



A new flag now flies over the Franklin Chick-Fil-A, thanks to volunteers with 828Vets. The group volunteered to lower the faded, year-old flag and followed established patriotic guidelines for American flags to make sure it didn't touch the ground, then raised the new flag. They then folded the old flag properly before presenting to one of its members. Present at the flag raising were Doreen Castle, Starlett and David Henderson, Nick Mottola, David Porter, Dan Finnerty and Chick-Fil-A owner, Caleb Peters. For more, see page 3.

## Study: AMC as housing not economically feasible

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

The Town of Franklin (TOF) Council met at the Town Hall boardroom on Monday, Feb. 6, for its second meeting of 2023.

Teresa Stephens and Andrew Crosson with Givens Communities, presented a feasibility report on the old Angel Medical Center conversion to residential apartments. While the main purpose of the study was to go through a comprehensive process to determine suitability for use as affordable senior housing, Stephens also reported that the data can be used to facilitate other discussion about the best use of the property. The report took into account such areas as market analysis, property and market value, the cost of an in-depth architectural and engineering study on building use conversion, financial modeling and exploration of town partnerships potential.

Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), which currently owns the property, needs a partner that does not trigger the "potential referral source" definition that would then force the partner to lease or purchase the property at fair market value. HCA considers the Givens organization a potential



Givens Communities' Teresa Stephens and Andrew Crosson presented a Feasibility Report on the old Angel hospital building to the Town Council at its regular monthly meeting.

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## TOWN COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

referral source, meaning they would have to pay market price for the property. The TOF does not meet that criteria and could therefore potentially receive the property as a donation or purchase at a reduced price. Rehabilitation costs are estimated at between \$50.8 and \$63.5 million. After other credits, such as tax equity, Housing and Urban Development advances, and U.S. Department of Agriculture loans, the remaining gap for funding is estimated to be around \$28 million. The last challenge to be addressed is zoning, which requires special use permitting to be in place before funding applications can be made.

While not the desired outcome, the study concluded that the project goal of converting the hospital to housing is not feasible due the financial burden associated with the conversion. And after research, the project does not qualify for a historic tax credit. However, that allows for changing the layout and look of the building, such as new windows, altered exterior, and other aesthetic elements, which is estimated at approximately \$3 million. As the facility stands today, the estimated market value is \$1.4 - \$1.6 million, leaving a \$23-26 million funding gap to convert it to housing. Market value is assessed currently at \$130,000 an acre.

"If we could get it down to \$7-10 million, we might be able to close that gap ... because it is more than twice that, it's too big to close," Stephens offered.

Engineering and mechanical considerations are also included within the study for uses other than affordable housing.

"We (Givens Communities) are still looking for property here," Stephens said. "We have a strong interest in still seeking support for doing affordable senior housing in Macon County and Franklin. There remains a significant shortfall for senior/affordable/subsidized/tax credit housing."

"In making my rounds in the seven western [NC] counties, every county just like ours is facing this need where our people require mental health services and recovery," council member Stacey Guffey commented. "I just think it's a shame that we have a facility here in this county that can be used for that, in its current condition, and we can't use it. Maybe we have a moral obligation to try and solve that problem."

The discussion ended with the understanding that the property can be purchased for roughly \$1.4 million if used for medical purposes.

### Department updates

The council also heard departmental updates from Public Works, Streets, and Wastewater Treatment supervisors. Public works director Bill Deal presented an overview of water, sewer, and water treatment plant activities. His presentation included 32 total business/residential water-related issues addressed around the holidays, plus 10 Town of Franklin water usage issues, and 3,208 feet of sewer line cleaned, plus various other repairs throughout the community.

Streets Supervisor Chris Walter reported that the snowflakes throughout downtown will be coming down in the next couple weeks and that

town decorations are being updated. He expects to have newer ones next year. Walter also spoke to American Disabilities Act compliance being assessed and addressed for bathrooms and building facilities as he is able, with existing manpower. The public works department is also working on a scope of work as part of a request for proposal for sidewalks for the upcoming season.

Lastly, Jason Hopkins, waste water treatment plant supervisor, reported on waste water treatment processing that generated \$6,980 revenue for the town last month.

### Rezoning request

The public comment portion of the meeting focused on the 7 Plantation Drive rezoning request. After numerous residents and the requesting business owner, Stephen Baldwin, spoke, the Town Planner presented maps and provided options for the council to consider in making its decision. Options included rezoning from residential to commercial as requested, deny the request, or modify the request and rezone a portion or parcel of the property rather than the entirety. After council discussion on modifying the request, including conditional rezoning, and a motion submitted, council members subsequently voted down that option. Instead, in a 3-2 vote, approval for rezoning the entire tract as commercial, carried.

### Other business

Under new business, Town Manager Amie Owens and Town Attorney John Henning Jr. presented a request for approval of a contract with Artisan Skateparks for the design-build construction of the new skatepark. While the contract was originally \$294,750, town crews are going to complete the necessary grading, which reduced the cost to \$262,250; \$101,674 in monetary donations has been received along with a \$50,000 reimbursable grant, which reduces the sum to \$151,674, and leaves \$110,575 to fund the entire project. The Artisan project manager has offered a 150-day timeline for completion. The project is scheduled to begin between May and July and funding will be released once the project is slated to start. The request was unanimously approved.

Town Planner Justin Setser issued a call for a public hearing on or near March 6, to receive input on a text amendment to the Town Sign Ordinance, which is mainly necessitated by political sign usage to ensure they are within state standards.

The Town Manager presented for information only, a grant application for replacement of Franklin Police Department's expired equipment and new recruit body armor. The cost of roughly \$10,000 is within the town management threshold and a grant was applied for on Jan. 31. Owens did caution the council that, should the grant funding not be received before the end of the current fiscal year (FY), which is June 30, the money would not be available until the beginning of FY-24. If the grant is not received at all, the funding will be factored into FY-23/FY-24 budgeting.

Lastly, three existing members of the Town Planning board were reappointed with approval from the council. The members are Dave Jones, Extra Territorial Jurisdiction, and Denton Higdon and Susie Ledford, Town.

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for March 6 at 6 p.m.

# Vets raise new flag over Chick-Fil-A

Deena C. Bouknight  
Contributing Writer

On a windy, frigid early morning during the first week of February, veterans with the local 828Vets organization volunteered to lower the year-old, tattered American flag flying prominently at Franklin's Chick-Fil-A. A half dozen volunteers, per the request of the Franklin Chick-Fil-A owner, Caleb Peters, followed general patriotic guidelines for American flags to make sure the old flag did not touch the ground. Then the 828Vets raised a new flag.

"I didn't serve in the military, but I commend people who have," said Peters, who addressed the veterans representing Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine branches of the United State military. "Veterans have been the greatest role



A new flag flies over the Franklin Chick-Fil-A, thanks to volunteers with 828Vets.

six veterans carefully and accurately folded the ragged flag after it came off the pole and handed it to Mottola.

Throughout the year, anyone can drop off spent flags at American Legion Post 108 in a designated box, explained Castle.

Peters pointed out that involving 828Vets is just one of many ways the Franklin Chick-Fil-A involves and/or gives back to Macon County. For example, in February, a percentage of every package of six-count cookies will be donated to Macon New Beginnings, an organization serving the homeless.

"We try to focus on aspects of the community involving education, shelter, and food," stated Peters.



Franklin Chick-Fil-A owner Caleb Peters greets David Henderson with the 828Vets.

models in my life, and we regularly have veterans who dine at Chick-Fil-A who have become somewhat like mentors to me. It was important to me to have veterans lower and raise the flags."

Veterans present at the flag lowering and raising were Doreen Castle, Starlett and David Henderson, Nick Mottola, David Porter, and *Macon County News* sports writer, Dan Finnerty. Once the flag was raised, veterans saluted.

Peters added that the American flag is the main, prominent attribute at Chick-Fil-A, "and if the flag is in good shape, it conveys to customers that we [the restaurant] take care of the building, the staff ... that we care about quality."

Generally, when a flag is expired, it can be dropped off at Franklin's American Legion Post 108. While Castle typically helps to oversee the annual ceremonial, dignified burning of hundreds of retired American flags at the Legion, she was asked by Mottola to take the Chick-Fil-A flag home. The



Nick Mottola had requested he be given the old flag, so he was able to take the spent flag home.

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# African drumming featured at Macon County Library Feb. 16

Celebrate Black History Month with an evening of interactive West African drumming Thursday, Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library Great Room. Music educator Fonziba Koster, who has presented drumming and culture workshops to thousands over the last 25 years, brings 30 authentic West African Jembe drums for a hands-on drumming experience. Attendees are invited to bring a drum if they have one. People of all ages are welcome.

Fonziba holds a B.A. degree in Music Education, has studied and performed extensively with master drummers from Mali, Guinea, Senegal and

has lived with a family of drummers in the Ivory Coast. Learn more about her at [www.fonzibadrums.com](http://www.fonzibadrums.com). She will also conduct African drumming and culture workshops in Macon County's Public Schools in February through the Arts Council's Artists-in-the-Schools Program.

The event is free; donations will be accepted to support Artists-in-the-Schools. The Library is at 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, with lighted parking and wheelchair access.

This program is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County; for information phone 828-524-ARTS or email [arts4all@dnet.net](mailto:arts4all@dnet.net).



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# FHS basketball teams to host conference first round tournaments

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

The Franklin High School (FHS) basketball regular season came to an end in Hendersonville on Friday, Feb. 3, with the varsity men losing a close, hard-fought game against West Henderson, 68-62. The Panthers went into halftime with a 7-point lead but saw the lead evaporate in the second half. The game went into overtime where the Falcons immediately took a 6-point lead that FHS was not able to overcome.

Senior forward Parker Cabe (#22) scored 22 points to pace the Panthers. The loss left the Panthers in second place behind the Falcons, which still had one remaining conference game at Tuscola.

The varsity women also lost a tough one against the Lady Falcons, 40-36, with junior Avery Moffitt (#24) scoring 13. The Lady Panthers ended their regular season in second place at 9-3 with two of the three losses coming against first place Pisgah.

