



Franklin Fire and Rescue joined local and state officials, law enforcement and fellow firefighters for a ribbon cutting at the new substation located off the Sylva Road at 301 NP&L Loop Rd. The substation at this time will contain a fire truck prepared for any emergency for the east end of town. Eventually the firehouse will have a full kitchen, two trucks and four bedroom/living quarters for the firefighters to remain at the firehouse 24/7. Having a sub-station will help lower insurance for homeowners in the East Franklin district.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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Fonseca swims Alcatraz for cancer victims

Citizens rail against property reappraisals

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

The Macon County Board of Commissioners (BOC) met Tuesday evening, March 14, for its monthly public session. The public comment period turned out to generate more than 10 speakers, with interest in three areas: Property taxes, public libraries, and the Highlands “pre-K” project.

Numerous speakers and even some in the audience were concerned about the process used to determine property taxes within the county. County Tax Administrator Abby Braswell was at the meeting and after a few speakers expressed frustrations regarding higher assessed taxes, she said, “Everything we do in the tax office is dictated by the state. The Department of Revenue describes the rules. There

is a schedule of values that has been in our office since August. We do mass appraisals; we do not do individual appraisals of everybody’s property.”

She added that land value can be extracted from sales information that is publicly available. The schedule of values was passed by the BOC in October 2022. She further reminded everyone that anyone interested is welcome to visit the County Tax Office and can access information at the

same front desk where appeals to tax assessments can be dropped off. Braswell acknowledged that March 13 was the deadline for submitting appeals to assessment notices but reminded people they can still appeal to the Board of Equalization and Review. They must visit the office in person with

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“Everything we do in the tax office is dictated by the state.”

– Abby Braswell, County Tax Administrator

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COMMISSIONERS Continued from page 1

required documentation. Individuals can contact the office at (828) 349-2148 or abraswell@maconnc.org.

Residents of Highlands expressed concerns about the Highlands Pre-K school project being canceled. One speaker stated she read in a Highlands newspaper that the effort, after private citizens raised approximately \$35,000 spent on a feasibility study, was essentially stopped by the BOC and the Macon County School Board. Speakers verbalized frustration that taxes, levied upon and paid by Highlands' residents, were unjustly being allocated for and spent on projects that did not benefit their town.

Commissioner John Shearl said, "The contract was not canceled. It has been prioritized lower by the school board." The School Board was asked to prioritize requests in order to determine how many could be addressed based on budgetary limitations. Chairman Paul Higdon offered that "it comes down to funding available; it is that simple." The BOC worked with the School Board to prioritize projects late last year. Some of those that were approved for higher priority include Macon Middle School (MMS) and Nantahala School (maintenance/sewer issues), Franklin High School (new school project), and MMS (track).

Town of Franklin Manager Amie Owens provided commissioners with an update on the Whitmire Property skatepark project. The original cost quote for the project was \$294,750, but the Town has reduced the cost through numerous provisions. According to Owens, town crews will grade the site grounds, deferring costs down to \$262,250. Additionally, \$101,674.74 has been raised in donations, including a contribution of \$35,000 by Macon County, JE Dunn Construction, \$25,000, plus \$39,000 in other private donations raised by the Skate828 organization. The Town has also committed a \$50,000 grant. Thus, \$110,575.26 remained to be budgeted to finish the project. The proposed funding plan calls for the Town to budget \$50,000 in its fiscal year 2023-24 and requests the same amount from Macon County. The remaining \$10,575.26 would be donation driven. The project is currently scheduled to start in June 2023 and be completed in approximately four months. Costs absorbed by the Town include: Skate park design, \$15,000; land donated by the Town: \$12,500; and \$32,500 for the grading.

On behalf of the Town of Franklin, Owens requested a \$50,000 fund of support out of the remaining \$60,576 needed to complete the project. Commissioner Danny Antoine made a motion for the county to provide the entire \$60,576 remaining needed to fund the project. The board discussed the motion, taking into consideration the \$39,000 already raised by private citizens toward the cost of the project. The Commissioners then voted on and approved the motion to fund the remaining \$60,576.

A proposed memorandum of agreement (MOA) was presented by Jennifer Turner-Lynn, assistant director of REACH of Macon County. While the organization strives to provide resources, education, assistance, counseling, and housing in general, the MOA is specifically targeted at human trafficking. It is purposed to articulate the working relationship and partnership "in providing resources, comprehensive outreach, direct client services, and systematic advocacy to human trafficking victims and their children." Turner-Lynn requested the BOC to support the MOA, because the REACH facility is one of the few ADA-capable and that has private bathrooms. The Board motioned to approve the MOA and it was passed.

Macon County Extension Director Christine Bredenkamp provided the board with an overview of what is happening at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension office. Bredenkamp introduced some of her staff members and shared the impact the office has had on Macon County through various programs and learning opportunities sponsored by the

Attendees at FRL board meeting not allowed to speak; asked to leave

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

A crowd of almost 70 attempted to attend the Tuesday, March 14, meeting of the Fontana Regional Library (FRL) system's Board of Trustees at Hudson Library in Highlands. However, Branch Librarian Carlyn Morenus explained that only 50 could occupy the space, due to fire code, so the overflow stood at the meeting room door and among the rows of books at the library.

While the FRL nor the Macon County Public Library Boards of Trustee meetings historically have not been well attended by the public, a controversy involving books in children's and teens library sections that include sexually explicit illustrations and text – and promoted in displays – has attracted an increasing number of concerned citizens ready to discuss varying opinions on the matter.

At the opening of the March 14 meeting, the Board announced that there would be no public comment allowed. This statement elicited remarks from attendees: "If you love children you will let us speak." "I'm a school teacher; you're telling me I can't speak." "You're intentionally trying to censor us." "This is our library; it's paid for by our taxes – and you're not going to let us speak on this issue?"

Attendees pointed out to the Board that they were not informed that no public comment would be allowed. One board member noted that attendees could write down concerns, but no one would be allowed to address the board verbally.

Macon County Commissioner Danny Antoine addressed the Board: "Is there no public comment on the agenda? Is it your decision that you're not going to allow public speaking from this point on?"

A Board member explained that, according to a North Carolina statute, board meetings were not required to hear public comment. The group was further informed

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organization.

Matt Saenge, director of sales and marketing for Balsam West, provided an update on progress of efforts to build fiber infrastructure along Georgia Road and into the Scaly Mountain area. The project has established a point of presence behind the Otto Community Center for up to 400 gigabytes of bandwidth capacity. Approximately 253 connections are in progress, which include signed contracts for both residential and business. There are 116 more pending for Phase I and II of the effort. Phase 3 includes towers to extend the internet reach and advanced network voice capability.

Lastly, County Manager Derek Roland recommended the BOC rescind the existing 2010 Code of Ethics for Macon County and approve an updated version, which is more streamlined and clearer, that was drawn up by County Attorney Eric Ridenour. The BOC motioned to take up the recommendation then voted to approve/adopt it. Commissioners also agreed to support the bid award for the Macon County Transit Facility expansion presented by Darlene Asher, Transit Director and to formally recognize Macon County Crawford Senior Center volunteers, as proposed by Department of Social Services Director Patrick Betancourt.

The next regularly scheduled Macon County Board of Commissioners meeting is April 11.



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Concerts, musical events upcoming

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Macon County boasts myriad music events this spring.

St. Patrick's Day, Friday, March 17, kicks off opportunities with Rainbows End Band and Friends at Wayfarer's Chapel, just off Scaly Mountain (Dillard) Road. The BYOB event, with some food provided, starts at 6 p.m. and is dubbed an intimate evening of Celtic music and merrymaking. A Celtic harp, bass, drums, and more will be played; a \$20 donation is "appreciated" but not required for this event.

March Midday Music at the FROG (Friends of the Greenway) includes, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., music by local musicians on March 18 and March 25 at the FROG Quarters on E. Main Street in Franklin.

Brent Vernon, author/illustrator, ventriloquist, and singer, performs a free concert at First United Methodist Church in Franklin on Sunday, March 19. Free food and snacks start-



Brent & Sam in concert at FUMC Sunday, March 19, at 5 p.m.

ing at 5 p.m. in Memorial Hall and the show starts at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary.

On April 22 is Springtopia, a Feeding the Future food-drive event, hosted by Altered Frequencies. The free event will include music, food trucks, a bounce house and bands and will run from noon until midnight. Tickets are available day of show for \$25, or \$20 with a food donation of nonperishable foods.

Also on April 22, officially Earth Day, is the Outdoor Music Jam at Lazy Hiker Brewing Company, beginning at 6 p.m.

Brasstown Ringers will offer a concert at First United Methodist Church on April 30, beginning at 5:30 p.m., to benefit CareNet in Franklin.

CareNet is a ministry created to help people in crisis by providing food and other services. The concert is free, but a donation is appreciated.

Songwriters Collective meets the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at Lazy Hiker Brewery.

No lives lost in helicopter crash

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Warren Cabe, director Macon County Emergency Services Office, said he has not experienced anything like the helicopter crash that occurred the evening of Thursday, March 9, in the Burningtown community of Macon County.

"I've never seen this level of a crash where the occupants were able to survive," he said. "It's a miracle that the patient and the crew members were able to walk away with fairly insignificant injuries."

known, rain in the area on Thursday evening could have been a contributing factor.

"My office was called," said Cabe. "I played a coordinating role. Fire and rescue and Macon County EMS were the first to be dispatched. They got to the site and began patient care and triaging the patients, determining whether they needed to go to a local facility or trauma center. Three went ground (via ambulance) to Mission in Asheville and one (the pilot) to Angel Medical. He appeared to be uninjured, but we still sent him to Angel to be evaluated."



All four passengers survived the crash of a medical transport helicopter that occurred Thursday evening in the Burningtown Community. The helicopter was part of the LifeForce fleet operating out of Chattanooga, Tenn., with satellite bases in Cherokee County in North Carolina and in Tennessee and Georgia.

Photo courtesy of Macon County Sheriff's Office

While the details are still coming in and a full report may take weeks or even months to become available to the public, a flightway path report indicated that an Erlanger Health Care System Life Force helicopter, transporting an East Tennessee heart attack patient, took off around 6:47 p.m. Thursday night from Andrews, N.C. It crashed 10 minutes later on Middle Burningtown Road. Six Life Force bases are operational, with just one in North Carolina; the others are in Georgia and Tennessee. The pilot and crew were enroute to Mission Hospital in Asheville.

Macon County 911 received a call from Life Force Air Medical Service regarding Life Force 6: "We have lost contact with them. They had to make an emergency landing." Then a caller on the 911 call dispatch tape is heard saying, "He's yelling for help in our field. The pilot's alive." Another resident expressed, "It came right over the house and then we heard the impact and the explosion."

On Friday, investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) office in Charlotte, according to Cabe, were on the scene of the crash.

"A preliminary report should be out in a week or so; the FAA will collect data to send to NTSB [National Transportation Safety Board] and they will issue a full report – probably in a few months."

While the reason for the crash is still un-

The pilot (whose name, along with the crew, has still not been revealed) crash landed in the middle of Middle Burningtown Road, with no trees, cars, or houses affected, pointed out Cabe. A section of road was closed temporarily during the investigation on Friday, and Cabe noted that a recovery company from Atlanta, Ga., took care of the wreckage.

Robbie Tester, Erlanger's vice president of Patient Logistics, issued a statement after the crash: "We are grateful to our partners in the healthcare community for providing great care to our Life Force family both on scene and in the hospital and to the Macon County Sheriff's Office and other local first responders for their assistance during this difficult time. I'm also grateful for all the calls, texts, and concern shown by our staff, public safety agencies, and our air ambulance community from across the country. We do not have information regarding the circumstances or cause of the crash, but understand that the FAA and NTSB will be investigating, as is routine." While Life Force initially suspended operations for a few days after the crash to allow crews an opportunity for a break, they reinitiated operations on Tuesday, March 14.

At the helicopter crash scene the next day, Sheriff Brent Holbrooks told News Channel 9: "From my perspective, it was the good Lord on their side, for sure."

