

The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

Free independent weekly

It's Time to **FALL BACK**
Sunday, Nov. 6
 Daylight Savings Time Ends
 Remember to set your clocks back

November 3, 2022 • 24 Pages

Volume 40 Number 25

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

www.themaconcountynews.com



The Streets of Franklin Heritage Association in partnership with Franklin Fire & Rescue and Pharoah's of WNC sponsored a combination Monster Mash and Boo Bash Saturday in downtown Franklin. Kids young and old were invited to dress in their scariest costumes and trick or treat up and down Main Street and in downtown businesses, while volunteers handed out treats from their spooky displays. The downtown festivities concluded with a classic movie "Hocus Pocus," sponsored by the Town of Franklin in partnership with Ruby Cinemas. For more photos of Halloween in Franklin, see page 12. Photo by Betsey Gooder

IN THIS ISSUE



Campaign underway to establish free clinic



Volunteers needed for Fontana Lake cleanup

New health option coming to Macon Schools

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

Macon County Schools will soon be getting a School-Based Health Center (SBHC). With a potential start date of January 2023, the Telehealth program is still in the developmental stage, but moving steadily toward finalization. This specific telehealth plan was proposed to Macon County Public Health and to Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin, prior to applying for a grant. Approval was received from both to move forward. Once the grant was awarded, both Public Health and Dr. Baldwin were made aware of the receipt of the award and continued their support to move forward with implementation. The Community Health Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Rural Health awarded a \$150,000 Community Health Grant for the startup year.

What a SBHC provides

Each school will receive equipment that will allow students and/or staff to connect via telehealth with a medical provider from the Health Department, to complete a visit from school. Dr. Donald Dewhurst, MD or Julie Rogers, FNPC [certified nurse practitioner] will be able to diagnose

and treat illnesses such as sinus infections, sore throat/strep, ear infections, urinary symptoms, influenza, Covid-19, conjunctivitis ("pink eye"), etc., as well as help with management of known chronic medical conditions. Numerous benefits of the program include:

- Increasing access to care for students and staff;
- Convenience of appointments and scheduling with availability during every school day;
- Increased class time; for students and staff;
- Management of outbreaks;
- Reduction in health disparities in historically marginalized populations;
- Less time off work and lost wages for parents and school staff;
- Reducing transportation challenges; and a most important benefit, that the program is open to all students and staff without restriction or ability to pay.

Students will be able to be seen without payment becoming a barrier. For students and staff with insurance, their plan will be billed for the visit. More information on fee policies will be provided in the future with the goal being no out-of-

Sample Ballot
 Macon County, North Carolina
 November 8, 2022

B0001

SAMPLE

BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS:
 A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.
 B. Where authorized, you may write in a candidate by filling in the oval and writing the name on the Write-in line.
 C. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.

FEDERAL OFFICES	NC Court of Appeals Judge	DISTRICT OFFICES
US Senate (You may vote for ONE) Matthew Hoh Green Party Cheri Beasley Democratic Party Shannon W. Bray Libertarian Party Ted Budd Republican Party Write-in:	NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 8 (You may vote for ONE) Jules Tate Flood Republican Party Carolyn Jennings Thompson Democratic Party NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 9 (You may vote for ONE) Brad A. Salmon Democratic Party Donna Stroud Republican Party	NC Superior Court Judge District 30A - Seat 1 (You may vote for ONE) William H. (Bill) Coward Republican Party NC District Court Judge District 30 - Seat 1 (You may vote for ONE) Donna Forga Republican Party
US House of Representatives District 11 (You may vote for ONE) David Adam Coatney	NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 10 (You may vote for ONE) John M. Tyson	NC District Court Judge District 30 - Seat 2 (You may vote for ONE) Kristina Lynn Earwood

Page 18

Early voting continues through November 5

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See HEALTH OPTION page 2

HEALTH OPTION

Continued from page 1

pocket cost for the students. Parents will be responsible for the cost of prescriptions but the health department will make every effort to offer assistance, if needed, to local resources.

How it works

All children (and staff) will occasionally experience days where they don't feel well. In the school setting, this typically leads to a visit to the school nurse or designated trained school staff to complete additional assessment of the complaint. Following the initial assessment, if it is determined the student/staff could benefit from a visit with a health care provider, the school nurse or trained school staff will contact the school-based health center (SBHC) for an appointment. Appointments are completed via telehealth, using not only audio/visual communication, but will also utilize telehealth equipment allowing the provider to complete a thorough assessment including the ability to visualize the inner ear, throat, etc., hear heart and lung sounds, etc. The equipment is called Tytocare, specifically TytoClinic units. Limited on-site rapid testing will be available for some health concerns including strep throat, flu, COVID-19, urinalysis, etc. This will involve a couple additional pieces of small equipment and testing supplies.

Once it is determined that a student or staff member needs a referral to a medical provider for additional evaluation and treatment, school personnel will first contact the parent to discuss the referral need and review their options to make an appointment with a primary care provider, SBHC, or decline the referral for additional assessment. A visit with Primary Care is always encouraged first. (Traditionally appointments are at times difficult to schedule due to availability of same-day "sick" appointments.) The Health Department will be providing clear and

simple instructions in the near future of how to schedule a same-day appointment with SBHC. There is capability to include the parent, student and provider in a visit as a three-way view, but the parent appearance for the visit is not required as long as they have completed enrollment and given permission for the appointment. Following any visit with school-based health, a visit summary will be sent to the



Above is an example of a telehealth machine that schools will be using to diagnose students and staff.

primary care provider on record for continuity of care and follow-up. If there is no primary care provider (PCP), information will be provided to encourage that they establish with a PCP. Once the program is ready to launch and a completed packet (including consent and medical history) are received, they can begin providing access to health care as needed.

Trained staff needed

In addition to all school nurses, schools will need two staff from each school willing to be trained as a patient presenter for an appointment to ensure daily access to the SBHC. Ideally the school nurse will complete the telehealth appointment. However, school nurses are not present at each school daily, or may be tied up with other student needs. It is important to have additional trained staff within each school. The visit itself should not require a huge time commitment with the average visit being 15 minutes. Ideally, a presenter would be someone that is not tied to a classroom as the only adult to monitor a class.

The Health Department understands that an educator's purpose is to educate, not run a medical office. However, they also understand you cannot educate a child that is not well or not present. "First responders" are chosen in each school; thus, those individuals might be ideal staff to select for this task, if they are willing. All documentation pertaining to the visit will be completed by the provider. Confidentiality standards of HIPAA/FERPA do apply to the visit.

What presenters will do

Presenters will be asked to complete a set of vitals prior to the appointment: height, weight, blood pressure, temperature. The TytoClinic units come equipped with automatic BP cuff, temp monitoring, and pulse oximeter. Height and weight tools are present in each school nurse office. Presenters will be trained to obtain basic specimens for routine on-site testing. All testing is simple and does not require medical training beyond "just-in-time" training. The tentative date range to schedule an all-day training session is currently Nov. 7-10. Dates are subject to change based on arrival of equipment. Exact date within that week will be determined as coverage for selected staff is arranged and confirmed to be away for a full day.

Telehealth is already up and running in 10 counties in North Carolina.

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Healthy Homes Initiative renewed

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF), Nantahala Health Foundation (NHF) and Dogwood Health Trust are pleased to announce a continued collaborative initiative to address the need for home repairs in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties and the Qualla Boundary.

Dogwood Health Trust is supporting the Healthy Homes Initiative and the work of HCHF and NHF with a \$400,000 grant. The initiative is targeted to owner-occupied homes of individuals at 60 percent of the area median income (AMI), including a slate of USDA-qualified allowances. This funding assistance is intended for homeowners who are unable to afford the repairs needed to maintain the health and safety of their home's occupants, as well as home modifications required to address physical challenges, disabilities or barriers to aging safely in their homes.

"Our partnerships with Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation and Nantahala Health Foundation are vital to our ability to help create a region where everyone can live, learn, earn and thrive, without exception," said Dr. Susan Mims, CEO of Dogwood Health Trust. "We know that having safe and stable housing is a key driver of health outcomes. HCHF and NHF have deep relationships in their communities and are already working closely with local partners to help keep residents safely in their homes and on a path to better health."

HCHF and NHF have launched a new grant cycle specifically requesting proposals from nonprofit, governmental and faith-based organizations that have demonstrated success in the past identifying and implementing critical

home repairs and rehabilitation projects. Both Foundations' leaders say they look forward to reviewing applications, awarding grants, and working together to address safe, equitable and affordable housing for those in need throughout their service area.

"We are grateful to collaborate with Dogwood Health Trust and Nantahala Health Foundation in this very important initiative" says Robin Tindall, CEO and Executive Director of HCHF. "The need for this important initiative is eye-opening and too often goes unnoticed. Good health starts at home, and we are excited to continue to work with many of our local nonprofit partners to improve the health and well-being for those who struggle with the costs to make the necessary repairs to their homes."

"Our region's low-income individuals and families with children, our senior population and those with physical challenges have enough to think about every day without the added burden and expense of home repairs to ensure their health and safety," said Nantahala Health Foundation Executive Director Lori Bailey. "In partnership with non-profit home-repair specialists and with this generous support from Dogwood Health Trust, we can safeguard home ownership and preserve our region's existing housing stock, both of which are essential components of our mission to improve health and wellbeing for all who call Western North Carolina home."

Grant applications will be accepted through Nov. 14, 2022. Information regarding the grant application process can be found on both HCHF and NHF's websites.

VETERANS DAY

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Friday, November 11th

Downtown Franklin

10:30am - Parade
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11:00am - Veterans Ceremony
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Technology grant funds open to small businesses

Applications are now being accepted for a new round of grantmaking from the One North Carolina Small Business Program, a key source of capital for North Carolina's emerging technology companies.

