new venue. It is a win for everyone.

The board also heard a presentation from EnviroSpark concerning placement of electric charging stations in parking spaces in our downtown area. The Highlands Chamber of Commerce proposes to partner with EnviroSpark and the town in delivering this emerging service. The folks from EnviroSpark will meet with our town engineer, Lamar Nix, and the public works committee to address issues that board members brought up during the presentation.

The board had an involved discussion concerning the renewal of the lease for the building that houses the Chamber offices and the Highlands Visitors Center. There were thorny issues raised about the payment of rent versus the Chamber's financial support for maintaining public restrooms. These facilities are used primarily by visitors. No decision was made. The Chamber will consult with the county attorney about whether room tax revenues can be used to maintain the bathrooms. The town directed our attorney to draw up a proposed lease after receiving the opinion from the county attorney.

The board also reviewed proposed ordinance amendments concerning outdoor burning, grubbing and noise. Grubbing occurs when contractors burn logs and other debris for a continuous time to clear a building site. Board members discussed this issue as well as the burning of leaves and other vegetation by homeowners. More research by the staff and fire chief will be done before a final decision.

Another amendment change centered around the noise

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Vote democracy and against election deniers

If Donald Trump is so smart. If he loves America as much as he claims. Why did he not show us the “election flaws” in 2016? As you recall he won that hotly contested election. Yet, for the next three years he said and did nothing. He had the ideal position to analyze the process, identify flaws (and there are some) and recommend changes that would strengthen democracy.

Then as the 2020 election approached, he began his rant about the possibility of a rigged election. Still with no suggestion of how to make it more secure. Does this sound patriotic to you? Is there any hint that Donald Trump was working for democracy?

Why no action to secure the election system in the face of an election which he lost massively? Here's the simple yet dangerous truth: Donald Trump is the “hood ornament” of a national movement to re-write our constitution in favor of the wealthiest individuals and businesses. There are various groups working relentlessly at this endeavor. They are right-leaning in political philosophy. Many at the worker level are your neighbors. Some know what the goal is. Others are merely loyal Republicans or Independents who hope for the best for America.

Now hope won't save democracy! Americans need to study democracy and decide if they/we actually want to keep our form of government. If not, then vote however you want. If you do cherish democracy then vote against election deniers. A big hint here-most of them are Republican.

I doubt that there has ever been an election that was perfect. But, near-perfect elections will uphold democracy. Merely harping about a few flaws is only meant to undermine the process.

Let's identify the election-deniers and vote against them. Vote for Democracy

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

### The road we travel

I'm not certain of just where we as a people or nation will find ourselves within the near future. We all seem to sense this uneasiness. Everyone would like to stop even if it's but a brief moment, so we could once again catch our breaths and regain some stability. Just mentioning the former president's name can bring hate as I have never seen it, and is quite evident in the unending articles and news media. This doesn't hold the same, in my view, of our current president. Although there's a strong dislike toward his policies but not the hatred towards the man himself. Where the former is a hatred of the man than towards his policies.

Most want secure borders, a sovereign nation, less power of government and more given to the individual in their free-

dom to better themselves. Most want citizenship to have meaning and a responsibility, otherwise being a citizen has no meaning and we become a nation that values little its own people. The road we travel is a meaningless road, except for those who lead us in their own lust for power. Unending crises of diseases, energy, food, crime and borders, brings about the supposing need of government to step into fulfilling the control and needs of the people. As most always, those in progressive thinking are looking for someone or something to carry the load that they have placed upon themselves and others. This road we travel seems to be more of a purposeful cause, than direction with purpose and meaning, yet this road is our life and we live within this.

This statement says it well, “Since we are travelers and pilgrims in this world, keep the end of our road always in our minds, for the road is our life, and its end is our home.” So it can be viewed as a ending home of nothingness, or a ending home that just begins an arrival of a new and final home and destiny we all desire, of peace and truth, within an environment that has the most meaningful love and purpose, which all humanity strives for, but cannot achieve.

As we get older, we should see more clearly, but don't. Myself as with all of us, we had no say or choice of where we were born or placed upon this tiny speck called earth. We are but a vapor or a dot on a page of the endless pages of history. We feel we make our own stories within history, yet it's history which allows us to be part of the story, and it gives us the freedom to do this well, or to fail within the road we travel. The difference is night and day.

Darkness is the absence of light, with no direction to be found, for it's by light we see the road clearly. We ourselves, our nation and our world in general, seems to have a darker direction, for the sun is setting and the road we travel grows dimmer, yet there's always hope of the dawning of a new sunrise to set clear the road we travel. The light that displaces darkness is the Divine creator which is the light of the world, there is no other, this.... is the road that brings you home!

Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

## Email Letters to the Editor to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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

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**Benefits and advantages of new electric cars**

When you drive your future car, it will undoubtedly be an electric one. California already requires all new car sales to be electric by 2035 and there will be bench marks along the way. Other states will follow California's lead. The price of electric cars will fall, and incentives or tax credits may be available as well. Currently, only electric vehicles produced in the U.S. are eligible. Combined with fewer maintenance costs and MPGs (miles per gallon equivalent) ratings of over 100 miles per gallon, electric cars will be cost effective to drive. The battery will outlast the car and it will charge much faster than some of today's electric cars. Some electric cars today have a range over 300 miles and will charge in 18 minutes! I know, I have one.

Newer batteries will also be more stable in hot or cold conditions. Your electric car will charge during the night when electricity costs will be lower (in some parts of the country). The range of your new car may exceed any ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) today, perhaps 500-600 miles or more. Newer batteries will pack more energy into them (energy density) yet not weigh any more than today's batteries. Saving money on gas and lower maintenance costs will make your electric car cheaper to drive than your present gas or diesel vehicle. With 900 fewer parts, there is just less to go wrong and the motor will be much simpler and last longer. An electric car may outlast several ICE cars. You will find that driving your electric car will be more enjoyable, safer and quieter. Your electric car will be quieter without the constant gear changing of ICE cars. When you let up on the accelerator, the car will slow down quickly while recharging the battery to recapture the energy you would normally lose when braking. This may reduce your reaction time by not having to move your foot from the gas pedal to the brake. You will find that driving with one pedal will be less stressful especially on mountain roads with winding curves and ups and downs. Occasionally, you will still need the brake when you have to make quick stops. When you let up on the accelerator/decelerator, the brake lights will come on automatically to warn drivers behind you that you are slowing down.

The best part of owning an electric car will be that you will be helping the environment by reducing your dependence on fossil fuels. Of course, you will still be using fossil fuels in the production of electricity that you charge your car with, however, the efficiency will be much higher. ICE cars are only about 20-35% percent efficient, meaning that most of the energy in a gallon of gas turns to heat that your radiator

has to get rid of or exits the exhaust. As more alternative energy is fed into the grid, your car will be utilizing clean alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal and others for its power. There is much less environmental impact from production of alternative energy and we aren't going to run out of sunshine, or at least not anytime soon. You may choose to install solar panels on your roof to offset the cost of not only the energy cost of your house's energy use, but also your car's. Then you will be driving almost entirely on clean alternative energy.