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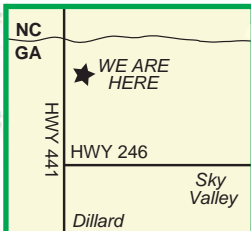


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LIBRARY Continued from page 2

that the FRL Board of Trustees had consulted an attorney, who advised them not to allow public comment because of the “disruptive” nature of comments regarding sexually explicit books for children. At that, attendees shouted, “No! No! No!”

Attendees were told by the board that anyone who disrupted the meeting would be directed to leave, and if they did not leave, they could be arrested and be found guilty of a misdemeanor.

Antoine told attendees that he would be leaving Highlands to attend the 6 p.m. Macon County Commissioner meeting in Franklin and that he would be addressing this issue with the commissioners.

As attendees got up to leave the meeting, Highlands police chief Andrea Holland, as well as another uniformed police officer, entered the room. Franklin resident Jim Gaston told the Board: “This is more proof that the libraries need to be pulled out of the Fontana system.”

After exiting the meeting room, approximately 30 attendees stayed inside the library to discuss the no-public-comment issue. Diann Catlin, Highlands, said, “This is America. We care about what our children and grandchildren are reading. Many of us are educators. There is no excuse for what they did to us in there today. Shouldn’t people receive constructive criticism so we can protect our children? They can’t just spring ‘no public comment’ on us. We are concerned citizens – not here to be hauled away by the police.”

A few of the meeting attendees who gathered in the library discussed some of the books that have been on display and made available to children and teenagers in the Fontana Regional Library system. Books that they would like to at least be labeled as including sexual content include “Lawn Boy,” “Flamer,” and “Gender Queer.” These books include graphic, detailed content that The Macon County News has chosen not to include, and the latter features illustrations of sex acts.

The latter book, especially, has been central not just as part of the local library controversy but to a nationwide movement by some parents and educators to pay attention to books offered in public schools and libraries. WORLD magazine’s cover story in the March 11 issue focused groups like Moms for Liberty, a nationwide grassroots campaign to restrict or remove books with graphic sexual content. Headlines like this are common: “How a YA oral-sex scene touched off Texas’ latest culture war,” (*Texas Tribune*), and “How a Debut Graphic Memoir Became the Most Banned Book in the Country” (*The New York Times*).

Catlin said she looked through “Lawn Boy” to become better informed. “No one in the world but an aspiring pedophile would benefit from this book. The main character ... and never seemed to get that out of his mind. The book overused the ‘F’ word and the young boy’s mother is having an affair with a boarder who cannot keep his privates private. The library is not a place to put sexual deviancy on display for our most vulnerable, our children.”

“We only want a neutral library where you don’t have to push an agenda,” said Warren “Bud” Bergstresser, Franklin. “This community will not go away until this board and certain staff choose a unifying direction of neutrality. We all love the library. That is why we will continue to bring awareness to the public by spreading the truth of this issue. We do not want conflict, but the library has purposefully chosen conflict by being tone deaf.”

“It’s so confusing,” said Wendy McGaha, Franklin. “I saw this book (‘Flamer’) was made available to children, and at the top of it reads ‘This Book Will Save Lives.’ It teaches children to have oral sex with other children. Really?”

Said Marsha Denney, Franklin, “I’ve been to most of the meetings because I don’t approve of the pornographic materials in the Macon County Library for any of the young children or teens and I don’t approve of the displays of books with sex-

ual content. I’m a former educator and I don’t want to see children harmed or confused by reading sexual content.”

“As an educator (36 years), I can speak with authority when it comes to knowing what is best for children,” said Debbie Franken, Highlands. “I am here today to totally and assuredly reject the open display and promotion of sexual and gender confusing books in our libraries. They entice innocent children and teens to pursue these mature themes that they are not developmentally ready to understand. The entire community should come together to make our libraries safe for children.”

“We have asked for labels on these books,” said Leah Gaston, Franklin. “That solution would facilitate parents who want the books for their children as well as parents who want to protect their children from reading these books.”

“The Collection Development Policy states that library staff have a responsibility to ‘engage in open, continuous two-way communication with library patrons and recognize that individuals have different way of expressing their needs.’ We expect no less from FPL Board members,” she added.

Many of the almost 70 attendees at the 4 p.m. Highlands’ FRL Board of Trustees meeting drove to Franklin to attend the 6 p.m. Macon County Commissioner meeting. The meeting was so packed, in fact, that it was moved from the Commissioners Boardroom in the courthouse to the main courtroom.

Although the public comment session involved attendees speaking on other issues pertaining to the evening’s agenda, a



Macon County Commissioner Danny Antoine addressed the Fontana Regional Library Board of Trustees Tuesday afternoon as they announced they would not allow the almost 70 attendees to offer public comments.

few spoke about the library controversy, including Jim Gaston – who asked commissioners to “strongly consider not continuing the FPL contract” – and Deni Shepard, of Franklin, who shared: “If the display of sexually explicit materials is openly allowed, you will find yourselves as a government entity in conflict with another part of government. I have had several conversations with our local law enforcement. They have several officers whose sole responsibility is within sexual communications involving minors and/or adults with minors [internet, phone, materials, etc.]. On one hand, our governing system (libraries, schools) allows or encourages [sexual materials], while law enforcement is fighting against it.”

Antoine addressed fellow commissioners and attendees, explaining that he had been at the Hudson Library meeting. “Can I see a show of hands as to how many of you were at the meeting earlier today in Highlands? I want to apologize to you all for how you were treated. You went to have your voices heard and there is no excuse. The fact that they silenced everyone is completely outrageous. If I read a book like ‘Flamer’ out loud tonight, everyone here would silence me because of its content. But it’s available for kids to read? Hyper sexualizing kids is unacceptable and people will not be silenced. I and others are working super hard on this issue.”

(As of presstime, FPL board members contacted for comment had not responded.)

Franklin Appalachian Trail Council welcomes AT Community Supporters



The Franklin Appalachian Trail Community Council recently welcomed neighboring businesses Fish Tales, and Trail Mix, as new A. T. Community Supporters. Pictured are FATCC member Tasha Sebring, Fish Tales owner Ernie King, Trail Mix owner Marie Roberts, and FATCC member Kristina Moe. To learn more about becoming an A.T. Supporter visit the Facebook page, FranklinATMile110 or appalachiantrail.org.



Gracious Plates restaurant on Main Street was recently welcomed by the Franklin Appalachian Trail Community Council as an A. T. Supporter in Franklin. The restaurant will be joining Franklin's A.T. Mile 110 Celebration with an event, Happy Trails to You, on April 21. Pictured with Ciana Speckhart, owner of Gracious Plates in the center, are FATCC members Kelsey Mortensen, Eric Haggart, Tim Lindler, Graham Norris, Tasha Sebring, Kristina Moe, Scott Dimauro, Ciana Speckhart, Dan Finnerty, Deena Bouknight, Jamie Bowser, Stacia Bennett, Charlotte Buell and Josh Tate.



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Franklin Panthers hit the diamond for baseball and softball

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

While this winter in Macon County has not really felt much like winter, spring is coming and with it comes the annual second semester sports at Franklin High School (FHS). That means, among other sports, baseball and softball are always associated with warmer and longer days.

Varsity baseball is off to a 3-1 start with home wins over Murphy, Swain County, and Hiwassee, followed by a close loss at Murphy, 7-8. Thus far, the hitting stars have been senior catcher/first baseman Davis Anders, junior left/center fielder Tyler Williams, and outfielder Caleb Cloer.



FHS JV Pitcher Brock Bradley gets a hit vs. Swain County.

Cloer, a senior, leads the team in batting average at .778 and is tied with Williams for second with seven hits. Senior Anders leads in that category with nine hits in 14 at-bats and is third in runs batted in (RBI) with seven. Leading the Panthers in RBIs is outfielder Jaxon Hursey with 10, who leads Williams by one. Additionally, junior pitchers Josiah Hursey and Jaden Rogers lead the team with 7.2 innings pitched each. Hursey has 15 strikeouts (K) thus far while Rogers has fanned eight.

The next game on the schedule was Andrews for March 16, but that game was cancelled. The first conference game is at East Henderson on, March 21.

On the junior varsity (JV) side, the Panthers opened up their season against Swain County on March 7 and won easily 19-4 in three innings before facing Hayesville and losing a tough 6-2 game, to sit at 1-1. New JV Head Coach Colin Taylor, in his first year at FHS, kept the importance of teaching, versus just winning, after the loss.

“We got off to a good start, and then the bats cooled off a little bit; but we still saw some good things. We have a pretty young group out there and this may be the first time they faced some adversity. I view times like these as teaching moments,” said Coach Taylor.

The coach has indeed faced



FHS Pitcher Clint Cabe and first baseman Abraham Apel go for a foul ball vs Murphy.

some initial challenges this year as his team is young, with eight freshmen and only three sophomores on the roster. Also, with wet weather and players finishing basketball season, practice has been limited leading up to the season.

Taylor, who spent the last four years coaching in Towns County, Georgia, finished his teaching degree there before coming to coach in Macon County at Mountain View Intermediate School. Originally from Florida, Taylor played

Drake and Cabe sign to play basketball at Bryan College in Tennessee

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

For anyone watching Franklin High School (FHS) basketball the past few years, it was difficult to miss Cal Drake and Parker Cabe as they moved from junior to varsity levels and improved their play all along the way. Following this, their senior season, both lifelong friends will continue their journey together as they signed letters of intent to attend Bryan College. Bryan is a small, regionally accredited Christian liberal arts college located in Dayton, Tenn. In athletics, the school is part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Bryan men’s basketball coach Don Rekoske has been in that role for 17 years. Thirteen schools in all are within the Appalachian Athletic Conference, including Montreat, Union, Reinhardt, and Kentucky Christian.

The two senior Panthers are excited about the opportunity to continue playing basketball together, as well as pursue academic degrees. Drake will work toward an engineering degree while Cabe plans to pursue a path in sports broadcasting. Drake’s older sister, Canaan, is already attending Bryan, following her graduation from FHS in 2021, and is in her sophomore year there. Coach Rekoske told of how he followed the young men’s high school basketball performance and how impressed he was at the improvement demonstrated by them both in the past year.

“I’m excited about both of these guys coming [to Bryan College] and I think they are going to have a lot of fun playing together,” he said.

FHS head basketball coach Doug Plemmons also spoke



Parker Cabe and Cal Drake’s families lend their support at the signing ceremony March 10 of Letter of Intent to play basketball for Bryan College in Dayton, Tenn.

at the signing and described the process of Drake and Cabe getting to where they are today.

“When they came in as freshmen, they were both small, they weren’t athletic; they had drive, they worked extremely hard, and made themselves into players.” Plemmons also lauded the hard work put forth by many coaches, faculty,

and family - all of which played a significant role in the development of the young student athletes.

Regarding the choice of Bryan College, Coach Plemmons added, “They are going to find their purpose in life going to that type of school. They will come away knowing what God intended them to do.”

college baseball in New York and then returned to Florida to coach at Stoneman Douglas High School before heading to Georgia. He pointed to Tyler Brackett, his assistant coach, as his source of information. Brackett has been at FHS for a few years and “knows all the ins and outs,” according to Taylor. He also praised Varsity Coach Jared Greenwood, who he said “does a fantastic job; it’s a testament to him, he has really made me feel at home; he has supported me every step of the way.”

The next JV games on the schedule are at Hayesville, March 17, and then on to East Henderson on the 21st.

Softball off to a good start

In softball, the varsity women currently sit at 4-2 with wins over Hiwassee Dam, 10-9; Madison (Marshall, N.C.) 13-5; Murphy, 11-3; and at East Henderson, 13-3. Their losses were against McDowell (Marion, N.C.), 5-6; and Crest (Shelby, N.C.), 2-10.

In their home victory March 9 against Murphy’s Bulldogs, the Lady Panthers got off to a great start, scoring eight runs in the first inning before finishing with the mercy rule in the fifth. Freshman pitcher Kendall Rumans went the distance, getting seven strikeouts while allowing three runs on six hits and walking one. Hitting stars for the night were seniors Tori Ensley and Abby Carpenter. Ensley went 3-4 with three runs scored and two batted in; Carpenter went 3-3, with two runs scored and one batted in. Each player had a double during the game as well.