"The One North Carolina Small Business Program provides critical support to some of our state's most promising new companies," said North Carolina Secretary of Commerce Machel Baker Sanders. "Recent enhancements to the program open the door for even more tech entrepreneurs to grow their companies in North Carolina."

The One NC Small Business Program works in conjunction with two federal technology grants, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Following recent changes, the state program can support N.C. companies as they prepare and submit initial proposals to the federal government, as well as provide grants to match previously awarded federal grants.

The One North Carolina Small Business Program's Incentive Funds and Matching Funds initiatives are administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce on behalf of the North Carolina Board of Science, Technology & Innovation (BSTI). Grant awards help small businesses in the state develop and commercialize innovative new technologies, in the process growing jobs and investment in their communities.

The Incentive Funds initiative provides reimbursement to qualified N.C. businesses for a portion of the costs incurred in preparing and submitting Phase I SBIR or STTR proposals to federal agencies. In the 2022-23 fiscal year, a pool of \$314,000 is available for these preparation grants.

The Matching Funds portion of the program, which has been offered for many years, awards matching funds to North Carolina businesses who have already received a federal Phase I SBIR or STTR award. In the current fiscal year, a pool of \$2 million is available to support this class of grants.

"The One North Carolina Small Business Program has a long, established history of advancing innovation in the state," said Jason Botts, Chair of the Board's Innovation Programs Committee. "The Board is activating both the Incentive and Matching grants to help fund new technologies, create jobs, and enhance economic development across a variety of industry sectors, including life sciences, military and defense, chemicals, agriculture, computers, communications, pharmaceuticals, energy, materials, and others."

Federal SBIR and STTR grants are the single largest source of early-stage technology development and commercialization funding for small businesses—more than \$3.8 billion annually nationwide. North Carolina is among a handful of states with incentive and matching grant programs that leverage federal technology funding to help homegrown businesses commercialize innovative technologies and create jobs.

The One North Carolina Small Business Program supports early-stage companies at a critical point, shortening the time between their startup and the point where they become large, sustainable companies. Many past recipients say the vital injection of capital from the state put their companies on a successful trajectory. Since 2006, the Program has helped more than 340 companies in 29 counties, resulting in more than 1,000 North Carolina jobs, hundreds of high-tech products, and the generation of more than \$2 billion in follow-on capital investments.

Applications to the One North Carolina Small Business Program can be accepted until June 30, 2023, or until funds have been exhausted for the program's fiscal year funding cycle.

Details on how to apply for either the Incentive or Matching grant solicitations, as well as additional program information and application instructions, are posted at: commerce.nc.gov and search for "One North Carolina Small Business Program," or commerce.nc.gov/grants-incentives/technology-funds/one-north-carolina-small-business-program.






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THE TRUTH ABOUT JERRY MOORE!



Jerry & Kay Moore moved their family to Highlands, NC, in 2007 after purchasing Kilwin's Chocolates & Ice Cream. Since his arrival more than 15 years ago, Jerry Moore has proven to be a committed and involved resident of Highlands and Macon County.

Jerry Moore is an unaffiliated candidate who has a conservative track record and only supports politicians who believe in law enforcement and the Rule of Law.

Jerry Moore is a believer in the United States Constitution and all 27 amendments.

Jerry and Kay Moore raised their four children with a Biblical worldview and conservative values.

Jerry Moore is a committed Christian who attends Highlands United Methodist Church and is involved in lay leadership and other activities.

Jerry Moore is not affiliated with any political party and is not running his campaign in a concerted effort with Ronnie Beale or Gary Shields. Jerry Moore is grateful for the support of Shields and Beale but is not beholden to anybody but the residents of Macon County.

Jerry Moore supports the building of a new Franklin High School as the most important infrastructure project for Macon County. Moore also supports the 1/4 cent sales tax increase as one element of the funding that will be needed to make the new high school a reality.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE 1/4 CENT TAX INCREASE

- ★ The 1/4 cent sales tax increase will generate between \$1.7 million and \$2 million annually for Macon County.
- ★ Approximately 45% of the 1/4 cent sales tax increase will be paid by visitors to Macon County, allowing commissioners to keep our property taxes low while still addressing important infrastructure projects.
- ★ If Macon County were to finance the entire cost of the new Franklin High School at \$118 million for 20 years at 5% interest, the total cost with interest and principal would BE \$186 million and NOT \$250 million as stated by the opposition.
- ★ To build a new Franklin High School, Macon County will need additional funding sources which may include state grants, current budget allocations and as the last option, incremental increases in ad valorem taxes.
- ★ Investing in education facilities will attract and keep excellent teachers, send a message to our students that we believe in them and allow us to create and attract new businesses.
- ★ Macon County will have significant infrastructure needs for the foreseeable future and the 1/4 cent sales tax will be a key funding source to address these needs. Why would Macon County pass up the opportunity to address these needs and avoid a significant increase in property taxes?



PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JERRY MOORE

Capital campaign underway to bring free medical clinic to Franklin

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

More than 50% of uninsured people are below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) throughout the six western North Carolina counties, according to statistics gleaned by Vecinos, which has proposed the establishment of a Community Health Hub that provides uninsured, low-income community members a variety of human and health services. The goal is for the Hub to be completed in Franklin, on Hwy 441 at the former Smoky Mountains Systems Building, by spring 2024, and to include, besides a Vecinos free clinic, services for dental, counseling, and more.

Vecinos Executive Director Marianne Martinez, explained that the nonprofit organization was established in Jackson County in 2004 out of the Jackson County Health Department to address needs in the migrant farm worker community by offering healthcare services “in a confidential manner and in a culturally-appropriate, Spanish-speaking environment.”

In 2021, Vecinos expanded its patient eligibility requirements to serve any low-income, uninsured adult, regardless of field of employment.

She pointed out that the word “vecinos” means “neighbor” in Spanish, and the Vecinos website focuses on the varied aspects of integrated care offered to the multitudes of people

needing access to medical services.

Currently, a capital campaign is underway to raise funds to outright purchase and renovate an existing building to bring it up to healthcare standards. Martinez presented the proposed project in a detailed report that included slides to the Macon County Commissioners at their September meeting.

The proposed Hub will have as its cornerstone a Vecinos free clinic. However, Martinez explained that Vecinos will maintain its Cullowhee location and also co-locate with four other agencies that serve similar populations: Blue Ridge Free Dental, 30th Judicial District Alliance for domestic violence and sexual abuse services, Centro Comunitario of Macon County for advocacy work, and Pisgah Legal Services for tax prep and ACA (Affordable Care Act) enrollment.

“We also plan to have a community room that can be rented out by anyone for meetings and trainings,” she said. “We will do group and community public education and fundraisers in that room. It’s also for telecommuting with other Vecinos workers and other agencies.”

“Since 2000, the Latinx population in the six Western North Carolina counties has increased by 377%, from approximately 1,658 individuals in 2000 to an estimated 7,900 individuals in 2019 (Jackson, Macon, Graham, Clay, Cherokee, and Swain counties combined),” Martinez continued. “An average of 4.6% of

households speak a language other than English in the home and approximately 3.1% of the total population is foreign born within the service area [2019 U.S. Census Bureau Estimates]. Service providers in the region consider these numbers a conservative estimate, given that census data fails to capture the full immigrant community when considering undocumented individuals and migrant farmworkers.”

Although the Hub would be accessible by anyone in WNC who is uninsured and below 200% of the FPL, Martinez shared that “3,001-6,500 people in the Franklin area are currently not served by a health center, which is the largest percentage in the entire region.”

Currently, few Federally Qualified Health Centers operate in the region, their services are limited, and the Spanish speaking language barrier is often challenging. In contrast, Martinez said, “All of our staff speaks Spanish because the work is so integrated in the Latinx communities.”

“We are all very excited about this project,” expressed Martinez. “The Hub could truly change healthcare in WNC and offer a unique opportunity for people who haven’t been able to seek healthcare. None of [the organizations] can do it on our own in such a massive region – around 4,000 square miles. Having an opportunity to co-locate and be physically together will benefit greatly the uninsured. We want to give patients and clients the dignity of



The plan for the proposed Community Health Hub is to house resource agencies to provide health and human services to uninsured people below the federal poverty level.

a place that’s meant for them, and that’s inspiring. The Hub will truly be about coming together as neighbors.”

Martinez got involved in “farm worker health” in 2008.

“I’m from a small family farm in Western North Carolina,” she said. “My family has been involved in farming in some way. This is my way. So, when the executive director position opened at Vecinos, I had finished my Master’s a year earlier, so this was ideal.”

In order to obtain its goal of \$5.6 million to achieve the Community Health Hub, Vecinos is accepting individual donations and seeking funds from private foundations and through the local and county government. For more information about Vecinos or to donate, visit the website at www.vecinos.org.

*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.
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The Overlook Theatre Company presents "Beauty and the Beast" for the next two weekends at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts – Nov. 4, 5, and 11, 12, at 7 p.m. nightly. For ticket information, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (866)273-4615.

Photos by Betsey Gooder



Re-Elect
Ronnie Beale
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Thank you,

Ronnie Beale

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Election Day is Tuesday Nov. 8th!

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Seniors earn medals in state finals

Franklin pickleball players (Blue Ridge Mountains Pickleball Club) made an impressive showing at this year's Senior Games Finals in Cary, N.C., Oct. 14-16. The club has more than 160 members on its mailing list and is hoping to grow even more, now that the County Parks and Recreation Department has allocated funds for the building of dedicated courts with permanent nets (which will allow anyone in the area to play any time of day, seven days a week).

This year, Franklin sent 15 players to the State Finals and brought home 14 medals: 3 gold, 4 silver, and 7 bronze.