You will not only enjoy driving your future car more, you will be doing your part to help preserve the world's health for future generations to come. But you don't have to wait for the next generation of electric cars, they are here already and offer outstanding value and satisfaction. Instead of having to refuel your car at a gas station, you will plug it in at home and it will charge as you sleep. This will meet almost all of your driving needs. On the road, your car's navigation will direct you to the nearest charging station. More and more charging stations are becoming available. Your car will come with a charging cable in case you get in trouble. You would just need to find a 120 ac outlet to get enough charge to get to a faster charging station. Or another electric car driver might stop and give you a boost. With an adapter, you can get electricity out of the battery of an electric car. Handy if you need to power your home in a power outage (with the proper safeguard to protect repairmen on the line). Batteries today, while not perfect should last the life of your car (with some loss of range). Your car of the future is here. Test drive one today!

Paul Chew – Franklin, N.C.

**TAYLOR**

Continued from page 10

ordinance. The board did change the time when music and noise has to stop from 11 p.m. to 10 p.m. But this was just an initial change to the noise ordinance. Other issues will be addressed in forthcoming meetings.

The board approved the purchase of a new fire truck that will be delivered hopefully in about a year and a half. The new fire department is days from completion.

The policy on the use of credit cards was also reviewed. The decision was to direct the staff to implement a system that will allow folks to use credit cards to pay at venues such as the swimming pool and ice-skating rink. Also, there will be changes in the fee structure for folks using credit cards to pay for utility bills. The staff will publish these changes before they are implemented in the coming weeks.

Lamar Nix presented a review of policies concerning minimal maintenance of private roads and policies for plowing roads after snowstorms. Private roads will be plowed after all town roads are cleared. There is a list of about six steep private road sections that will not be plowed due to worker safety concerns. In the event of a medical emergency, town crews will work with EMS staff to insure emergency access to these sections.

The board tabled a review of auditor recommendations until the next meeting. It was felt that more time was needed to carefully consider these recommendations. The presentation of the annual audit findings may also be on the agenda at the November.

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# PUMPKINFEST

Thousands of residents and visitors flocked to downtown Franklin Saturday for the 26th annual PumpkinFest and the world famous Pumpkin Roll. Vendors were set up along the closed-to-traffic streets as costumed ghouls and goblins haunted the downtown area with trophies given to the best dressed spooks.

Photos by Ellen Randall



Pumpkin Roll winner with 887 feet, was Whitney Warren, Lemon, John Grey, Jeremy and dog Summer. More than 600 pumpkins were rolled down Phillips Street.



In the costume contest, 7-10 category, Zackery Barker took first place, Wilas Harper came in second and Ava Muler was third.

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In the costume contest, 0-2 category, Jack Urns won first place, Fenway Holland was second and Aeden Tuckey was third.



In the costume contest, 3-4 category, Eva Little was first place, Emmett Marshall was second and Vespree Salijeric was third.

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In the costume contest 11-14 category, Landon Lacroche came in first, Zeta Haldson came in second and Ivey Hobbit was third.



In the costume contest, 15 and up category, Darias Harkins came in first, Miranda Conway was second and Angel Hodgin was third.



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# Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests October 14 - 23. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

October 14

Cody Morgan Charles, was charged with assault inflicting serious bodily injury. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

October 15

Robert Tyler Moose, was charged with carrying a concealed gun. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

October 16

Mathew Richman Keener, was charged with assault on a female. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

October 17

Nicholas Scott Harvell, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation, failure to appear for stalking, worthless check, obtain property by false pretense, extradition/fugitive from other state and possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia and speeding. Jay Wright made the arrest.

October 19

Jeremiah Noah Smith, was charged with simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Christina Rena Odom, was charged with misuse of 911 system. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

October 20

Kevin Eugene Allen, was charged with assault on a female. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Jeremy Adam Burr, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Dylan James Gregg, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

October 21

Shoshawna Danielle Bates, was charged with larceny of motor vehicle and possessing stolen vehicle. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

Jacob Lee Norris, was charged with larceny by employee and probation violation. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

October 22

Henry Stacey Phillips, was charged with larceny of a dog and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

October 23

Joshua Bryan Parker, was charged with assault by strangulation and cyberstalking. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

October 16

Fladimir Vicente Garcia Mendoza, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, felony possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, maintain a vehicle for use/sale/keeping of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, contributing to delinquency of a juvenile and speeding 54 in a 45 mph zone. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**Yoga at the Library** will be held on Thursday, Oct. 27, 6 to 7 p.m. in the Macon County Public Library living room. Bring your own mat if possible. The library is located at 149 Siler Farm Rd., Franklin. For more information, call (828)524-3600.

**Drive through Hot Lunch, Food Pantry, Coat Cabinet and prayer as requested** is offered on Saturday, Oct. 29, 11a.m., Franklin Covenant Church. 265 Belleview Park Rd.

**Sylva Chapter of Trout Unlimited Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Sylva. Chapter volunteers will be providing a meal. Raffles for fishing gear and a lot of fishing talk.

**Identity Theft and How to Protect Yourself Lunch & Learn** will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 1, noon to 1 p.m., at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce First Bank Seminar room, 98 Hyatt Rd. For more information or to register, call the chamber at (828)524-3161.

**Vaya Health GERO Team Neurocognitive Disorders: Living with Dementia Mental Health Class** will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room. This course looks at various classifications of neurocognitive disorders (NCDs), delirium, common changes associated with each type, and tips for caregiving. For more information or to register, call (828)524-3600 or visit [vayahealth.com/calendar/](http://vayahealth.com/calendar/)

**American Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held on Friday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Discover Church, 47 Macon Center Dr. Book by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or calling (800)733-2767. All who give Nov. 1 to 22 will receive a \$10 e-gift card by email to a merchant of choice.

**Healthcare Employers' Job Club** will be held on Friday, Nov. 4, 2 to 4 p.m. in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room. Meet healthcare employers based in Macon County to learn more about what they're looking for in an employee. Presented by NC Works.

**Saturday Fiber Arts Group Gathering** on Nov. 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library Maker Space. Quilters, knitters, cross-stitchers and embroiderers are welcome to bring a fiber art project, share inspiration and have fun.

**Nantahala Hiking Club** will take a two-mile out and back easy hike on the Cove Forest and Anselm's trails on Saturday, Nov. 5. Meet in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in Dillard, Georgia, at 10 a.m. and

carpool to Patterson Gap out of Dillard, Ga., on Betty Creek Rd. After the hike they will drive a short distance up Betty Creek Rd. to Barker's Creek Mill to see the mill operate and have lunch. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Visitors and well behaved dogs are welcome. For more information or in case of foul weather, call hike leader David Stearns at (828)349-7361.