The satellite round of the 3A Conference 54 playoffs begin Friday, Feb. 9, at the Panther Den for FHS. Who they draw is still to be determined. The semi-final and final rounds will be played Feb. 14 and 16 at Waynesville.

Both JV teams won against the Falcons and will host the first round of conference games. The boys triumphed 42-33 to end their regular season on a 12-game winning streak and a regular season championship. They head to the JV conference tournament with a 17-2 overall and a 10-2 conference record. The JV Lady Panthers won 35-30, ended the season on a 3-game winning streak, and finished 15-2 (8-2). The first round in the conference tournament is currently scheduled to begin either Friday, Feb. 9, or Monday, Feb. 13.

Head coach reflects on JV boys' season



FHS varsity men go for the tip-off at West Henderson Friday, Feb. 3.

When reached for some comments on his players' season, FHS' head JV basketball coach Tres Rogers offered ample evidence of his enthusiasm and approval.

"We are proud of the work the guys put into getting better as individual athletes as well as a team."

Rogers' players won the regular season in the conference and now head to the tournament as the top seed.

"Anytime you win a championship you have had an extraordinary season and the guys accomplished that goal," he said. "Our program is in a very good spot with the middle school riding a wave of success, the JV team being successful, and the varsity having a shot at a second straight conference championship."

The Panthers' basketball program is playing at a high level all around with every level finishing with a winning record. Each team is preparing for the Mountain 7 Conference

tournament and hosting the first round.

"As far as highlights from the season, I think our win against Rabun County at their place was a momentum builder for the season," said Rogers. "Anytime you can get a victory down there it has to make the list of highlights for the season. Our two wins against North Henderson were both hard-fought victories against a really good team that is well coached. And, of course, we were going on the road to West last Friday, knowing that we needed to get a victory in order to at least get a share of the conference title."

As far as players that had a great year, Rogers stated that every single one of his guys contributed.

"They made each other better every day and I can honestly say that all of them made strides this year, so our prospects for next season are great," he said.

The JV program has numerous returning players and also some of the Macon Middle

School players moving up to the next level. The program benefits and grows because of the competition just to make the teams. The coach said that if he had to single out a few guys, Noah Brannon had a great year. Brannon averaged 12.3 points per game during conference play but also had to rebound, handle the ball at times, and play out of position throughout the season. Braydon Hervey is another player that Rogers spotlighted.

"He is undersized but gave us great energy and competitiveness every night. I think his progress this season was big for us as well."

Rogers added that Aiden Sizemore brought "energy," especially on defense, and Addix Sutton "had a calming presence at point guard and gave us good all-around performance, contributing in all aspects of the game."

He noted that Braylen DeZarn was another high energy player who brought speed and quickness on the court defensively. Talon Smith was a strong defensive presence, played multiple positions, and could stretch the defense with his outside shooting. The bench, with Tristan Messer, Aaron Bravo, Tristan Gibbs and Brennon Cabe, contributed with big games this season.

Coach Rogers said if he had to pick a surprise player, it would be Cabe – "who I think is growing into his body physically but still has some growing to do as well. He has a really good basketball IQ and is working hard to get better. I think at one time or another we had him play every position on the floor this season."

The JV squad only allowed an opponent to score 40 or more points seven times this season, while averaging 51.2 points per game. Rogers believes "defense wins championships, and we are looking forward to the conference tournament next week."

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# Swimmers break records at regionals; indoor track teams head to State meet

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

The Franklin High School (FHS) swim team was in Charlotte on Feb. 3-4 competing in the regionals level swim meet held at the Mecklenburg Aquatic Center. According to coaches Dwain and Dina Picou, “It was truly a total team effort with everyone focused on swimming their best ... our times dropped more than we had predicted, especially in the relays.”

All three girls’ and boys’ relay teams are going on to the State Meet which takes place Feb. 10-11 in Raleigh.

In addition to those qualifying for the next round, three new FHS school records were set. Claire Ballard broke the 50-yard (yd) freestyle of 25.22, set by Carrie Long in 2007. Ballard scored a 25.03 and medaled in third place. In the girls’ 200-yd freestyle relay, Zoi Walker, Logan Guynn, Rylee Cassada, and Ballard

Cassada, #1 and Aaron Jennings, #2 in the pole vault; Charley Seagle, #4 in girls’ shot put; Laura Covarrubias, #3 in the long jump; Cal Drake, #4 in high jump; and, Boston Stringer, #4 in the girls’ pole vault. In team competition, the girls’ 4x200 are ranked #2 and 4x400 are ranked #3.

“Both boys’ and girls’ teams are projected to finish in the Top 3,” Harlfinger said. “I scored the meet last night (Monday, Feb. 6) and had the boys’ team in a three-way tie for first place. This will be a nail-biter through the final event and may be the most exciting athletic experience of these kids’ lives.”

It has been nearly 30 years since the Panthers have seriously competed for a title in track and field and the coaches are clearly excited for their runners.

“Wish these kids luck as we try to shock the world on Friday,” said Harlfinger.



Gavin Rinker competes at Regionals in Charlotte.

scored a 1:47.64 and medaled in second place, breaking the school record of 1:48:55 set in 2014. The same team also had a 4:00.93 and placed sixth in the 400-yd freestyle relay, breaking the old record of 4:03.82 set in 2010.

Individually, Zoi Walker qualified for the state meet in the girls’ 200-yd individual medley, as did Ballard, Cassada, and Clayton Guynn in the 50 free. Jonah Brant placed second in diving and also qualified for State. As a team, the girls placed seventh and the boys eighth at Charlotte. State competition participants will head for Raleigh on Thursday, Feb. 9. The Panthers’ lone diver, Jonah Brant, will dive on Friday at the Pullen Aquatic Center in Raleigh. The swimming events will be held Saturday morning, Feb. 11, at the Triangle Aquatic Center in Cary.

## Indoor track State meet

Coaches Melissa Ward and Matt Harlfinger are taking 29 FHS athletes who will compete in 20 events to the state track meet this Friday, Feb. 10, in Winston-Salem at the JDL Fast-Track. Some of the higher individual rankings entering the statewide competition are: Blake



FHS girls competed in free and medley relays, placing second in the 200 yard freestyle. Pictured are (L-R) Kate Phillips, Claire Ballard, Rylee Cassada, Logan Guynn, Callie Roper and Zoi Walker.

## Wrestling

Three FHS women wrestlers participated at Greensboro at the Rise Indoor Sports for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 3A State Individual Tournament. Senior Abby Carpenter, wrestling in the 126-pound category won her first match and made it to the quarters round before losing. Her high school career ends at 34-3. Jasmin Valencia (132), after losing her first match, won two additional rounds before losing in her fourth match to finish at 27-6. Stephanie Ortiz (120) battled in two matches and finished her FHS career at 17-15.

Men’s wrestling regionals round will be held this weekend, Feb. 10-11, at North Henderson.

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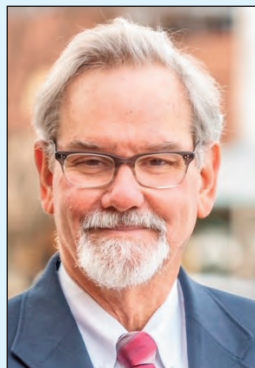
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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

As mayor, I like getting positive feedback, all elected officials do, it makes for a good week and last week was a very good week. After writing this column last week, where I proposed a program where businesses collected voluntary donations for preservation, I received overwhelming and enthusiastic feedback. Everyone sent me messages stating such a program was long overdue and would be great for the community and efforts toward preserving this unique, beautiful environment.

I have learned a lot since I wrote the article. Let me share with you what I have learned and what I believe should be the next steps toward implementation.

Surprisingly, two business leaders sent emails informing me their businesses were already doing a similar program. Richard Delany of OEI told me they had been collecting donations from customers for quite a while, and they send the money to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. George Powell, the creator and owner of Highlands Aerial Park told me that they have also been collecting donations for support of the land trust.

The added good news of the OEI and Highland Aerial Park efforts is that we have a foundation of key businesses on which to build this preservation program. I envision other hospitality businesses becoming a part of the effort. Restaurants would be key venues, as well as hotels and motels. STR operators may also want to participate as well as the folks in Cashiers.

I also believe the program must be focused entirely on preservation. I had lunch this past week with Carlton King, the chairperson of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Board of Directors. Carlton was also enthusiastic about the program, which would support their preservation efforts. He stressed that the land trust holds over 3,000 acres of beautiful, undisturbed land in their care and trust. While the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is committed to acquiring more land to be put into preservation easements, Carlton stressed there were considerable costs for continually managing and caring for the land they hold in trust.

Their staff is not only engaged in acquisition efforts, but they are also involved in maintenance, education,

See next page

## Lawmaker's impossible task – finding common ground

Lee H. Hamilton – Commentary

I don't remember when it first occurred to me after arriving in Washington many years ago that at its heart, being a member of Congress meant never being entirely satisfied. And that this state of affairs is baked into our form of government. But despite moments of immense fulfillment, it remained a central tension throughout my time in office—as it has been for most legislators since the founding of the Republic.

Our founders were very clear about what they expected from the leaders chosen to represent the American people. "Government is instituted for the common good ... and not for profit, honor or private interest of any one man, family or class of men," John Adams wrote. James Madison was just as direct, writing in *The Federalist* that the goal of a constitution like ours should be to put in office people "who possess most wisdom to discern, and most virtue to pursue the common good of the society."

Politicians run for office for many reasons—ambition, ego, anger at the status quo, a broad but undefined desire to serve... And for some, that ideal—pursuing the common good—is front and center. This holds true for many voters, too. I'll never forget once running into an elderly woman at the polls in Indiana and asking her if she'd voted. She responded by saying to me, "I vote for the candidate of my choice, but then I pray for the winner. I want him or her to work not just for the few, but for everyone." That has always stuck with me as one of the healthiest attitudes toward politics I've ever heard expressed—and I'm confident plenty of voters feel the same way.

