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March 2, 2023 • 24 Pages

Volume 40 Number 41

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Macon County School Board chairman Jim Breedlove was named Citizen of the Year at the annual Franklin Chamber of Commerce awards banquet. Pictured with Breedlove, from left, is daughter Annie Wishon, grandchildren Cohen and Carrigan, wife Kathy and son-in-law Adam Wishon. For more on the awards banquet, see page 4.

Photo by Eric Haggart

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Town collects Whitmire Property public input

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

As part of an ongoing process to determine the best use for the Whitmire Property, the Town of Franklin produced an online survey for interested parties to provide input on their preferences regarding development options. In addition to the survey, all-day, in-person sessions were held Feb. 23 for additional opportunities to provide input. From 9 a.m. through 5:30 p.m., two-hour segments were held at the Recreation Park Community Building, Franklin Town Hall, and Macon County Public Library. When the day was over, more than 120 interested parties stopped in to learn more about the town-owned Whitmire Property and submit their input.

Town Planner Justin Setser hosted the public meetings, along with two representatives from McGill Associates: Nate Halubka and Kurtis Durrant. McGill is an Asheville-based company that provides engineering, land planning and recreation, and consulting services.

Halubka defined the effort as “trying to make sure we are capturing a wide swath of the population and to make sure we are hitting all the demographics in order to ensure the community is getting a park that really represents their needs accurately.”

He said that the online survey has generated a robust return, with more than 300 responses representing 500 family members.

Halubka described the public input sessions as a means to “guard against any potential gaps that may exist with the online survey.” While the in-person opportunities were just one day, the online survey will continue to run through early March. It is accessible online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Whitmire_Survey.

In describing the layout of the Whitmire property, Halubka stated that future housing, about which discussions are

See WHITMIRE page 2

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WHITMIRE

Continued from page 1

ongoing, may take up a portion of the space. Additionally, some green space may eventually end up being used for park expansion.

Each public location included a display of what the property currently looks like as well as 32 options for development and uses on two “choice boards.” Visitors were provided three stickers and asked to apply one to each of their top-three choices. Developmental options include: restrooms, a picnic/event pavilion, playground, an interpretive trail, walking trail loop, mountain bike and/or disc golf courses, and myriad other ideas.

“We expect this stage of the process to be completed by the end of May, when McGill will present its recommendations and funding options, based on the input and subsequent evaluation,” said Setser.

Once that phase is completed, the funding and grant cy-



In addition to the online survey options, McGill Associates Kurtis Durrant (L) and Nate Halubka conducted in-person sessions with Whitmire Property displays at the Community Building Feb. 23, for the public to express their preferences for which recreation options they would choose for the property.



The Town of Franklin has owned what is known as the Whitmire property since 2004. For many years, town officials have debated to determine a use for the 12.71 acre tract at 15 First Street in East Franklin. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

cles will drive timing as to when actual development will begin and how long it will be projected to take. Setser also pointed out “regardless [of how the input and future evaluation process goes with McGill], the skatepark development piece is happening – that’s why it’s already drawn on the map and wasn’t presented as a voting option. We don’t want people wasting votes on something that’s already happening.”

Durrant closed with a synopsis of how he envisions the process to move forward.

“We’ll take all this information and share it with the town, and through conversations we’ll come up with some concepts and different design ideas and layouts before landing on a final [recommendation] that we will present to the Town Council.” He expects timing to be “early summer before having a master plan designed and a public, written document available that breaks down how we landed upon where we are,” said Durrant.

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Student achievements recognized



Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin presented Certificates of Achievement to several students at Monday's regularly scheduled School Board meeting. Zach Gibson and Asher Merritt both received the Macon Middle School (MMS) Western Regional Science Award. Asher took first place in the Engineering category and qualified for the State Science Fair in Raleigh. Zach took third place in the Physics category.

Photos by Diane Pelz



Emma Breeden (L) and Callie Barnett received awards for the Franklin High School Senate Page Program. Senate pages assist members and staff of the N.C. Senate during legislative session, performing duties like delivering messages and materials with the legislative complex, answering phones and running errands.



Chase Browning received a certificate for the FHS CTE (Career and Technical Education) US Presidential Academic Scholar Nominee. Chase has participated in Skills USA competitions, placing first in both regional and state level carpentry events. He volunteers in the community and leads projects that demonstrate his skill and commitment to his field, according to CTE teacher Colleen Strickland.

"What truly sets Chase apart is his leadership abilities. He has demonstrated strong leadership skills both inside and outside the classroom, and has been recognized by his peers and teachers for his exceptional leadership qualities," relayed Strickland. "Chase is the current regional president of Skills USA and has held the Vice President role for the region as well. Chase has excelled in a variety of CTE courses including Construction, Agriculture, Welding, Business and Public Safety. Chase's academic portfolio includes all honor's classes and college classes such as Quantitative Literacy and Calculus. He will be graduating with four industry recognized credentials from the National Incident Monitoring system and a certificate in Carpentry from Southwestern Community College."



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Nikki Corbin presented the award for Club/Organization of the Year to 828Vets.



Franklin Chamber Board of Directors president Dale West presented long-time commissioner and well known citizens advocate Ronnie Beale with the Exemplary Community Service Award. Photos by Eric Haggart



Mia Overton presented the Above and Beyond Award to Brett Martin with the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy.



Brian Moffitt presented the Male Youth Citizenship Award to Patrick Faetz.



Matt Corbin presented the Female Youth Citizenship Award to Hope Smith.



The Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award went to Franklin Rotary Club of Franklin and Daybreak Rotary Club. Presenting the award were George Young and Lisa Leatherman.

Franklin Chamber presents annual service awards

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of four prestigious awards, Citizen of the Year, The Duke Power Citizenship and Service Award, Youth Citizenship Award and Club/Organization of the Year at its annual banquet held this year at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts Tuesday, Feb. 28. An Exemplary Community Service Award was also awarded this year to long-time commissioner Ronnie Beale.

Chef Roland Mock catered the banquet with assistance from culinary arts students with Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps. For more information or to become a member, contact the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce at 828-524-3161.

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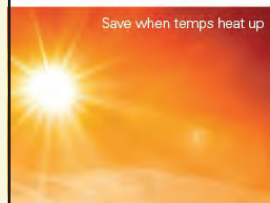


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Franklin's Smith and Duchemin sign college letters of intent

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

In the past couple weeks, two Franklin High School (FHS) student athletes signed their letters of intent (LOI) for upcoming college careers: Alyssa Smith, with Maryville University and Isabelle Duchemin, with Wofford College.