**Macon Early College (MEC)** is currently accepting student enrollment applications for the 2023-2024 school year. MEC serves grades ninth through 13 and is fully integrated into the Southwestern Community College system. Students have the opportunity to graduate in four or five years with a high school diploma and a two-year Associate's degree with transferable credits to a four-year university. Applications are available at [mec.macon.k12.nc.us](http://mec.macon.k12.nc.us) under the Parent Information tab. The deadline to submit an application for rising 9th graders is Feb. 17, 2023, and for rising 10th and 11th grade students the deadline is March 17, 2023. For more information, call the school at (828)524-2002.

**Macon Chips, Franklin's Wood Carving Club** meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Macon County Public Library and on Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Franklin High School Wood Shop just off McCollum Drive. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (828)342-8126

**Mountain Voices Community Chorus** is rehearsing for their Christmas concert. Practice is every Monday evening at First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Avenue, Franklin, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Recruiting new singers. For information, call (828)524-3644.

**Girl Scout Daisy and Brownie Volunteers** needed for Troop 2996 in Franklin. This is a great opportunity to help 5 to 8 year olds learn and grow. For more information, call Diane Peltz at (828)371-2823 or email [dianepeltz1953@gmail.com](mailto:dianepeltz1953@gmail.com)

**Historic TM Rickman Store** at 259 Cowee Creek Rd. is now open for visitors on Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dulcimer music at 10 a.m. and music jams 12 to 3 p.m. Discover unique items and listen to local musicians. Parking is limited with additional parking available at Cowee Arts and Heritage Center a short walk from the store.

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

**Uptown Gallery Children and Adult Art Classes** workshops in Media includes acrylic, watercolor, acrylic paint pouring, encaustic, precious metal clay and glass fusing. Free painting in the classroom Monday's 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Membership meeting second Sunday of the month 3 p.m. The gallery is located at 30 E. Main St. in Franklin. For more information, call (828)349-4607.

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## CRAFT SALE

FRI., OCT. 28 & SAT., OCT. 29  
9 AM - 2 PM

THE COWEETA KRAFTERS

**CHURCH HAPPENINGS**

The Mylon Hayes Family will be in concert at Victory Baptist Church, on Sunday night, Nov 6, 6 p.m., 278 Victory Church Rd., in Sylva. Everyone is invited to attend. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (828)586-2120 ext 102.

Spiritual Light Center Open Community Talk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 30, at 11 a.m., monthly pot luck immediately after service. All are welcome. Free all levels yoga class on Mondays at 6 p.m. On Thursdays, a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and then out to eat afterward. The center is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

Son Rise International Ministries Christian Fellowship Services are held on Friday evenings at 7 p.m., Wednesday ladies prayer and Bible Study at 1 to 3 p.m. Mens Bible Study Thursday at 7 p.m. The church is located at 462 Depot St. For more information, call (828)369-2465.

Mountain Synagogue in Franklin conducts services the first Friday and third Saturday of each month. For information, visit the website at mountainsynagoguewnc.com, email us at mountain-synagogue@gmail.com, or call (828)634-1312.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email your church events to [maconcountynews@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountynews@gmail.com).

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**SUDOKU** ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE** ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

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## New historical fiction by local author

**Deena C. Bouknight**  
Contributing Writer

Local author Diane McPhail's new, May 31-published book, "The Seamstress of New Orleans" is already garnering attention on GoodReads as a top historical book, and an interview with McPhail will be featured on National Public Radio's "The Writing Life."

The novel is McPhail's second. She is a Highlands-based artist, writer, and minister, and a member of North Carolina Writers' Network and the Historical Novel Society. "The Abolitionist's Daughter," published in 2019, was her debut novel.

A synopsis from the new book focuses on the historical plot.

"The year 1900 ushers in a new century and the promise of social change, and women rise together toward equality. Yet rules and restrictions remain, especially for women like Alice Butterworth, whose husband has abruptly disappeared. Desperate to make a living for herself and the child she carries, Alice leaves the bitter cold of Chicago far behind, offering sewing lessons at a New Orleans orphanage."

"My inspiration for 'The Seamstress of New Orleans' is multi-faceted," McPhail expressed about her new book. "After [Hurricane] Katrina, I had an apartment in the French Quarter for a couple of years. There I had the wonderful experience of riding with an all-women's krewa for Mardi Gras; the krewa of Iris of which my friend Dian Winingder had been Queen. I became very interested in the history of the very first women's krewa, Les Mysterieuses, and the efforts of women towards equal rights, culminating in the vote 20 years later." [A "krewa" is an organiza-

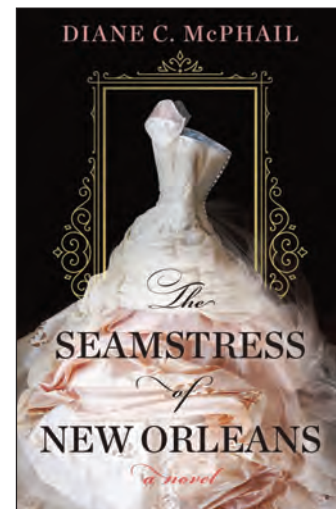


Highlands-based author Donna McPhail has published her second novel "The Seamstress of New Orleans."

tion or association that stages a parade or other event for a carnival celebration.]

She added, "I have spent hours and days and weeks in the various archives and museums of New Orleans absorbed in research of all kinds to bring this book together. My research led me into the fascinating history of Storyville, a sanctioned red-light district named for the city councilman who proposed it, and the crime syndicate operating there, known as the Black Hand for the signature of an inked handprint on threatening notes. The relationship of the two women at the core of the novel came from numerous sources, including a factual story, interest in the multiple orphanages, the strength and courage it takes from all of us to face life in general."

McPhail's books are available via online resources and at local bookstores, such as Shakespeare and Company in Highlands and A Novel Escape in Franklin.



## Free dance workshop for kids Saturday, October 29

Elementary school-age children and young families are invited to bring their happy feet to a free Dance Workshop on Saturday, October 29, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library Living Room. The workshop will have experienced dance teachers giving basic instruction in different dance forms including traditional Cherokee dance, hip hop, tap dance and more.

No pre-registration is required; wear comfortable clothes and shoes and come for any part of the two-hour session. A coloring station will be provided for preschool-age siblings.

The wheelchair-accessible Macon County Public Library is at 149 Siler Farm Road in Franklin. This event is produced by the Arts Council; details at [www.artscouncilofmacon.org](http://www.artscouncilofmacon.org), [arts4all@dnet.net](mailto:arts4all@dnet.net), or 828-524-ARTS.