The problem, of course, is that there is no single definition of "the common good." We live in a country that, instead, makes it possible for us to debate the question, to change our minds, to evolve, and to move forward when we can. But here's the thing: The system is designed to make it hard to move forward unless enough people agree on an approach to command a majority. In other words, they have to be able to find enough common ground with others—even if

they don't like everything involved in a given piece of legislation—that they can prevail democratically.

This is not easy to do, as any legislator will tell you—and as the entire country got a ringside seat for during the House speakership battle at the beginning of the year. For starters, of course, every member of Congress and legislator comes to the job with her or his own beliefs, attitudes, approaches, and red lines that can't be crossed. Finding common ground among one's own colleagues is hard enough.

And then there are the realities of the office: Constituents, party leaders, lobbyists, commentators—they all have their opinions, too. When I served in Congress, it was not unusual for me to have 15 appointments a day with people who wanted me to vote their way, often on some item involving the federal budget. Farmers came in to speak about farm programs, businesspeople to focus on business interests—their own and the economy in general—and religious or nonprofit leaders to lobby for support for their hard-pressed constituents. There was nothing sinister or malicious about any of this. It's how the process of government works. But it makes the task of finding enough common ground to move forward extremely challenging.

So in the end, legislators are confronted with twin tasks: discerning and then pursuing the common good, and finding enough common ground with colleagues and the public at large to make progress possible. Their job is to find a way to do both; to think in terms of what's best for the country or their state or city, and then to weigh each of the considerations and pleadings they confront in that light. It's tough work and no solution ever feels perfect, but if you're committed to the job, there's always another chance to edge closer to the ideal.

*Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

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## Letters to the Editor

### Burns Night possible through efforts of volunteers

The Taste of Scotland Society wishes to thank performers and volunteers who helped produce our 24th annual Burns Night Dinner held at Tartan Hall on Saturday, Jan. 28. The dinner of ethnic food and entertainment is held around the world to acknowledge the importance of poet Robert Burns' impact on poetry.

Born in 1753, Burns was the son of a modest farmer in Alloway, Scotland but he had an unusually strong literary education and took on as his goal to write poems about 18th century Scottish life that were set to folk music of the period. Arthur Hays recited one of these, "Ode to a Haggis" to begin the five-course dinner, and Dr. Mike Waters delivered "Tam O'Shanter."

For the first time, two young ladies from the high school read Burns' poems at the dinner. Live music was performed by Jim Gordon and Norma Jean Zahner from Cashiers. Dan Lawton taught a Scottish reel dance to conclude the evening. Special thanks go to Tempe Fussell and Jim McInnes for their help and to Boy Scout Troop 202 for serving. It would be remiss not to thank the *News* for the beautiful page of pictures of the Burns Night Dinner in the last issue.

We remind readers that the Society will be holding its Festival and Highland Games at the Macon County Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 17, 2023 with a Ceilidh at the Rathskeller in town on Friday night.

For information, contact Jim Gordon, Festival Chair at (828)743-5045.

"Mike" and Lloyd Swift, Chairs of Burns Night

Email Letters to the Editor to  
maconcountynews@gmail.com

## TAYLOR

Continued from  
page 10

and research initiatives across the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau and in other areas in the local Western Carolina region. Simply put, once the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust acquires a property, that is only the beginning of its ongoing preservation commitment.

The next question is, how does the community implement the program? I have my ideas about the shape and form of the program. For instance, I think the name should be A Dollar for Preservation, not pennies.

But broad community input is needed. Businesses and their insights are keys to the success of the program.

In the coming weeks, I will reach out to community leaders about how to proceed. A community meeting, or meetings, will be an important step in the process. Perhaps a committee of business and community leaders and land trust representatives could address key issues such as communication to the public, program design and collection of donations, and distribution of funds.

As I stated in my first article, this should not be a top-down government program but rather a grassroots, community-driven initiative. Highlands and Cashiers have talented people with the expertise and energy to make this program a reality.

## Cooper's Pathways Analysis outlines strategies to boost N.C.'s clean energy economy and achieve climate goals

Governor Roy Cooper has released the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Analysis ("Pathways Analysis") to ensure North Carolina continues to progress towards its climate goals while expanding the state's clean energy economy. As outlined and called for in Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 246, the Pathways Analysis identifies the most promising opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the economy in the near-term while highlighting mid- and long-term needs to develop and commercialize emerging clean energy technologies.

"In North Carolina, fighting climate change and strengthening our economy goes hand in hand," said Gov. Cooper. "In the past year, we've celebrated some of the largest economic development announcements in state history from companies that focus on clean energy and share our environmental priorities. This analysis will help us achieve pollution reduction while highlighting new market opportunities to ensure North Carolina remains on the forefront of the clean energy transition."

While North Carolina has significantly reduced GHG emissions, even as the state's population and economy have grown, the Pathways Analysis highlights the need for immediate, ambitious and sustained action across every sector of the economy to achieve the science-based GHG targets established in Executive Order No. 80 and Executive Order No. 246. The analysis modeled illustrative, forward-looking scenarios through 2050 to better understand the biggest opportunities to reduce emissions and sequester carbon while exploring the tradeoffs between different emission-reduction strategies. The final report recommends near-, mid- and long-term actions to reduce emissions and is designed to serve as a resource for local, regional, and statewide planning venues.

The Pathways Analysis was informed by hundreds of stakeholders and subject-matter experts over the past 12 months. The Office of Governor Cooper worked with an Interagency Steering Committee of Cabinet Agency representatives and consulting firm Energy and Environmental Economics to complete the analysis. The State convened a Technical Advisory Group of experts from academia, the private sector, and public interest organizations to inform the modeling approach and data inputs. Throughout the course of the project, State officials also engaged several targeted stakeholder groups and hosted three public information sessions to solicit feedback from North Carolinians across the state.

The Pathways Analysis builds on the Cooper's previous actions supporting clean energy, climate change, and environmental justice. Cooper called for the development of the Pathways Analysis in Executive Order No. 246, which updated the state's clean energy and pollution reduction goals

and directed numerous actions to achieve those goals in a manner that centers environmental justice and maximizes health and economic benefits for all North Carolinians. In October 2022, the governor issued Executive Order No. 271 to position North Carolina to benefit from the global market transition to zero-emission vans, buses, and trucks by ensuring that new vehicle technologies will be available to businesses across the state and directing state agencies to pursue strategies and investments that will support the affordable, equitable and reliable growth of the zero-emission vehicle market. In

"This analysis will help us achieve pollution reduction while highlighting new market opportunities to ensure North Carolina remains on the forefront of the clean energy transition."

— Gov. Roy Cooper

2021, the governor signed House Bill 951, a bipartisan law requiring the North Carolina Utilities Commission to take the necessary steps for state utility providers to reduce carbon emissions 70% from 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Pathways Analysis can be found at [governor.nc.gov](http://governor.nc.gov).

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# Where We Live series continues with program on the ‘Hellbender’

On Monday, Feb. 20, the series Where We Live: History, Nature, and Culture will present a program on the Hellbender, a giant salamander found in local streams in North Carolina.



The hellbender is one of only three giant salamanders found in the world. North Carolina is home to more than 65 species of salamanders, with 50 species in the mountain region alone. The Eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus a. alleganiensis*) is the largest salamander found in North America.

Hellbenders are 16 to 17 inches long on average, but they can grow to be more than two feet long and weigh more than two pounds. Once common throughout the mid-eastern United States, this giant salamander has disappeared from many streams because of declining water quality, over-collecting and persecution. Hellbenders are still surviving in Macon County streams.

Local names for hellbenders include water dog, mud puppy, devil dog, snot otter, gram-pus and Alleghany alligator. Although they are large and slimy, hellbenders are harmless and not poisonous, toxic, or venomous, con-

trary to popular belief. Nor do they eat lots of trout.

Lori Williams, Wildlife Diversity biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, will be the speaker. She is conducting a long-term inventory and monitoring project on hellbenders. She will be accompanied by Rocky the Hellbender.

The program will be held Feb. 20 at the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center at 51 Cowee School Drive in Franklin, beginning at 6:30.

The lecture series is designed to give people an opportunity to learn more about our local area, from many different angles, and fellowship with neighbors.



## Men’s group makes annual donation to ABCCM

The First Presbyterian Church Men’s Group made a donation to the Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry in the amount of \$9,000 on Jan. 11 to help homeless veterans in Western North Carolina, and present, along with the men’s group and representatives from Asheville, were County Commissioner Gary Shields, Mayor Jack Horton, and First Presbyterian Church’s pastor Tempe’ Fussell.



## New pastor at Resurrection Lutheran

Rev. Glenn A. Roseman was installed as Pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church (LCMS) during an installation service on Jan. 22. Rev. Roseman has been married to Kecia Roseman for 29 years and the couple has six children. He is a life-long resident of North Carolina, having previously served at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Lincolnton, served on faculty at Mitchell Community College in Statesville, and as adjunct faculty at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory. Resurrection Lutheran Church is located at 38 Wayah Street, Franklin. Adult Bible class begins at 9:15 a.m. Worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary followed by fellowship with light refreshments in the fellowship hall.



## Credit Union gives to OCC

The employees of Mountain Credit Union were recognized recently for their generous donation of \$881.79 to be applied to the distribution costs of Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoeboxes. Manager Cody Rodgers presented the check to area team coordinator, June Trull (R) and logistics coordinator, Sherri Houston during Collection Week. These funds will help in the distribution process of 88 gift-filled shoeboxes.



## Highlands Nature Center hosts 26th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Who is wintering in these woods? That's the question the Highlands Nature Center is asking as they take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, and the community can join in too. This global event, now in its 26th year, invites people to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting birds - as many birds as they can find. Reporting these observations helps scientists better understand how birds across the world are doing.

The Nature Center will kick off the event with "Early Bird Strolls" on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 17 and 18, from 9 to 10 a.m. Birders of all skill levels can meet at the North Campus of the Highlands Biological Station, 111 Lower Lake Road, for an introduction to the Great Backyard Bird Count before taking a walk around campus to find our feathered friends. Binoculars will be provided.