Medal winners

Ed Bresnahan: Gold, Men's Singles (ages

65-69)

Ed Bresnahan and Bill Mandler: Gold, Men's Doubles (60-64)

Margie Watkins and Cindy Baik: Silver, Women's Doubles (50-59)

Paul Baik and David Delaney: Silver, Men's Doubles (65-69)

Nancy Falkenstein and Holly Wylie: Bronze, Women's Doubles (70-74)

Paul Baik and Margie Watkins: Bronze, Mixed Doubles (65-69)

Suzanne Mandler and Dana Bresnahan: Bronze, Women's Doubles (60-64)

Karen Symonds and Gary Nichols (from Salisbury): Bronze, Mixed Doubles (70-74)

For more information, contact George McClure at mccluregeorge@hotmail.com.



Blue Ridge Mountains Pickleball Club members are pictured (front row, L-R) Margie Watkins, Cindy Baik, Dana Bresnahan, Suzanne Mandler, Holly Wylie, Nancy Falkenstein; (back row) Paul Baik, Bill Mandler, Ed Bresnahan and David Delaney. Not pictured: Karen Symonds.



Bill Mandler and Ed Bresnahan brought home the Gold in Men's Doubles.



Margie Watkins and Paul Baik won Bronze in Mixed Doubles.

Senior Games a good way to stay active

This year we had 106 people join Macon County Senior Games. It is a good way of staying active and having fun and good fellowship. Some of us went to Raleigh to compete in the state Senior Games. This is where we compete against other counties for medals. Macon County brought home 13 gold medals, 11 silver medals, and 12 bronze medals. We won medals in bowling, football and softball throw, bocce, corn hole, croquet, shuffleboard, badminton, mini golf, horse shoes, and pickle ball. We hold two flea markets a year, we have a booth for Halloween in the Park and we have get togethers all year long. If you are new to the area or have lived here a long time, it is a great way to meet new friends and have fun. You can stop by the Carpenter Building on the Georgia Road which is across from the new Ingles and ask for Cody to find out more information about the games.

Mike Townsend - Macon County Senior Games


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My Priorities Are:

- New Franklin High School
- School safety
- Help to increase teachers & staff salaries



Paid by the Committee to Elect Billy Handley

FHS Tennis in Final Four; Soccer still undefeated; CC headed to state

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

FHS Tennis

Heather Bell and Andrea Bosio coached the Panthers to a 17-0 (12-0 in conference) undefeated season and find themselves in the NCHSAA Final Four Semifinal match. FHS played the #1 seeded Lake Norman Charter on Wednesday, Nov. 2, to qualify for the Women's Tennis Duals Regional Championship match, after defeating East Lincoln (Denver, N.C.) 5-1 in the 3rd round state playoffs at Franklin on Oct. 28. In the 3A Individual State Championship, Alyssa Smith and Kate Phillips finished 4th (out of 24) in the state for doubles on Oct. 28 in Burlington.

Catching up with FHS Cross Country

Franklin High School (FHS) has a number of sports programs that many keep up with or are at least aware of. While probably not as well attended as some of the other sports, cross country definitely has a place of prominence in terms of effort and membership. Coach Melissa Ward pointed out that her team totals 31 runners and that it is unusual to have that many.

Ward has coached three years at the high school level after previously doing so at Macon Middle School. On the schedule this year were seven regular season meets, followed by conference, regional, and state events.

Ward offered accolades for a few of her runners in particular.

“[Junior] Barrett Stork just crossed into the 15-minute mark at Conference (Oct. 18); [Junior] Logan Russo is right behind him. They mostly work together throughout the races and take turns coming in first and second. Mindi Holbrooks is a freshman and leading our women's team, coming in with a 20:29 at Conference as well. She's going to be a big star in her high school career and we are extremely lucky to be a part of that.”

Regarding qualification specifics, Ward pointed out that her team has to have at least five participants to enter a meet and seven to actually score. Up to 10 runners can make up a single team. At a conference meet, the lowest score wins. Placements 1-5 are the “point getters.” Only seven runners (of each gender) can go to Regionals, which were scheduled Oct. 29. Boys were ranked #3 and girls #7 going into the Regionals; the girls were ranked 12th before improving their standing in conference tournament play.

Cross Country is headed to Kernersville Saturday to compete for the 3A State Championship.

Ward added, “The kids were driven all year to make it to State [the final tournament] and that along with tough meets this year with difficult/slow terrain, Rabun Gap and Canton in particular, helped prepare runners for the Jackson County meet [conference tournament].”

Ward pointed out that running, be it cross country or indoor track, is “taken more seriously at the high school level but middle school sets the foundation.” Having more sophomores and freshmen making up the 31 students participating this year, “gives us excitement for next year.”

Ward and assistant Matt Harlfinger also coach indoor track for FHS during the winter sports season, and while no home meets can be accommodated at this time in Franklin, they look forward to a successful season, nonetheless.

FHS Soccer

Many Franklin High School (FHS) sports teams are enjoying winning seasons – none more so than Matt Kolodzik’s varsity soccer campaign. On Monday, Oct. 31, Kolodzik coached the team to a 4-1 win over Ashe County in the first round of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) 64-team playoff tournament.

The Panthers, seeded 5th and the Huskies, seeded 28th, also played the game in the Panther Pit for the first time ever.

Normally, FHS soccer is played at the Macon County Middle school, as FHS does not currently have a facility to host soccer games. That could change if a new high school athletic field is completed sometime in the future.

Senior Cristian Chavez (defender/midfielder) was named Player of the Game, with two shots, one on goal. The head coach pointed out, “Cristian Chavez anchored our three backs by intercepting many of the long passes attempted by Ashe.”

Another one of the team standouts, senior Noel Rivera-Villa (forward/midfielder), scored three of the four goals for the Panthers and took 12 shots overall, one on goal. Coach Kolodzik was very thankful for the opportunity to play on the high school football field. He shared that, “It was an honor to be offered the opportunity through our Athletic Directors Matt Bradley and Ryan Haley. Jay and Josh Brooks [football coaches] spent a lot of time making sure the field was ready to go. We were honored to be able to bring our amazing Franklin fans to the legendary stadium.”

Franklin led 3-0 at halftime, which started with sophomore Graham Caldwell (midfielder/forward) who beat an Ashe defender in the penalty area.

“The defender fouled him as he drove past him but Graham was able to break through with our first goal on a penalty kick. This seemed to open up the scoring opportunities for us,” Kolodzik said.

The FHS Panthers Soccer team was then slated to play

the winner of Group 22 in the tournament, which was a toss-up between either 12th seeded St. Stephens or 21st seeded Lincoln, which played Nov. 1. Franklin will host St. Stephens High School for the NCHSAA State Playoffs - Round 2 tomorrow, Thursday, Nov. 3, at 6 p.m.

FHS Football

In football news, the varsity Panthers defeated T.C. Roberson in a non-conference home game 28-7 on Friday, Oct. 28. FHS scored two touchdowns each in the first and second halves to put away the Rams. Senior running back Ty Handley (#15) again led the way with 143 yards on the ground and two touchdowns. Head Coach Josh Brooks pointed out a number of reasons why the game and win were special.

“First, it guaranteed a winning season; second, it was senior night and their (seniors) last game in The Pit; third it was possibly the last game played in that particular stadium [with the new high school stadium in the planning stage]; fourth, it stopped a losing streak; and fifth, it is something very positive as we head into the playoffs,” said Brooks.

Panthers football will play the West Rowan Falcons in the NCHSAA Football Championships tournament on Friday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m. West Rowan High School is located about 15 miles south of Statesville, N.C.

“We are playing a very tough opponent, but we expect that and we’re looking very forward to the challenge,” Coach Brooks said regarding the playoffs.



JERRY MOORE

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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I am running for Macon County Commissioner because I believe my life and work experience will allow me to bring a fresh perspective to the Macon County Commission. I chose to run as an unaffiliated candidate because I believe this is the best way to unify Macon County residents on the issues that affect us without consideration to party politics.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

I rediscovered the community core and future of Highlands this past Monday. I encountered it at the annual Halloween Main Street Celebration. This annual event had a tremendous turnout where folks were able to just have fun and enjoy one another.

We have had a rather contentious year with all the controversy over short term rentals and other issues facing the town. But I was gratified and rejuvenated to share the joy coming forth from the Halloween celebration-goers.

As a Rotarian I helped in the production and distribution of several thousand hotdogs for all the celebrants of Halloween. The Rotary Clubs in Highlands joined forces to provide free hotdogs to all, as well as having volunteers to help manage traffic in the downtown area.

I also appreciated the police and fire departments for securing Main Street for the event. Our first responders do a great job in protecting the public.

I also want to thank the Highlands Chamber of Commerce for again organizing and sponsoring this traditional event. The Highlands Halloween Main Street Celebration is a truly unique event that brings folks from all over the area to visit Highlands. I would also be remiss not to thank all the merchants in the downtown area that provided candy and favors to our kids both young and old. I say young and old because this Halloween spectacular brings out the child and wonder in all of us.

So, as Mayor, I do believe I encountered the community core and the future of this community on Halloween night. Despite all the differences we may have about the town and what directions we should follow, I suspect we all realized during this holiday celebration that Highlands is a unique and special place.

Finally, we saw the future of the community Halloween night with all the kids that were dressed up in costumes and having a great, marvelous time. What struck me was that I met so many of the kids' parents that I remember as local high school students. I went to some of their weddings and celebrated the births of their children. I found myself in a time warp of a sort on Monday night. I would see these young people with children and think, hey, didn't they just have a little baby? As a senior citizen I fail to, or maybe more accurately, realize that time moves fast. These young parents with children in Halloween costumes are the future of our community. It is not in a distant future, but very soon they all will be the core, the foundation, and the leadership of the community.