# WNC Truck Show draws crowds to Cherokee



The 16th Annual Western North Carolina Truck Show held in Cherokee drew truck enthusiasts from all over the area last Saturday. Trucks both old and new were on display, with pick-ups, dump trucks, semi trucks, fire trucks and military trucks. The show is sponsored by a local chapter of the American Truck Historical Society.

Photos by Betsy Gooder



# Deaths & Funerals



## Christopher Nathan Alley

Christopher Nathan Alley, 81, peacefully ended his long battle with Alzheimer's at his home in Highlands on Oct. 18, 2022, with his wife, daughters, and cherished kitties by his side.

He was born in Lowell, Mass., on Sept. 2, 1941. His educator parents relocated often, creating fond memories in Florida, South Carolina, Illinois, and Georgia. After attending Grady High School in Atlanta, he joined the Navy, cultivating his life-long love of the sea. He was stationed in Puerto Rico where he was blessed with his first child, Brian. He served on the USS Ogletorpe during the Cuban Missile Crisis before taking a tour of duty throughout the Mediterranean.



Christopher Alley

Following his four years in the Navy, he settled in Atlanta where he proudly welcomed his first daughter, Heather. He worked as a bartender in Underground Atlanta and The Henry Grady Hotel. He was instrumental in opening The Lark and the Dove, as well as The Regency Hotel, where he had fond memories of serving Mickey Mantle. His charismatic networking ability led him to become a buyer for Sonesta Hotels, and later the owner of Interior Service Group, a commercial systems installation company. While carrying out a job for AT&T, he met his wife Donna, a commercial interior designer. They shared a dream of escaping the city, and four years later moved to Highlands after purchasing Colonial Pines Inn, which they owned and operated for 36 years while raising their daughter, Meghan.

During his time in Highlands, he worked as a Realtor for The Chambers Agency. He also served on the board of the Chamber of Commerce, on the vestry at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, and selflessly donated his time on mission trips to Mexico, South Dakota, and Haiti.

A lover of animals and nature, he had a deep appreciation for the special flora and fauna of Highlands, which he imparted to his children, inspiring his eldest daughter's career as a conservation biologist. A lifelong traveler, he was endlessly curious and fascinated by the diverse culture and history of the world, inspiring his youngest daughter's career in the travel industry.

He will be most remembered by his friends and loved ones for his sharp wit, quirky sense of humor, appreciation for all things beautiful, love of laughter, and the ever-present twinkle in his eye. He inspired many with his tireless zest for life.

He was preceded in death by his beloved British mother, Enid Mary Noel MacDonald; his father, Samuel Brown Alley; his step-father, Franklin Henry Kaler; and his brother, Peter Brian Alley.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Donna Alley; son, Brian Alley, of Fajardo, Puerto Rico (Arlene Alley); daughter, Heather Alley of Athens, Ga. (John Donnelly); daughter, Meghan Alley of St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands (Jeremy Schachner); sister, Susan Porter of Gainesville, Ga. (Janet Scott); sister-in-law, Heidi Benz of St. Mary's, Ga.; sister-in-law, Pam Ammar of Naples, Fla. (Nick Ammar); brother-in-law, Tom Hill of Tucker, Ga. (Annette Shakespeare); grandchildren, Nicole, Kevin, Owen, and Lucas; and many dear nieces and nephews, to whom he was a favorite uncle.

The family would like to thank his caregivers, Vicki Palmer, Juliani Arteaga, Delores Jones, and especially Robert Doe, Melissa Stiwinter, and Jenny King, who made it possible to be able to live out his final months at home, surrounded by those who will cherish him in their hearts always.

Memorial donations may be made to Cure Alzheimer's Fund, Highlands Biological Station, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society, or Four Seasons Hospice.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfunerals.com](http://www.moffittfunerals.com).



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## Deaths & Funerals

### Christopher Lee Hancock

Christopher Lee Hancock, 38, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022.

He was born on June 21, 1984, in Hudson, N.Y. He loved and served his country proudly in the Army as a heavy equipment transport operator. He loved to fish, being outdoors, classic cars, and his Army battle buddies. He will be missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Krystal Hancock and his nephew, Haiden Russell.

He is survived by his parents, Mike Hancock (Beverly) of Franklin and Donna Hancock; his fiancée, Alta Benfield of Linville, N.C.; brother, Charles Hancock of Iowa; sister, Grace Hancock of Franklin; and one niece and nephew.

A celebration of life will be at a later date.

A private burial will be at Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Wounded Warriors Project at <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/>.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

### Barbara Talley Barnes

Barbara Talley Barnes, 83, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2022. She was born Oct. 23, 1938, in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late Lester Talley and Amanda Miller Talley. She gave meaning to the word "love," serving her community by helping start the Highlands Emergency Council and cooking senior dinners in Highlands. She was well known for her love of cooking and can be remembered by her breads and cakes at Mountain Fresh. She loved her family and welcomed anyone into her home as if they were family and enjoyed time working with her flowers. She was a member of the Blue Valley Baptist Church and was of the Baptist faith.

She is survived by her sons, Lonnie Barnes (Sue) and Doug Barnes; two daughters, Cathy Speed (Marianne) and Sandy Barnes; several grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Everette Barnes (Big E); brothers, Harry Talley, Herbert Talley, and Mark Talley; sisters, Mary Bryson, Nellie Bryson, Ann Chastain, Bessie Barnes, and Jean Guthrie.

Funeral services were held Saturday Oct. 22, at Buck Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Oliver Rice officiating. Burial followed at Buck Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Steven Mace, Danny Chastain, Jamie Barnes, Jordan Speed, Keith Barnes, and Tommy Houston.

The family ask that in lieu of flowers that memorials be made to the Highlands Emergency Council, 71 Poplar Street, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home is serving the Barnes family.

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



Christopher Hancock



Barbara Talley Barnes

### MSgt. Mark Davis Matheson

Mark Davis Matheson "MnM" MSgt, United States Air Force Pararescueman retired, 59, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022, in his residence in Franklin, N.C. He was born in Tampa, Fla., on Jan. 22, 1963, to Betty Davis Wood and the late Donald Lee Matheson.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Anne Matheson; daughter, Steinunn Mist Matheson; grandchildren, Olivia Mist and Lincoln; and sisters, Cynthia Leigh and Jennifer Ann.

He was an experienced combat veteran who embodied the motto, "that others may live." He dedicated his life to saving and helping others and was widely known as someone who would give the shirt off his back to anyone in need. He touched many lives wherever he served all over the world. He was a true American hero that will be sorely missed, now resting from his labors in the Lord he trusted.

Funeral service will be held Thursday, Nov. 3, at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Bryant-Grant funeral home, with a reception to follow at Jaycee Building/Franklin Memorial Park, 448 W. Main Street Franklin. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. Burial will be Friday, Nov. 4, at 12 p.m., at Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, 926 Old US Hwy 70, Black Mountain, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/donate-in-loving-memory-of-mark-matheson>; or <https://www.pararescuefoundation.org/how-you-can-help-1>.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family.