So far this season, Carpenter (catcher/3rd base) leads the team with an .857 batting average and on-base percentage. Ensley (shortstop/3rd base) leads in six categories, including home runs (2), stolen bases (8), runs scored and hits (12 each), RBIs (9), and doubles (4). On the pitching side, Ru-



FHS freshman starting softball pitcher Kendall Rumans delivers a pitch.

mans has a 2-1 record in four appearances and 22.2 innings pitched. Her 19 Ks lead the team, with junior Meyaeh Tran second with eight. Tran leads in earned run average at 6.35, with Rumans at 6.79. Together, the two have pitched all 37 innings of the season, with Rumans at 22.2 and Tran at 14.1.

The next softball game on the schedule is at Tuscola, March 16.



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The Legislative Review

Rep. Karl E. Gillespie



Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

In this week's edition of The Legislative Review, several bills are filed, two of my bills are heard in committee, and important legislation passes the House chamber.

For the legislative week beginning Monday, Feb. 27, a no-vote session was held on Monday afternoon. Tuesday was a very busy day with numerous committee meetings.

The Appropriations, AgNER committee met at 9 a.m., and we received a presentation on the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Following the AgNER committee, I attended the House Local Government Committee to speak in support of my bill, HB133, Graham County Occupancy Tax. The bill passed committee and is now referred to House Finance.

After discussions with a couple of advocacy groups, I was happy to meet with a constituent who drove all the way from Murphy. Later that afternoon, my colleagues and I joined a caucus and discussed various issues. After two additional meetings, I then attended an educational session across the street at the North Carolina Science Museum. Tuesday's House session was administrative in nature and no votes were held.

Wednesday morning I chaired the Appropriations, AgNER committee meeting and presentations were provided on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs), DACs Agricultural Services (Agronomic Services, Plant Industry, SWC), and DACs Consumer Protection (Food and Drug Standards, Structural Pest, Vet).

Wednesday afternoon the House convened for a voting session and we considered various bills, including:

– HB11, Schools for the Deaf and Blind, would do the following: Create a board of trustees for each of the schools for the deaf and blind and provide for governance of those schools by the new boards; establish an admissions process for the schools for the deaf and blind; and create a transition process for the schools to governance by the new boards of trustees beginning in 2024-2025. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 71-45.

– HB60, SUDEP Awareness Week, would designate the week beginning on the second Sunday in November of each year as Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) Awareness Week, and encourage local boards of education to develop and provide training for school personnel that are responsible for students with epilepsy

See GILLESPIE on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Day care centers not valuable to businesses

Governor Cooper's State of the State address is on my mind. If day care centers are so valuable to businesses, why are not businesses providing day care centers for their employees? Could be day care centers are not valuable to businesses. More likely is they know Big-Daddy will force the taxpayer to provide them.

A recent letter to the editor of *The Macon County News* has Macon County's working parents searching desperately for day care. If parents are willing to spend money, why are not entrepreneurs setting up day care centers in order to get that money? Could be the state had burdened them with too many regulations. Could be they do not want to invest money in an enterprise that is likely soon to be put out of business by free, government-provided day care centers.

George Crockett – Franklin, N.C.

Keeping Trump from Trump

"Nothing can work damage to me except myself; the harm that I sustain I carry about with me and never am a real sufferer except by my own fault." Those are words from Ralph Waldo Emerson that are in my book of meditations called "One Day at a Time in Al-Anon."

When I hear former President Donald Trump I think of those words. He rants often about being "victimized." Yet, he apparently doesn't believe he was victimized by being elected in 2016. He chose that path – to run for President. Then he lost his bid to be re-elected in 2020. Now he is playing the role of a "victim."

The reality is this:

"Victim" Trump will go down in history as the only President ever to be impeached twice; and "Victim" Trump has been under investigation for over a year and a half for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection.

The January 6 Bipartisan Committee has referred Trump to the Department of Justice for three possible crimes:

- Obstruction of an Official Proceeding
- Conspiracy to Defraud the United States
- Conspiracy to Make a False Statement

"Victim" Trump took numerous classified documents from their rightful secure location when he vacated the White House in 2021.

The Justice Department is now saddled with the massive task of determining whether to indict and prosecute "victim" Trump for the above findings and allegations.

It is worth remembering that "victim" Trump seldom pays taxes that are needed to pay for investigations. He doesn't pay taxes that are used to hire Secret Service to protect him as an ex-President.

Donald Trump has not been "victimized" at all. He has actually victimized the American people. His followers have

been victimized by his lies. The rest of us have been forced to work to ensure that he was not re-elected. Now we are all paying for these much-needed investigations. Perhaps it is time that Donald Trump asked himself the question that the rock group Counting Crows asked in the song Perfect Blue Buildings: "How am I gonna keep myself away from me?" And, as January 6 Committee Co-Chair Liz Cheney insists: "How do we keep Trump from us?"

"Nothing can work damage to me..." Trump has worked great damage on himself while at the same victimizing the American people. No more!

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

Apology accepted and applauded

Former Bill Clinton White House adviser and feminist author Naomi Wolf issued an apology to conservatives after new footage released by Tucker Carlson showed the events of Jan. 6 were grossly misrepresented.

In a piece published Friday at "Substack," Wolf explained that she'd initially bought Democrats' lies about the Jan. 6 "insurrection" but that the footage, which showed "Q-Anon Shaman" Jacob Chansley being escorted around the Capitol building by Capitol police officers, changed her mind.

"I owe you a full-throated apology," Wolf said addressing conservatives.

"I believed a farrago of lies. And, as a result of these lies, and my credulity — and the credulity of people around me — many conservatives' reputations are being tarnished, on false bases."

Wolf went on to describe how video that showed Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick alive and well during the day's events, contrary to claims he was killed, influenced her decision to ditch the Democrats' narrative. Wolf also lamented the gradual loss of the people's right to enter government buildings, a time-honored custom that incrementally eroded and has altogether ceased as of recently.

"The violence of Jan 6 and its subsequent service as a talking point by the Democrats' leadership, risks its use also to justify the closing off of our public buildings from U.S. citizens altogether. This would be convenient for tyrants of any party," said Wolf.

Wolf additionally said she was sorry for believing lies promoted by elected officials and propaganda parroted by mainstream media outlets, which she admitted have been proven wrong time and time again.

"Republicans, conservatives, I am sorry. I also believed wholesale so much else that has since turned out not to be as I was told it was by NPR, MSNBC and *The New York Times*. I believed that stories about Hunter Biden's laptop were Russian propaganda. Dozens of former intel officials said so. Johns Hopkins University said so. I believed this all — til it was debunked. I believed that President Trump's campaign colluded with Russia — until that assertion was

See LETTERS on page 11

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LETTERS

Continued from
page 10

dropped. I believed that President Trump was a Russian asset, because the legacy media I read said so. I believed in the entire Steele dossier, until I didn't, because it all fell apart. I believed that President Trump instigated the riot at the Capitol — because I did not know that his admonition to his supporters to assemble 'peacefully and patriotically' had been deleted from all of the news coverage that I read. Because of lies such as these in legacy media — lies which I and millions of others believed — half of our nation's electorate was smeared and delegitimized, and I myself was misled. The gatekeepers who lie to the public about the most consequential events of our time — and who thus damage our nation, distort our history, and deprive half of our citizenry of their right to speak, champion and choose, without being tarred as would-be violent traitors — deserve our disgust. I am sorry the nation was damaged by so much untruth issued by those with whom I identified at the time. I am sorry my former 'tribe' is angry at a journalist for engaging in — journalism! I am sorry I believed so much nonsense. Though it is no doubt too little, too late — Conservatives, Republicans, MAGA: I am so sorry."

The five most difficult words to say: "I'm sorry, I was wrong!" I applaud Naomi Wolf for her courage and honesty! We live in an age characterized by untruth. All of us have been lied to, and many have been misled by those lies in recent years. It is time for more Americans to come to a knowledge of the truth in so many areas. I pray that will happen. Maybe it's not too late!

Ed Hill – Franklin, N.C.

Our Northern stars leading

Our dark universe seems endless and is only pierced by drifting stars which burn brightly. Yet within these drifting stars many have found direction and guidance.

The Northern Star is the anchor of the northern sky and has guided many to reach their purpose and destinies. This guiding star has also been a steady focus for a hope in a true direction that guides the soul and heart for the betterment of life. This was the view of many African Americans that revered the Northern Star for its inspiration and spiritual direction, for it has always been known as trustworthy, steady, and with hope in guiding one through the uncertainties of life.

Even in the movie, "The Patriot," the father, before going to battle, gives his young daughter a necklace, depicting the Northern Star, which is her guidance during his absence for life's true direction in being steadfast, focused, with a purposeful direction of what one believes and hopes.

This understanding of life is still in search for its truest direction. We, as in old, look for that star that keeps our course steady. If we could only find a True North of life's direction and meaning. Our world is lacking with a direction and purpose. Even our leadership seems to be in search for a True North but pays no attention to a foundational compass which points a true direction.

Natural or nature's laws of man, woman and family and their relationship with each other, is now dismissed. Our human laws of justice, truth and equality all the while saying we want this, but is also dismissed. But all are derived from a Divine direction of God's law, but it's man that bends the Divine direction within his own greed and selfishness. Modern leadership's thinking, forces their will upon our children and the traditional family has become their enemy. Our sovereignty has little meaning, our border, human trafficking, crime, drugs, disrespect for life becomes the norm, all the while we still look for that True North that brings a guidance for the purpose of living.

GILLESPIE

Continued from
page 10

or otherwise predisposed to seizures. The bill passed unanimously, 115-0.

– HB131, Protect NC Ed. Savings & Investment Accounts, would increase protections for funds held in North Carolina Education Savings and Investment Accounts and NC ABLE accounts from claims of creditors and other judgments. HB131 passed unanimously, 115-0.

Thursday morning I attended the final Joint AgNER Appropriations Committee and we received presentations on DACS Forestry and the Wildlife Resources Commission. No votes were held on Thursday.

For the legislative week beginning March 6, the House held a no-vote session Monday evening; Gov. Cooper gave his State of the State address to the House and the Senate.

On Tuesday, I met with my fellow AgNER Chairs and we discussed budget priorities with staff. Following the committee, I met with Bill Drafting to discuss a bill proposal, and thereafter, I met with various state liaisons to discuss their budget and policy objectives.

At 3:15 p.m., the House Rules Committee met and heard my bill, HB153, Use Tribal ID for Alcohol and Tobacco Purchases. The bill passed committee, which was its final stop prior to being heard on the House floor.

Tuesday afternoon, the House convened for a voting session where we voted on numerous bills, including:

– SB53, Hotel Safety Issues, would provide that the rental of an accommodation by an inn, hotel, motel, recreational vehicle park, campground, or similar lodging to the same person for fewer than 90 consecutive days does not create a tenancy or a residential tenancy subject to Chapter 42 of the General Statutes. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 83-29.

– HB86, School Calendar Flex/Statewide, would authorize local boards of education to set a start date for the school calendar no earlier than Aug. 10, and would allow local boards of education that conclude the fall semester prior to Dec. 31 to administer assessments prior to the conclusion of the fall semester. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 111-2.

– HB166, American Indians Graduating with Honors Act, would allow any student who is enrolled, or is eligible to be enrolled, in a State or federally recognized Indian Tribe to wear objects of cultural significance as part of the graduation regalia to the student's graduation ceremony from any public school. I am a primary sponsor of this bill and it passed the House unanimously.

On Wednesday, I met with various state department liaisons as well as advocacy groups. Wednesday afternoon I attended the House Wildlife Resources Committee as well as the House Agriculture Committee. Presentations were provided at both, including from Agriculture Commissioner, Steve Troxler.