Tennis coaches Heather Bell and Andrea Bosio, along with Alyssa's parents, Chuck and Lori Smith, were all on hand at the FHS gym on Feb. 17, along with Smith's new coach, Doug Corbett, for the ceremonial sign-on with Maryville College. Based in Tennessee, Maryville is a Division III school with approximately 1,200 students.

Smith starred as the top-rated player at FHS for the past few years in tennis, also finishing fourth in the state, along with Kate Phillips for doubles in 2022. Her tennis schedule in college will include a short "prep" season next fall with the full, competitive season playing out in the spring of 2024.

Before she signed her LOI, Smith received numerous testimonies to her character as well as some comments from Athletic Director Matt Bradley, and her coaches. Bradley reminded the audience that Smith was part of the initial effort

to start up a tennis program at FHS.

"It was really cool what it (tennis program) went through, being the first ones to start the program in middle school and go all the way up ... that's awesome; you guys had a great season this year and I know your family is super excited. Coach [Corbett], you're getting a really good one," said Bradley.

Bell also lauded Smith's attributes.

"Alyssa has been number-one on the team and continues to be an example."

Bosio added, "Her leadership as number-one (tennis



Isabelle Duchemin signed her Letter of Intent with Wofford College Feb. 22. Duchemin and family pose with Track coaches, Melissa Ward and Matt Harlfinger.



Alyssa Smith signs Letter of Intent with Maryville College Feb. 17. Pictured (L-R) are Athletic Director Matt Bradley, Lori, Chuck, and Alyssa Smith and Maryville Track Tennis Coach, Doug Corbett.

player) is second to her leadership as a person. That has definitely shaped the team as a whole."

Coach Corbett pointed out that Maryville plays mostly Georgia schools, in addition to Piedmont University, Covenant College, LaGrange College, and the women-only school, Agnes Scott. Maryville used to be part of the USA South Conference but now calls the Collegiate Conference of the South home. Corbett also explained that moving the school's athletic programs from a middling Division I conference to a level that can result in national level

competition was the right choice. "Quite frankly, the funding's not even better (at Division I) than it is at D-III," he said.

Corbett has been the Maryville tennis head coach since May of 2021 and he coaches both men's and women's tennis. When asked how the school became interested in recruiting Smith, he said there are a couple databases that are monitored: Tennis Recruiting and NCSA (National Collegiate Scouting Association) and she was located via NCSA. Noting that Maryville likes to recruit regionally, he said, "Her level fits in with what we are looking for. I could tell she's competitive and excited to be part of the program."

Smith is the first women's out-of-state tennis scholarship that Maryville has recruited.

On Feb. 22, FHS held a ceremony for senior track star Isabelle Duchemin and her family as she signed her LOI to attend Wofford College, a private school located in Spartanburg, S.C. Duchemin said her decision was partly because FHS Track Coach Matt Harlfinger is a friend of Johnny Bomar, Wofford's cross country and track and field head coach.





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Tennis coaches Andrea Bosio and Heather Bell, along with FHS Athletic Director Matt Bradley speak on behalf of Alyssa Smith at her signing Feb. 17.

“He (Harlfinger) kind of put it into my head and at first I didn’t really have an idea of going there until I visited,” said Duchemin. “It was really pretty and I loved it.”

Wofford is part of the Division I Southern Conference, which is made up of nine schools, and counts Western Carolina University, East Tennessee State University, University of North Carolina Greensboro, and The Citadel among its members.

Introducing the Duchemin family for the ceremony, Bradley said, “It’s been fantastic watching her compete, indoor and outdoor, ... it’s been great to get to know her. I’m really excited for her opportunity; it’s a great school.”

Duchemin’s coaches also testified to her character and athletic prowess.

“From being thrown into the 4x800 during (her) indoor freshman year to getting a school record to hurdling in the shadow of those before you, then breaking their school records, and becoming one of the most supportive teammates ... I can’t wait to see what the rest of the season has in store for you,” said Melissa Ward, FHS head track coach.

“You are top-ten all time in 10 indoor track events and six outdoor events. You are going to walk out of here with at least five school records,” added Harlfinger.

Duchemin was also part of relay teams that broke indoor school records for 55-meter hurdles and the 4x200, winning the state championship and posting the 32nd fastest time in North Carolina’s history for the sport. The teams also broke the indoor record in the 4x400. On the outdoor track side, records were broken on the shuttle hurdle relay and 4x200.

“We recognized last year that we had a window of opportunity on the girls’ side to make a run at a state championship while you were here,” Harlfinger said to Duchemin at the signing.

While attending Wofford, Duchemin will concentrate on the heptathlon, which consists of seven events: the 100m hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200m sprint, long jump, javelin throw, and 800m run.

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Plan released addressing Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service released its final revised Nantahala-Pisgah Forest plan, which was established to guide the future management of the national forests in Western North Carolina. The report, available online and titled “Final Land Management Plan - Southern Region - National Forests in North Carolina - R8 MB-160 - January 2023,” addresses “incredibly complex challenges like climate change and invasive species, impacts from development on adjacent private lands, and high levels of visitor use,” said James Melonas, forest supervisor of the National Forests in North Carolina. The report’s goal, he noted, is “Ensuring our forest ecosystems are healthy and resilient is critical to long-term sustainability of all the habitats and ecosystem benefits on which we all depend.”



The USDA Forest Service plan was years in the making, gleaming input from partners and community members on best management practices and creating and maintaining sustainable ecosystems.

Part of the plan’s verbiage reads: “The forest plan guides the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests in fulfilling its stewardship responsibilities to best meet the current and future needs of the American people.”

This plan is the result of Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians’ (EBCI) input with the intention of the Forest Service partnering with tribes to co-manage resources while at the same time honoring “traditional ecological knowledge and protecting places of significance to tribes,” pointed out Melonas. “One example of the revised plan in action is the new Tribal Forest Protection agreement the Forest Service has with the Eastern Band Cherokee Indians. This agreement, which began with tribal consultation on the forest plan, enables us to co-steward the forests for shared values with the EBCI.”

The Nantahala National Forest was established in 1920 under authority of the 1911 Weeks Act. This act provided authority to acquire lands for national forests to protect watersheds, to provide timber, and to regulate the flow of navigable streams. It is the largest of North Carolina’s four National Forests, encompassing 531,148 acres, while Pisgah National Forest, established in 1916, comprises 512,000 acres.