Halloween was not frightening to me, but rather uplifting and life affirming.

Letters to the Editor

Double standard and two-tiered justice on display

We hear a lot these days about threats to "Our Democracy," but we don't have one to be threatened. It has already been threatened and killed while we were asleep at the switch.

What do we have then? We have an authoritarian oligarchy with American democratic characteristics. Yes, we have two parties, but one is trying to dictate to the other what it is allowed to stand for and for which candidates people are allowed to vote. We have elections, but only one party is allowed to question them while resisting all attempts at ensuring election integrity. When supporters of one party such as Black Lives Matter and Antifa take to the streets and assault police officers and burn buildings, they get bailed out to continue their protests and if anyone is convicted it is usually a slap on the wrist. On the other hand, Jan. 6 protesters that were waved into the Capital building are rotting in the DC gulag and denied bail with harsh sentences contemplated after lengthy trial delays. Anti-abortion protesters are subject to FBI raids and prosecution while firebombers of crisis pregnancy centers are never identified, let alone prosecuted, while Merrick Garland has the nerve to talk about the rule of law. It's obvious that some people are above the law while others are going to be consigned under it. One party can have contempt of congress with no consequences while the other party is convicted and sentenced. The double standard and two-tiered justice is on display everywhere. Doesn't sound like "Our Democracy" to me.

Democrats have gotten away with so much because of their ability to shape the narrative through a corrupt media and social media platforms that will never call anyone to account unless he or she is a Republican. Bad news is covered up such as Hunter's laptop revelations before the last election. People who have something important to add to the conversation have been deplatformed. People who get their news from "trusted" sources might better reconsider. There is a wealth of information available outside these propaganda organs. Their power lies in our willing captivity to their insular world view. Those who are truly concerned with the future of our democracy, such as it is, and have a sense of fair play, check out other sources. I'm eager to see what Twitter will be like when the dust settles. What a shot in the arm for democracy that will be. God bless Elon Musk!

This is only the beginning of what is needed to reclaim our country. We need more people to wake up and elect people that will have the backbone to go after an out-of-control bureaucracy. Departments that will not accept proper oversight should be defunded until they comply.

We don't need a Secret Police but that's what the FBI has become. We have some remnants of constitutional protection left but they are fewer than they were just a few years

ago and the current trend is bad. For a democracy to be healthy the leaders must not be insulated and out of touch with the people they are responsible for. This is the reason for Donald Trump's popularity that the geniuses that are currently in charge can't figure out. They won't figure it out either because they are too invested in pushing the top down cramdown of their toxic agenda on an unwilling population that has different priorities. Wake up and vote to save us from the Democrat chaos and hard times. Oh, did I mention nuclear war?

David Parker – Franklin, N.C.

Plenty of examples of threats to democracy

There have been a plethora of editorials addressing concern for our democracy. I agree that our Republic is threatened, from foreign countries and agencies, and more importantly, from within. You don't have to look too far for examples. These are just a few.

– Likely ballot box stuffing in the 1960 Presidential election.

– Nixon's knowledge and endorsement of the Watergate break in.

– George W Bush's attack on Iraq to protect the world from WMDs [weapons of mass destruction] that never existed.

– Obama's unprecedented use of the espionage act to obtain journalists' sources. The *NY Times* editorial board stated at that time "the Obama administration has moved beyond protecting government secrets to threatening fundamental freedoms of the press to gather news."

– Trotting Susan Rice out, two months before the Presidential election, to claim the attack on Benghazi on 9/11/2012 was a spontaneous response to an offensive video, and not a well planned and coordinated attack.

– Hanging chads ... need I say more? Al Gore heroically did not put the country through a protracted recount, something our previous president would have never done.

– The FBI suppression of the Hunter Biden laptop while enabling a false Russiagate story.

– Efforts to pack the Supreme Court, do away with the electoral college, and the filibuster.

– Leaving the southern border essentially open in the hopes of harvesting votes while sacrificing our youth to the scourge of fentanyl.

– And the cherry on this dung pie, Trump's endorsement of and/or complicity in the Jan. 6th riots.

To quote Nikita Khrushchev, "We do not have to invade the U.S. We will destroy you from within" enabled by "the press as our chief ideological weapon." "Our firm conviction is that sooner or later Capitalism will give way to Socialism."

What is one to do? Hold your nose and vote.

Dan Morgan – Otto, N.C.

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A kind word goes a long way

There are lots of folks who work at jobs that deal with the public at large. Unfortunately, they are not always treated with any measure of respect by customers. Covid-19 taught us that service personnel are very important people and are needed and should be thanked always.

So, I challenge you to pick a weekday and do the following:

1. Wear a smile to greet people, fellow workers, clerks, receptionists, waitresses, janitor, repair workers, etc.
2. Say thank you and show your appreciation for their service.
3. If you are brave enough, say something nice like "Have a nice day," "God loves you," or "God bless you" to someone who looks troubled, sad, or in need of help.

If it made your day more enjoyable, just remember you may have made someone's day better. When you bless others, you are blessed too. Have a nice day.

Robbie Robison - Franklin, N.C.

Questioning our governing systems

Having the privilege of attending the library board meeting in early September, the discussion was about the displaying of sexual literature and books directed towards our young people. What I had viewed was a very respectful meeting, even though the views were varied but all seemed to honor and respect each other. Which I, for myself, was very grateful for in view of all the bitterness in which our culture finds itself.

The board seemed a little distant while many gave their opinions. So it's uncertain how the board will view this issue as well as any of our governing systems. I would only caution them that the easy road of total acceptance is often not the best, especially for our most innocent children in suggesting or questioning one's identity. Having books available when asked seems reasonable to me, instead of an outward display. Either side of the issue, can be supported or rejected by family, depending upon many factors. Environments, cultures, religions, educational and governing systems all can have their views of how they look at this issue. But within these, education and anything attaching itself to government should have "no say" in what should only be directed and approached by the support of family. This should solely come from the ones who care and have the responsibility of the physical and mental health of the child. No other carries this responsibility more than "family." Any education system should only concern themselves with the factual education of biology of male and female, but not sexual relationships of any variation no matter what your preference maybe, even those of heterosexuals (man and woman). This should only be directed within the family structure.

I had talked to an individual within our school board and they identified how do you resolve the issue if a child's parent were to okay such a procedure and the child wanted to be involved in a sport within their newfound sexuality?

Sports should remain as is, if it involves locker rooms. In acceptance, they could start their own identity team that fits their specific needs, just as within the month of June they have their own specific recognition of day and month. Schools having the resources could put in place a family bathroom, which we see often, or they should use the teachers' lounge so as not to disrupt or confuse the other children.

Sexual identity and how to relate with others can be confusing. But I really don't think this burden should fall upon any educational system. If applying to any K-12 educational system and you register as a biological male or female, it should remain so until leaving that educational system. Then once you graduate you yourself can work out your identity and where you feel comfortable. Forcing others to accept any personal type of lifestyle gets to be a slippery slope of how far one goes in the issue of sex and the unending variances of what you can do with it. It can become deviant and diverse. It was once said, "what takes place in the bedroom, stays in the bedroom." But now we are forced in accepting, "anything in and out of bedrooms," nothing is private everything must be acceptable.

When I was a child I wanted to grow up to be a lion, because it had strength and courage. My thinking came from a child's view, which now seems silly. But this shows just how vulnerable a young mind can be swayed. So the power of suggestion or displaying anything which can change a life "forever," should be left for a time and place for a mature person which can truly reason life's direction for him or herself. Much of the dangers of progressive thinking is they themselves are the enlightened ones who direct conversation and social structure, there is no consent or unified conversation of the issues, respect of different thinking is belittled. They find no pleasure in a common unity, thus they live solely for themselves. So using their thinking; if you reject this article you truly have to accept it because I wrote it!

Just thinking,

Deni Shepard - nds13@frontier.com

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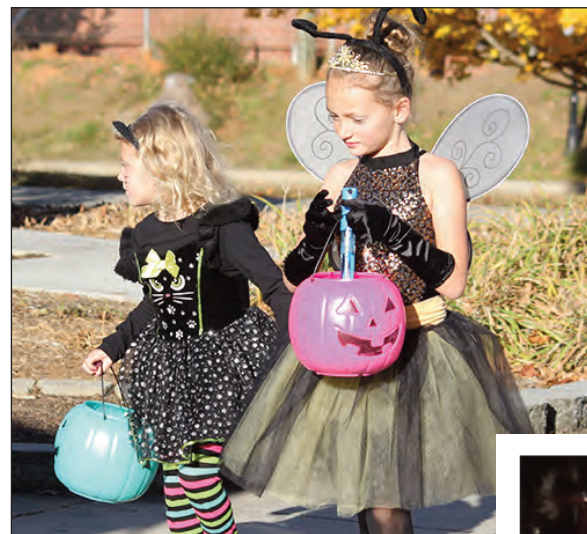
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Franklin does Halloween

From Boo Bash to Bidwell Street, Franklin takes Halloween seriously. Angels and demons roamed the streets in search of treats and the community did not disappoint. Bidwell residents go all out on this most frightening of holidays with graveyards, facades, ghouls and goblins and skeletons galore. Thousands of kids of all ages bombarded the street for hours on Halloween night.

Photos by Betsey Gooder & Teresa Tabor





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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 17 - 30. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

October 24

Jonathan Mark Zimmerman, was charged with violating domestic violence protective order. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Damian Quin Dutton, was charged with assault or affray on EMT, ER Dr or nurse, Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

October 26

Matthew Brock Kelley, was charged with driving while license revoked. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Jacqueline Helena Kidd, was charged with failure to appear. Sargent Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Brett Charles Aldrich, was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle and possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Robert Young made the arrest.