The Nature Center will wrap up their Great Backyard Bird Count celebration with "Bird's the Word!" - a family-friendly event on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. Borrow child-sized binoculars to spot birds around Lindenwood Lake, go on a scavenger hunt in the Botanical Garden, and learn how scientists need the community's help to count backyard birds.

These programs are free, and made possible by the Highlands Biological Foundation. No registration necessary. For more information, visit [highlandsbiological.org](http://highlandsbiological.org). The Highlands Nature Center and Highlands Botanical Garden are part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

**Who is wintering in these woods?**

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# Arrest Report

*The Macon County Sheriff's Department or Franklin Police Department made the following arrests Jan. 24 - Feb. 5 All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

January 24

Morgan Allen Shirley, was charged with second degree burglary and injury to real property. Costin Jiglaui made the arrest.

January 25

Andy Boyd King, was charged with second degree sex offense, assault on a female and failure to appear. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

January 26

Austin Harley McCall, was charged with probation violation. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

January 27

Caleb Vincent Hunter, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance and child support enforcement contempt. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

January 28

Brandon Matthew Hatch, was charged with assault on a female. David Blanton made the arrest.

January 30

Brandon Lee Mills, was charged with burglary/breaking and entering, larceny. Jason Ashe made the arrest.

Jessie Lee Cody Atcheson, was charged with failure to appear burglary/breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods/property. Jason Ashe made the arrest.

Brandon L. Mills was charged with failure to appear, assault on a female, communicating threats, breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. Timothy B. Carter made the arrests.

Hank Riley Galloway, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Corporal James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Thomas Allen Locklear, was charged with offenses committed in jurisdiction. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

January 31

Creedence McCale Julian, was charged with trafficking in fentanyl, trafficking in methamphetamine, maintaining a place for a controlled substances, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of a schedule III controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Cassandra Sloane Henry, was charged with trafficking in fentanyl, trafficking in methamphetamine, maintaining a place for controlled substances, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule III controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Rita Henry Whitley, was charged with trafficking in fen-

tynal, trafficking in methamphetamine, maintaining a place for a controlled substances and possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

February 1

Baltasar Castanon Espinosa, was charged with failure to appear. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Damian Quin Dutton, was charged with violating a domestic violence protective order and offenses committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

February 2

William Stephen Shepherd, was charged with probation violation, simple assault and assault and battery or participates in simple affray. Costin Jiglaui made the arrest.

William Dale Sheffield, was charged with domestic violence violation and resisting a public officer. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

January 25

Kayla Renee Tallent, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a vehicle for use of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to maintain lane. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

January 26

Jeremy Thibideau, was charged with felony larceny, resist/obstruct/delay, identity theft, damage to personal property and possession of a schedule II controlled substance. E.D. Kirkland made the arrest.

Andrew Phommakisone, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Antonio D. Oretaga-Gallardo, was charged with larceny of a firearm and possession of a stolen firearm. R. S. Dula made the arrest.

January 28

Hank Riley Galloway, was charged with a true bill of indictment. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

February 3

Kevin Allen Johnston, was charged with breaking and entering, communicating threats, second degree trespass and assault on a female. L. C. Beegle made the arrest.

James Edward Hughes III, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, driving while license revoked, no insurance, failure to register motor vehicle, expired plate and speeding 58 MPH in 45 MPH zone. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Jamie Patrick Oneal, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Tylar Garrett Converse, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Kelsey Anne Potter, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

February 4

Anna Ruth Colman, was charged with driving while impaired, failure to display registration plate and failure to maintain lane. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

February 5

Samuel Vernon Anderson, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.



# Free winter exhibitions reception offered at The Bascom Feb. 23

The Bascom - A Center for the Visual Arts, has a free event coming up in February.

On Thursday, Feb. 23, at 5 p.m., a Winter Exhibitions Reception will be held. The Bascom will feature 11 exhibitions this year in its gallery spaces. Each season, The Bascom hosts an "exhibition reception" to celebrate its offerings for that season. This winter the center is celebrating:

- Emergence: A Survey of Southeastern Studio Programs 2023

- The Ravel & The Rest
- Selections from Our Permanent Collection: Origins

"Emergence" celebrates the role of teaching and mentoring in artistic development, highlighting works by faculty mentors and their students. The 34 pairs of artists presented in this exhibition represent 20 institutions of higher education from the Southeast. Their works represent a wide variety of approaches to subject matter, innovative use of materials, and mastery of traditional mediums being taught and practiced in contemporary studio programs.

This year's Winter Resident Artist, Kimberly English ex-



Winter Resident Artist Kimberly English explores the ideas of raveling and unravelling in her newest textile installation made for The Bascom.

plores the ideas of raveling and unravelling in her newest textile installation made for The Bascom. "The Ravel & the Rest" is an exhibition of ironic abstraction, juxtaposing gestures towards creation myths and contemporary existential concerns surrounding climate change, globalization, and nuclear war. Textiles serve as a metaphor for human production at large, and this notion of "the ravel," a loose thread that's been parsed, speaks to this enigmatic zeitgeist periphery - straddling between states of becoming and the process of unmaking.

The Bascom Winter Resident Artist Program, better known as the W.R.A.P.,

calls on Students or Faculty from the surrounding universities to submit site-specific installation proposals for The Bascom's unique and beautiful Thompson Gallery. Students and faculty from across the southeast apply for this unique and challenging opportunity to live and work on The Bascom campus to design, build, and install their project proposal in only four weeks.

The W.R.A.P. is designed to accommodate the Winter Break schedules of artists enrolled in degree programs or higher education instruction. Students and faculty from across the southeast apply for this unique and challenging opportunity to live and work on The Bascom campus to design, build, and install their project proposal in only four weeks.

"The Permanent Collection: Origins" features select works from The Bascom's permanent collection coordinating with the annual theme. This year's theme of origins gives the Bascom community an opportunity to explore their own sources of inspiration, dreams, and growth highlighted in this exhibition. The works will convey stories of The Bascom - from its founder George Watson Barratt to others whose works are entwined with its history, such as New Orleans painter Will Henry Stevens, and artists featured in the early permanent collection.

The Bascom's exhibitions and receptions are open to the public free of charge. The reception may include refreshments and brief remarks by Executive Director, Karin Peterson. The Bascom is located at 323 Franklin Road, Highlands.



Emergence celebrates the role of teaching and mentoring in artistic development, highlighting works by faculty mentors and their students.

Image Credit: Parth Patel, Communication is Religion, University of North Georgia



Portrait of Edith and Richard Joel

Image Credit: Julyan Davis

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# YouTube video series, photo exhibit draw attention to Bartram Trail

**Deena C. Bouknight**  
Contributing Writer

For the past few years, the 110-mile Northern Georgia through Western North Carolina section of the Bartram Trail has been documented by film. A series of episodes, available on YouTube, not only features interviews of hikers, but also of historians and nature experts, in order to give viewers a glimpse of what each section of the trail offers – as well as challenges and idiosyncrasies.

Kristina Lynn Moe, adult services assistant at the Macon County Public Library and an avid hiker who has completed all 110 miles of this area's Bartram Trail commented.

"Christine Tranchina with Backlot Cinema [a video production company in Franklin] was interested in working with us and we [the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy director and board members] met with her a couple of years ago and shared the beautifully inspiring Bartram documentary, 'Cultivating the Wild,' which focuses on 'modern day Bartram's' in areas farther South where Bartram travelled. We agreed that there needed to be a documentary that highlights the North Carolina and north Georgia sections of his travels and shows potential visitors some of what they might expect on the trail while learning the history."

Horticulturist and naturalist William Bartram explored this area in the 18th century and wrote about his travels and sketched plants, animals, and Native Americans for his classic book, "Bartram's Travels."

"I filmed each hike, but I also had help filming the hikes and interviews by my co-workers ... and my husband, Chris Tranchina, who is the Membership Development Coordinator of the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy," Tranchina said.

For the "Walking With Bartram" documentary, around a dozen experts in different fields that are somehow tied to the Bartram Trail have been interviewed, including individuals from the Conservancy, Nikwasi Initiative (about Cherokee history), and

horticulturists. The documentary's production has been supported by several local entities, such as Franklin Tourism Development Committee, Franklin Tourism Development Authority, and various retailers and businesses.

"I've learned so much working on this project," said Christine Tranchina. "First of all, I had no idea who William Bartram was. Following along the trail and learning about Bartram and his book, I've really discovered the beauty of southern Appalachia. We've discussed plants and animals, from bird watching to the plight of the American Chestnut, to mushroom foraging. I've been introduced to Native American and Cherokee history in a way I never have before ... We've discussed conservation and have met with young people today working on the trail with groups like the Southeast Conservation Corp. In future episodes, we will be exploring Cherokee trade paths, mining in Macon County, William Bartram's art and how artists today are inspired by him, Bartram's love of animals, trail maintenance, how the Georgia and North Carolina trails got their start. ..."

Each episode of the "Walking with Bar-



At the Macon County Public Library until March is part of the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy/Kinship Photography Collective exhibit, which calls attention to 18th century explorer and naturalist William Bartram, and the local trail named for him.



The documentary film series, "Walking with Bartram," includes interviews, maps, bird species, native plants, and much more.

tram" series is titled by number and by hiking section. And each episode is under 10 minutes in length. So far, nine episodes have been completed, with six more in production, explained Tranchina.

### Library's photography exhibit aimed at interpreting Bartram Trail

In December 2022, the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy partnered with Kinship Photography Collective to embark on a nine-month photography "exploration" focused on the well-known trail. Workshops, seminars, field trips, and more are all part of the initiative, but a main component in-

involved a group of Kinship photographers contributing images that communicate how they see the Bartram Trail. That entire exhibit was on display at the Bascom in Highlands for a month, but part of it is now at the Macon County Public Library in Franklin.