After a caucus with my colleagues, House session convened at 3 p.m., and we voted on various bills, including:

– HJR151, Term Limits for Congress, would create an application by the General Assembly to the United States Congress for a limited Convention of the States for the pur-

But this true direction is not what modern man wants. As in early times, setting your direction on the Northern Star kept a steady hand on the helm of life even in the most violent storms. But True North no longer exists, for man himself determines his own direction even to the point of self destruction, but sadly he brings many along with him. Our families, our children, our culture, all society pays a price that will never recover if we allow this.

For myself and many, we will never allow our community, our children our church, our America to have any part of this selfish destruction. I look for leadership that has its goal set

pose of proposing a United States Constitutional amendment to impose term limits on members of Congress. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 69-48.

– HB153, Use Tribal ID for Alcohol & Tobacco Purchase, would add tribal enrollment cards issued by State or federally recognized Indian Tribes to the list of acceptable identification cards to verify proof of age to purchase alcohol, tobacco products, and cigarette wrapping papers. I was the primary sponsor of the bill which passed unanimously, 117-0.

– HJR235, Application for a Convention of States, would request that Congress call an Article V Convention for proposing amendments to the United States Constitution. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 61-55.

Presenting the Tribal I.D. bill in Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs Committee. The bill passed by unanimous voice vote.

Recently Co-Sponsored Bills

From 2/27-3/10, I sponsored the following bills:

– HB192, 2023 Wildlife Resources Changes.-AB, would make various changes to the wildlife laws, as requested by the wildlife resources commission.

– HB205, Transparent Governance & Integrity Act.-AB, would provide for greater transparency in and maintenance of state and local government financial matters.

– HB210, Reduce Barriers to State Employment.

– HB214, Add Members to NC Training Standards Commission, would provide that the North Carolina police benevolent association and the North Carolina fraternal order of police may each select one person to serve on the North Carolina criminal justice education and training standards commission

– HB215, General Assembly/"In God We Trust" Display, would require the legislative services officer of the General Assembly to display the national motto "In God We Trust" directly above and behind the dais of the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate.

– HB218, The SAVE Act, would deliver safe, accessible, value-directed, and excellent (save) health care throughout North Carolina by modernizing nursing regulations.

– HB230, Study State Travel Allowances Reimbursements, would establish an independent bipartisan committee to study the modernization of the state's current travel allowances for state officers, employees, teachers, and members of boards, commissions, and the general assembly by adjusting the amounts based on federal guidelines

– HJR235, Application for a Convention of the States, would be a joint resolution applying to congress for an article v convention of the states with the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution.

– HB256, Muddy Sneakers, would appropriate funds to support learning programs that aim to improve the science aptitude of fifth grade students through supplemental, hands-on field instruction of the State science standards.

– HB295, Promote North Carolina Sawmills, would promote local sawmills by allowing the use of ungraded lumber in certain circumstances.

on True North which is built on a True foundation of a Divine destiny which supports and honors life, justice, truth, equality for all and not for a selfish purpose, but for "We the People." How is it that we've lost direction and become so selfish and corrupt? It's because the soul has no True North, no Divine direction nor a true foundation, yet we blindly follow.

Would love to meet over coffee or email.

Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

Macon Schools seeking solutions to mental health crisis: Part II

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic may have led to a mental health crisis as declared by the United States surgeon general just over a year ago, but U.S. children and teens have been suffering for far longer. Whether it's pandemic isolation, broken or troubled homes, absent parents or caregivers, today's kids have much to contend with.

All these difficulties, on top of growing concerns about social media, violence, natural disasters—not to mention the normal ups and downs of childhood and adolescence—can feel insurmountable for those who work with kids. Macon County Schools are taking steps to address some of the issues.

What Macon Schools are Implementing

Macon County students are not immune to the pressures experienced by students in larger cities. Macon Schools have seen a drastic rise in mental health issues since 2020 and the onslaught of COVID. The trend is so widespread that the Macon School Board decided to contract an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with two mental health providers to bring services into the schools. The Long Center for Psychological Services treats patients at their office off Highlands Road in Franklin. When a child is in need of counseling in the past, they had to leave school to go to the provider to obtain services, which is not always feasible for some students and parents. Having to pull a child out of school and taking off work on a weekly basis for a therapy session, can be very difficult for many working parents. With this MOU in place the Long Center will be able to make available therapists, who can counsel a child at their home school. Special arrangements have been made to accommodate the therapists and the

clients at school. Weekly sessions will be held in a designated quiet room reserved for counseling. No student will be pulled out of a core class, such as English or Math, for these services. These services, which have already begun, will be for existing Long Center clients at first. Parents of these students have already secured a counselor for their child using their insurance benefits for payment to the Long Center. Rebecca Long, Psychologist with the Long Center explains.

“There are many challenges adolescents face, some of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic over the past few years. Teens can be affected by external stressors such as school performance, relational conflict with peers or significant others, family challenges such as domestic violence, unstable housing, or lack of adequate resources. Kids and teens can suffer from depression, anxiety disorders, ADHD [Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder], and can have a variety of symptoms after experiencing a traumatic event. Teens often demonstrate poor decision-making, and can be at risk for alcohol and substance use as well as self harm behaviors.

“We hear from many families who are struggling with diverse challenges that affect their teens, as they navigate this complex world while developing their sense of self and independence towards adulthood,” said Long. “We do offer referrals to other providers in the community, if needed, as

well as coordinate care with other specialties such as physicians and community partners. Since I have practiced here over the past 17 years, Macon County has remained a federally designated health professional shortage area. This means that often families have difficulty finding mental health services to address their needs and we continue to deal with this reality in our rural area. There con-

tinues to be more needs in our community than mental health professionals to address them, but we believe that formalizing this relationship with the school system will better enable The Long Center to ... help meet some of the needs for child and adolescent services.

“All of the therapists at The Long Center for Psychology have earned Master's degrees in a counseling related field. Each either maintains full licensure status for independent practice by his or her respective professional board, or is provisionally licensed and working towards completing requirements for full licensure. As this program progresses new referrals can be made. The majority of our active child and teen clients are already in the Macon County school system. Parents/guardians can continue to contact the Long Center office directly to request school-based therapy for their child, or their child's pediatrician can initiate services with their preferred provider. Families can contact their child's school counselor to find out about therapy options or resources they need.”

The other MOU is between the school board and HIGHTS (Helping Inspire Gifts of Hope and Trust Services). HIGHTS will be available to conduct “threat assessments” when notified. A threat assessment is intended to prevent violence and involves both assessment and intervention. Threat assessments involve determining whether a student poses a threat of violence (they have intent and means to carry out the threat). A threat is an expression of intent to physically or sexually harm someone.

Within 24 hours of notification of the “threat” HIGHTS counselors, who are highly trained and credentialed, licensed therapists, will come in and perform an assessment to analyze what services might be needed and to decide if the student will be facing suspension or other charges. Such would be the case for the student from Franklin High School (FHS) who reportedly had a hand gun on school grounds recently. “Based on the assessment outcome, a stu-



Today's students deal with myriad of situations both at home and at school creating a mental health crisis the school systems are scrambling to address.

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dent can immediately be admitted to our alternative to suspension program, 'Inside Out,'" said Executive Director of HIGHTS Marcus Metcalf. "Students participate in healthy activities, academic work, and therapeutic interventions to improve decision making skills and connect with positive influences. The student is supervised by trained adults while the student is out of school. Once they receive the assessment and a safety plan is developed, the student may return to school. Recommendations vary but most are referred to behavioral health counseling, mediation services, or other natural supports in the community. It could also result in a referral to an inpatient hospital if the student reports serious safety concerns."

Inside Out also provides opportunities to complete virtual learning and online tutoring. Using a restorative justice model, youth are challenged to identify reasons for their suspension and make a plan to successfully re-enter their education setting when possible. HIGHTS also offers a Summer Adventure Program from mid-June to early-August. Youth raft local rivers, swim in area lakes, cave, rock climb, bike, and hike. Youth also participate in art and music programs and community service projects. These activities are provided free of charge to all youth.

Metcalf commented about Union Academy, an alternative school in Macon County.

"Union Academy is a tremendous resource for students in Macon County. Students in every school have access to the same resources for mental and physical health. Union offers smaller class sizes and more individual supports including behavioral health services. Macon County needs a continuum of supportive schools and programs to provide effective support to all our students from the most gifted to the most vulnerable. We are in the mental health crisis of our lifetime. All of our youth have been significantly affected by the pandemic, and the social pressures we are all dealing with. HIGHTS is proud to partner with our local school systems, juvenile justice, churches, Social Services, employers, WCU, Southwestern Workforce Commission, and our community colleges to provide a continuum of supports for youth and families in Western North Carolina. We are passionate about helping local

kids reach their potential to live healthy productive lives."

Other available resources

Brooke Keener, Exceptional Children Director, explains that the community has other resources such as Appalachian Community Services and Blue Ridge Health (formerly known as Meridian). These agencies do not have available staff to counsel children at the schools. Macon County Schools has available eight mental health specialists – six which are full time and two who are part time contract workers. Two Social Workers are also employed who are able to visit clients at home for wraparound services. Services provided through wraparound programs can include:

- Case management (service coordination)
- Counseling (individual, family, group, youth, and vocational)
- Crisis care and outreach.
- Education/special education services, tutoring.
- Family support, independent living supports, self-help or support groups.

"There are ways a report can be made to a school if someone suspects an individual to be a threat," explained Keener. "Sandy Hook Promise's Say Something Anonymous Reporting System (SS-ARS) is a holistic program combining education about the warning signs of potential violence or self-harm with the tools to safely report concerns. This is the only anonymous reporting system in the U.S. that provides training along with a mobile app, website, and hotline – exclusively for schools. Macon County is now part of this reporting system."

Here are six warning signs that your child might need help.

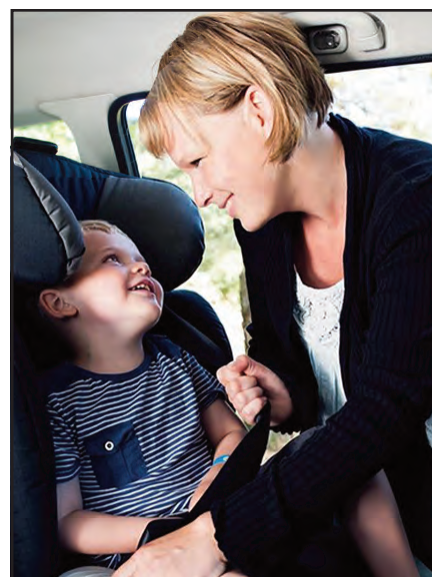
- Defiant behavior
- Sudden shift in usual interests
- Excessive worrying, or sadness
- Regressive behaviors, i.e.; bedwetting, baby talk, tantrums
- Social isolation, i.e.; eating lunch alone, avoiding playdates, lack of desire to leave the house
- Talking about self harm

If your child is in need of help, speak to their teacher(s), principal, doctor, or other community resource.

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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests March 3 - 13. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

March 5

Omar Garcia Lopez, 30, was charged with driving while impaired. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

March 6

Elijah Joseph Blanchard, 24, was charged with offense committed in jurisdiction. Sergeant Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

March 8

Matthew Devon Perkins, 30, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Charles Russell Edwards, 59, was charged with failure to appear. Sergeant James E. Crawford made the arrest.

March 9

Daniel Lee Jenkins, 50, was charged with violate a domestic violence protective order. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

Charlton Varner, 36, was charged with breaking and entering. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

James Patrick O'Neal, 30, was charged with trafficking opium or herion, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises, destroying criminal evidence, driving while license revoked, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to yield for emergency vehicle and possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

March 11

Charles Christopher Tallent, 36, was charged with failure to appear. Tristan Howard made the arrest.

John Hoyt Atkinson, 30, was charged with breaking and entering and violate a domestic violence protective order. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

March 13

Nikelus Orion Hughes, 22, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Tristan Howard made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

March 3

Christina Lynn Alsdorf, 36, was charged with breaking and entering. Jonathan M. Lauffer made the arrest.

March 5

Brian Dills, was charged with all other larceny. Kelly J. Foster made the arrest.