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



Mark Davis Matheson

### Jean Kriska Chodl

Jean Kriska Chodl, 90, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Oct. 20, 2022. She was born May 3, 1932, in Oak Park, Ill., to the late Jacob Kriska and Caroline McKensnoble. She worked in Real Estate Investment and Development. She was a devoted Christian.

She is survived by her two daughters, Jean McDougall (Ross) of Franklin, N.C., and Patricia Serre (Jeffrey) of Fort Myers, Fla.; grandchildren, Jeffrey McDougall (Kristin) of Franklin, and Jenna Copple (Dane) of Knoxville, Tenn.; and five great grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by a daughter, Renee Chodl; and her brother, Charles Kiska.

A private service is planned.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home is serving the Chodl family.

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

### Jeffrey Gischel

Jeffrey Gischel, 47, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022. He was born April 2, 1975, in Baltimore, Md., to August Glenward Gischel and Ruth Elizabeth Harris Thornton.

He moved to Franklin in 2016. He received his Bachelor's Degree at William Carey University and worked as an EMT, teacher, and a musician in the entertainment industry, mostly as a guitarist for the band Sypher. He was big hearted and loved his family very much. He was also adventurous, and loved traveling, woodworking and music.

He is survived by his son, Gage Gischel; mother, Ruth Elizabeth Harris Thornton; and step-father, Rick Thornton; a brother, Greg Gischel; and a niece, Sophie Gischel.

No services are planned at this time.

Bryan-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).



Jeffrey Gischel

### Rita Anne Bader

Rita Anne Bader, 85, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Oct. 18, 2022.

She was the daughter of the late John Theodore and Elizabeth Katherine Leuken DeWitte. She grew up in Middleburg Hgts, Ohio, graduated from Berea High School, she met the love of her life, Fred, in 8th grade. They later reunited when she was a senior in high school and he was returning home from Korean War. They were married in 1957. After several years of marriage they moved to St. Petersburg, Fla. They lived there while raising their family, until Fred retired in 1995, then moved to their vacation cottage in Franklin.

She volunteered throughout her life with several organizations including Girl Scouts, Special Olympics, Senior Center, class mom, arts and crafts groups, and Bible studies. She was a member of Beta Sigma Phi, St. Mary Church in Berea, St. Jude's in St. Pete, and St. Francis in Franklin. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She provided stability, tradition, and unwavering love. Her love, guidance, and friendship will be greatly missed and will hold a special place in our hearts. Lastly, her grandchildren were her pride and joy, and the family are very grateful for the influence and memories that they will forever hold of her.

She is survived by her daughters, Maribeth Allie Bader (Dan Tiller) of Franklin, and Annette Bader Grundon (John) of St. Petersburg; her wonderful grandchildren, Carson Tiller (Aliyah), Chase Tiller, Camryn Tiller, Anthony Ogrosky, Madison Grundon, Jeremiah Bader; step-grandchildren, Johnathan Grundon and Thomas Grundon; one great grandchild, Silas Grundon; and her lifelong family and best friends, Georgian Baesel and Marlene Smith. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Louis Bader, and a son, Daniel Bader.

A funeral mass was held Friday, Oct. 21, at St. Francis Catholic Church with Father Tien Duong officiating.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Rita Anne Bader

### Ray Thomas Potts

Ray Thomas Potts, 91, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2022, after a period of declining health.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Paul Thomas and Allie Ray Potts. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Billie Bert Pruett Potts.

He was a United States Army veteran. He was the owner of Potts Funeral Home and worked at the Belden Corp. He later owned-operated a long-haul trucking business. He enjoyed woodworking and doing mechanic work on just about anything.

He is survived by his son, Tommy Potts; daughter-in-law, Fay Fox Potts; two grandsons, Nathan Huscusson and Nick Potts; great granddaughter, Mallory Huscusson; and special caregiver and friend, Debbie Coffey.

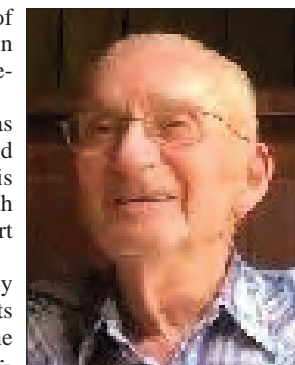
Funeral service was held Saturday, Oct. 22, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Steve Reeves officiated. Burial was in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Lyman Holland, Jack Dillard, Robert Jenkins, Stan Southard, Keith Vinson, and Mike Coates.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 81, Franklin, NC, 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Ray Thomas Potts



# Deaths & Funerals

## Donald Jean Hardy

Donald Jean Hardy, 89, of Franklin, N.C., and a Michigan native, passed peacefully at his home on Oct. 22, 2022, with his loving wife, Evelyn, of 62 years, by his side.

Born on Feb. 7, 1933, in Malden, Mo., he was the son of the late Henry Paul Hardy and Sarah (Preston) Hardy. He was the youngest of nine siblings who all preceded him in death.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and was a proud patriot throughout his entire life.

After his honorable discharge, June 9, 1956, from the U.S. Air Force, he moved to Michigan where he began his career with Marathon Oil Company. In 1999, the couple retired to Franklin.

During retirement, he enjoyed life with his family, golf, playing pinochle with his family and friends, word puzzles, solitaire, game shows, and news programs. He loved dogs, the Detroit Tigers and the Detroit Red Wings.

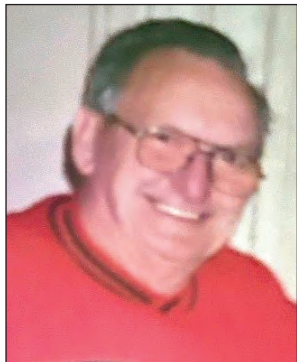
He is survived by his wife, Evelyn; daughters, Kim Divian (Jeff), Tammy Rehm (Roger) and Christie (Roy) Hardy; four grandchildren, Jared Goemaere, Jordan (Alexia) Hawkins, Madison and Morgan Campbell; two great grandchildren, Blake and Oliver Hawkins.

He loved his girls and his grandchildren very much. He had a special bond with each one.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Oct. 29, at Victory Baptist Church, 278 Victory Church Road, Sylva. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., one hour prior to the Christian military service. A luncheon will follow the service with location to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Victory Christian School.

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



Donald Jean Hardy

## Richard 'Cowboy Rick' Phillip Miller

Richard "Cowboy Rick" Phillip Miller, 78, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at his residence, Oct. 17, 2022.

He was born in San Jose, Calif., and moved to Franklin 44 years ago to call the mountains his home. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Lois Miller, and a brother Donald Miller.