To put together the new forest plan, individuals involved used a science-based approach in regard to individual ecosystems. Special places and rare species are recognized and protected in the plan for unique ecological, biological, scenic, and cultural values.

The 361-page plan recommends, for instance, more wilderness and rivers to be added, attention to forest resiliency in light of climate changes, recognition of the need for additional young, open forests, and attention to restoring species such as oak.

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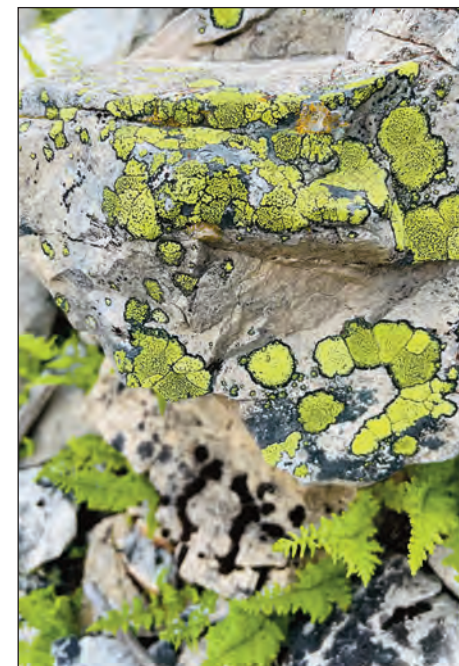


Michelle Aldridge, the Forest Service’s planning staff officer for the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest plan revision, explained.

“Our current forests are what grew up after extreme logging practices more than 100 years ago, before these lands were national forests,” said Aldridge. “The trees are now mostly the same age and size. We need more young and open forest for wildlife species including bats, ruffed grouse, pollinators, and rare species, such as the golden-winged warbler.”

In addition to a focus on ecosystem health, the plan also prioritizes sustainable recreation, due to the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests being among the most visited forests in the country. Plus, visitors to the forests are increasing annually. Thus, the plan ensures that the latest trail design principles are in place and that nature-related recreation clubs and volunteer groups are consulted regarding trail maintenance and recreation management planning.

“The revised plan has been developed with extensive input over many years,” said Melonas. “We appreciate the passion, creativity, and patience of all our partners and communities working with us to build a plan that reflects multiple values while ensuring our national forests are sustained for generations to come.”



In the new plan developed by the USDA Forest Service, special places and rare species are recognized and protected for unique ecological, biological, scenic and cultural values.

Photos by Deena C. Bouknight

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Local event to spotlight traveling Beirut Memorial Wall project

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

In the early morning of Oct. 23, 1983, a truck packed with compressed, gas-enhanced explosives destroyed the First Battalion, 8th Marines Headquarters building in Beirut, Lebanon. The blast and the collapse of the building killed 241 Americans – Marines, sailors, and soldiers.

Marine Nick Mottola was there a few days after the attack, and for five years, the veteran has been planning The Traveling Beirut Memorial Wall – akin to The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall. The stationary Beirut Memorial Wall is located outside the gate of Camp Gilbert H. Johnson, a satellite camp of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, in Jacksonville, N.C. However, Mottola, who lives in Franklin, desires to take a replica of the wall to the home towns and cities of all the fallen soldiers so that Gold Star families – who might not be able to travel to North Carolina – can pay their respect, honor lost loved ones, and understand details of the tragedy. (Gold Star refers to the immediate family member(s) of a fallen service member who died while serving in a time of conflict.)

On Saturday, March 11, from noon until 1:30, Mottola is opening up his home and property at 159 Kings Cove Road in Franklin

to area veterans and the general public. Besides holding a Beirut memorial tree-planting ceremony on his property, he will share information about his traveling wall project, honor attending veterans, and then host a luncheon, with food and paper goods provided by local businesses.

“This year is the 40th anniversary,” said Mottola, who suffered injuries during fighting that took place after the main attack. “The loss on Oct. 23, 1983, was the largest single loss of Marines since Iwo Jima in 1945. I personally lost [Marine Corp] brothers in combat. I wondered how many Gold Star families lost someone. I wanted to honor their sacrifice and never forget. [The traveling wall] will be a legacy left for their next generations.”

The 1983 attack came during the summer of 1982, on the heels of the United States agreeing with the Lebanese government to establish a U.S. military presence in that country to serve as a peacekeeping force due to warring Muslim and Christian factions. As a result, the Muslim factions quickly perceived Marines as enemies which led to artillery, mortar, and small arms fires di-



On March 11, local Marine veteran Nick Mottola will host an opportunity to learn more about a project to build The Traveling Beirut Memorial Wall, which will be a replica of the stationary Beirut Memorial Wall, (pictured), located in Jacksonville, N.C. The event will be at his home at 159 Kings Cove Road in Franklin from noon to 1:30 p.m.

rected at the Marine Corps – culminating with the Oct. 23 event. Four months later on Feb. 26, 1984, the last U.S. Marines left Beirut. The memorial in Jacksonville was dedicated on Oct. 23, 1986, with approximately 2,000 in attendance.

While The Beirut Traveling Memorial Wall

is still in the planning stages with the exact scale yet to be determined, Mottola will have it fashioned as a replica of the permanent wall in Jacksonville. He is awaiting design approval from Jacksonville, and funds raised will purchase supplies to build the traveling wall.

“One of the goals is to teach visitors about that event,” he said, “because many people do not know about the Beirut conflict.”

The finished wall will be transported in a trailer that will also serve as a traveling museum, with exhibits about the historic event.

“If it takes me until the day I die, I will make sure I go to the hometown of every name

on the wall,” he added.

Mottola expects not only regional and local Beirut veterans and Gold Star families to attend the March 11 event, but also individuals with 828Vets, the organization in which he is involved. For more information, visit The Traveling Beirut Memorial on Facebook.



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 MISSION HEALTH

The Legislative Review

Rep. Karl E. Gillespie



Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

In this week's edition of The Legislative Review, dozens of committees met and important legislation passed the House.

For the legislative week beginning Monday, Feb. 13, no-vote sessions in the House were held Monday and Tuesday. However, I met with my colleagues for a caucus Monday evening. On Tuesday, I chaired my first committee meeting, the Appropriations, Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources Committee. During the meeting, presentations were given by the Department of Environmental Quality on flood resiliency. Our Legislative Fiscal staff also presented on the Division of Water Resources and the Division of Waste Management.