Jonathan William Talley, was charged with larceny of motor vehicle parts, injury to personal property and possession of stolen goods. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Christopher Scott Flowers, was charged with probation violation. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Gregory Dylan O'Donahue, was charged with offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

October 29

Billy Clyde Wilson, was charged with possession of heroin and resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Corporal Clay A. Sanders made the arrest.

October 30

Holly Dione Lee Ganey, was charged with possession of

methamphetamine. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

October 23

Rolando Durergel Jr., was charged with sex offender/child on premises. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

October 25

John Daniel Oconnor, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Mariissa Kristen Shook, was charged with possession of heroin. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

October 26

Alexandria Levit, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

October 17

Noah Zachary Saunier, 27, of Wind Rivers Hills, was charged with failure to appear for cruelty to animals. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Michael Thad Schrader, 52, of Allman Dr., was charged with possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Jose Antonio Contreras Rios, 30, of Mexican Dr., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for carrying a concealed weapon and spotlighting deer. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

October 18

John Curtis Carr, 40, of Skyland Dr., was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Destin Lyle Jones, 40, of Redwing Vista, Whittier, was charged with fail to yield for stop sign/flashing red light, expired/no inspection, speeding, reckless driving with wanton disregard, no motorcycle endorsement, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, expired registration card/tag and flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Mike Alexander Green, 42, of Peppermill Lane, was charged with breaking and entering, possession of methamphetamine, resisting a public officer and larceny of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

October 19

Kevin Scott Watson, 30, of Arnold Hill, was charged with resist public officer, driving while license revoked, maintain a vehicle for a controlled substance, trafficking opium or heroin by possession, trafficking opium or heroin by transportation, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a dwelling for a controlled substance, felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance and felony possession of cocaine. A \$190,000 bond was set.

Dennis Woodrow Shelton, 33, of Frosty Ridge, was charged with possession with intent to sell/manufacture/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a schedule II controlled substance, trafficking opium or heroin, maintaining a dwelling place for a controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$105,000 was set.

Toree Raine Watty, 30, of Emma Taylor Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to sell/manufacture/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, trafficking by possession a schedule II controlled substance and possession of a schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond of \$95,000 was set.

Dustin Lynn Busby, 32, of Pressley Rd., Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation and expired registration. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Floyd Nelson Woods, 48, of Timberlane Dr., Danielsville, Ga., was charged with failure to appear for driving while li-

cense revoked, fictitious information to officer and interfere with electric monitor device. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

October 20

Richard Morgan Owenby, 51, of Floral Dr., was charged with failure to appear for unsupervised probation violation, possession of drug paraphernalia, misdemeanor conspiracy, misdemeanor larceny, larceny remove/destroy/deactivate component, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$21,000 was set.

Deja Faye McGilvery, 23, of Brentwood, Franklin, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Taylor Alexis Mason, 31, of U.S. 441 So., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Daniel Lucius Jones, 39, of Bear Creek Rd., Leicester, was charged with being a habitual felon. No bond was set.

David Sancheze Mills, 43, of Sylva, was charged with being a habitual felon. No bond was set.

October 21

Wyatt Alexander Whitmire, 20, of Plauteau Ridge Rd., Cashiers, was charged with injury to personal property, communicating threats and assault on a female. No bond was set.

William Robert Faunce, 25, of Saint James Place, Cullowhee, was charged with larceny remove/destroy/deactivate component, felony probation violation, assault on a government official/employee and resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$60,000 was set.

Travis Keith Mathis, 45, of Frosty Ridge Rd., was charged with child support purge, possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond was set.

Andrea Lynn Teesatuskie, 38, of Estella Teesatuskie Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Jorge Enrique Montoya Bernal, 52, of N. Norton Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with driving while impaired. No bond was set.

October 22

Jamie Morgan Fuller, 44, of Goose Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Eugene Earnest McGilvery, 49, of Sunset Dr., Franklin, was charged with trafficking methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, felony conspiracy, resist a public officer/serious injury, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine and maintain a vehicle for a controlled substance. A \$400,000 bond was set.

Amanda L. Toneges, 42, of South Skeenah Rd., Franklin, was charged with trafficking methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, felony conspiracy, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine and maintain a vehicle for a controlled substance. A secured bond of \$400,000 was set.

LaNell Lynn Robinson, 39, of Cherokee St., Kingsport, Tenn., was charge with fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Charles William Stanley, 49, of Bargar Hollow Rd., Blountville, Tenn., was charged with fugitive warrant, reckless driving with wanton disregard, resisting a public officer, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana and flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$70,000 was set.

October 23

Jeffery Allen Murphy, 49, of Thorpe Dr., Tuckasegee, was charged with breaking and entering forcible. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Robert James Logan, 36, of Hill Top Dr., was charged with misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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 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 will be held on Nov. 5, at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library Maker Space. Quilters, Knitters, Cross-Stitch and Embroiderers bring your fiber art project, share inspiration and have fun.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2 mile out and back easy hike on the Cove Forest and Anselm's trails on Saturday, Nov. 5. Meet in the Piggy Wiggly parking lot in Dillard, Georgia, at 10 a.m. and carpool to Patterson Gap out of Dillard, Georgia 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 leader David Stearns at (828)349-7361.

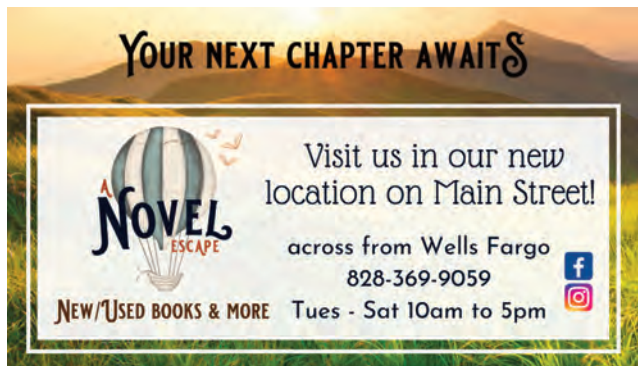
American Legion Macon Post 108 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 108 will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 8, light dinner, 6 p.m., regular meetings, 7 p.m., at the Post Home located at 614 W. Main St. All members, military veterans and spouses are encouraged to attend, so come and bring a friend. Members will be invited to participate in the renovation and remodeling of the Post building by voting on proposed items.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the signs. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

Nantahala Hiking Club presents "Slippery Salamanders of the Southern Appalachians" with Jason Love, Associate Director of Highlands Biological Station on Thursday, Nov. 10, at 6 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library. Did you know that WNC is the salamander capital of the world? All are welcome.

Franklin Women's Club will meet noon on Friday November 11, noon at Fat Buddies restaurant in Westgate Plaza. The program will be a "purse auction". Member Patty Priester will be the auctioneer. To RSVP call Brenda Jacobs at 828 421 0411. For more information about the club call Linda Ellison at 407 342 9654.

M.S. Support Group of Macon County will meet on Monday, Nov. 14, 12 to 2 p.m., at the Macon County Senior Center, first floor craft room. For more information go to facebook MS Support Group of Macon County.



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 on their website at mec.macon.k12.nc.us under the Parent Information tab. The deadline to submit an application for rising 9th graders is February 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 beginning rehearsals 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 Volunteer 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

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 now open Friday and 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, wire sculpture 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.

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Meetings are held Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd.; Sunday, 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave.; Tuesday, 8 a.m., and Thursday, 12 noon at St. Agnes Episcopal Church on 66 Church St.; Wednesday, 7 p.m. at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd. On-line meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org. To speak with a member of A.A., call (828)349-4357.

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

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 to cover admission. For more information, call (828)586-2120 ext 102.

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, November 6, 11 a.m., Rev. Dr. Katherine Greysen will be speaking about What is our Legacy: What are we leaving behind? 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.

Watch Party with Free Chapel Church and Pastor Jentzen Franklin on Sunday, 11 a.m., 22 W. Palmer St. For more information, call (828)421-6712.

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 mountainsynagogue@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.firstumcfranklin.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.

Send church calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

J	E	R	K	D	B	A	I	M	A	P	S	T	A	N	G
A	L	O	E	M	O	T	E	S	H	E	E	S	E	N	E
M	A	S	T	O	D	O	R	S	E	N	T	I	D	E	N
P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	H	I	C	A	N	I	M
F	L	O	T	S	B	A	T	I	S	T	E	S	E	S	
O	A	F	R	H	E	S	S	A	N	O	N				
A	P	A	C	E	S	I	N	S							
L	E	G	O	S	I	X	G	U	N						
S	L	E	N	D	E	R									
G	E	E		E	D	I	F	Y							
S	A	R	I	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	V	E			
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Poet releases fifth book of poems at City Lights

Sylva resident Louise Morgan Runyon released her fifth book of poems, "Where Is Our Prague Spring?" on Oct. 1. This book examines Runyon's deep love for the mountains of Western North Carolina; her childhood experience of love here; and her attempts to reconcile this love with the hatred and division found in the present. A great-niece of Lucy Morgan, founder of the renowned Penland School of Crafts, Runyon honors her visionary and activist family in these poems.

The in-person launch will be Saturday, Nov. 5, at 4 p.m., at City Lights Bookstore, 3 E. Jackson Street, Sylva, NC 28779. Attendees are requested to wear masks.

Kami Ahrens of Foxfire Museum notes, "Runyon's manner of writing engages the reader in conversations about contemporary themes that reflect stories of the past while providing lessons for the future. A must-read for any lover of Appalachian literature."

Louise Morgan Runyon was born and raised in New York City but grew up at Penland School in the summertime. She lived most of her adult life in Atlanta before coming back to western North Carolina in 2019. A dancer and choreographer as well as poet, she is Artistic Director of Louise Runyon Performance Company.