The exhibit is called "Listening to the Land – With Rapture & Astonishment," a title that is based on a quote by William Bartram from his book, "Bartram's Travels." When he reached the summit of Wayah Bald in May of 1775, he wrote about it: "[I] beheld with rapture and astonishment, a sublimely awful scene of power and magnificence, mountains piled upon mountains."

The goal for the photographers was to seek to interpret the Bartram Trail landscape in a way that is distinct, but that also shows viewers some aspects of the region's rich biodiversity. Photographs in the exhibit run the gamut from stark-contrast black and whites to colorful close-ups to impressionistic-style techniques.

The photography exhibit is in the library's meeting room until March.

# Garden longer with less muscle strain & fatigue

**Melinda Myers**  
Guest Columnist

Keep gardening longer with less muscle strain and fatigue with these pain-free gardening techniques. You'll not only keep your garden looking its best but also make it a more enjoyable experience.

Keep tools handy to reduce the number of trips from the garden back to your garage or shed. A garden tool bag or bucket with a wrap-around tool organizer works well for small hand tools. Purchase a mobile garden tool caddy or convert a discarded wheeled golf bag, shopping cart, or wheeled trash bin into a tool caddy for long-handled tools.

These make it easier to keep them handy as you move from garden to garden.

Store small tools right in the garden. Install an old mailbox in your garden filled with your favorite small hand tools and gloves. Then add a little paint or cover it with a mailbox planter or vine to make it an attractive and functional part of your landscape.

Keep tools clean and sharp. Regular maintenance will extend their life and improve their efficiency. It can also help reduce the risk of spreading disease.

Invest in ergonomic tools when replacement or new tools are needed. They have larger and softer handles for easier, less stressful gripping. Many are designed for the proper po-



Melinda Myers

sitioning of your body to reduce joint stress and fatigue. Longer handles extend your reach and help you retain good posture. Consider purchasing ratchet-type pruners designed to give you more cutting power with less effort.

Use wagons, carts, or old snow saucer-type sleds for moving heavy items to the garden. You'll need to make fewer trips, reduce muscle strain, and save energy when moving mulch, potted plants, and other items.

Divide heavy loads into smaller increments. You may need to make more trips, but it will be easier on your back and knees.

When shoveling, be sure to stand upright and take small scoops. Remember to pivot your body rather than twisting when emp-

tying the load. Switch sides and take frequent breaks to reduce the risk of muscle strain, and fatigue.

Protect your knees with kneelers or wrap-around kneepads. No matter your age or physical ability you will benefit now and in the future by protecting your joints when gardening. These gardening accessories also reduce the pain and pressure on your joints. Kneelers with built-in handles make moving up and down easier, allowing you to garden longer.

Include a pair of safety glasses in your tool caddy. It is too easy to end up with a stick in the eye when pruning and working around trees and shrubs.

Take time to warm up before digging in. Gentle backbends and lunges are great ways to engage your muscles. Adjust your gardening activities to the weather. If it's cold, try waiting for the weather to warm. If you are stiff in the morning, try gardening a bit later in the day.

Garden for shorter periods and try to take breaks every 15 to 20 minutes. Consider adding a few benches to the landscape to encourage you to sit, relax and enjoy your handiwork.

Wear gloves to protect your hands from cuts and bruises. Gloves also keep your hands warm and provide support as you dig, pluck and prune. Find a good-looking comfortable pair that you are likely to wear.

Protect your eyes and skin from sun damage. Wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. You'll avoid sunburns and protect your skin from long-term damage. Keep yourself hydrated by drinking plenty of water as you garden.

Including these strategies in your gardening efforts can make gardening even more beneficial and enjoyable.

*Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.*



Kneelers with built-in handles make moving up and down easier, protect joints and allow you to garden longer.

Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com



## Deaths & Funerals

### Mary Gladys Taylor

Mary Gladys Taylor, 78, of Franklin, N.C., went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023. She was born on Aug. 1, 1944, to the late Wayne and Gladys Penland. She was of the Baptist Faith.

She was a homemaker as well as a caregiver to many throughout her life. She loved watching wildlife in the mountains surrounding her home. She also loved to "junk shop" and collect various items. Reading and word searches were activities with which she also liked to pass the time. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dewey Taylor; son, David Taylor; two sisters, Mary Ann Sorrells, and Jean Phillips.

She is survived by her son, Randy Taylor; two daughters, Regina Creech, Freda Brooks; six grandchildren, Dallas, Amanda, Olivia, Rynn, Danielle, Kelsi; five great-grandchildren, Katelyn, Audrey, Aiden, Amaiyah, Ashton; sister, Janice Henson; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Feb. 4, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Burial was in the Mt. Zion Cemetery.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Mary Gladys Taylor

### Connie Louise Cook Holmberg

Connie Louise Cook Holmberg, born on Jan. 12, 1954, was the daughter of Thomas Cook and Rose Marie Fay Coffee. A member of Oakdale Baptist Church, she passed from this life on Feb. 1, 2023.

Of all the sweet and fun memories she leaves her friends and family, one they will always remember is her love of music. She liked most '60s music, especially The Beatles, and chances are she is probably ranked as one of the biggest and most dedicated of all Elvis fans. His 1969 NBC comeback special was her favorite concert. Seeing Elvis dressed in black leather and watching his performance of "Hound Dog" absolutely made her day. She loved everything Elvis and even named her pup, Cilla, in honor of Elvis's wife, Priscilla.

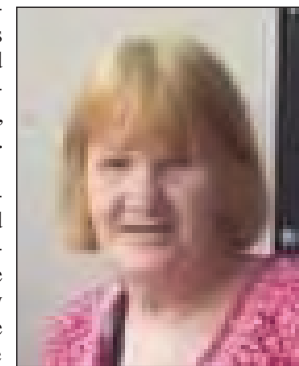
Her children also have a wonderful recollection of the windows being flung open, and the great songs of Elvis, the Beatles, or Fleetwood Mac welcoming them home as they exited the school bus. There they would find their mom waiting for them and dancing to the music.

She is survived by her daughters, Shannan Gholson, Shelli Henry, and a special family friend, Donna Hilliker, who was like a daughter; her grandchildren, Jared Stockton and Kali Frazier; her great-granddaughter, Everly Frazier; and her siblings, Mike Cook (Julie), Dottie Snair, and Becky Barham all of Georgia. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Jamie Cook.

No local services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



Connie Louise Holmberg

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**Lucian Combs**

Lucian Combs, 69, of Ladson, S.C., formerly of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, Jan. 30, 2023.

He was the son of the late Cassa M. and Mary Lou (Liner) Combs. He was a retiree of Nantahala Power and Light Company/Duke Energy before moving to South Carolina. He was an employee of Dominion Energy in Charleston at the time of his death.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one granddaughter, Anastasia Scheufele.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Judy Moffitt Combs; his sons, Jeff (Rhonda) Combs of Greenville, S.C., Jason (Shauna) Combs of Tell City, Ind.; daughters, April (Scott) Ray of Charleston, S.C., Michelle Jennings of Brookfield, Colo.; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and siblings, Lawrence (Randi) Combs, Candace Smith, and Melanie Combs; two brothers-in-law, a sister-in-law, mother-in-law and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held Monday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. The family will receive friends, Monday, Feb. 13, from 5-7 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home. A private graveside service will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at Iotla Baptist Church. Rev. Steve Reeves and Rev. Lawrence Combs will officiate.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

**James Harold Vinson**

James Harold Vinson, 79, passed away Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023, at his home.

He was born Dec. 8, 1943, in Macon County to the late Martin Sylvester Vinson and Laura Bell Tal- lent Vinson. He was a retired electrician with American Enka.

Surviving are his wife, Nancy Louise Todd Vinson; a daughter, Patricia Whitt (Philip); step-sons, Phil Blackburn (Kim), Steven Blackburn (Donna) and Doug Blackburn (Valerie); granddaughter, Jessica (Roger); great-grandchild, Skylar; sister, JoAnn Cabe; and brothers, Ray Vinson (Linda) and Jerry Vinson.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, Feb. 9, at 5 p.m., in the Patton Avenue chapel of Groce Funeral Home with Pastor Chris Pace officiating.

Online register is available at [GroceFuneralHome.com](http://GroceFuneralHome.com).

**Lillian Elise Baty**

Lillian Elise Baty, 100, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023. She was born Oct. 8, 1922, in Habersham, Ga., to the late Marvin Tatum Gragg and Mamie Ethelene Chambers Gragg. She had worked as a nursing assistant and also at Rabun Mills and Cashiers Plastic. She was a member of Blue Valley Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William H. "Joe" Baty, who died in 1989; a son, Charles "Chuck" Weindel Baty who died Dec. 9, 2022; two sisters, Lois Crane and Helen Barrs; and five brothers, Benny Gragg, Homer Gragg, Travis Gragg, Jesse Gragg and Danny Gragg.

She is survived by two sisters, Ruth Ann Gosnell and Ruby Davis.

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



**Lucian Combs**

**Leigh Anne Wilson**

Leigh Anne Wilson, 61, of Highlands, N.C., passed away on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023.

Born in Highlands, N.C., she was the daughter of the late William "Bill" and Annie Belle Lamb Wilson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, David Stanley; and siblings, Willene Robinson, Wilma Fendley, and Edward Wilson.

She enjoyed crocheting and working security at the Cullasaja Country Club.

She is survived by her daughter, Ahzah Kennemore of Franklin, N.C.; grandson, Brantley McCall of Franklin; one brother, Gary Wilson of Highlands; and two sisters, Marcia Chastain of Highlands, and Rose Burkett of Central, S.C.; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A celebration of life will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Macon Funeral Home, 261 Iotla St, Franklin, NC 28734 or Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



**Leigh Anne Wilson**

**Jean 'Gaboo' Reid Shuman**

Jean "Gaboo" Reid Shuman, 86, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday, Jan. 25. She was born in Montclair, N.J., the only child of Fred and Jessie Reid Harvey. The family relocated to Miami, Fla., in 1946, where she lived for over 40 years. In 1954, she married Vernon Ray Shuman at Highland Park Baptist Church, and together they raised three daughters in Hialeah, where the family were active members of North Hialeah Baptist Church.