Later that afternoon, I chaired the House Environment Committee. Secretary Elizabeth Biser of NCDEQ provided a presentation of the state agency to the committee. Wednesday morning I attended an Appropriations, AgNER committee meeting and a presentation was provided on the Department of Commerce. Also, information on the Marine Industrial parks was provided by Bob Peele, the director of the Marine Industrial Park Authority.

The Department of Commerce is the lead agency promoting economic development, workforce development, and travel and tourism within the State. The North Carolina Marine Industrial Park Authority is an 11-member State Authority created in 1981 by the NC Legislature. The mission of the Authority is to promote, enhance, and offer business opportunities for marine-related businesses in North Carolina.

After a caucus with my colleagues and meetings with various advocacy groups, I made my way to the House Chamber for an afternoon voting session. The House session convened and we voted on numerous bills, including:

- HB36, Firearms Training/Probation & Parole Officers, which would remove the requirement of taking a firearm safety and training course for qualified current probation or parole officers not under disciplinary action. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 117-3.
- HB49, Protect Religious Meeting Places, would authorize an individual who has a valid concealed handgun permit, or who is exempt from obtaining that permit, to carry a handgun in a place of religious worship that is

See GILLESPIE on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Commissioners ignoring code of ethics requirement

Holding the government accountable is one of the many privileges that we as Americans can take pride in. We can do that by attending commissioner's meetings or by use of the press.

It has recently come to my attention that our board of commissioners has not adopted a code of ethics as North Carolina law requires. After initially emailing a county employee who works closely with the commissioners on Feb. 8, 2023, then following up with another email, and finally a phone call I was told that my question and concerns would be forwarded to the county attorney. I was assured that all of our commissioners had completed ethics training as required by the law.

After several emails I still have not received an answer from the county as to why our commissioners do not have a current code of ethics. Statutes G.S. Ch. 160A-86 & 160A-87 state that local elected officials must complete ethics training within 12 months of the date of their election or appointment, and then again within 12 months of their re-election or re-appointment. The training requirement is triggered each time the official is re-elected or reappointed to office. The ethics education requirement applies to the governing board members of all North Carolina cities, counties, local school boards, sanitary districts, unified governments, and consolidated city-counties.

As many of us know, ethics is defined as the moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity. In order to garner public trust and transparency it is in the best interest of the board of commissioners to adopt a code of ethics expeditiously. I contacted UNC school of government and the North Carolina ethics commission to inquire on this matter and have verified with both that county commissioners in fact must adopt a code of ethics although they are not subject to the state Ethics Act. "A body of men holding themselves accountable to nobody ought not to be trusted by anybody." - Thomas Paine.

Claudia Aguilar – Franklin, N.C.

This year declared 'The Year of the Trail' in N.C.

In North Carolina, 2023 is officially the Year of the Trail. They passed a law that says so. Really.

But for me, every year is the Year of the Trail. My body and mind need me to hike and bike in natural outdoor spaces. There's something about breathing in the fresh air, taking in natural beauty, soaking up the smells of the earth and the sound of wind in the trees, and elevating the heart rate that nourishes every part of me. I feel great during it, and even better afterward.

I see the same kind of response in the folks I encounter out there; everyone's in a better place when they're done with their hike, bike ride, run, or paddle, no matter how tired they might be.

We instinctively know that this connection to nature improves our physical and mental health and our spirit. The proof – consecutive record visitation in our state parks during the first two years of the pandemic. People needed to get away from all the stress, strain, uncertainty, and grief, and our state's network of parks, trails, and greenways provided that escape and respite.

If you're an infrequent hiker or biker, right now the Year of the Trail is a great time to kick it up a notch. You won't regret it! Or maybe you're a seasoned outdoor enthusiast looking for different places to recreate. Either way, we've got helpful information for you. Go to the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' Parks and Trails for Health (PATH) website — pathnc.com, or to www.alltrails.com/us/north-carolina, for lots of ideas for places to enjoy the outdoors.

The PATH initiative is designed to encourage physical activity in North Carolina's parks, greenways, and other outdoor spaces. PATH connects people to nature by promoting physical activity, fostering an appreciation for the life-sustaining role of parks and natural areas, promoting diverse experiences and voices in the outdoors, and helping people lead healthier and happier lives.

There are hundreds of state, local, federal, and non-profit trails, parks, greenways, blueways, and nature preserves throughout our state. They're all good. These public recreational spaces are literal common ground for the people of North Carolina – places where everyone is welcome. But the main thing is to get out there on the trails and in the parks – it will enhance your quality of life, guaranteed.

And if you've got kids, definitely take them along. It'll help establish a lifelong connection to the outdoors that will sustain their health throughout their lives.

Secretary Reid Wilson
N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources



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GILLESPIE

Continued from
page 10

also educational property under certain conditions. I voted in support and the bill passed, 77-43.

– HB76, Access to Healthcare Options, would provide North Carolina citizens with greater access to healthcare options. This bill will be at no cost to the state while securing billions in federal funds. HB76 will provide roughly 600,000 low-income North Carolinians, mostly working families in rural areas, access to healthcare. The bill establishes a workforce development program to help enrollees further their career to transition off Medicaid and requires NC DHHS to work with the federal government to establish a Medicaid work requirement. HB76 also creates a loan forgiveness program for doctors and nurses who work full time in rural counties. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 92-22.

On Thursday, the AgNER Committee convened and an overview of the Department of Labor was provided to committee members. The Department of Labor is the lead agency promoting the health, safety, and general well-being of workers. There are three different divisions in the Department of Labor: Administration Division, Standards and Inspections, and Occupational Safety and Health. During the committee, they discussed the budget of each division and what they are trying to accomplish.

Thursday's House session convened for third reading of HB76, which officially passed the House and is now in the Senate.

For the legislative week beginning Feb. 20, 2023, the House held a no-vote session Monday afternoon. On Tuesday, the Joint Appropriations Committee met and economist, Dr. Emma Turner, presented to the committee the consensus revenue forecast. The new revenue forecast projects North Carolina will collect a budget surplus of \$3.25 billion (10.7%) for 2022-2023.

Tuesday's session was administrative in nature and no votes were held. On Wednesday, the Appropriations, AgNER Committee met and two presentations were provided, both presented by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). One presentation was provided regarding DEQ permits, and the subsequent presentation on the DEQ Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources.