Call City Lights Bookstore in Sylva, at (828)586-9499.



Contra Dance at Macon County Public Library Nov. 5

First Saturday contra dancing will be held in the Macon County Public Library Saturday, November 5, 6:30-9:00 pm, opening with a half hour of instruction for beginners followed by two hours of dancing with caller Charlotte Crittenden and live music by the band, Late to the Party.

Contra dance is widely considered the most accessible and sociable of all dance forms, with participants moving in two long facing lines or in groups, changing partners often. No experience is needed; all dances are taught. Attendees don't need to bring a partner but are welcome to do so, and may bring a closed water container and snack. Wear comfortable clothes; no perfumes or strong scents, please. Masks are encouraged but not required. Admission is by donation; \$10 is suggested.

The Library is at 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, with ample lighted parking and wheelchair accessibility. The event is sponsored by The James Edward Hudock Trust, and produced by Friends of Contra Dance in Macon County and the Arts Council.



Volunteers needed for Fontana Lake cleanup

North Carolina conservation organizations need 150 volunteers from Nov. 4-6 to remove litter from Fontana Lake for the country's largest trash cleanup effort in a national park.

The event will be held over three days at the Fontana Resort and Marina. Volunteers can sign up for shifts anytime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The 5th Annual Fontana Lake Shore Cleanup will involve at least 10 pontoon boats and six large dumpsters to transport and remove the trash.

This year's goal is to remove 50,000 pounds of litter with support from at least 150 volunteers who can commit to at least half a day out on Fontana Lake's islands cleaning up debris.

Spanning 10,230 acres and reaching depths of 400 feet, the artificial finger lake is home to one of the most diverse fisheries in the country. Fontana Lake's 238 miles of shoreline provide a natural landscape and unique habitats for wildlife such as black bears, bobcats, foxes, bald and golden eagles, ospreys, otters, turkeys and deer.

Visitors enjoy experiencing Fontana Lake's natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and abundant outdoor opportunities. Boaters and anglers come for the spectacular fishing while campers and hikers explore the wilderness or Appalachian Trail footpath that crosses the lake's dam.

"Unfortunately, Fontana Lake is also a gathering place for garbage that's dumped – both accidentally and knowingly – or collected from other water networks that carry the trash downstream," said Tara Moore, North Carolina Wildlife Federation's director of conservation partnerships.

Left in the lake, the litter leaches deadly toxins into the environment, reducing the quality of Fontana Lake and the Little Tennessee River. Aquatic and terrestrial wildlife also suffer when they ingest or get caught in the litter.

"What's great about the Fontana Lake event and our other habitat restoration projects is that the benefits are immediate and long-lasting," Moore said. "We're removing toxins from the environment, restoring visual aesthetics and maintaining the area's cultural heritage so it continues to be a beautiful natural resource for wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy and explore. And our wildlife will thank us for keeping them safe."



Volunteers from previous Fontana Lake cleanup days bring a boatload of debris fished from the lake. This year's cleanup is set for Nov. 4-6.

Since 2019, staff and volunteers from the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, Fontana Village Resort and Marina, Mainspring Conservation Trust, Tennessee Valley Authority, National Park Service and Smoky Mountain Hiking Club have removed more than 170,000 pounds of litter from Fontana Lake through volunteer cleanup efforts.

"We've collected all sorts of garbage – massive chunks of styrofoam, pieces of glass, rotted car tires and hundreds of bottles and other single-use plastics," Moore said. "By eliminating trash from Fontana Lake's waters, islands and shoreline, we have cleaner water feeding the Little Tennessee River, improved wildlife habitat and more inviting natural areas for everyone to enjoy."

In addition to being the country's largest trash cleanup effort in a national park, the event is NCWF's most significant collaborative habitat restoration effort. For every 25 pounds of trash collected at the lake and dam, the organization will plant a native tree, shrub or 10 pollinator plants to promote healthy wildlife habitat.

Most Fontana Lake volunteers come from Swain and Graham counties, but any conservation-minded individuals are welcome to help. Financial support from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Bill Staton, in honor of Novare Capital Management, made it possible to appropriately dispose of the litter and recycle discarded tires from last year's cleanup.

Sign up to volunteer for Fontana Lake cleanup at <https://bit.ly/3Rni05i>

For questions, contact Tara Moore at 704-332-5696 or tara@ncwf.org.

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CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	BMW	Alpina XB7	536
2022	Edge	Sport	101
2021	Chevrolet	Corvette	5,792
2021	Chevrolet	Spark	82
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
2015	Ford	Flex	99,016
2013	Hyundia	Genesis 6 SPD	69,381
2013	VW	Beetle Convertible	67,099

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2023	Chevrolet	Tahoe	257
2022	BMV	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	Sorrento	LX	112,933
2016	Toyota	Sequoia	96,869
2016	Trax	LT	20,021
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	GMC	Sierra Denali	30,108
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	100th Anniversary	9,266
2018	Colorado	ZR2	36,012
2018	Ram	2500	101,661
2013	Ford	F-250 DSL	85,920
2011	Ford	F-150	182,492
2010	Chevrolet	1500 Z-71	98,460



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SAMPLE BALLOT

Sample Ballot
Macon County, North Carolina
November 8, 2022

B0001

BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS:
 A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.
 B. Where authorized, you may write in a candidate by filling in the oval and writing the name on the Write-in line.
 C. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.

FEDERAL OFFICES	NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 8 (You may vote for ONE)	DISTRICT OFFICES
US Senate (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Matthew Hoh Green Party <input type="radio"/> Cheri Beasley Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Shannon W. Bray Libertarian Party <input type="radio"/> Ted Budd Republican Party Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Julee Tate Flood Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Carolyn Jennings Thompson Democratic Party NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 9 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Brad A. Salmon Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Donna Stroud Republican Party	NC Superior Court Judge District 30A - Seat 1 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> William H. (Bill) Coward Republican Party NC District Court Judge District 30 - Seat 1 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Donna Forga Republican Party
US House of Representatives District 11 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> David Adam Coatney Libertarian Party <input type="radio"/> Chuck Edwards Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Jasmine Beach-Ferrara Democratic Party	NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 10 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> John M. Tyson Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Gale Murray Adams Democratic Party NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 11 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Darren Jackson Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Michael J. Stading Republican Party	NC District Court Judge District 30 - Seat 2 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Kristina Lynn Earwood Republican Party NC District Court Judge District 30 - Seat 3 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Roy Wijewickrama Democratic Party
STATE OFFICES		COUNTY OFFICES
NC Supreme Court Associate Justice - Seat 3 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Richard Dietz Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Lucy Inman Democratic Party NC Supreme Court Associate Justice - Seat 5 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Sam J. Ervin IV Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Trey Allen Republican Party	NC State Senate District 50 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Kevin Corbin Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Karen Burnette McCracken Democratic Party NC House of Representatives District 120 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Karl E. Gillespie Republican Party	District Attorney District 43 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Ashley Hornsby Welch Republican Party Board of Commissioners District 1 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Jerry Moore Unaffiliated <input type="radio"/> John Shearl Republican Party Write-in
		Continue voting next side →

North Carolina Ballot Style B0001

-- VOTE BOTH SIDES --

Board of Commissioners District 2 (You may vote for TWO)	Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor (You may vote for TWO)
<input type="radio"/> Gary Shields Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Betty Cloer Wallace Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Danny Antoine Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Ronnie Beale Democratic Party	<input type="radio"/> Matthew C. Reynolds <input type="radio"/> Pamela Peek Bell Write-in Write-in
Clerk of Superior Court (You may vote for ONE)	REFERENDUM
<input type="radio"/> Shawna Thun Lamb Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Dinah Roper Mashburn Democratic Party	Macon County Local Sales and Use Tax Local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes. <input type="radio"/> For <input type="radio"/> Against
<input type="radio"/> Register of Deeds (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Todd Raby Democratic Party	
<input type="radio"/> Sheriff (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Brent Holbrooks Republican Party	End of Ballot
NONPARTISAN OFFICES	
Board of Education District 2 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Tommy Cabe <input type="radio"/> Billy Handley <input type="radio"/> Stephanie Hyder Laseter <input type="radio"/> Danny Reitmeier Write-in	
Board of Education District 4 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Carol Arnold <input type="radio"/> Diedre Kaye Breeden Write-in	

North Carolina Ballot Style B0001

-- VOTE BOTH SIDES --

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Deaths & Funerals

Neil Bristol Little

Neil Bristol Little passed peacefully at his home in Franklin, N.C., on Oct. 23, 2022.

He was born Jan. 3, 1950, in Miami, Fla., to Robert and Isabel Little (deceased). He attended Edison High School and was known as the hardest hitting 160 lb. All-City linebacker in Miami. After high school, he became an Electrician Apprentice on his way to achieving his Master Electrician License. He mentored several of his IBEW349 Brothers in achieving their Master License. Starting in 1985, he travelled the country providing electrical services to major facilities including power plants, paper factories, the Maxwell House Plant, Rikers Island and a multitude of other large-scale projects. He was extremely proud of being an electrician and enjoyed the many relationships he made along the way. Music and friendship followed him.

In 1987, he met the crown jewel and love of his life, Kathleen. Together they traveled exploring nature's beauty, finally settling in the mountains of Franklin where they both flourished. During those 35 years, he used his skills of patience, teaching, discipline, and compassion to help many others find comfort and strength. He did this by just being himself, offering support in a very subtle way but with firm resolve to be honest and stand alongside the person in need. Despite being challenged by a chronic illness he was blessed with incredible energy that was and is admired by family and friends. His memory inspires us to enjoy every moment of our life.

He carried a card with him every day with a quote from Walt Whitman: "To me, every hour of the day and night is an unspeakable perfect miracle."

He saw that miracle in everyone and everything.