In 1990, the couple built a dream home in the mountains near Cashiers, N.C., where she resided for 16 years after her husband's unexpected death in 1991. She was a member of Cashiers Baptist Church, and seasonal employee at the Cornucopia Restaurant. She spent the final years of her life in Florida with family, living in Gainesville and Oviedo.

Over the years, she worked in a number of restaurants and schools, working late into her 70s. She enjoyed traveling, taking numerous cross-country road trips, visiting dozens of national parks, all 50 states, Mexico and Canada. She loved animals, traveling to wildlife sanctuaries around the country, and even trekking to northern Manitoba to see Polar Bears in the wild at the age of 72.

Most of all, she loved spending time with her family. Known as "Gaboo" to her five grandchildren, and countless family friends, she was a beloved fixture at holidays, celebrations, and every day life, attending sporting events, and volunteering at schools and churches.

She is remembered as the most kind, caring and loving matriarch, the best gift giver, and the most thoughtful greeting card sender. She was fiercely independent, an example of selflessness and compassion, and loved by all.

She is preceded in death by her parents; loving husband, Vernon; and beloved son-in-law, Ken Wilson.

She is survived by daughters, Jean Wilson, Terri Shuman, and Debbie Browning; grandchildren, Rachele, Kendra, Jason, Janet, Jeremy, Amber, and Jenna; great-grandson Lincoln, and a second great-grandchild due in June.

Graveside service was held Saturday, Feb. 4, in Cashiers, at the Upper Zachary Cemetery.

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

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



**Jean Reid Shuman**

**Anton 'Tony' Carl Stab**

Anton "Tony" Carl Stab, 81, passed away on Feb. 5, 2023, comforted by his wife, Priscilla, and stepson, Keith Kirchner.

Beloved husband and stepfather, he was born on July 5, 1941, in New Brunswick, N.J., the second-youngest son of the late Oswald Sr. and Anna (Fackler) Stab, and longtime resident of Hayesville, N.C.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Oswald Jr., Rev. Herbert, and Martin Stab Sr.; sisters-in-law, Beverly Swallick and Geraldine Hodges; and niece Kimberly Esposito.

He was employed by E.I. Dupont Co of Sayreville, N.J. He took an early retirement in 1990. He also served his country and was honorably discharged from the New Jersey Army National Guard after six years of service.

It was serendipity when he met and married the love of his life, Priscilla. He was elated to become stepfather to his stepson Keith, and the three of them spent many years traveling and exploring the United States together. Upon retirement, Tony and Priscilla relocated to the picturesque mountains of Western North Carolina. Throughout their golden years they enjoyed many breathtaking sunrises and sunsets from their dream mountain home overlooking Lake Chatuge that they designed and built together.

His passion for travel took him and his wife on many international trips. They visited over 43 countries and shared a myriad of memories and stories with family and friends.

He was active in his adopted community. He was a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church in Blairsville, Ga. He was a founding board member of the Macon County North Carolina chapter of Habitat for Humanity, spent many years delivering meals for Macon County Meals on Wheels and volunteered for the Dan Knob HOA Grounds Committee in Hayesville, for 22 years.

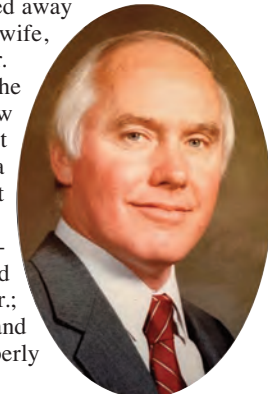
He was a sweet and compassionate man with a witty sense of humor. He had a natural born talent for playing the piano, was an amateur artist, loved to read and garden, and enjoyed working around the house using his carpentry skills. He also loved walking the trails around Lake Chatuge and made many friends along his way. He had a "live life to the fullest" attitude and woke up every morning with a renewed joy in his heart.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 48 years Priscilla; stepson, Keith; brother, Leon (Nancy); sister-in-law, Elaine; nephews and nieces, Mark (Rhonda), Scott (Debra), Paul (Penny), Charles (Sony), Brian and Martin Jr. Stab, Cheryl and Richard (Elizabeth) Swallick; along with 11 great nephews and nieces; and 3 great-great nephews and niece.

A requiem mass will be celebrated at a future date at Our Lady of Victories Roman Catholic Church in Sayreville, N.J. He will be interned in the Stab family plot at New Calvary Cemetery in Parlin, N.J., which is adjacent to his childhood home.

His only wish is from time to time for you to think of him kindly, smile and whisper his name in your heart. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Macon County, North Carolina chapter of Habitat for Humanity or the American Cancer Society.

Mountain View Funeral Home of Blairsville is in charge of the arrangements. Sign the family guest book and send condolences online at [www.mountainviewfuneralhome.com](http://www.mountainviewfuneralhome.com).



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# Martin Truex Jr. wins wild Clash at The Coliseum

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

LOS ANGELES - In front of a large, enthusiastic crowd in one of the most iconic venues in sports, Martin Truex Jr. earned his first NASCAR Cup Series victory in more than a season in a rough-and-tumble all-thrills Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum Sunday night at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Truex's No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota held off Austin Dillon's No. 3 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet by a mere .786-second leading the final 25 laps of the 150-lap annual non-points exhibition event marking the start of the NASCAR season. It was the former series champion Truex's first career Busch Light Clash victory.

Dillon's new teammate, two-time series champion Kyle Busch finished third in the No. 8 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet – the three top-finishers feted on a podium with medals; reminiscent of the Olympic Games the venue has also famously hosted.

"Just really good race car, the guys did a really good job with this Bass Pro Shops Toyota Camry," the New Jersey native Truex said, "Last year was a pretty rough season for us with no wins, to come out here and kick it off this way, just really proud of these guys."

"Tonight, was just kind of persevere, not give up and just battle through and we found ourselves in the right spot at the end. Sometimes they work out your way and sometimes they don't. Tonight, it went our way."

The iconic HOLLYWOOD sign on the hills overlooking Turn 3 and the downtown Los Angeles skyline just beyond Turn 2 provided a unique setting for the first race of the season.

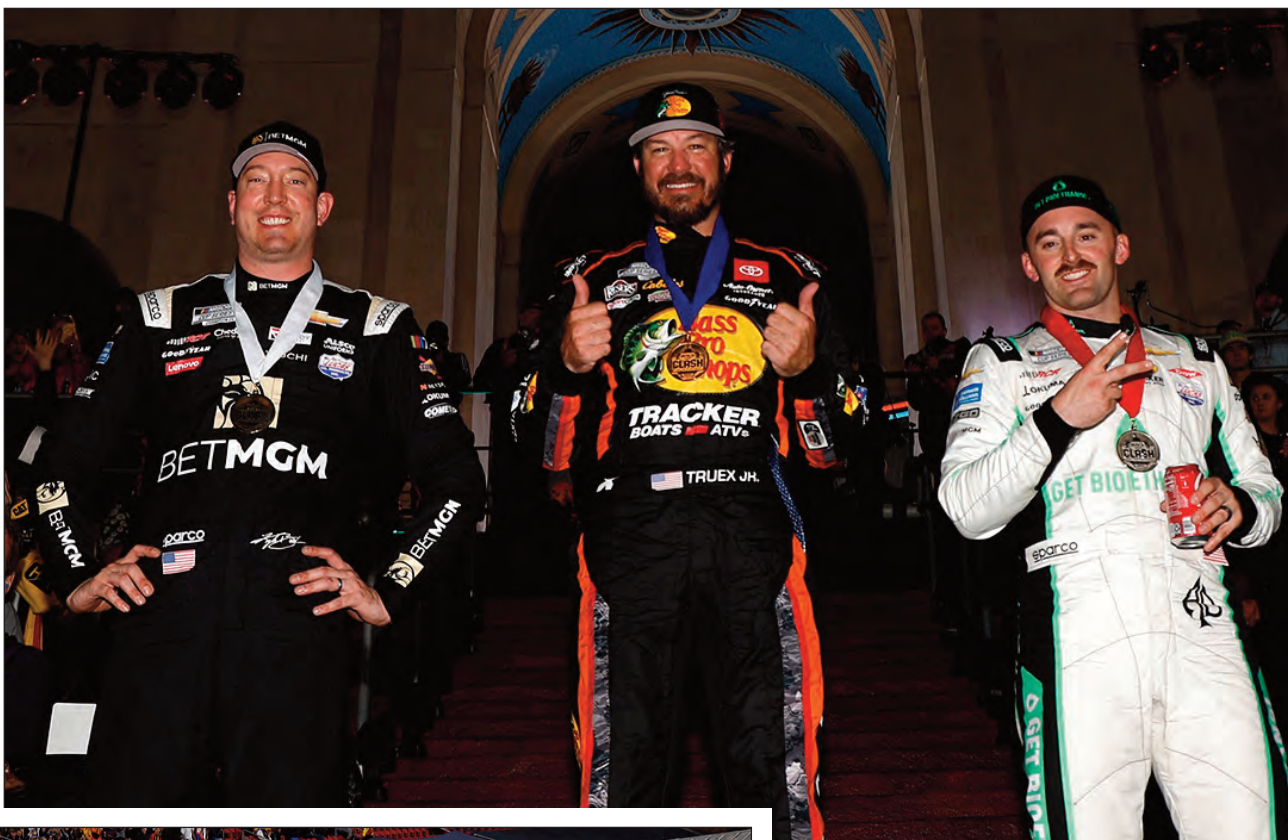
It was a packed house at the 100-year-old Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum for the race – lots of new fans mixed with the most loyal long-timers dressed in their best NASCAR fan t-shirts, driver jackets and hats excited to watch the NASCAR Cup Series show exactly the kind of high-drama short track action that has made the 75-year-old sport an American treasure.

The track was purpose-built inside the stadium bringing the sport to a new market, which appears to have wholeheartedly embraced. And while this may be a pre-season exhibition, frustration was often in mid-season form Sunday night.