Victor Hugo Topia-Leon, 22, was charged with felony flee to elude, resist/obstruct/delay, speeding (65 mph in 35 mph zone), fail to head blue light/siren, careless and reckless driving, no operators license and fail to maintain lane. R.S.

Dula made the arrest.

Amilcar Josue Romero-Quinteros, 21, was charged with felony flee to elude, speeding (65 mph in 35 mph zone), fail to head blue light/siren, careless and reckless driving, no operators license/fail to carry license while operating a motor vehicle and fail to maintain lane. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

March 10

William Pell Hodges Sr., 56, was charged with communicating threats and injury to personal property. Kaitlyn L. Harper made the arrest.

March 12

Amber Latisha Klatt, 38, was charged with break/enter place of worship, larceny after break/enter, possessing stolen goods/property and driving under the influence. Kaitlyn L. Harper made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

March 5

Hector Luis Jimenez Lopez, 41, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for learners permit violation. No bond was set.

March 6

Patrick Joseph Bayles, 36, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for shoplifting concealment of goods. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Russell McKinley Wolfe, 45, of Cherokee was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Douglas Queen, 62, of Cullowhee, was charged with destruction/damage of property. No bond was set.

March 7

Diego Truillo, 27, of Cullowhee, was charged with assault inflicting serious injury. No bond was set.

Tristan Isreal Sanchez, 34, of Cherokee, was charged with true bill of indictment. No bond was set.

March 8

Brittany Aspen Inman, 27, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for larceny. No bond was set.

Sarah Emily Duran, 33, of Cherokee, was charged with simple assault and breaking and entering to terrorize or injure. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Toni Antilya Morrison, 29, of Charlotte, was charged with intoxicated and disruptive. No bond was set.

Benjamin Franklin Wilkes, 35, of Sylva, was charged with statutory rape and indecent liberties. A secured bond of \$325,000 was set.

March 9

Tyler Edward Brooks, 34, of Bryson City, was charged with failure to appear for contempt of court. No bond was set.

Rachel Annaleigh Jones, 29, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for assault with a deadly weapon causing serious injury. An unsecured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Carlos Armando Moelleraybar, 22, of Cullowhee, was charged with possession of marijuana less than 1/2 oz and carrying a concealed weapon. No bond was set.

John Theodore Sutton, 58, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer, second degree trespass, cyberstalking, communicating threats, protective order violation and assault on a government official/employee. A secured bond of \$21,000 was set.

March 10

Jonathan Michael Williams, 26, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for no operators license. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

March 11

Cecil Wayne Cochran, 47, of Bryson City, was charged with fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$1,000.

March 12

Daniel Edward Nasuta, 51, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for assault with a deadly weapon. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Casey Leanna Mark, 36, of Sylva, was charged with breaking and entering forcible. No bond was set.



U.S. Air Force Band plays in Franklin

The US Air Force Heritage of America Band performed a free concert on Sunday March 12, at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. The 40-plus member concert band of professional Airman-musicians from Langley Air Force Base, Va., played orchestral classics, marches, Broadway hits, jazz standards, movie music, and patriotic favorites. At every performance, the Band honors American military veterans. This event was co-sponsored by the Arts Council of Macon County and the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. Visit SmokyMountainArts.com for details or contact the Arts Council, 828-524-ARTS or arts4all@dnet.net.

Photo by Betsy Gooder

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Start Your Recovery.org is a groundbreaking website developed by bringing together experts in substance misuse treatment from leading nonprofit, academic, and government institutions. Through this resource, the community can find local support and treatment options; hear stories from individuals with similar life experiences; and learn about recognizing and dealing with substance misuse.

Prentiss Church Food Pantry will be open Thursday, March 16, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. If anyone is in need of a food box, drop by and be blessed.

Heartland Band Old Time Gospel Singing will be held on Friday, March 17, 6 to 8 p.m., at West Franklin Church, located on Sloan Rd., next to the Forest Service Office. All are welcome.

2023 Macon County Republican Party Convention and Precinct Meetings will be held on Friday, March 17, at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin. All Macon County Republican voters, are invited to participate. There will be a reception for Century Club members at 5 p.m., delegate registration opens at 5:30 and closes at 6:30 when the convention opens. The business of the convention includes the election of officers for precincts and for the county GOP, and voting for the Plan of Organization, which is posted on macongop.com. There will be an opportunity to meet candidates who will be on the 2024 ballot. For more information, maconrepublicans@gmail.com

Men's Challenge of the Smokies' next graduation is Saturday, March 18, at 10 a.m., at the center at 336 Living Hope Way, Franklin, with worship, a message, a short video, testimony and a reception after with refreshments. For more information about Men's Challenge of the Smokies go to www.livinghopeway.com or call (828)524-2157.

Free Musical Entertainment at Frog Quarters Saturday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Shifty Sisters are the featured musician. Frog Quarters is located at 573 E. Main St.

Aglow International meeting will be held on Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, at the First Pentecost Church, 164 Iotla Church Rd., Franklin. For more information call, Marybeth at (407)951-4286.

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Macon County Library, 149 Siler Farm Rd., Community Bible Church, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3645 Cashiers Rd., March 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main St., Highlands. Book an appointment to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Macon County Republican Women's Club will meet Tuesday, March 21, at 11:30 a.m., at Fat Buddies BBQ Restaurant. All registered Republican women are cordially invited to attend.

Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, March 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. The church is located at 86 E. Hickory Knoll Rd. For more information, call the church at (828)369-9300 or Jannie at (813)305-9433.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, March 22, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the signs. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

Registration is open for Macon County Senior Games residents of Macon County age 50-plus are eligible. Last day to register is March 31st. Register at the Carpenter Building, 1288 Georgia Rd. Across from Ingles

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

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

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

Uptown Gallery Children and Adult Art Classes and Workshops in acrylic, watercolor, acrylic paint pouring, encaustic, precious metal clay and glass fusing. Free painting in the classroom Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All skill levels and mediums are welcome. Participants are responsible for their own project and a bag lunch. Membership meeting second Sunday of the month at 3 p.m. The gallery is located at 30 E. Main St. in Franklin. For more information, call (828)349-4607.

A.A. Meetings Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or is interested in the A.A. recovery program. In person meetings with Covid 19 preventive measures are held on Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd., Sunday, 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave., Monday, noon, Tuesday, 8 a.m. and Thursday, noon at St. Agnes Episcopal Church on 66 Church St., and Wednesday, 7 p.m., at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd. On Line Meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org. or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828)349-4357.

Crawford Senior Center officers a variety of classes to older adults in Macon County. Classes include arts, crafts, exercise, and more. They also offer a variety of support groups: dementia caregivers, visually impaired persons, grief support and multiple sclerosis support group. For more information, call (828)349-2058 ext. 0.

Crawford Senior Center Care Connection Adult Day Program offers activities and supervision for adults with dementia and other forms of memory loss. For more information, call (828)349-0211 ext. 0.

Habitat for Humanity of Macon/Jackson County needs volunteers to share skills or gain some experience learning new ones. From carpentry to cleaning, marketing to moral support, computer skills, planning and organizing or just plain common sense, the greatest gift you could ever give is time. Any amount is good. Some great times, lasting friendships and rewarding experiences await. Call (828)369-3716 or (828)371-5442.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center Sunday, March 12, 11 a.m., Mystical Revelation features the vocals of Tara Sariyah and electric ukulele by Forrest Rivers. Yoga with Ashley is every Monday at 6 p.m., on Thursdays, a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and then out to eat afterward. The center is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

First Alliance Church will be holding Sunday Service on Sunday, March 19, 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages will be held at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Bradley Bennett will be preaching. Pinnacle Brass will perform special music. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next door to Trimont Christian Academy).

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

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

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

First Pentecost Church Sunday Services are Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Bible study Thursday, 7 p.m., 164 Iotla Church Rd., The Pastor is Luke Bateman.

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

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

Franklin First United Methodist Church Sunday In-person Worship is held at 10 a.m. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue in downtown Franklin; senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524-3010 or visit us at <http://www.firstumcfranklin.org>

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

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

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

D	O	G	M	A	O	N	E	H	O	O	P		
A	P	R	I	L	G	O	V	T	E	R	R	A	
D	E	I	S	M	E	D	O	A	R	C	E	D	
A	N	D	D	O	N	E	K	A	N	S	A	S	
O	F	F	D	I	N	T	D	E	N	T	A	L	
B	I	O	S	S	C	U	D	M	O	O	L	A	
E	T	U	I	Y	A	M	E	N	E	G	G	Y	
L	I	L	I	T	S	A	B	L	E	L	U	A	U
I	N	S	E	A	M	L	I	V	E	P	E	P	
B	O	D	E	S	E	N	S						
J	U	N	I	O	R	B	R	A	C	K	E	T	
P	U	T	O	N	E	G	O	M	A	N	T	A	
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C	O	H	O			S	A	T	R	E	E	L	S

Highlands named in '10 Best' list

Highlands is a winner in the 2023 *USA TODAY* 10 Best Readers' Choice travel award contest for "Best Small Town for Shopping." After four weeks of online voting, Highlands placed fifth among the towns nominated nationwide.

Highlands was nominated by a panel of relevant experts which include a combination of editors from *USA TODAY*; editors from 10Best.com; relevant expert contributors; and other sources.

The contest allowed voters to select the winner, allowing one online vote each day until voting closed on February 20. The top ten winners in the "Best Small Town for Shopping" are as follows:

1. Ocean Springs, Mississippi
2. Rhinebeck, New York
3. Cape May, New Jersey
4. Chagrin Falls, Ohio
5. Highlands, North Carolina
6. Taos, New Mexico
7. Ashland, Oregon
8. Bath, Maine
9. Fairhope, Alabama
10. Northfield, Minnesota

"The picturesque Main Street in the small North Carolina town of Highlands is a shopper's paradise stocking a little of everything – sportswear, gift items, European and American antiques, home decor and accessories, fine art and kitchen gear," reads the description on



the 10Best website.

"We are pleased by the continued recognition of Highlands by *USA TODAY* and its readers," says Kaye McHan, executive director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC. "Our local community and businesses take great pride in the shopping experience for our residents and visitors alike. The recognition proves their continued efforts to offer unique, quality items and a warm friendly atmosphere have paid off."

Morgan headed to Grand Ole Opry

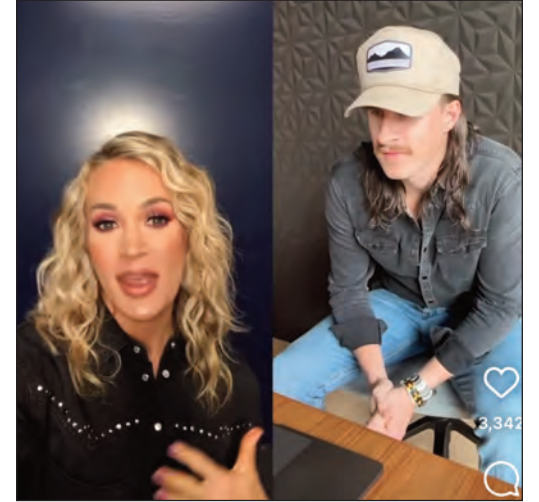
Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Rising country music singer/songwriter, John Morgan and two Franklin band members featured in the Feb. 23 edition of The Macon County News, have been invited to perform at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn., May 19.

This past week, Morgan received a surprise video call from country music singer Carrie Underwood, who appears to catch Morgan off guard in the short film that can be seen on his Instagram feed. Underwood expresses excitedly, "I just heard from our good buddy Jason Aldean [country music singer] that you are invited to make your Grand Ole Opry debut. I'm so excited for you. It is truly a magical place, and I hope you have the best night."

Before the stunned Morgan can respond, Underwood added, "If you want to, you can even play our song, 'If I Didn't Love You.'" The 2021-released song was recorded by Underwood and Aldean as the first single on Aldean's tenth studio album "Macon, Georgia." Morgan is responsible for writing the song, as well as others recorded by and performed by Aldean, and Morgan has been invited periodically to sing with Aldean.