The Department of Environmental Quality permits exist to protect personal health and safety, protect the environment, and mitigate harm during a disaster. DEQ has authority for permits in federal, state, and local areas. The Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources' (DEMLR) mission is to promote the wise use and protection of the State's land and geologic resources through erosion and sediment control, stormwater control, mining safety, dam safety, and geological survey.

Additionally, numerous other committees met on Wednesday, including House Agriculture and House Disaster Recovery and Homeland Security. Wednesday afternoon's session consisted of votes on several bills, including:

– HB2, Extend Deadline for Expenditure of Funds, would extend the deadline by which directed grant funds allocated to the Rowan County Sheriff's Office in Session Law 2021-180 will revert if unspent or unencumbered. The bill passed unanimously.

– HB35, Expand Definition of Opioid Antagonist, would broaden the definition of opioid antagonist to mean all opioid antagonists approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration to treat drug overdoses, instead of only naloxone hydrochloride, and would allow State Needle and Hypodermic Syringe Exchange Programs to use FDA approved opioid antagonists. HB35 passed unanimously.

– HB50, Pistol Purchase Permit Repeal, would repeal the requirement to obtain a pistol purchase permit from the sheriff prior to the purchase or receipt of a pistol. Federal

law already requires federal firearms licensees to conduct a criminal background check through the NICS system. HB50 is supported by the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association. The bill passed, 67-48.

Thursday morning, Appropriations, AgNER met once again and received a presentation on the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources: Attractions, Land and Water, and Parks. The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) is the lead agency for arts, history, libraries, and nature. They have a total general fund budget of \$349.3 million. The money is distributed to aquariums and zoos, art museums and arts councils, heritage commissions, historic sites and museums, libraries, NC Land and Water Fund, and state parks.

The House held an administrative session Thursday morning and concluded its business for the week.



I would like to introduce my new spring intern, Harrison Gobble (pictured above). Harrison is a junior at North Carolina State University and he will be helping my office with various constituent and communications-related requests. Thank you Harrison for your assistance during this very busy long session.

Recently co-sponsored bills

From 2/13-2/23, I sponsored the following bills:

– HB86, School Calendar Flex/Statewide, would provide flexibility in adopting the school calendar.

– HB97, In-State Tuition Pilot Program, would authorize the state board of community colleges to implement an in-state tuition pilot program for certain Georgia counties.

– HB112, Consider Honey Sales as Income for PUV, would consider the sale of honey as qualifying gross income for purposes of the present-use value program for agricultural land.

– HB133, Graham County Occupancy Tax, would create Graham County as a district G County and would authorize the levy of an occupancy tax in the district.

– HJR151, Term Limits for Congress, is a joint resolution applying to Congress for an Article V Convention of the States for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution to impose term limits on Members of Congress.

– HB153, Use Tribal ID for Alcohol & Tobacco Purchase, would allow the use of a tribal enrollment card issued by a federal recognized tribe when making alcohol or tobacco purchases.

– HB166, American Indians Graduating with Honors Act, would allow American Indian students to wear cultural objects at public school graduation ceremonies.

Let us know what you think

Do you have a suggestion? Concerned about a particular issue? Contact us and we will assist you in any way we can.

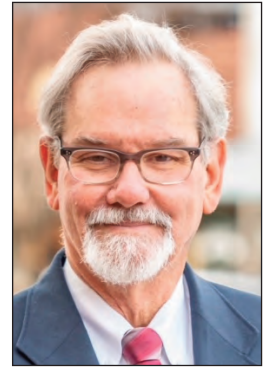
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Telephone: 919-733-5859

Karl Gillespie is a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, representing District 120 since January 1, 2021. Gillespie is from Franklin.

What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Last Wednesday, our town manager Josh Ward, and I took the five-hour drive to Raleigh to attend the North Carolina League of Municipalities Town and State Dinner for 2023.

This event always takes place at the beginning of the legislative session, and at the reception and dinner municipal officials had an opportunity to meet with their legislative delegations to discuss local needs and requests.

The event is multi-purposed in that elected officials such as mayors and town managers can meet and discuss common interests and concerns. It is also a time for municipal officials to meet with the North Carolina League of Municipalities staff in an attempt to get the "low down" on what the legislature will do in this long session. During the reception before the dinner, questions about the budget and potential laws that will impact towns and cities.

At the reception and formal dinner, we all get a chance to talk with our representatives and senators about more specific needs. Those moments are the opportunity to express our hopes and concerns.

I appreciate the legislators who attend and are willing to listen to their constituents. As I sat at the table with Senator [Kevin] Corbin, I realized the mayors from Murphy and Andrews were at the table also expressing their needs and concerns. That's the way the system works at the state level. The other mayors made some compelling cases for support for their communities. Hopefully, I did the same for Highlands.

Let me share with you some of the requests I made. First, I put in a good word for some level of state funding for the Mirror Lake restoration project. I am optimistic that this funding request will happen.

Second, I reported to Sen. Corbin that we did not receive the water plant pre-clarifier tank grant. Both Sen. Corbin and Rep. Gillespie endorsed our application. Unfortunately, Rep. Gillespie had a death in his family and was not at the dinner, but I will keep him posted on our requests. I asked Sen. Corbin to let us know and assist us if any other potential state funding sources become available in this year's state budget. Any level of state support will help the town advance construction of this important item. I also asked about any impending STR or zoning legislation. Sen. Corbin told me he would keep us posted.

After the dinner, several town officials gathered at a local watering hole and met with a staff member of the legislature. The staff really knows the skinny. In this long session, he informed the group that a lot of money would be allocated for statewide, regional, county, and municipal projects. The challenge for legislators is to track down and find the money for their constituents. He likened it to a mad scramble to find funding that matches the needs of a particular community. The representatives in little, remote, lightly populated Western Carolina face big competitive challenges in both the house and senate.

On Thursday morning, Josh and I departed Raleigh for that long ride back home. I don't know how our representatives make that trip almost every week when the legislature is in session. My favorite thing about the trip is that we get to eat lunch at Chick-Fil-A!

Otto Fire & Rescue Department conducts technical rescue class

Vickie Carpenter – Photographer

The Otto Fire and Rescue Department (OFRD) recently held a Technical Rescue Victim Management class at James Paint and Body Shop in Otto. The class was under the direction of Travis Scruggs who is employed at the Cherokee Fire Department and is also an instructor for Southwestern Community College.