The race was slowed 16 times for cautions. Dillon had a late race run-in with Bubba Wallace, their cars colliding. Wallace got the worst end of the contact and was knocked from contending for the win to instead finishing 22nd in the 27-car field – despite leading 40 laps and challenging Truex as the race wound down.

"Obviously, Bubba knocked me through the corner," Dillon said. "I was going to hit him back. Didn't mean to turn him like that but when it gets down to the end, I think everybody knows what's going on and that's what you see at places like this and [North Carolina short track] Bowman Gray Stadium."

Dillon acknowledged that Wallace may be upset with him and said they would talk.



Martin Truex Jr., driver of the #19 Bass Pro Shops Toyota, (C) winner, Austin Dillon, driver of the #3 Get Bioethanol Chevrolet, (L) second place and Kyle Busch, driver of the #8 BetMGM Chevrolet, third place pose for photos on the podium after the NASCAR Clash at the Coliseum at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Feb. 5, 2023 in Los Angeles, Calif. Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images



the Feb. 19 regular season-opening DAYTONA 500 at the Daytona International Speedway (Sunday, Feb. 19, 2:30 p.m. ET on FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

## Rule changes for '23 season

This week NASCAR announced several significant rule changes for the 2023 season among them a more stringent enforcement of the "Hail Mary" move at one of the sport's smallest venues, the half-mile Martinsville (Va.) Speedway that propelled Trackhouse Racing driver Ross Chastain into last year's Championship 4 Round.

Chastain drove his No. 1 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet hard against the outside wall for the final half lap to gain a huge mph-advantage and to ultimately gain a position among the title-chasing four drivers.

Although the risky one-of-a-kind move was allowed then, it won't be going forward – beginning this week at the quarter-mile Coliseum oval.

NASCAR officials strongly reminded teams on Tuesday that it will enforce rule 10.5.2.6.A which, in part, states "any violations deemed to compromise the safety of an Event or otherwise pose a dangerous risk to the safety of Competitors, Officials, spectators or others are treated with the highest degree of seriousness." If a driver attempts something officials deem unsafe, they will issue a time penalty.

Coming off a record-setting season with the debut of the Next Gen car, there are high expectations for 2023. Last year's tally tied a record for number of different race winners (19) in a single season and the Modern-Day record for most first-time NASCAR Cup Series winners in a season – five. More than 60 percent of the races (22 of 36) were won by drivers under the age of 30, including 23-year-old Austin Cindric's amazing Daytona 500 win in his first start in the

Hendrick Motorsports teammates Alex Bowman and Kyle Larson rounded out the top five. Tyler Reddick was sixth in his debut in the No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota.

New Englander Ryan Preece, 32, making his first start in the No. 41 Ford for Stewart-Haas Racing led the most laps (43) but fell back with 24 laps to go, telling his crew there was some sort of electrical problem. He finished seventh.

Denny Hamlin, who won his Heat Race earlier in the day in his No. 11 JGR Toyota, finished ninth with driver William Byron in the No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet rounding out the top 10.

The four Heat and two Last Chance Qualifier races Sunday afternoon provided plenty of drama in setting the field for the Main Event under the lights – and under the fire of the Coliseum's famed peristyle (torch). Both RFK Racing Fords – driven by team co-owner Brad Keselowski and Chris Buescher were among the eight cars that didn't qualify.

Joining the RFK drivers on that list of DNQs are Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Harrison Burton, Ty Dillon, Corey LaJoie, Cody Ware, J.J. Yeley and B.J. McLeod.

The NASCAR Cup Series next moves east to Florida for

iconic race.

The average Margin of Victory for the 36 races was 1.011-seconds – the second closest since the advent of electronic scoring in 1993. And the 1,544 green flag passes for the lead were the most since Loop Data statistics began in 2007.

It all bodes well for this 75th Anniversary season. Drivers are enthusiastic to get back in the cockpit this week and see what 2023 holds for them, beginning with this unique event at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

“After practicing and running the race [last year], it was probably the most fun that I had all year because the cars raced so well,” said Harvick, who drives the No. 4 SHR Ford. “You could beat and bang and the racetrack was actually pretty race-y. As you look back on it, it was definitely a fun experience.”

For the first time, the race will feature a fitting nod to previous major events at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. NASCAR will hold a medal ceremony for the first three finishers with a podium in Victory Lane. NASCAR Senior Vice President for Racing Development and Strategy Ben Kennedy and the Boys & Girls Club of Carson’s Youth of the Year Winner will present the gold, silver and bronze medals to the top-three drivers.

“These will be tremendous prizes for our drivers who are competing inside a venue that’s hosted two Olympic games and preparing for a third,” Kennedy said. “Not only do the medals honor the rich tradition of this stadium, but they also provide a special element unique to NASCAR’s 75th anniversary.”

Monster Energy to continue partnership with Ty Gibbs

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. – Monster Energy, which has partnered with Ty Gibbs since 2019, will be the sponsor for the majority of races during the 2023 NASCAR

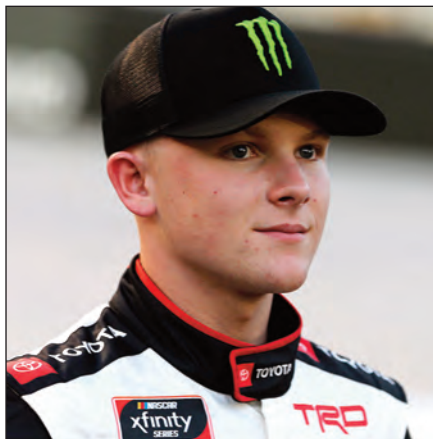


Ross Chastain speaks to the press after a risky move against the wall at Martinsville propelled him into last year’s Championship 4 Round. The move is against the rules for the '23 season.

Cup Series season on the No. 54 Toyota Camry TRD for Joe Gibbs Racing.

Monster was behind Gibbs when he won the 2022 NASCAR Xfinity Series championship, the 2021 ARCA Menard’s Series title and the 2021 NASCAR Xfinity Rookie of the Year.

“Monster Energy has been a great partner for me and Joe Gibbs Racing, and we’re stoked to have them on board for the majority of the races in 2023,” Gibbs said. “I can’t thank the Monster Energy team enough, especially Rodney Sacks, (Chairman and Co-CEO), Hilton Schlosberg (Vice Chairman and Co-CEO) Mitch Covington (Senior Vice President of Sports Marketing), Dave Gowland (Vice President of Motorsport Marketing), Tom Norwood (Director of NASCAR Marketing) and Eldena Nawrocki (Marketing) for all their support. They are behind me 100 percent and I love representing them.”



Monster Energy was in partnership with No. 54 driver Ty Gibbs when Gibbs won the 2022 NASCAR XFINITY Series Championship, the 2021 ARCA Menard’s Series title and the 2021 NASCAR Xfinity Rookie of the Year.

Gibbs is in his first full Cup season but did compete in 15 events last year for 23XI Racing, with a best finish of 10th at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

In just 51 career Xfinity Series starts, he won 11 races (21 percent), scored 33 top-10 finishes (64 percent) and led 1,234 laps.

“Monster is honored and excited to announce our partnership with JGR and Ty Gibbs,” Covington said. “We have enjoyed a great relationship over the years and this season with Ty will be fun. Ty has a tremendous work ethic and has proven his talent over the past few years, and we have all the confidence in the world he will continue his growth and success.”

**NASCAR and Ally Announce Official Partnership**

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – NASCAR and Ally Financial Inc. today announced a league-wide sponsorship expanding the financial institution’s presence in the sport, having Ally Bank become the Official Consumer Bank of NASCAR and NASCAR-owned tracks. The multiyear deal is in addition to Ally’s existing full-season relationship with Hendrick Motorsports and will also focus on continuing to bring unique and engaging experiences to fans, while advancing inclusivity in racing.

“We’ve loved every minute of the ride since becoming a sponsor of the No. 48, from seeing the growth in popularity of the sport to the increased diversity among team ownership,” said Andrea Brimmer, Ally’s chief marketing and public relations officer. “The timing couldn’t be better for us to complement our wonderful relationship with Hendrick Motorsports by expanding our footprint as an official NASCAR sponsor.”

As part of Ally’s new sponsorship, beginning with the “Ally Pre-Race Tailgate” at The Clash in Los Angeles and continuing throughout the season, Ally will focus on enhancing the fan experience through unique at-track experiential events and programming, surprise & delight giveaways and fan-centric content.

“Ally is making a positive impact on our sport through its relationship with Hendrick Motorsports, and we’re thrilled to now welcome them as the Official Consumer Bank of NASCAR,” said Daryl Wolfe, NASCAR’s Executive Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer. “Ally’s ‘Do It Right’ ethos aligns perfectly with our values, and we are confident that our partnership will bring new levels of innovation and inclusivity to the industry.”