He was voted Republican of the year, was a GOP executive member, and co-owner of Divas on Main, where he enjoyed going daily. He will be remembered for living a very active life. He loved his wife and dogs, Rascal, Lulu, Dolly, and Diva, very much.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Sarah Miller; son, Erik Miller and wife Tracy and their children, Ryan Patrick Miller, Russell Parker Miller, and Randall Peyton Miller; and sister, Cheri Smith of Paso Robles, Calif.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Nov. 6, 1 to 4 p.m., at the clock tower on the Square in Franklin.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Go Fund Me account, "Cowboy Rick."

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Richard Phillip Miller

## Carl Richard Isaacson Jr.

Carl Richard Isaacson Jr., 80, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2022. He was born Sept. 1, 1942, in Connecticut. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and brother, he loved all his family especially his grandchildren. He was funny and liked jokes, and he was well liked and respected. He had worked as a machine operator in construction and was very passionate about his work. He loved Nascar racing, dancing, and cats. He was a Son of the Legion.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Lucille Shields Isaacson; son, Phillip Isaacson; daughter, Debbie Crawford; twin sisters, Diane and Donna; two grandchildren, Amberly and Kelsey Crawford; and two great-grandchildren, Kyeran and Gage. He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl Richard Sr. and Myrtle Brooks Isaacson, and by a brother, Donald Isaacson.

A Celebration of life was held at Bryant Grant Funeral Home Chapel Oct. 26.

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



Carl Richard Isaacson Jr.

## Lillian Anna Haselden

Lillian Anna Haselden, 94, passed away peacefully June 23, 2021, at her home in Mountain City, Ga.

She is survived by her son, Randy Haselden; and nieces and nephews residing in Illinois, Kentucky and Florida. Her husband, Rev. William Haselden, preceded her in 2006.

She retired at age 78, after working in various capacities including secretary, bookkeeper, bank teller, payroll clerk and social services clerk.

A drop-in memorial visitation will be held on Oct. 29, her birthday, at Patton Methodist Church Fellowship Hall from 2 to 5 p.m.



Lillian Anna Haselden

## David Larry Rogers

David Larry Rogers, 85, went home to be with the Lord at his residence in Highlands on Oct. 20, 2022. He was born in Jackson County, North Carolina, on April 15, 1937, to the late Claude Rogers and Edith Calhoun Rogers of Highlands.

He proudly served his country in the United States Army as a pipefitter and a plumber while stationed in Greenland. Anyone that knew him had an "L.R." story. He loved people and enjoyed getting a good joke on you. He was a successful businessman. Larry Rogers Construction was a household name. He served as a commissioner for the Town of Highlands as well as serving on numerous boards. He was a service-minded man and loved his community and the people he served.

Papaw will leave a void in all of our lives. God blessed our family by allowing him to remain with us after a debilitating stroke in 2011. We are grateful for our time with him.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Genevieve Rogers; four children, Michael Rogers (Tina), Penny Houston (Max), Kimberly Downs (Jeff) and Mark Rogers (Lori); 13 grandchildren, Magie Barden (Chris), Courtney Welch (Josh), Alexandra Lewis (Austin), Carrington Houston (Kristen), Clayton Partain, Brooke Wooten (Josh), David Rogers, Sarah Rogers, LeAnne Downs, Nicole Holbrooks, Brett Gibson, Adrienne Watts, and Colton Gibson; 10 great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; a sister, Linda Williams (Ray).

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a sister, Claudia James Nelson.

A graveside service was held Monday, Oct. 24, at the Highlands Memorial Park in Highlands. Pallbearers were Clayton Partain, Carrington Houston, Chris Barden, Josh Welch, Austin Lewis, Roberto Torres, Colton Gibson, and Pali Torres. Honorary pallbearers were the employees of Mark Rogers Grading.

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



David Larry Rogers

## Sarah Olivia Sanders Reece

Sarah Olivia Sanders Reece, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022, in Anderson, S.C.

She was born in Franklin N.C., to the late Jesse L. Sanders and Ida Florence Shope Sanders.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years George Howard Reece; and her siblings, Willa Styles, Edith Conley, Margaret Harrison, Jesse (Sonny) Sanders, John (Jay) Sanders, Betty Owens, Charles Sanders and Jimmy Sanders.

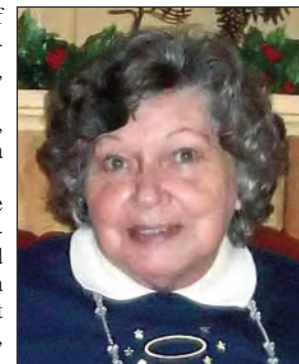
She is survived by her three children, Joseph Howard Reece (Renea) of Anderson, S.C., Karen Reece Bannister (Guy) of Gainesville, Ga., and Phillip Scott Reece (Beth) of Anderson, S.C.; four grandchildren, Noah Bannister, Linda Gee, Phillip Reece, Eli Reece; two great-grandchildren and half-sister Amelia Trull; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, Oct. 26, at Prentiss Baptist Church with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Prentiss Baptist Church, 1438 Belle Dowdle Rd., Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements



Sarah Olivia Reece

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## Kyle Larson plays Playoff spoiler, wins at Homestead

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

HOMESTEAD, Fla. – Kyle Larson has led a lot of laps and come awfully close to hoisting a trophy at Homestead-Miami Speedway. On Sunday he finally did both, winning the Dixie Vodka 400 NASCAR Cup Series Playoff race in dominant form.

Larson swept both Stage wins and led 199 of the race's 267 laps in the No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet to pull away to a 1.261-second victory over Florida native Ross Chastain in the No. 1 Trackhouse Racing Chevy.

Kaulig Racing's A.J. Allmendinger was third with Richard Childress Racing's Austin Dillon and Roush-Fenway-Keselowski Racing's Brad Keselowski rounding out the top five. It is the 2012 series champion Keselowski's first Top-five finish since becoming co-owner of the organization this season.

The win was 2021 NASCAR Cup Series champion Larson's third of the year and 19th of his career – but the first at the 1.5-mile Homestead oval after a pair of previous near-misses. He led a race best 132 laps in 2016, but finished runner-up. He led 145 laps in 2017 and finished third.

"No matter what team I've been with, things haven't worked out on my end to get a win, so glad to get one today," Larson said.

"Definitely the best run we've had all year long," he added. "We've been capable of it I feel like many weekends, we just hadn't quite put it all together. [Crew chief] Cliff [Daniels] gave a great speech this morning and got us all ready to go and focused.

"Amazing race car," he noted with a smile.

The 30-year-old Californian was eliminated from the Playoffs in the last round, so Chastain was the top-finishing championship contender with only one race - next week at Martinsville, Va. - to set the four driver Championship field for the Nov. 6 season finale at Phoenix.

Only two Playoff drivers finished in the Top-10 Sunday at Homestead: Chastain and Denny Hamlin, who was seventh in the No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.