The training exercise consisted of a three-car pile up with the extraction of two individuals trapped in the vehicles. Members of the fire department were given the chance to cut up a black Toyota sedan that had fellow firefighters trapped inside for the training exercise. Junior members were also given the chance to work on their skills with the Jaws of Life and cutter tools. It was the first time some of these members have had the chance to use these extraction tools. OFRD conduct classes periodically through the year to maintain each members' rescue and fire certifications and for any new members.

OFRD was started in 1978 in the back of Wanda and Roy Henson's family owned convenience store known as "Tyler's." Numerous volunteers were involved in building the fire house and the Otto Community Building where the fire department is now located. Ben Durfey, a firefighter from Miami, was instrumental in getting the fire department up and running. Roy Henson was the first fire chief and remained chief for 28 years until he retired. Doug Cabe was chief for 12 years before he retired, and Terry Rholetter was chief for seven years

until he suffered a burn in a recent job-related accident. Kevin Fountain is the current chief.

OFRD has recently acquired one of the original trucks that was used when the department first began. The 1953 Diamond T., was sold more than 30 years ago. The truck will be used for parades and the occasional car show. The last car show the truck was in was Fire on The Mountain in Cornelia, Ga.

OFRD has property on 441 and members are looking into the possibility of starting construction on a new building in the near future. The new building would meet the needs of the firefighters and help them better service the community, according to Chief Fountain. Entrance onto the highway will be greatly improved by the line of sight coming out of the firehouse into oncoming traffic at the new location.

OFRD regularly offers other services to the Otto community. The department teaches First on the Scene classes for the community about every four months. The class teaches how to stop bleeding, hands-only CPR, tourniquet application, Epinephrine administration and Narcan administration.

A blood pressure and glucose monitoring station will soon be set up for the community to come and get checked. Days and times will be listed on the Otto Fire Facebook page.

Volunteer positions are open for people ages 14 and up. For more information on becoming a member or a volunteer, call (828)342-3473.



As part of a training exercise, Otto fire department members used Jaws of Life and other tools to extract victims trapped in a car, simulating an actual emergency situation.



After opening up the car, stabilization of the "wreck" victims and assessment of injuries is paramount to the survivors.



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Firefighters practiced safe transport of "wreck" victims with neck braces and placement on body boards to prevent further injury. Photos by Vickie Carpenter

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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 Feb. 20 - 27. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

February 20

Monique Laverne Smith, 31, was charged with warrant service for failure to appear. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Matthew Owen Carpenter, 34, was charged with breaking and entering. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Michael J. Crews, 34, was charged with cruelty to animals. Tristan Howard made the arrest.

February 22

Travis Keith Mathis, 45, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jiglaun made the arrest.

February 23

Silvana Lisa Bettencourt, 44, was charged with an order for arrest for criminal. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Evan Luther Phillips, 33, was charged with drug equipment violations. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Nicholas Sean Swicher, 49, was charged with drug equipment violations. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

February 24

Justin Johnson Stanfield, 25, was charged with methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Billy Charles-Lee Dyer, 47, was charged with warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Justin Johnson Stanfield, 25, was charged with warrant service for possession of methamphetamine. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Mimi Raa Ciarocchi, 31, was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

February 25

Kayla Beaty Thompson, 36, was charged with simple assault. Tristan Howard made the arrest.

Robert Anthony Moss, 57, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substances. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

February 26

Dustin Louis Swafford, 39, was charged with assault causing physical injury and resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Jay Wright made the arrest.

February 27

Michelle Ann Dugan, 46, was charged with attempted breaking and entering and injury to real property.

Franklin Police Department

February 20

Jeremy Adam Burr, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, possession of drug para-

phernalia and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

February 20

Francisco A. Caballero, 58, of Miami, Fla., was charged with simple assault and communicating threats. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

February 22

Terry Demyjee Williams, 29, of Cherokee, was charged with second degree trespass, communicating threats and assault on a female. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Piper Ann Betances, 41, of Cashiers, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Carlos Luis Marrero, 28, of Sylva, was charged with statutory rape of child under 15. A secured bond of \$600,000 was set.

Lucinda Faye Childers, 40, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,500 was set.

Hugh Nolan Queen, 32, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear on a felony. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

February 23

David Charles Roberts, 42, of Whittier, was charged with felony larceny, break or enter a motor vehicle and larceny from person. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Richard Macdale Mills, 52, of Tuckasegee, was charged with assault inflicting serious injury. No bond was set.

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USAF Heritage of America Band to perform at Smoky Mountain Center March 12

Stand up and cheer! The US Air Force Heritage of America Band will perform a free concert on Sunday March 12, at 3:00 pm, in the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. The 40+ member concert band of professional Airman-musicians from Langley Air Force Base, VA, plays great orchestral classics, marches, Broadway hits, jazz standards, movie music, and patriotic favorites. At every performance, the Band honors our American military veterans.

For six decades, the USAF Heritage of America Concert Band has entertained, inspired, and educated more than 1.5 million people annually. It has performed at thousands of high-profile community outreach and military events, and its music is often heard on television, radio, and the internet. The Band has appeared with many world-renowned artists, produced over 55 highly-acclaimed recordings, and earned eight Air Force Outstanding Unit awards, among many other honors.

Due to limited seating, ticket vouchers are recommended for this free event. Vouchers are available weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Center box office, 1028 Georgia Rd., Franklin, or by phoning 828-524-1598.

This event is 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 your Arts Council, 828-524-ARTS or arts4all@dnet.net.



WCU is hosting national book award winner, bestsellers at Annual Spring Literary Festival

Western Carolina University's Spring Literary Festival returns to campus March 20-23 with a series of live events.

The 21st annual gathering of poets and authors is free and open to the public, with all events taking place in the Hinds University Center. Directed by Jeremy Jones, an associate professor of English, the festival has a long tradition of bringing established and emerging literary talent to the community.

"This 21st annual Spring Literary Festival will host a wide array of award-winning and bestseller writers for four days of free events," Jones said. "There's a little something for everyone in Cullowhee – crime fiction, young adult, memoir, poetry, journalism and more."

The 2023 schedule:

Monday, March 20

• Noon – Gilbert-Chappell

Poets

• 4 p.m. – Idra Novey, author of "Those Who Knew" and "Take What You Need," and Glenn Taylor author of "The Ballad of Trenchmouth Taggart" and "The Songs of Betty Baach."