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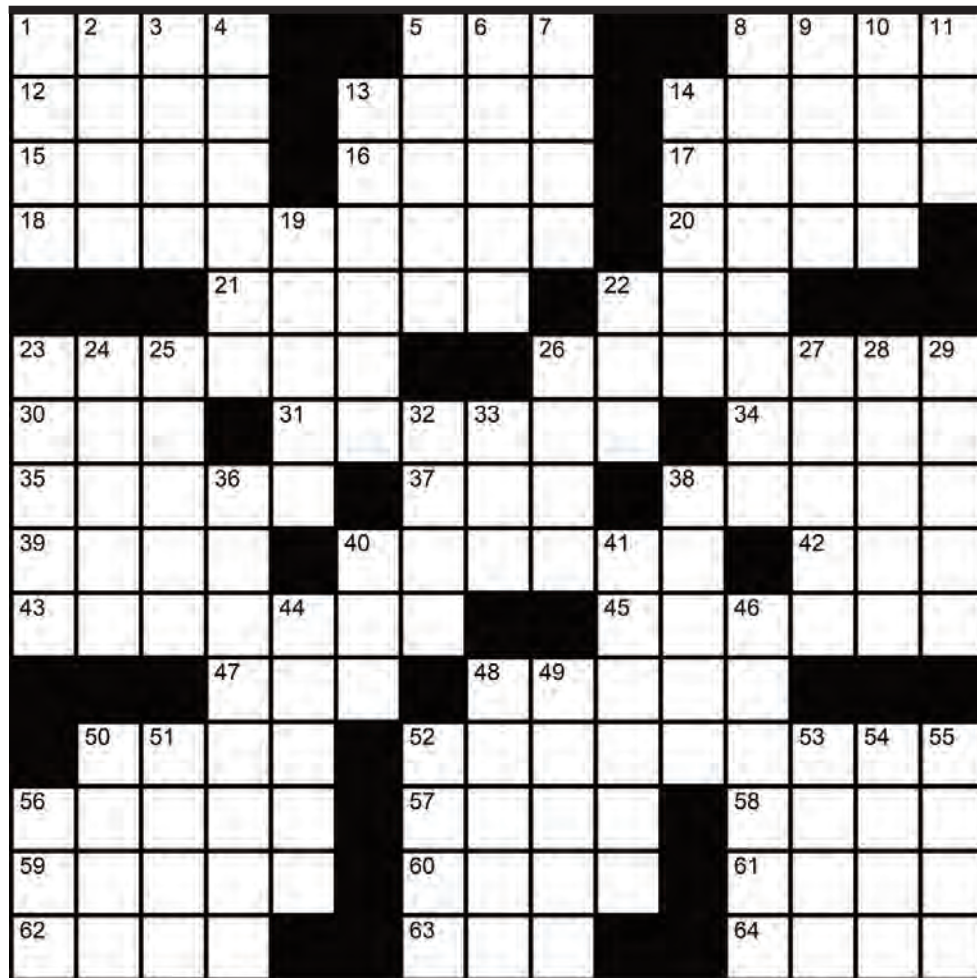
# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY

### ACROSS

1. "Without further \_\_\_\_\_," pl.
5. Sweet 16 gift
8. Steps to the river, in India
12. \*Michael BublÉ's " \_\_\_\_\_ the Last Dance for Me"
13. Bigger than big
14. Nonkosher
15. Big-ticket one
16. October birthstone
17. \*#5 Down's target
18. \*Reason to celebrate Lupercalia, Valentine's Day predecessor
20. Make over
21. Omit
22. Hexagonal fastener
23. December birthstone, pl.
26. Most gem,tlich
30. Ed.'s request
31. Two dots above a letter
34. Brussels org.
35. Church recesses
37. \_\_\_\_\_ or chicken?
38. Encourage (2 words)
39. What hoarders do
40. He crossed the Rubicon
42. Jet follower
43. English county courts, in the olden days
45. Gentlemen's gentlemen
47. Chop off
48. Paparazzo's quest
50. Port in Yemen
52. \*Heart-shaped box content
56. Range
57. Top notch
58. Baron Munchhausen, e.g.



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- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59. Journalists and reporters</li> <li>60. Speed unit</li> <li>61. All is well that does this well</li> <li>62. Bald eagle's nest</li> <li>63. Ever, to a poet</li> <li>64. Tinkerbell's powder</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. * _____ card</li> <li>9. Not tails</li> <li>10. '70s hairdo</li> <li>11. Sylvester, to Tweety</li> <li>13. Wholism, alt. sp.</li> <li>14. Monotonous hum</li> <li>19. Intestinal obstruction</li> <li>22. "Wayne's World" catchphrase</li> <li>23. Japanese port</li> <li>24. Necklace clasp location, pl.</li> <li>25. Affirmatives</li> <li>26. *Kisses' partners</li> <li>27. National emblem</li> <li>28. Type of weasel</li> <li>29. BBQ tool</li> <li>32. Pasturelands</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33. Accompanies wisdom?</li> <li>36. *a.k.a. St. Valentine's Malady</li> <li>38. *Muse of love poetry</li> <li>40. Large edible mushroom</li> <li>41. Long-legged shore bird</li> <li>44. Regions</li> <li>46. Bummed about</li> <li>48. Bell's invention</li> <li>49. Laurels</li> <li>50. Homesteader's measure</li> <li>51. Active one</li> <li>52. Soap block</li> <li>53. Hokkaido language</li> <li>54. Small amounts</li> <li>55. Formerly, formerly</li> <li>56. *Romantic destination</li> </ol> |
|---|---|--|

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## HAULING

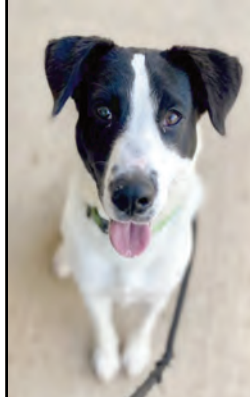
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- GRAVEL
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# PETS OF THE WEEK

Macon County Animal Services, Open M-F by appointment only, call (828)349-2106. Pictures of Lost and Available Pets, [www.facebook.com/maconcountyanimalservices](http://www.facebook.com/maconcountyanimalservices)



Loki is a 1.5 year old neutered Heeler mix. Loki is house and crate trained. Loki would thrive in an adult home. Loki has been in the shelter since August 2022.

Oreo is a 2 year old curious and friendly kitty that has been at the shelter since October 2022.



# SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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2							3	7
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6					1			
3	2							4

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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# The Classifieds

**Services**

**STALLSWORTH PAINTING** Interior/Exterior, Pressure Washing, Handyman, 35 Years Experience. Insured. Cell (239)860-0117, home (828)332-4382.

**CAROLINA PAINTING & Remodeling**, Pressure Washing, Painting, Home Repairs, 28 Years Experience in WNC. Cell (828)371-9754.

**HANDYMAN HOME REPAIRS** Carpentry, Pressure Washing, Gutter Cleaning, Decks, Drywall, Painting, Electrical/Plumbing, Repairs of any kind. 40 Years, Fast/Reasonable/Reliable. (828)332-7247.

**CNA TRAINED CAREGIVER** In Home Aid, Run Errands, Dr. Appointments, Grocery Store/Pharmacy. References. Over 15 Years Experience. (828)342-3750.

**NEW CREATIONS Landscaping LLC.** Landscaping Projects, Cleanup, Annual Color, Mulch, Pine Straw, Aerating, Fertilizing, Hardscapes, Steps, Retaining Walls, Grading, Gravel, Design, Grounds Maintenance, Firewood and Much More! Licensed & Insured, Free Estimates (828)524-6959.

**JEFF'S HANDY MAN** Services. Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Painting, Drywall and More! (919)819-4808.

**FRANKLIN OTTER WASH** Exterior pressure washing, decks and RV's you name it. I can bring my own water and your estimate is free! For any questions call (828)200-5298. We're happy to help!

**MURPHY'S PAINTING CO.** Interior and Exterior Painting, Sheetrock repair, wallpaper removal, Log Homes, Decks, Insured. Free estimates. (828)332-0525, (828)421-8600.

**DIESCHER ELECTRIC** Professional service. Reasonable rates. NC Licensed and fully insured. 20+ years experience.

**GRADING, FINISH** Grading, Hydroseed, Driveways, Roads, Hauling, Land Clearing, Chipper. Install Septic Systems, Retaining Walls, Rock Work, Boulders, Patio, Perez. (828)524-8650, (828)347-6793 Excellent References.

**DAVID CHEEK'S WELL** Pumps, Sales Service & Installation of Pumps and Iron Removal Systems. For All Your Water Needs.(828)369-5176.

**FREE ESTIMATES** Rain Gutter Clean Out. Yard Clean Up & Care, Mulch. Pressure Cleaning. No Yard Too Large or Too Small. Bob (828)342-5273.

**GIBSON'S PAINTING & Home Repairs**, 30 Years Experience, Insured, Satisfaction Guaranteed, Interior and Exterior Painting, Pressure Washing. Free Estimates, Beat Any Price. (828)200-7549.

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**CRANE BROS. WELL** Drilling, 6" Drilled Wells for Farms Homes and Industries, Free Estimates. 248 Crane Circle, Franklin. (828)524-4976.

**Help Wanted**

**NEEDED: BUS DRIVERS** for the Macon County School System. Starting pay \$15.00/hour. State training is required but will be provided. To sign up for training and a route, please contact Macon County Schools Central Office and talk to Mrs. Janice Gibson to reserve your spot. Air Conditioned buses with electronic support. Applications are available online at <https://5il.co/1iakz> at the Macon County Schools Administrative Office. Macon County Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Misc. For Sale**

**TV CONSOLE CHEST** \$100, Recliner \$100, Loveseat \$100. (828)342-2543.

**LA-Z-BOY COUCH** 2 End Sections Recline. Excellent Condition \$185.00 or BO. (828)349-3140.

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

**FARMERS MARKET** 10-12, Every Saturday. Please Come Out and Support Your Local Farmers Market. Vegetables, Honey, Soap, Pastries, Preserves, Eggs. 200 Block East Palmer.

**Animals**

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

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

**LOOKING FOR A LOVING** Pet or Lost Pet. Macon County Animal Services, Open M-F by appointment call (828)349-2106. Pictures of Lost and Available Pets, [www.facebook.com/maconanimal](http://www.facebook.com/maconanimal)

**Community Fundraisers**

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

**Boats & Campers**

**14' DURACRAFT V-HULL** Boat, 25hp Johnson 2-stroke, electric start, tillersteer engine 50lb thrust Minn Kota, foot control trolling motor. Heavy duty trailer: new wheels/tires. 2 six-gallon gas tanks, life jackets, other accessories included. \$3,000. (828)399-0769.

**Real Estate**

**NEW 2-STORY HOUSE** 3.14 acres, Beautiful Developed Land, Large Garage, Shed, Paved Road, Cul-de-sac. No Realtors. email [brainrenew99@icloud.com](mailto:brainrenew99@icloud.com) (828)332-8217 Leave Message.

**Rentals**

**OFFICE SPACE** for Rent Downtown Franklin, \$1,400/monthly. First, Last and Deposit Required. For more information call (828)369-6341.

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*In Memoriam*

We were saddened to hear of the passing of

**ANN SOUTHARD,**

a former employee of Sophisticut. We know  
you are at peace and dancing in the sky.