Playoff drivers Christopher Bell (finished 11th), Sunday's polesitter William Byron (12th), Chase Elliott (14th), Ryan Blaney (17th) and Joey Logano (18th) were still running on the lead lap at the checkered flag. The eighth Playoff-eligible driver, Chase Briscoe, finished last (36th) after making contact with the wall on lap 160.

Hamlin (four laps), Bell (four laps) and Byron (33 laps) all spent time leading the field before various setbacks.

Team Penske's Logano is the only Playoff driver who has already earned his position in the Championship race thanks to a victory at Las Vegas a week ago. Chastain, Elliott and Byron now complete the Top-four driver ranking.

Hamlin sits in fifth place, five points below Byron. Blaney is 18 points below the cutline, Bell, 33 back and Briscoe now essentially in a must-win situation, trailing by 44 points.

With his victory, Larson's No. 5 Hendrick Chevrolet is eligible for the owner's title.



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 Valvoline Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Dixie Vodka 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Oct. 23, 2022, in Homestead, Fla.

late getting into his stall. I don't know. If it was my fault I'm sorry, but I don't think it was. It's hard to see on this pit road... hate that happened. He was definitely the one I was going to have to beat."

Truex, who is still racing for his first victory of 2022, was obviously disappointed in the outcome, but could only shake his head at the circumstances.

"It's really hard to see through these windshields with the sun like that and all the stuff covering it," Truex said. "I did see my box late for sure, so I slowed down before I turned out of the way of the 5 (Larson) there.

"Partly on me, I didn't expect to get turned around and glad nobody got hurt there. Overall, just tough, just disappointing to have a good day going like that and have a shot at winning and couldn't close the deal. I hate it for my team.

"It's been one of those years."

The final race to set the Championship 4 is next Sunday at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway, the Xfinity 500 (2 p.m. ET, NBC, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Hendrick Motorsports' Alex Bowman is the defending race winner, but won't be competing while recovering from concussion-like symptoms. His teammate Byron won at Martinsville earlier this season.

Noah Gragson punches ticket to Championship 4 with win at Homestead

HOMESTEAD, Fla. – Noah Gragson has led plenty of laps at Homestead-Miami Speedway with three Top-10 finishes in his four starts before this weekend. And Saturday night – at long last - Gragson earned the Xfinity Series winner's trophy to go with all his statistical success at the South Florida track.

The 23-year-old Las Vegas native led a dominating 127 of the 200 laps – at one point his No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevy was out front by more than 9-seconds. Ultimately it took a strong restart with five laps remaining for Gragson to ensure the victory – .550-seconds over fellow NASCAR Xfinity Series championship challenger Ty Gibbs.

While Larson dominated the laps-led category and even paced the field by more than 9-seconds at one point late in the race, he had to earn this trophy after a late-race caution flag.

Martin Truex Jr. had taken the lead after a caution period with 46 laps remaining and pulled away to a nearly 2-second lead when the final yellow flag flew again with 23 laps remaining.

As the field pitted, Larson's Chevy was right behind Truex's Toyota and it appeared Truex was going to miss his pit box when Larson's car bumped Truex's car from behind. The contact spun Truex, whose team was still able to service the car, but he fell outside the Top-10 initially before racing back up to a sixth-place finish.

"I was just going behind him and he had a hard left and was hard on the brakes at the same time and I got into the back of him," Larson explained of the incident. "My team said he was

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The win is Gragson's automatic ticket to the Championship 4 at Phoenix Raceway in two weeks – a fitting placement for the young driver who leads the series with eight wins, more than doubling his previous career high single-season win tally.

"I wanted this one so bad," Gragson said, raising his hand in celebration with the cheering crowd. "The last three years. ... Words can't describe how thankful I am for everybody at JR Motorsports."

The Xfinity Series race wrapped up a huge NASCAR doubleheader Saturday with the dominating Gragson victory. He won both stages giving him 16 stage wins on the season – more than twice as many as any other driver.

Gragson now joins his JR Motorsports teammate Josh Berry - last week's winner - with the automatic Championship 4 berth with two positions still to be decided.

Gibbs' runner-up finish places him third in the championship standings. He's a healthy 30 points ahead of fourth place, Kaulig Racing's A.J. Allmendinger with next week's Martinsville (Va.) Speedway race settling which four drivers will be racing for the title at Phoenix on Nov. 4.

"We were just battling our race car all day, we made great adjustments and my guys never gave up," said the 20-year old Gibbs who was making his Homestead-Miami Speedway debut.

"We'll move on to Martinsville. I feel like that's a place we were really fast at earlier this year and probably had a shot to win it so I'm excited to back there."

JR Motorsports driver Justin Allgaier, who had an eventful day, finished 10th coming back from being a lap down. He now trails Allmendinger by only five points for that final Playoff berth. Richard Childress Racing's Austin Hill sits seven points below the cutoff line with a ninth-place Homestead finish.



Noah Gragson, driver of the #9 Bass Pro Shops/TrueTimber/BRCC Chevrolet, marks his eighth win in the NASCAR Xfinity Series Contender Boats 300 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Oct. 22, 2022, in Homestead, Fla.

Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

JR Motorsports driver Sam Mayer, who finished fifth Saturday is now 28 points behind Allmendinger and Joe Gibbs Racing's Brandon Jones is 28 points back after finishing 15th.

Gibbs and Allmendinger were among the seven race leaders on the day. But if not for that late race caution, it looked like a sure Gragson runaway.

Allmendinger finished third with his Kaulig Racing teammate Daniel Hemric fourth. Mayer was fifth. Trevor Bayne finished sixth – his 47 laps led in the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota second only to Gragson's high mark.

Chandler Smith, who hours earlier at Homestead earned a Championship 4 position in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, finished seventh. Riley Herbst, Hill and Allgaier rounded out the Top-10.

The Xfinity Series will set its four-driver Championship grid next Saturday in the Dead On Tools 250 at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway (3 p.m. ET, NBC, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Gragson is the defending winner of this Playoff race. Jones won at Martinsville this Spring

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10%	10%	10%	70%	60%



Ty Majeski, driver of the #66 Road Ranger Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Baptist Health 200 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Oct. 22, 2022, in Homestead, Fla.