• 7 p.m. – Ashley M. Jones, the Poet Laureate of the State of Alabama and author of "REPARATIONS NOW!"

Tuesday, March 21

• Noon – Stephen J. West, author of "Soft-Boiled: An Investigation of Masculinity & the Writer's Life" and A. Kendra Greene, author of "The Museum of Whales You Will Never See."

• 4 p.m. – Mark Powell, author of eight novels, most recently "Lioness," and Charles Dodd White, author of "In the House of Wilderness," the recipient of the Appalachian Book of the Year award in fiction.

• 7 p.m. – Beth Macy, author of four books, including national bestsellers, "Truevine," "Factory Man," and "Dopesick," which was adapted into the Emmy-award-winning Hulu series.

Wednesday, March 22

• Noon – Winners of the high school, undergraduate and graduate student creative writing competitions.

• 4 p.m. – Erin Tran, a queer Vietnamese poet and the author of "Mouth, Sugar, and Smoke" and "The Gutter Spread Guide to Prayer" and Devon Miller-Duggan, poet and author of "Pinning the Bird to the Wall," "Alphabet Year," and "The Slow Salute."

• 7 p.m. – S.A. Cosby, a crime fiction writer and author of "My Darkest Prayer," "Blacktop Wasteland," and "Razorblade Tears."



Beth Macy is the author of four books, including national bestsellers, "Truevine," "Factory Man," and "Dopesick," which was adapted into the Emmy-award-winning Hulu series.



Ashley M. Jones is the Poet Laureate of the State of Alabama and author of "REPARATIONS NOW!"

Thursday, March 23

• Noon – Tom Belt (Cherokee Nation) and Lisa Leffler, co-authors of "Sounds of Tohi: Cherokee Health and Well-Being in Southern Appalachia."

• 4 p.m. – Angela Velez, a Peruvian-American writer, artist and author of the young adult novel "Lulu and Milagro's Search for Clarity."

• 7 p.m. – Jason Mott, author of "Hell of a Book," the 2021 National Book Award recipient for fiction.

So many organizations and people have a hand in making this big festival in little Cullowhee robust and exciting each year," Jones said. "This year we received support from the North Carolina and Jackson County Arts Councils, the North Carolina Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, WCU's campus theme committee, Degree Plus and the College of Arts and Sciences. We feel the love from the university and the region."

For more information, visit litfestival.org or contact WCU's English Department at 828-227-7264.



Jason Mott, author of "Hell of a Book," was the 2021 National Book Award recipient for fiction. He will speak March 23, at 7 p.m. in the Hinds University Center at WCU.



S.A. Cosby, a crime fiction writer and author of "My Darkest Prayer," "Blacktop Wasteland," and "Razorblade Tears," will speak on Wednesday, March 22, at 7 p.m., in the Hinds University Center at WCU.

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Spring hiking season means plenty of programs at the library

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Authors, yoga, and photography will all be a part of Macon County Public Library's "Walking with Spring" series, which corresponds with the Appalachian Trail's section-and thru-hiker season. Franklin is 110 miles from the south-to-north AT starting point of Spring Mountain, Ga.

The library's Adult Services Assistant Kristina Lynn Moe pointed out that "Walking with Spring" launches with the Nantahala Hiking Club co-sponsored event: A presentation by author Nancy East on Thursday, March 9, at 6 p.m. The Waynesville-based author of "Chasing the Smokies Moon" will focus on both her memoir as well as hiking safety. A teaser for the 2021-published book is: "Two lives lost too soon. When a search and rescue member's unresolved grief is triggered by tragedy, will a life-changing hike end in hope?"

The avid hiker and veterinarian will share information on everything from bears to blisters to snakes and storms. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing.

Other "Walking with Spring" events are on Thursdays and include:

– March 16, 5 p.m. – "Listening to the

Land: Contemplative Photography Walk" with photographer Susan Patrice, co-director of the Kinship Photography Collective. This is a one-hour walk that begins at the Macon County Public Library and meanders along the Little Tennessee River. Moe explained, "Photographers of all levels are invited (camera phones are welcome) and even seasoned practitioners should find value in this unique approach to the medium." Moe added, "Susan Patrice is a documentary photographer and contemplative artist. Her photography and public installations feature intimate images that touch deeply into questions of place, belonging, and ecological personhood."

– March 30, 6 p.m. – Yoga for Hikers (and everyone else!) with instructor Sandy Van Horn. The public is invited to the free event; bring a mat and plan to arrive by 5:55 p.m. before the doors lock at 6 p.m.

April 13, 6 p.m. – "When the Dogwoods Bloom," by author Victor Truetel, Nantahala Hiking Club president. Truetel provides poignant insights about his soon-to-be-re-



Nancy East, author of *Chasing the Smokies Moon*, will focus on both her memoir as well as hiking safety at the upcoming launch of "Walking with Spring," held at Macon County Public Library.

leased book of historical fiction set in Western North Carolina. "Atop the mystical mountain known as Standing Indian, in the Great Smoky Mountain wilderness, two unsettled lives collide. Grieving the death of his wife, Charley is guided by a mysterious

symbol carved into the mountain's summit to Mouse, who is searching for her own purpose along the storied Appalachian Trail. Trapped together during a freak blizzard, Charley tells Mouse the heartbreaking story of his Cherokee ancestor Tsali's struggle to survive in early America — from the destruction of his village by an American militia, to the forced removal from his ancestral homelands along the Trail of Tears and climaxing with his heroic sacrifice."

Truetel is an avid landscape and wildlife photographer. After discovering the story of Tsali, who was born in the Smokies in the late 1700s, Truetel researched Tsali's life and then fictionalized the details in the writing of his novel, "When the Dogwoods Bloom."

The Macon County Public Library's "Walking with Spring" series is in partnership with the Nantahala Hiking Club and the Franklin Appalachian

Trail Community Council. The Macon County Public Library is at 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin. All programs are free and open to the public. For information call 828-524-3600 or visit fontanalib.org/franklin.

Tech services offered free at library

Starting Thursday, March 2, digital navigators will host a Tech Time drop-in program with the goal to assist attendees with basic smartphone, laptop, iPad, and tablet skills, according to Abby Hardison, county librarian, Macon County Public Library.

"Tech Time sessions offer one-on-one help on any personal digital device," she said. "Tech Time is a chance for residents of all ages to bring their devices and ask any questions, learn how to set up an email account, mute your cell phone, back up and store files ... Those are just a few of the skills we teach patrons."