Morgan's response to the video call from Underwood was one of humility. "I don't



Last week, country music singer Carrie Underwood surprised John Morgan, from Sylva, with a video call alerting him that he has been invited to perform in May at the Grand Ole Opry.

know what to say. I'm excited."

Also currently airing on Morgan's Instagram account is a short film featuring aspects of Morgan's life growing up in Sylva. In a recent *Country Now* publication feature that focuses on Morgan's latest single release, "Sorry, Not Sorry," the article opined, "Morgan shows no fear as he dips into his North Carolina roots to uncover an unapologetic back road anthem."

This month by donation, with 100% proceeds going to on going mission of the church



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PANCAKES, EGGS, SAUSAGE, BACON, HASH BROWNS, GRITS, BISCUITS AND GRAVY, SWEET ROLLS, COFFEE/JUICE



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8AM – 10AM

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Franklin man's Alcatraz swim raises funds for child with cancer

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Last Saturday, Army veteran Braulio Fonseca accomplished an almost two-mile swim from Alcatraz Island, Calif., (home of the Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary, closed in 1963) to a San Francisco beach to raise awareness and to pay tribute to cancer survivors and “fighters.” The English professor, photographer, and Western Carolina University MA creative writing student has overcome cancer twice and uses the Alcatraz challenge to honor what he calls “warriors.” This year, his fundraising focus is on Willow Wright, 7-year-old daughter of Amber and Jay Wright of Franklin. Amber has Stage 3 Wilms Tumor kidney cancer and is currently undergoing chemotherapy and radiation.

Supporters and fans followed Fonseca's swim live on Facebook last Saturday. He climbed out of the 48-degree water without a wet suit, tired but relieved.

“A pretty good storm came through (a few days before the swim), with wind ... created a mess. Those waters are the coldest waters I've ever been in. The ‘pineapple express’ [storm front] causes an excess of snow melt and rain water to enter the bay, which changes the currents in the bay. It made the water colder. It's usually about 54 degrees. That difference is huge. And even though I've been swimming in the lakes around Franklin, Chatuge and Glenville, since around Valentine's Day, salt water makes the cold so much worse.”

Fonseca explained that he swims the challenging waters to symbolically convey the trial of fighting cancer.

“I was first diagnosed with cancer when I was 19 years old, and after 15 years of being clear, I was diagnosed with cancer for the second time,” he said. “After radiation and chemotherapy and by the grace of God, I was able to walk away from the hospital bed (after the second time) and have been cancer-free ever since.”

The star Class of 2000 Franklin High School athlete, who was a standout in swimming, track, and other sports, decided to use exercise – and especially swimming – as a way to “raise awareness and funds to fight cancer and support those who are suffering now.”



Braulio Fonseca swam from Alcatraz Island to the San Francisco shore partly to raise money for cancer “warrior” Willow Wright, whose parents are Amber and Jay Wright of Franklin.



Braulio Fonseca swam the icy waters of San Francisco Bay on Saturday, March 11, with upwards of 800 cancer survivor and fighters' names written on his body in order to raise awareness and funds.



Braulio Fonseca does not wear a wet suit when he swims two miles in San Francisco Bay annually to raise awareness of cancer “warriors,” because he desires the swim to symbolize the difficulties of battling cancer, which he has done twice. At right, Fonseca steps out of the frigid San Francisco Bay waters on March 11.



His first attempt at swimming the cold, strong currents of San Francisco Bay were unsuccessful. “Four years ago, I attempted to swim Alcatraz as my first tribute and collected 100 names that were written on my body (in Sharpie marker) for the swim,” he said. “That year I was plucked from the bay with hypothermia and did not make the crossing successfully. I realized in that attempt that the Alcatraz crossing wasn't about finishing; it was about trying and fighting, just as those of the names I was representing are doing. The names on my body give me the drive to fight and the passion to give everything I have.”

The next year, he returned to San Francisco with more than 400 cancer “warrior” names written on his body.

“I entered the water prepared for anything, and after 40 minutes, I found myself standing on the shoreline triumphant.” In 2022, he was also successful.

March 11 was Fonseca's fourth attempt. He swims during a Coast Guard-approved opportunity when about 50 other swimmers have been green lighted to swim as well.

“They are from all walks of life,” he said. “And they are all swimming for different reasons. Last year, there was an 80-year-old man swimming as well as a 15-year-old girl. Most wear wet suits.”

His fundraising goal for Willow this year is \$10,000. So far, the Go Fund Me amount raised is close to \$6,000. He chose to support Willow due to her healthcare needs.

Inspired by others

After Fonseca beat cancer, he first challenged himself phys-

ically by entering timed swim events. However, after winning in his age group at an open mile race in the Florida Keys, he watched a man without arms emerge from the water.

“Seeing him made me reevaluate what I was doing. From that day on, I didn't want to win anything. I wanted to do something that I might not be able to do – something that actually required suffering and fighting.”

Swimming the frigid waters in California, Fonseca said he thought of Willow and the other names on his body.

“And I always pray; I feel the closest to God when I'm swimming. There's no way to do it without Him. In fact, there is always a moment when your inner voice starts to be defeatist, but then speaking to God and thinking about the cancer fighters helps give me strength. Some people are fighting way harder things than swimming in cold water. That thought helps me calm down and keeps me going.”

The accumulated names of adults or children who are fighting, have fought, or even who have succumbed to cancer numbered around 800 on Fonseca's body during Saturday's swim. He encourages, through social media and in person, people to share names and stories with him. As a result, he has created a nationwide following of people who encourage him and who he has encouraged.

“Each name will remain on my list and will be written on my body for as long as I continue to swim, which will be for the rest of my life,” he said. “This is my tribute to those who suffer and are suffering and my way to honor everyone who has been affected by this horrible affliction.”

To donate, visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/swimming-for-willow-wright>.

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Deaths & Funerals

Thaddass Brownlow Greene

Thaddass Brownlow Greene, 78, of Franklin, N.C., went to be with the Lord on March 10, 2023, at Vero Nursing Home and Rehab, Sylva, N.C. He was born in Franklin on Dec. 30, 1944, and was the son of the late Jasper Wanlow Green and Edith McNeil Green of Franklin and Trenton, N.J. He was preceded in death by his stepmother, Kate Elizabeth Curtis Green of Franklin.

Brownlow, as he was known to his family and friends, was a 1963 graduate of Franklin High School and held an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Southwestern Community College.

He was a well-known personality around Franklin. In his early career, he worked as a funeral home apprentice and funeral director alongside Harry Neal at the Bryant Funeral Home. His most storied career was working for Bruce Bryant and Macon County Supply and later the Colonial Inn. He worked for a number of years for Macon Valley Nursing Home.

His later career was marked with service to God and others as he worked as the church sexton at All Saints Episcopal Church in Franklin for many years. He loved his work with All Saints and later made this his church home. He grew up, however, at Louisa Chapel United Methodist Church, and for a number of years, attended Cartoogechaye Baptist Church.

He is survived by his brother, Rev. David Alton Green (Colleen) of Danville, Ky.; stepbrother, Harold Stephen Keener (Mary) of Lakemont, Ga.; nieces, Elizabeth Susan Green Brogli (Steven) of Harrodsburg, Ky.; Allison Faith Green of Danville; nephew, Austin Mark Green of Danville; and great nephew, Caden Douglas Brogli of Harrodsburg, Ky.; and a host of cousins, relatives and friends, mostly of Macon County.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, March 15, at Macon Funeral Home with Pastor David A. Green and Father Jonathan Stepp officiating. Interment was at Louisa Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers were Gary and Judi St Arnauld, Bill Crawford, Karen Welch and Laura Green.

The men of All Saints Episcopal Church served as pallbearers. The family wishes to thank All Saints Episcopal Church, Franklin, for all their love, support and prayers; Vero Health and Rehab; and Four Seasons Hospice.

Memorial donations may be made to All Saints Episcopal Church, 84 Church Street, Franklin, NC 28734; Four Seasons Hospice, 571 S. Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731; or the charity of one's choice.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Thaddass Brownlow Greene

Thomas Earlin Barnes

Thomas Earlin Barnes, 76, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, March 12, 2023.

Born in Highlands, N.C., he was the son of the late Rev. Harvey Rondal and Charlotte Tilson Barnes. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Helen Bertilee Pendergrass, and Eloise Bryson; one brother, Charles Barnes; and a much loved brother-in-law, Homer Bryson.

He was of the Baptist faith. He loved hunting, wood working, and most of all, spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He will be remembered for his stone masonry craftsmanship with Barnes Masonry and his wood crafting with Barnes Hand Crafted Wood Working.

He is survived by his wife, Janice Snow Barnes of Franklin; two sons, James Lester Barnes of Barkers Creek, N.C., and Thomas Kyle Barnes (Cindy) of Sylva; two daughters, Bridgett Barnes of Franklin, and Rebecca Guthrie (Jon) of Gulf Shores, Ala.; two sisters, Edith Victorine of Thomasville, Ga., and Ella Rebecca Suter of Alexandria, Va.; 11 grandchildren, Amanda Brooks, Campbell Barnes, Luke Barnes, Austin Queen, Meghan Partain, Alyssa Chandler, Hannah Guthrie, Sarah Guthrie, Noah Guthrie, Leah Guthrie, and Emmah Guthrie; six great grandchildren, Maya, Noam, Nora, Adam, Thomas, and John; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, March 19, at 3 p.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Roy Lowe officiating. The family will receive friends, from 2 to 3 p.m., one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

While we will dearly miss Thomas, also known as Paw, his favorite most cherished role, we will remember him as the Godly, wise, and courageous man who never failed to show us his ever-faithful love. He trusted in the Lord with all his heart and led his family with that faith and love. His life was a testimony of his faith in his loving Savior Jesus Christ.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC, PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744.

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



Thomas Barnes

Robert D. Parker

Robert D. Parker, 75, of Franklin, N.C., the love of his wife Sylvia's life, went to be with our Lord on March 7, 2023. He passed away at home surrounded by family and friends. He was born in Lansing, Mich., moved to Sarasota, Fla., before his second birthday.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond C. and Catherine Louise Parker and his brother, Thomas Parker.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Sylvia; daughter, Tammy; son, John; and four grandchildren, Domonic, Danieal, Skyanna, and Allison. He is also survived by his beloved dog, River.

Bob and Sylvia moved to Franklin in 1979, where they owned and operated Mr. Bob's Carpet Outlet. In addition to loving his business and his community, he loved bowling. Most of all he loved his classic muscle cars, attending car shows with his car buddies and listening to '50s and '60s music, especially Johnny River.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, March 18, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. The family will receive friends 1 to 2 p.m., one hour prior to the service.

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

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



Robert D. Parker

Grover Harold McMahan

Grover Harold McMahan, 87, of Sylva, N.C., went to be with the Lord on March 11, 2023.

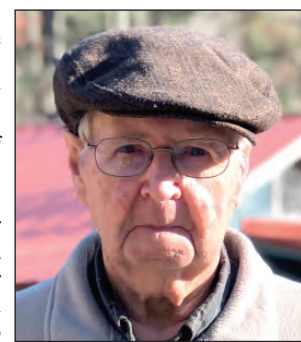
He was born in Jackson County to the late John and Hattie McMahan on April 11, 1935. He was of the Baptist faith and was a member of Victory Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon for many years. He worked as a painter throughout his career painting many houses in Jackson and Macon County. He loved to read with his favorite book being his Holy Bible. He was a loving family man and will be missed greatly by those that knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Evelyn McMahan, of 55 years; one son, Steve McMahan (Melissa); one daughter, Misty LaVigne (Jason); five grandchildren, Chelsea Clawson (Evan), Josh McMahan, Callie LaVigne, Micah LaVigne and Kidron LaVigne; one brother, Bob McMahan of Sylva; and numerous nieces and nephews and special friends.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 14, at Victory Baptist Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Rev. Rusty Wolfrey officiated. Military honors were provided by VFW post 7339 and American Legion post 108.

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

Macon Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.



Grover H. McMahan

Dr. Annette Price Gardner

Dr. Annette Price Gardner, 89, of Franklin, N.C., formerly of Charleston, S.C., went to be with the Lord on March 10, 2023, surrounded by her family.