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1. Big splash, in the audience
6. Diminish
9. Miss America's accessory
13. Wear away
14. V
15. Nile's mouth, e.g.
16. Enter password (2 words)
17. Poetic "even"
18. Misbehave (2 words)
19. \*\*"Carpool Karaoke" James \_\_\_\_\_
21. \*\*"The Tonight Show" longest-serving host
23. Negative conjunction
24. One of Five Ws
25. Communications regulator, acr.
28. Australian palm
30. Branch of traditional medicine, adj.
35. Monet's water flower
37. Succotash ingredient
39. Indian side dish
40. Like dental exam
41. Administer
43. Frequenter
44. Town news announcer
46. Do like eagle
47. Recipe command
48. \*Not Fallon
50. Like a "Vogue" ad
52. "Is it \_\_\_\_\_ wonder?"
53. Onion's kin
55. Am is to I as \_\_\_\_\_ is to we
57. \*Certain Barbarian's namesake
60. \*\*"Last Week Tonight

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| <p>with John _____</p> <p>63. Indifferent to emotions</p> <p>64. Tokyo, in the olden days</p> <p>66. Type of car</p> <p>68. Not upright</p> <p>69. Floor cleaner</p> <p>70. Not mainstream</p> <p>71. Gallup's inquiry</p> <p>72. Word for a nod</p> <p>73. Particular manner</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Electric swimmer</li> <li>2. Gator's kin</li> <li>3. NBC's peacock, e.g.</li> <li>4. Deck out</li> <li>5. Muscle to bone connector</li> <li>6. Balanced</li> <li>7. **"Full Frontal" Samantha _____</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. *Judge Wapner and Judge Judy "hosted" from it</li> <li>9. 1/60th of min, pl.</li> <li>10. Palo _____, CA</li> <li>11. Like nonlethal gun</li> <li>12. Accident</li> <li>15. Squirrel or hummingbird, moving-wise</li> <li>20. _____ Kane of soap opera fame</li> <li>22. Pleasurable interjection</li> <li>24. Male witch</li> <li>25. Bo-Peep's sheep, e.g.</li> <li>26. Wispy clouds</li> <li>27. Request to Geico</li> <li>29. Politicians, for short</li> <li>31. Opposite of riches</li> <li>32. Plants and animals</li> <li>33. Did not go out for dinner (2 words)</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34. *Late "Live" King of CNN</li> <li>36. Original matter, according to Big Bang Theory</li> <li>38. *Stewart's successor</li> <li>42. Judge Judy's event</li> <li>45. Remnant of the past</li> <li>49. *Regis and Kathie _____</li> <li>51. Critical situation</li> <li>54. Hostile force</li> <li>56. Black tie one</li> <li>57. Football great Graham</li> <li>58. Skin infection</li> <li>59. Tiny river</li> <li>60. "My bad!"</li> <li>61. Whirlpool</li> <li>62. Commuter line</li> <li>63. Pine juice</li> <li>65. Bambi's mom</li> <li>67. Clinton _____ Rodham</li> </ol> |
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**APPALACHIAN ANIMAL** Rescue Thrift Store, Open Tuesday thru Saturday, 9am- 4pm, 1521 Old Murphy Rd., (828)369-3046.

**Real Estate**

**3-25 ACRES** 15 minutes south of Highlands bordering protected Chattooga River headwaters. Amazing views, springs, good road. \$20k/acre and up. Owned by one family for 180 years. First time available as small tracts. (828)974-1137.

**Rentals**

**NEW 3 BD/2BA MH** located in Cowee. 1st, last and security required. \$1500 mo. Call (828)349-0353.

**2BR/2BA NEWLY** Renovated 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Application, references and deposit required. Never smoked in or had animals. \$1,200.00 per month. (828)371-2218.

**Misc. For Sale**

**BUYING WILD GINSENG** Every Day 4pm-8pm. Best Price Paid. Large Amounts Welcome. Call Ricky Teem (828)371-1802 or (828)524-7748.

**B & M MILITARY SURPLUS** MRE'S Military Boots, Clothing, Rain Gear, Cold Weather Gear, Sleeping Bags, Vests, Packs, Bags, Field Gear, G.I. 5 gallon Gas Cans! We Buy, Trade all Types Clothes, Field Gear, W/C Poncho Liner, Woobie. Open Monday- Friday 9-6, Saturday 9-5, 329 Bennett Ridge Rd. Franklin, (828)349-3140. bandmsurplus@gmail.com

**Garage & Yard Sales**

**ESTATE SALE** Friday & Saturday, 9-3, Antiques, Furniture, Nice Clothing, Books, Misc. Household. 407 W. Main St., Franklin.

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# COUNTRYSIDE CHEVROLET REGIONAL PRE-OWNED SUPERSTORE



## CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	BMW	Alpina XB7	536
2022	Edge	Sport	101
2021	Kia	Optima EX	20,010
2020	Chevrolet	Camaro	25,641
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2019	Dodge	Challenger SXT	16,993
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan SXT	55,584
2019	Nissan	Sentra	66,190
2019	Nissan	Sentra SV	15,009
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	53,520
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze	34,692
2018	Traverse	LT AWD	95,105
2017	Dodge	Journey	110,982
2017	Honda	Fit	59,209
2013	Hyundia	Genesis 6 SPD	69,381
2013	VW	Beetle Convertible	67,099

## SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	BMW	X5	1,402
2022	Buick	Enclave Essence	1,372
2022	Honda	Passport Trailsport	4,512
2022	Jeep	Wrangler Sahara Unlimited	10,539
2021	Chevrolet	Tahoe	33,592
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	GMC	Yukon XL	53,356
2021	Grand Cherokee	L	13,279
2021	Jeep	Wrangler Sport	8,094
2020	Acura	MDX AWD	46,606
2020	Buick	Encore	34,808

2020	Chevrolet	Trax	7,250
2020	Chevrolet	Trax Premier	28,030
2020	GMC	Acadia AT4	28,261
2020	Grand Cherokee	Trailhawk	26,226
2020	Jeep	Wrangler Rubicon Unlimited	24,249
2019	Chevrolet	Blazer RS	45,231
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
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox LT	23,569
2018	Ford	Explorer Sport	57,475
2018	Forerunner	TRD Sport	65,055
2018	Nissan	Murano	53,903
2017	Rogue	SV	58,866
2016	Chevrolet	Traverse LS AWD	62,942
2016	Dodge	Grand Caravan	76,458
2016	Lexus	RX 350	72,919
2016	Sorento	LX	112,933
2016	Toyota	Sequoia	96,869
2015	Suburban	LT	92,352
2011	Jeep	Wrangler	108,260

## TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	Chevrolet	2500 LTZ	4,635
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	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	Chevrolet	Trailboss Crew	22,256
2021	Colorado	Z-71	12,912
2021	F-150	Crew 4x4	32,251
2021	Ford	F-150 SuperCrew Cab	32,251
2021	GMC	Canyon Elevation	50,934
2021	Ram	2500 Tradesman	3,647
2021	Toyota	Tacoma TRD Sport	10,557
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	1500 Trailboss	36,741
2019	Chevrolet	2500 LTZ Crew	38,248
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	Ford	F-150 Punisher	53,682
2019	GMC	Sierra 1500	18,811
2019	Nissan	Frontier	90,486
2019	Ram	3500 Flatbed	58,192
2018	Chevrolet	1500 LT Crew	28,131
2018	Chevrolet	1500 LT Crew	50,934
2018	Chevrolet	2500 LTZ Crew	56,558
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado Z-71	23,542
2018	Colorado	ZR2	36,012
2013	Ford	F-250 DSL	85,920



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