He is survived by his loving and dedicated wife, Kathleen; his mother, Beverly and Uncle Jack; his son, Ryan; daughter, Casey; his brother, Edmond and wife Shelley; nephews and nieces, Brandon, Netalia, Maya, Josh, Mykael and Joseph; grandchildren, Andre, Ryan Jr, Chase and Sierra, along with 10 great-grandchildren, cousins, Barry, Randy and Maury and their families.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the IBD Center at Vanderbilt University. Go to the website: medicine.vumc.org/ibd-center, select "Give to Digestive Diseases Center" on the sidebar, then select Gastroenterology Fellowship Fund. This fund helps educate future GI Doctors who will go on to save countless lives of those with digestive diseases much like they did for Neil, or plant a tree in his honor

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Paul 'Chris' Creecy

Paul "Chris" Creecy, 61, of Otto, N.C., passed away on Monday, Oct. 24, 2022.

Born in Missouri, he was the son of the late Melvin Huey and Frankie Irene Walker Creecy. He was as a HVAC service technician before moving to Otto. He loved to cook, especially on the grill; and even had won several awards and became a judge at competitions.

He is survived by his wife, Vickie Helms Creecy of Otto; children, Emily Whitener and husband, Matthew, and Jake Creecy of Indian Land, S.C.; granddaughters, Sophia Whitener, and Chloe Whitner; and siblings, Randall Dean Creecy of York, S.C., and Peggy Way of Greensboro, N.C.

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

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

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Susan Elaine Stanfield Short

Susan Elaine Stanfield Short of Franklin, N.C., passed away Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022. She was born in Rabun County, Georgia, Sept. 15, 1954, to Edwina Bryson Stanfield and the late Harley Stanfield Jr. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and was a teacher at Franklin High School for 34 years. She was of the Catholic faith.

She is survived by her mother, Georgia Edwina Bryson Stanfield. In addition to her father, she is preceded in death by a sister, Regina Stanfield.

Funeral services were held Wednesday Nov. 2, at the Bryant Grant Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed at Jennings Cemetery in Franklin.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to the Macon County Humane Society, 851 Lake Emory Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Patricia Ruth Fowler

Patricia Ruth Fowler, 88, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022.

She was born in Hornell, N.Y., to the late Robert C and Francis Phillips Nettleton. She was a retired recreation leader for the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation. She loved to quilt, paint and was an avid nature watcher. She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her son, Ted Fowler (Kelli); daughters, Debbie Mackenzie and Vicki Modin (Chris); grandchildren, Chris Mackenzie, and Jason Mackenzie (Emily); three great grandchildren, Caleb, Reagan and Parker Mackenzie; a niece and several nephews.

A celebration of life will be held Tuesday, Nov. 22, at 12 p.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. The family will receive friends one hour prior to service from 11 to 12 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Patricia Ruth Fowler

Greta Josephine Bozeman

Greta Josephine Bozeman, 60, of Otto, N.C., went home to be with Jesus, on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022.

Born in Rabun County, Georgia, she was the daughter of the late Dee and Wylene Ramey Wall. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Justin John McGill; sister, Tina Duncan; and brother, Melvin Wall. She was a member of the Sheltering Arms Gospel Tabernacle in Clayton, Ga.

She is survived by her best friend and loving husband of 23 years, Allen Bozeman of Otto, N.C.; two sons, Edwin Donald McGill of Helen, Ga., and Victor Terrance McGill of Cornelia, Ga.; siblings, Vance Wall of Franklin, N.C. Rita Moseley of Clayton, Ga., and Mona Cole of Otto; and four grandchildren.

A celebration of life was held Wednesday, Nov. 9, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Samuel Manus officiated.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Rathbun House, 121 Sherwood Rd, Asheville, NC 28803.

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



Greta Josephine Bozeman

Richard Lynn Cruse

Richard Lynn Cruse, 74, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, Oct. 24, 2022.

He was born in Macon County to the late Howard David and Eula Ledford Cruse. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Linda Hurst Cruse; and a brother, Nick Cruse.

He was a dorm supervisor for LBJ and Vietnam Army veteran. He loved working on cars and spending time with friends and family.

He is survived by his son, David Cruse (Missy) of Arden, N.C.; sister, Pat Cagle of Franklin; five grandchildren, Tyler Cruse (Brady Reece-Cruse), Shawn Cruse (Mady Mercier), Dusty Dills, Kersten Fisher, Celeste Jones; three great grandchildren, Anabelle Messer, Dayton Dills, Stella Fisher; mother of his grandsons, Kim Loy; two nieces, Lacey Austin (Shannon), Samantha Cagle, a great niece and nephew, Kinley Austin, and Harrison Cagle.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, Oct. 29, at Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108 presented military honors.

Pallbearers were Chad Dahl, Lee Cloer, Brady Reece-Cruse, John Henry, Shannon Austin, and Bud Elliott.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the VVA Chapter 994, 249 Sloan Rd, Franklin, NC ,28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Richard Lynn Cruse



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Ty Gibbs wrecks teammate for Xfinity win at Martinsville

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

MARTINSVILLE, Va. – Ty Gibbs took no prisoners Saturday with a race-winning move that dramatically altered the composition of the NASCAR Xfinity Series Championship 4 field.

On the final lap of the third attempt at overtime, Gibbs rammed soon-to-be-ex-teammate Brandon Jones so hard the contact buckled the hood of Gibbs No. 54 Toyota.

The contact sent Jones, who had taken the lead on the previous lap, into the outside wall in Turns 1 and 2, and Gibbs had the lead when NASCAR called the 14th caution of the race because of wreck.

By then, Gibbs already had clinched one of the two remaining spots in the Championship 4 Round, but the bulldozing move deprived Jones of an opportunity to race for the series title next Saturday at Phoenix Raceway.

As a chorus of boos rained down from the grandstand, Gibbs was unapologetic for that tactic that made him a race winner for the sixth time this season, for the first time at Martinsville and for the 10th time in 50 Xfinity Series starts.

“It was definitely not a clean move, for sure,” Gibbs said. “I definitely didn’t want to wreck him, but I definitely wanted to move him out of the groove so I could go win. I felt like we lost the spring race getting moved by him.

“He’s my teammate, but definitely want to get the win here. It’s important to get the win. And now we’re going to the championships. It’s cool. Hopefully, I don’t get hit by any cans or anything right here.

“We got moved out of the way earlier this year so, it’s part of it.”

Jones won the pole and led 98 laps to Gibbs 102, but finished 23rd, the last driver on the lead lap.

“I know Ty enough to where I know he doesn’t care about what he did,” said Jones, who will move to JR Motorsports next season. “He’s pretty much, well—he wasn’t ‘pretty much’—he was locked into the next round. So really, what did that do?”

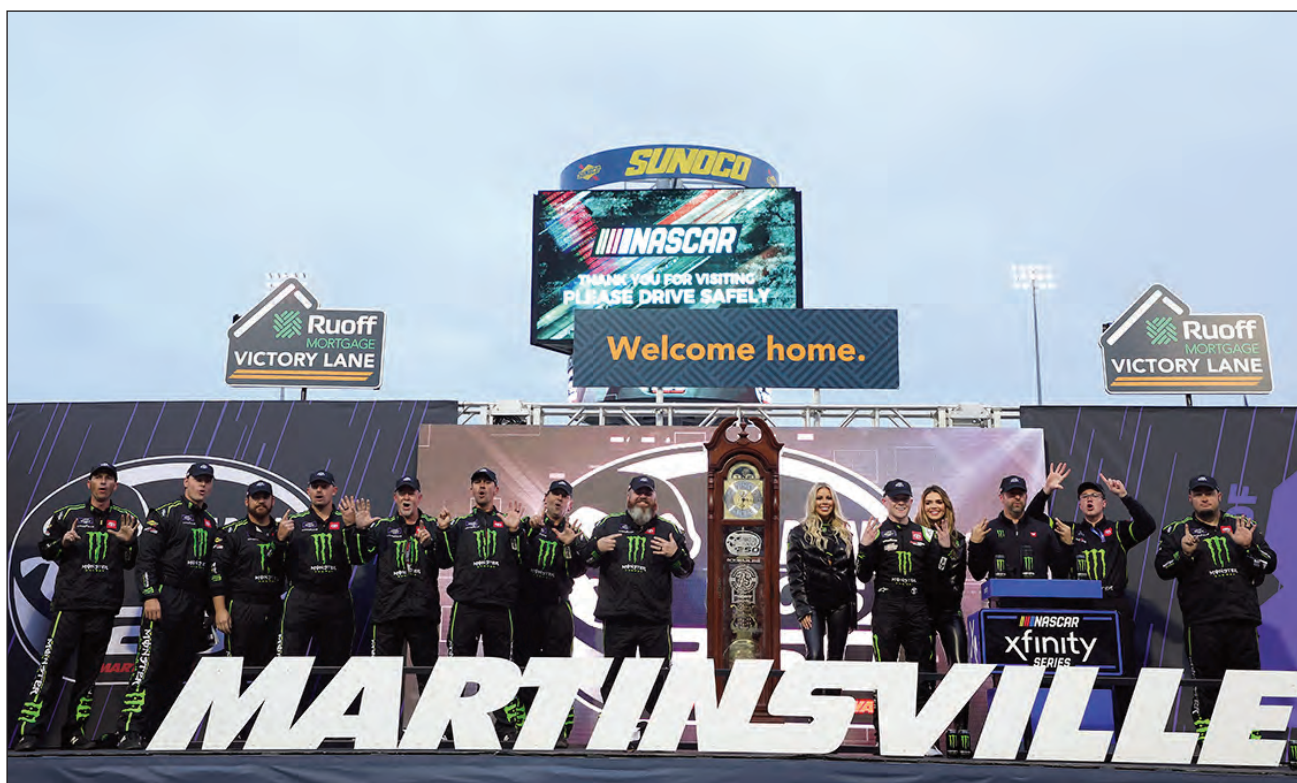
“I don’t really understand the move. I understand trying to get aggressive—you want to win the race. But to just destroy the race car, I don’t see it. I don’t get any satisfaction from it. Maybe he does. Maybe he likes to win that way? But I never have and never felt strong about racing that way. So, we’ll just take it and go for it.”