She was born in Gaffney, S.C., on Jan. 10, 1934, to the late James and Eloise Price and was one of 15 children. She was of the Baptist faith and was a member of Windy Gap Baptist Church. Her favorite pastime was reading. She simply enjoyed her books. In addition, she loved to garden, but most of all she enjoyed being surrounded by her family and spending time with them.

She spent her life as a dedicated educator. She believed that learning was a continual process, and she dedicated her life to improving her commitment to teaching. She attended Winthrop University, The College of Charleston, The Citadel, where she earned her masters degree, and then finally the University of South Carolina where she earned her Doctorate degree in education. She continued learning until her retirement from the Charleston County School System after a dedicated 39 years. She was proud of her teacher of the year acclimation as well as being the president of the International Readers Club. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, the National Reading Society, as well as the National Honor Society.

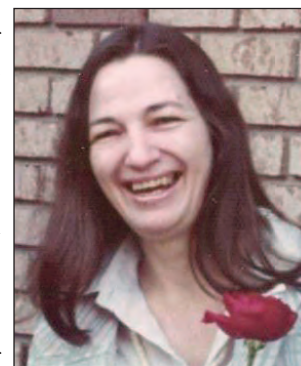
She is survived by her husband, Don Gardner, of 67 years. In fact, they had just celebrated their anniversary on March 9, 2023. In addition, she is survived by a daughter, Terri Gardner Drbul and her husband Paul; one son, Donnie Gardner and his wife Dee; six grandchildren, Mandy Langston, Wendy Langston, Daniel Mackey and wife Ashley, Terra Sevinsky and husband Nick, Kallen Gardner, and Bryce Gardner; 14 great grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews; two sisters, Faye Bradberry and Judy Biron(Bert).

A funeral service was held Monday, March 13, at Windy Gap Baptist Church with Revs. Mark Bishop and Daren Cochran officiating. Burial followed at the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude's Childrens Hospital, www.stjude.org/donate.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Dr. Annette Price Gardner



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Deaths & Funerals

James 'David' Fouts

James "David" Fouts, 84, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, after a period of declining health.

A native of Macon County, he was the son of the late Nondus and Vira Farley Fouts. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Betty Lou Crawford; and seven brothers, Jack Ray Fouts, Ken Fouts, Max Fouts, Sherrill Fouts, Gene Fouts, Jay "Boyd" Fouts, and John Fouts. He was a United States Army veteran, was of the Baptist faith, and had worked as a carpenter and concrete finisher.



James 'David' Fouts

He is survived by his daughter, Judy Fouts Jenkins of Franklin; son, James "Farley" Fouts of Franklin; companion and caregiver, JoAnn Fouts of Franklin; four grandchildren, Kimberly Stamey, Ashley Dyer, Samuel Jenkins, and Daniel Jenkins; and three great grandchildren, Kaysen Stamey, Easton Stamey, and Bailey Dyer; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral service was held Saturday, March 11, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Gary McCoy officiating. Burial was in the Fouts cemetery. Military honors were provided by the VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108.

Pallbearers were Jeff Starnes, Matthew Fouts, Derek Stamey, Farley Fouts, Ronnie Joseph Dills, and Josh Webb.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Fouts Cemetery, C/O Nancy Krag, 3339 Burningtown Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Samantha Elyzabeth McCoy

Samantha Elyzabeth McCoy, 32, of Hendersonville, N.C., passed away on March 6, 2023.

Born in Jackson County, she was the daughter of John Samuel Franks and Lisa Eugenia Wykle Bayles. She was preceded in death by her infant daughter, Sailor Stanley. She loved people, but the thing she cherished most was spending time with her kids.

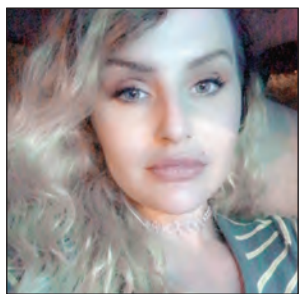
She is survived by her father, John Franks of Hendersonville; mother, Lisa Wykle Bayles (Patrick) of Sylva; three children, Cade Emillion McCoy of Sylva, Amarrah Leshay Lopez of Hendersonville, and Solomon Claude Finn of Sylva; grandmothers, Flora Evelyn Franks of Sylva, and Gina Kay Tallent of Sylva; and seven siblings, Sandi Franks of Hendersonville, Cassie Bazemore of Colonial Beach, Va., Brooklyn McCoy of Sylva, Jesse Franks of Hendersonville, Lena Wykle of Sylva, Joshua Franks of Hendersonville, and Rebekah Franks of Hendersonville; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral service was held Friday, March 10 at Zion Hill Baptist Church in Sylva. Rev. Eddie Stillwell and Rev. Frank Rodriguez officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Rocky Franks, Kyle Bazemore, Ernest Franks, Ernie Lee Franks, Bobby Ensley, Danny Ensley, Kenneth Franks, Dakota Ledbetter, and Patrick Bayles.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Zion Hill Baptist Church cemetery fund.

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



Samantha McCoy

Donny Robert Burnett

Donny Robert Burnett, 50, of Franklin, N.C., went to be with the Lord on March 8, 2023. He was born on Oct. 21, 1972, to Eddie and Janet Burnett in Pontiac, Mich. He was of the Baptist faith and was baptized at Rose Creek Baptist Church. He worked as an electrician. He especially enjoyed driving the family's 1958 Chevy and the 1982 Corvette. Most of all, he was a loving, big-hearted person that loved his family very deeply. He will be missed by all of those that knew him.



Donny Robert Burnett

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his aunt who considered him a son, Deloris Davis; three cousins who were like brothers and sisters to him, Vicki, Duane, and Theresa; special aunts who was always there, Aunt Debbie and Aunt Donett; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and many other special family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by an infant child; and grandmothers, Effie Hunicutt and Lois Burnett.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, March 16, 11:30 a.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 10:30 until 11:30 prior to the service. Pastor Randy Drinnon will officiate.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Doris Lee (Blanton) Pawlowski

Doris Lee (Blanton) Pawlowski, 76, of Jackson Springs, N.C., passed away Thursday, March 2, 2023.

She was born on Sept. 16, 1946, in Orange County, Florida to the late John Mozelle Blanton Jr. and Retha Edna (Hamilton) Blanton.

She graduated from Lakeland High School, Lakeland, Fla., in 1964 and continued her studies to earn her two associate's degrees. She then worked at Western Union for a number of years before her divorce from Thomas Edward Pawlowski and moved to Franklin, N.C., in August, 1980 to be near her parents. In Franklin, she volunteered at Cullasaja Elementary School and with the Girl Scouts. She went back to school at Southwestern Community College and took some classes at Western Carolina University. She also worked at WCU for a number of years in the Student Support Services department until her retirement. After several years, she and her sister, Sarah, decided to move to Rockingham, N.C., to live near her daughter, Shari. After retirement she enjoyed the simple things in life such as traveling, shopping and taking walks with her family.

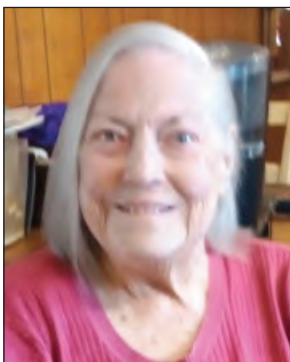
She is survived by her two daughters, Lori Ann (Pawlowski) Smith and husband David, Shari Lyn (Pawlowski) Nuttall and husband Donnie; five grandchildren, Michael Shelby Smith, Ryan Tomas Smith, Allen Joseph (AJ) Smith, Joshua Tyler Pawlowski, and Zachary Alan McMahan; two step grandchildren, Jeremy Lynn Nuttall and Alexis Dawn Nuttall; six step great grandchildren, Averlyn, Eleighen, Levi, Elizabeth, Elijah and Mykelti. Although they were step grandchildren and step great grandchildren they were more than that, they were family.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her two sisters, Sarah Sue (Blanton) Paglino who passed away in 2019; and Nancy Ann Blanton who passed away in 1983.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Appalachian Animal Rescue in Franklin, or to Liberty Hospice of Aberdeen, N.C.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Online condolences can be made at www.crumplerfhaberdeen.com.

Crumpler Funeral Home-Aberdeen is handling the arrangements.



Doris Lee Pawlowski

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Late caution—again—lifts William Byron to NASCAR Cup victory at Phoenix

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

AVONDALE, Ariz.— Kyle Larson and Kevin Harvick hate late-race cautions.

William Byron loves them.

After a two-tire call under the fourth caution flag in Sunday's United Rentals Work United 500 at Phoenix Raceway, Byron surged past Hendrick Motorsports teammate Kyle Larson in overtime to win his second straight NASCAR Cup Series race.

Byron can thank Ford drivers Aric Almirola and Harrison Burton, who on successive weekends spun with a handful of laps left — at Las Vegas and Phoenix, respectively — and gave Byron a chance to capitalize on the opportunity.

As a result, Byron had his second victory of the season and a guaranteed ticket into the Cup Series Playoff. The driver of the No. 24 Chevrolet won for the first time at Phoenix and for the sixth time in his career.

Byron credited crew chief Rudy Fugle with the two-tire call that got him out front with a chance to win.

"Owe the last couple weeks to him," said Byron, who also won at Las Vegas on two fresh tires. "He's done a really good job strategy-wise, and execution-wise we've done a good job to put ourselves in those positions on the front row with a shot at the end.

"Thanks to everybody back at Hendrick Motorsports, putting together great cars, doing a great job. This is a big credit to them, engine shop, [team owner Rick] Hendrick, everybody."

Harvick leaves his best track with a mountain of frustration as tall as spectator-friendly Rattlesnake Hill at the east end of the 1.0-mile speedway. That he posted his 20th straight top 10 at Phoenix—a NASCAR Cup record for a single track—was of scant consolation.

"It's what I would have done," Harvick said of crew chief Rodney Childers' four-tire call. "I'd always rather be on offense. I just didn't get a couple cars when that first caution came out. Kind of lost our chance. Still thought I had a chance there at the end. That's the way it goes. They did a great job with our Hunt Brothers Pizza Ford Mustang. Didn't need the caution at the end."

Harvick had a commanding lead when Burton spun at the start/finish line on Lap 302 of 312. Harvick took four new tires on the ensuing pit stop but came out seventh behind Larson, Byron, Ryan Blaney, Ross Chastain, Kyle Busch and Denny Hamlin—all of whom opted for two tires.

Larson took the lead on a Lap 310 restart, but an accident on the backstretch involving Noah Gragson, Ty Gibbs and AJ Allmendinger forced overtime, and Byron grabbed the lead after the restart on Lap 316.

Blaney and Tyler Reddick, who had taken four tires, also got past Larson during the two-lap overtime to finish second and third, with Larson holding fourth. Harvick came home fifth after leading 36 laps.

For the first two stages, it appeared Larson and Byron would decide the race between them. Byron grabbed the lead from his teammate on Lap 2 and held it through the end of Stage 1 on Lap 60. During the stage break, Larson regained the top spot under caution, taking advantage of the No. 1 pit stall he earned for winning the pole on Saturday.

Larson dominated the second stage on the way to leading a race-high 201 laps. But Harvick beat Byron off pit road for the second position during the Stage 2 break and kept Larson in his sights. After an exchange of green-flag pit stops that saw Harvick gain considerable ground, Harvick closed on Larson.

With NASCAR's new lower-downforce competition pack-



William Byron, driver of the #24 Valvoline Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series United Rentals Work United 500 at Phoenix Raceway on March 12, 2023 in Avondale, Ariz.

Photos by Meg Oliphant/Getty Images



Sammy Smith drives dominant car to NASCAR Xfinity win at Phoenix

AVONDALE, Ariz.—High school senior Sammy Smith made the most of the fastest car in Saturday's United Rentals 200, becoming the youngest NASCAR Xfinity Series winner Phoenix Raceway at age 18.