Jones’ misfortune elevated veteran Justin Allgaier, his soon-to-be-teammate at JR Motorsports into the final Championship 4 berth. Jones needed a victory to claim the spot, but Allgaier was in a position to advance on points, which he did by 12 points over Regular Season Champion AJ Allmendinger.

Allgaier finished fifth and Allmendinger 16th after contact between their cars cut Allmendinger’s left rear tire as the drivers played bumper tag and swapped positions during the closing stages of the race. Allgaier was happy to advance but less than thrilled with the way it happened.

“I can’t even describe it,” Allgaier said. “It’s disappointing that it’s gotten to the point where it’s—unfortunately easier to drive through somebody than it is to pass them. Really proud of our team. We never gave up until the checkered flag fell. Had a ton of damage right there (from a collision on Lap 262 in the second overtime) but made it to the final round.”

After the race, Allmendinger sought Allgaier out on pit



Ty Gibbs, driver of the #54 Monster Energy Toyota, and crew celebrate in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Dead On Tools 250 at Martinsville Speedway on Oct. 29, 2022, in Martinsville, Va. Photos by Stacy Revere/Getty Images

of the Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway.

For the second time in as many rounds in the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs, Bell won a race he had to win. After beating pole winner Kyle Larson to the finish line by .869 seconds, Bell will race for the series title next Sunday at Phoenix Raceway.

“Mom and dad, we did it—wow,” an emotional Bell said after the race. “I can’t believe it, man. To come here in Martinsville, this place has always been so tough on me. Just pre-race looking up, seeing all the fans, this place is packed... I don’t even know what to say.

“Man, I say it all the time, but the driver is just a small piece of the puzzle for these races. The reason why this car won today is because it was the best car on the race track. (Crew chief) Adam Stevens... this entire 20 group, they just never give up. When our back is against the wall, looks like it’s over, they show up and give me the fastest car out here.”

The victory was Bell’s third of the season and his second in a must-win situation. On Oct. 9, he won the Bank of America ROVAL 500 at Charlotte to stave off elimination from the Playoffs.

But it was Chastain who added most significantly to the lore of the historic .526-mile short track with a shocking trip around Turns 3 and 4 that knocked veteran Denny Hamlin out of the Playoffs.

Running 10th and facing elimination on the last lap, Chastain pinned his No. 1 Chevrolet to the outside wall entering Turn 3, kept his throttle open and rocketed around the fence as if he had just ignited an afterburner.

The amazing move carried Chastain past Hamlin into fourth place and into the Championship 4. Chastain completed the final lap in 18.845 seconds, .864 seconds faster than Larson’s pole-winning time.

“I made the choice, grabbed fifth gear down the back,” Chastain said. “Fully committed. Basically let go of the wheel, hoping I didn’t catch the Turn 4 access gate or something crazy. But I was willing to do it.

“I just cannot believe that we have a chance to go fight for a championship. All we ask for is a chance. We kept our world small this year so far. We’ll do the same thing going to Phoenix.”

road and congratulated him.

“You get down to the end, (Allmendinger) was pushing pretty hard,” Allgaier said. “He chose to run into us enough times that you get to the point where you have to go for it. He knew when he turned back left that we were going to hit.

“I hate it for those guys. I don’t know if we could have run 25 laps battling as hard as we did there at the end. They’ve had a great season. We’ve had a great season. It’s just so hard when it comes to the last race, especially at a place like Martinsville.”

Gibbs and Allgaier will race for the series championship at Phoenix against Josh Berry and Noah Gragson, who earned their spots in the Championship 4 with respective victories at Las Vegas and Homestead-Miami in the Round of 8.

Non-Playoff drivers Sheldon Creed and Riley Herbst finished second and third after the late-race melee, followed by the JR Motorsports trio of Gragson, Allgaier and Sam Mayer. Nick Sanchez, Daniel Hemric, Austin Hill and Blaine Perkins completed the top 10.

Along with Allmendinger and Jones, Hill and Mayer were eliminated from the Playoffs.

Christopher Bell, Ross Chastain claim Championship 4 spots in unbelievable Martinsville finish

MARTINSVILLE, Va. – Christopher Bell had another miracle in his pocket, but Ross Chastain stole the show with a scarcely believable video-game move in the final corners

Chase Elliott came home 10th and secured a Championship 4 berth by four points over Hamlin. Elliott, Chastain, Bell and Las Vegas winner Joey Logano will race for the series championship at Phoenix.

Ninth-place finisher Chase Briscoe was eliminated from the Playoffs, but not for lack of effort. Briscoe stayed out on old tires during the final caution and restarted in the lead with 24 laps left. But Briscoe gave up the top spot to Bell, who had pitted for four fresh tires, on Lap 496 of 500.

“Yeah, we were obviously on a lot older tires there,” Briscoe said. “Thought there for a little bit I was going to be OK. I just fell off a cliff pretty hard. I should have used the wall. Pretty good deal to use there.”

Also ousted from the Playoffs were William Byron, who couldn’t overcome a 25th-place starting position, and Ryan Blaney, who finished third but couldn’t overcome a deep points deficit entering the race.

The Hendrick Motorsports duo of Larson and Elliott dominated the early going. Larson led the first 68

laps before Elliott passed him for the top spot in traffic and stayed out front for the next 52 laps.

But Hamlin, who had started 11th, drove through the top 10 and took the lead on Lap 121, with nine laps left in the first stage. Hamlin stayed at the point for 203 laps, winning

the first two stages. He didn’t relinquish the lead until Bell won the race off pit road on Lap 276, under caution for Austin Dillon’s hard crash into the Turn 4 wall three laps earlier.

Hamlin lost positions on three consecutive pit stops in the final stage of the race. He restarted 13th, one spot behind Chastain, after a 14.5-second stop under caution on Lap 470.

Hamlin advanced to fifth and had the final Championship 4 spot in hand until Chastain rocketed around the wall through the final corners.

“You got to execute all day,” Hamlin said. “We just didn’t control the race when we had control of it. Each caution we just kept losing some spots. That’s the way it is.”

Brad Keselowski crossed the finish line just ahead of Chastain and Hamlin in fourth but failed post-race inspection and is now credited with a 36th-place finish. As a result, Chastain finished the day in fourth, followed by Hamlin, Logano, Byron, Bubba Wallace, Briscoe and Elliott rounding out the top 10.



Christopher Bell, driver of the #20 DeWalt Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway on Oct. 30, 2022 in Martinsville, Va. Photos by Stacy Revere/Getty Images



Ross Chastain, driver of the #1 Moose Fraternity Chevrolet, speaks to the media during a press conference after the NASCAR Cup Series Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway on Oct. 30, 2022 in Martinsville, Va. Photo by Eakin Howard/Getty Images



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- 1. Tart spicy quality
- 5. *Senators each represent an area on it
- 8. Jamaican rub
- 12. Succulent medicinal plant
- 13. Tiny piece
- 14. Home to Burj Khalifa
- 15. Sail support
- 16. Sensory input
- 17. Bedazzle, e.g.
- 18. *One making SCOTUS nominations
- 20. Grape holder
- 21. Japanese cartoon
- 22. Drunkard's sound?
- 23. *First Lady, acr.
- 26. Singer, songwriter, musician Jon _____
- 30. Stumblebum
- 31. Kind of monkey
- 34. In a little while, to Shakespeare
- 35. Speedily
- 37. M in rpm, abbr.
- 38. North face, e.g.
- 39. Toy brick
- 40. Typical revolver
- 42. "The One I Love" group
- 43. The _____ Man, internet meme
- 45. Table linens
- 47. Wow!
- 48. Instruct
- 50. Delhi draping dress
- 52. *#18 Across' branch of government
- 56. Shipping weights
- 57. Three blind ones
- 58. Field worker
- 59. Spot for FitBit

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- 60. Defender of skies, acr.
 - 61. Actor Wilson
 - 62. Bookie's number
 - 63. Wilbur's home
 - 64. Back of the neck
- DOWN**
- 1. Pack down
 - 2. Resembling wings
 - 3. Rudolph's beacon
 - 4. Reaches (2 words)
 - 5. Computer accessory
 - 6. Do penitence
 - 7. Chipper
 - 8. *SCOTUS' branch of government
 - 9. Jet black
 - 10. Steak option
 - 11. Kith partner
 - 13. In style
 - 14. Part of affidavit
 - 19. Harden
 - 22. Owns
 - 23. Mare's babies
 - 24. Spot for boutonniÈre
 - 25. Allowed into a bar (2 words)
 - 26. Plug for a barrel
 - 27. Zzzz
 - 28. Drinker
 - 29. Opposing military force
 - 32. Arabian chieftain
 - 33. *U.S. Senator's term, in years
 - 36. *Legislative assembly with power to declare war
 - 38. Mix-up
 - 40. Monkey _____, monkey do
 - 41. United Nation's children-benefiting org.
 - 44. Type of believer
 - 46. Kaa of "The Jungle Book"
 - 48. Be
 - 49. Tooth trouble
 - 50. Deep-red variety of chalcidony
 - 51. Bone-dry
 - 52. Outback birds
 - 53. Between Minnesota and Missouri
 - 54. *Same as V.P.
 - 55. European sea eagle
 - 56. *U.S. Representative's term, in years

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