In a race that featured 11 cautions for 69 laps, Smith held off teammate Ryan Truex after a restart with 15 of 200 laps left to give Joe Gibbs Racing its 16th victory at the 1.0-mile track.

Smith led a race-high 92 laps, including the last 52, taking the lead from Kyle Busch on Lap 149. To secure his first victory in the series in his 13th start, Smith had to survive restarts on Laps 157, 177 and 186.

"That was tough with all of those restarts—and going against some of the best," said Smith, who takes his high school classes online. "I just have to thank everybody on Pilot/Flying J, Toyota, JGR guys and everybody on this 18 team for giving me an awesome car. This is awesome.

"This is a dream come true, and I did know that at some point this was coming. It took a lot of hard work and a lot of great people around me. Without all of these guys, I wouldn't be here."

In a part-time role with JGR, Truex matched his career-best finish after restarting seventh on Lap 186.

"That was a good restart at the end," Truex said. "I thought I could at least try to make it exciting. Congrats to Sammy—he was the class of the field all day. His car was so good. He could really kind of do whatever he wanted.

"Sammy was just a little bit faster, but I'll try again next time."

Sheldon Creed ran a miraculous third after spinning and losing track position on Lap 148 to cause the ninth caution. Creed got help from Kaulig Racing teammates Busch and Chandler Smith, who tangled on the last lap while racing for fourth. Smith got the better of the exchange, finishing fifth to

age in use for the first time, the driver of the No. 5 Chevrolet struggled in traffic, and Harvick closed in. When Larson had difficulty passing Justin Haley and Austin Cindric in succession, Harvick was on his bumper.

On Lap 269, Harvick made the pass for the lead and pulled away to an advantage of nearly four seconds before Burton's spin slowed the field.

Though Larson held the lead after one late restart, the second time proved the charm for Byron. For the second straight week Larson was frustrated. At Las Vegas, he lost a big lead when Almirola hit the wall. At Phoenix, he was mad at himself.

"Restarts are just tough," Larson said. "I felt like I ran William up pretty high. I was expecting him to lose some grip. But he did a really good job of holding it to my outside, clearing me down the back.

"Yeah, I'm pissed off. Great fight by the team, great car—way better than we were here last year. Yeah, I mean, it's a long season, but hopefully we're in the Final 4 (Championship 4 race) when we come back here in November and can have a run similar to that with speed and try to execute a little bit better at the end."

Christopher Bell ran sixth, and defending race winner Chase Briscoe finished seventh after a slow start. Kyle Busch was eighth, and Hendrick drivers Alex Bowman and Josh Berry (subbing for injured Chase Elliott) were ninth and 10th.

Chevrolet drivers have won all four Cup races this season.



Sammy Smith, driver of the #18 Pilot Flying J Toyota, takes the checkered flag to wing the NASCAR Xfinity Series United Rentals 200 at Phoenix Raceway on March 11, 2023 in Avondale, Ariz.

Photos by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

Busch's ninth.

Busch and Chandler Smith weren't the only teammates who traded paint on Saturday. JR Motorsports' Josh Berry spun off the bumper of Sam Mayer on Lap 84 and fought back to finish eighth.

Justin Allgaier, who won the race's first two stages, crashed hard on Lap 178 after contact from JR Motorsports teammate Brandon Jones and Sam Hunt Racing's Kaz Grala. The accident eliminated Allgaier and set up Smith's triumphant run to the checkered flag.

Riley Herbst ran fourth. John Hunter Nemechek recovered from a restart penalty—dipping below the yellow line on the apron before the start/finish line—to come home sixth. Austin Hill was seventh, followed by Berry, Busch and Daniel Hemric. Mayer finished 11th and pole winner Cole Custer 12th.

Hill leads the series standings by 30 points over second-place Nemechek.

Christopher Bell enthusiastic about new short-track rules package

Put Joe Gibbs Racing driver Christopher Bell in the camp of competitors who favored the new lower-downforce competition package NASCAR has introduced for Sunday's race at Phoenix Raceway.



Though Bell's No. 20 Toyota was 24th fastest in Friday's 50-minute practice session, he was enthusiastic about the way his Camry performed in traffic.

"I don't know if I'm biased towards it because I really like it, but I made passes in practice that I know that I absolutely wouldn't have with the old package," Bell said. "I don't know. I'm happy. I hope the other drivers feel the same way..."

Bell, who felt his car lacked short-run speed, was .485 seconds off the pace of Kyle Larson, who topped the speed chart at 131.258 mph (27.427 seconds).

After practice, NASCAR confiscated the hood louvers from the cars of Larson and his Hendrick Motorsports teammates,

William Byron, Alex Bowman and Josh Berry (subbing for injured Chase Elliott).

NASCAR is taking the single-source parts to its research-and-development center in Concord, N.C., for further evaluation. If any penalties are forthcoming, they will be announced next week. As of Saturday morning, the hood louvers on all four cars had been replaced.

Josh Berry's friendship with Chase Elliott predates relief role

When Chase Elliott was injured a snowboarding accident two days before last Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, it was no surprise that Hendrick Motorsports turned to its Xfinity Series affiliate, JR Motorsports, for a relief driver.

And given the friendship between Elliott and Josh Berry, it was no surprise Berry was the driver picked to fill in while Elliott recovers from a broken left tibia.

"He's been a friend and supporter of mine for years, even when we go back to my one-off Xfinity opportunities when Chase was there at JR Motorsports," Berry said.

"He always helped me if I needed it, so I know he'll be there for me. I'm sure I'll talk to him... I feel like I need to get my feet wet and get some laps and then go to him with my experience and get his side of things."

NASCAR drivers look forward to Formula 1 invasion at COTA

The Mar. 26 EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Tex., will acquire additional luster with the appearance of former Formula 1 champions Jenson Button and Kimi Raikkonen.

Button, the 2009 F1 champion, will be driving the No. 15 Rick Ware Racing Ford, supported by Stewart-Haas Racing, and SHR driver Chase Briscoe believes he'll benefit from Button's road course expertise.

"Growing up in a town of 3,000 people and one stop light, I would have never thought in a million years I'd race against an F1 guy, let alone two of them in one race—even be teammates with an F1 World Champion," said Briscoe, a native of Mitchell, Ind. "It's going to be really cool for me to get to experience that, get to know Jenson, and just see how he prepares."

Button will make his NASCAR debut at COTA before racing on the Chicago Street Course and the Indianapolis Road Course later in the season.

Raikkonen, who won the 2007 F1 title, has one previous start in each of NASCAR's top three national series and will compete at COTA as part of Trackhouse Racing's Project 91. The driver from Finland drove the No. 91 Chevrolet last year in the Cup race at Watkins Glen but was collected in a crash on Lap 45.

"It's going to be cool to have them out there and be a part of our show," said Richard Childress Racing driver Kyle Busch. "They're not used to the full contact sport of what NASCAR is."

"I'm sure Kimi's eyes were opened quite a bit on how all that went down at Watkins Glen. But he's more ready and more prepared this time around."

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ACROSS

- 1. Matt Damon/Ben Affleck 1999 movie
- 6. *Top seed
- 9. *Player's target
- 13. Earth Day month
- 14. State V.I.P.
- 15. ____ firma
- 16. Rationalistic theology
- 17. Former name of Tokyo
- 18. Formed a curve
- 19. *One-____-____ rule
- 21. *Last year's NCAA men's tournament winner
- 23. Lenon's wife
- 24. E-mail command
- 25. Bug spray brand
- 28. "By ____ of" or "by means of"
- 30. Like certain floss
- 35. Life stories, for short
- 37. Gulf War missile
- 39. Dough
- 40. Tiny purse or case
- 41. Mandarin's headquarters
- 43. Like an omelette
- 44. Jaunty rhythms
- 46. Derived from capable
- 47. Party in Maui
- 48. Trouser measurement
- 50. L in SNL
- 52. *Encouragement from coach
- 53. Foretell
- 55. Lt.'s subordinate
- 57. *J in NJCAA
- 60. *Gambling scheme
- 64. Dick Van Dyke's "____ a Happy Face"
- 65. Freudian topic

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- 67. Kind of ray
- 68. Silly
- 69. Mudbath site
- 70. Artemis' companion
- 71. Type of salmon
- 72. College entrance exam
- 73. Instagram videos
- 11. Mine deposits
- 12. Water lily leaf
- 15. One behind the other
- 20. *Like crowd of fans?
- 22. "____ the crowd goes wild!"
- 24. Misstep
- 25. Obelus, pl.
- 26. Oddball's attempt? (2 words)
- 27. *Each player gets 5 before disqualification
- 29. *Org.
- 31. Witty Coward
- 32. Dress up or deck out (2 words)
- 33. Blue-Green scum
- 34. *Easiest shot?
- 36. Location
- 38. Hero shop
- 42. Never say what?
- 45. Abduction of the ____ Women, Roman myth
- 49. Farm call
- 51. Bewitch
- 54. One step to success?
- 56. Close call
- 57. Elliot Page's 2007 role
- 58. Home of Jazz
- 59. Unacceptable, to a baby
- 60. Gravy holder
- 61. ACL location
- 62. Short for "and elsewhere"
- 63. Small amounts
- 64. Selfie, e.g.
- 66. *Qualifying ____, eligibility criterion

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ing, furniture, Holiday Decor, Pool
Table, Stuff-a-Bag.

FISH FRY Friday March 24, 4:30 - 7
p.m. St. Francis Catholic Church, 299
Maple St., fried whole fish and fish
filets with hush puppies, French fries,
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CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2021	Chevrolet	Corvette	5,792
2021	Kia	Optima EX	20,010
2020	Chevrolet	Camaro	25,641
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox AWD	47,233
2019	GMC	Acadia	17,045
2019	Chevrolet	Camaro	40,428
2019	Subaru	Outback	56,801
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Hyundia	Elantra	51,067
2017	GMC	Acadia	80,692
2017	Honda	Fit	59,209
2016	Ford	Focus	68,653
2014	Audi	Q7	110,511
2013	VW	Beetle Convertible	67,099

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2023	Chevrolet	Tahoe	257
2022	Chevrolet	Tahoe 4x4	16,410
2022	Ford	Bronco	1,315
2022	Jeep	Wrangler Sahara Unlimited	10,539

2021	Chevrolet	Express 2500 Van	39,022
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	GMC	Yukon XL	53,356
2021	Jeep	Wrangler Sport	8,094
2021	Chevrolet	Tahoe High Country	28,303
2020	Acura	MDX AWD	46,606
2020	Buick	Encore	34,808
2020	Chevrolet	Trax	7,250
2020	Chevrolet	Trax Premier	28,030
2020	Jeep	Wrangler Rubicon Unlimited	24,249
2019	Chevrolet	Trax AWD	16,288
2019	Honda	Pilot EX	40,801
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox LT	23,569
2018	Ford	Expedition XLT 4x4	56,685
2018	Jeep	Compass 4x4	61,613
2018	Jeep	Renegade 4x4	79,635
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	44,985
2018	Nissan	Murano	53,903
2017	Ford	Escape AWD	35,601
2016	KIA	Sorento LX	112,933
2015	Suburban	LT	92,352
2013	Chevrolet	Tahoe LTZ	113,464
2013	Jeep	Wrangler	132,418

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	Chevrolet	2500 LTZ	4,635
2022	Chevrolet	2500 HD	5,114
2022	GMC	Sierra	11,577
2022	Toyota	Tacoma TRD	12,056
2021	Chevrolet	1500 4x4	10,243
2021	Chevrolet	1500 RST	34,026
2021	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	10,842
2021	Chevrolet	LT Trailboss	34,069
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	5,822
2021	Chevrolet	Trailboss Crew	22,256
2021	Ford	F-150	23,858
2021	Ford	F-150 SuperCrew Cab	32,251
2021	GMC	Canyon Elevation	50,934
2021	Ram	2500 Black Widow	13,542
2021	Ram	2500 Tradesman	3,647
2020	Chevrolet	2500 Diesel	8,241
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	36,463
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	Colorado	Ext Cab ZR2	26,842
2020	Toyota	Tacoma SR	12,448



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