She clarified that while digital navigators are not experts in all things digital, "they provide answers to basic questions, and if a question might be a bit more challenging, we'll research and get you the answer."

The digital navigators, she noted, are not qualified to work on, update, or fix any digital devices. In addition, no library cards are required and no appointments are necessary. And, these free services are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Hardison, who became the county librarian in January, added, "Digital Navigators are new to the Fontana Regional Library system and their goals are to expand digital inclusion and promote an accessible digital literacy toolkit that educates students and caregivers on the digital literacy skills that are critical to remote learning and

workforce opportunities. Their main goal is to work in the community and help bridge the digital literacy gap. Digital Navigators seek to partner with community agencies to reach underserved residents in the region. They will work with community partners, including churches, civic groups, and senior centers to reach as many residents as possible. We are happy to teach digital-literacy skills, the skills residents need to live, learn and work in a society where online communication and access to information are a necessity for everyday life."

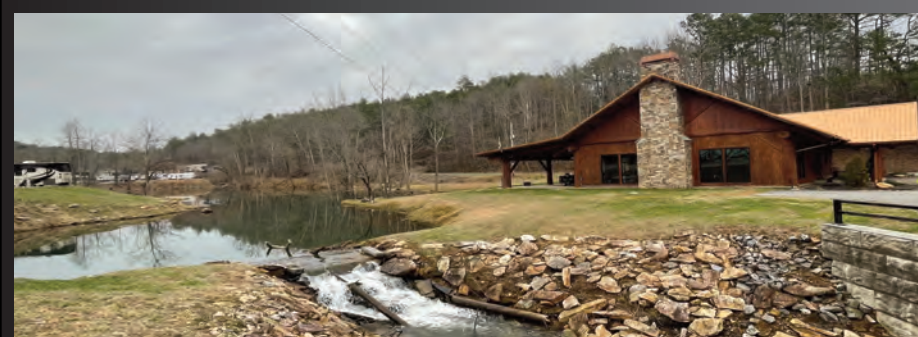
The Macon County Public Library, a member of the Fontana Regional Library, is located at 149 Siler Farm Road in Franklin. For more information or driving directions, call the library (828)524-3600.



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SCC fills vital workforce needs for Jackson County nonprofit AWAKE

When Elizabeth Cartwright talks to children who've been abused, she connects in a way most people simply could not.

She's been in their shoes, and she knows all too well the emotions and self doubt that young people experience when they walk through the doors of AWAKE Children's Advocacy Center in Sylva.

"I am actually a child abuse survivor, and I went to a Children's Advocacy Center in Haywood County when I was a young girl," Cartwright said. "As a kid, having that safe place to go to – and I still remember the names of people who helped me – it was exactly what I needed at that point in my life. So being able to play that role in another child's life means a lot to me."

Now a second-year Nursing student at Southwestern Community College, Cartwright works part time at AWAKE.

She assists with initial physical exams while reassuring children in her care that things are going to get better. Cartwright is on track to graduate from SCC with her associate degree in May, and she is grateful for the experience she's gaining under the supervision of AWAKE Executive Director Crystal Jones.

"I don't think I've ever been in a better workplace," Cartwright said. "I feel so supported here. It's a tough job to do, but I feel like we all feel the same way. We're allowed to vent. It's allowed to bother us. We're allowed to talk to Crystal. We're allowed to talk to Paige (Gilliland, AWAKE's Senior Forensic Interviewer), and we're allowed to talk to each other. That makes doing this job 10 times easier."

Cartwright recalled a recent encounter when she was able to draw from her own experience and encourage another family that brighter days are ahead.

"A few weeks ago, we had a family come in, and the mom was just worried that the child wasn't going to be OK and that the negative impact would be lifelong," Cartwright recalled. "For me, I want to look at them and say, 'It will have long-lasting effects, but you can use it in a good way.' Because I use what happened to me as a drive to become who I am, and to become a voice, and to help other people."

Another AWAKE employee who trained at SCC is Ashley Cook, a 2022 Human Services Technology graduate who's now a Victim Advocate, Case Manager and Outreach Coordinator.



Ashley Cook, a 2022 graduate of SCC's Human Services Technology program, is a Victim Advocate, Case Manager and Outreach Coordinator for AWAKE Children's Advocacy Center in Sylva. SCC Human Services Technology graduate Ashley Cook (back row, left) and second-year SCC Nursing student Elizabeth Cartwright (front left) are both employed by AWAKE Children's Advocacy Center in Sylva. Also pictured are AWAKE employees, from left behind Cartwright: Crystal Jones, Executive Director; Maggie Grey, Forensic Interviewer/Case Manager; Paige Gilliland, Senior Forensic Interviewer; and Kristen Brady, Administrative Assistant.

As Victim Advocate, Cook is the conduit between the families and AWAKE's partnering agencies. She is the behind-the-scenes face who is on-call 24/7 for kids and their families to answer questions late at night or when families need to talk through issues with someone who understands.

Like Cartwright, Cook finds fulfillment in helping children through extremely difficult times.

"When families and kids come here, I'm the first person they see," Cook said. "I take them on a tour of the building and reassure them this is a safe place. After they leave here, I call back and check in with them. We know that trauma doesn't stop just because it's been reported."

"I think a lot of people just aren't aware of what AWAKE really is or that they have this resource available for them," Cook added. "If kids knew they had a safe place, they'd be more willing to disclose. That's the most powerful thing about this place to me, and it's vital."

Jones, who assumed her current role in

2022, said Cartwright and Cook are vital to AWAKE's mission.

AWAKE stands for Adults Working and Advocating for Kids' Empowerment and is focused on advocating for victims of child abuse.

"We're super-blessed to have Ashley and Elizabeth here," Jones said. "AWAKE and our whole community are blessed to have them. We hired Ashley about two weeks into her internship. There are just certain qualities she has that you can't teach, and the biggest ones are her love and compassion for children and the most vulnerable. She is immensely dedicated to the children she serves."

"And Elizabeth is one

of the strongest, most courageous individuals I've ever met," Jones added. "The fact she can take her own story and pour so much love into other children is just amazing. When she goes into the medical room, she's able to take her story and stand firm and stand strong for these children who've been through the hardest days of their lives. She's able to tell them: 'It seems like it's tough now, but everything's going to work out, one way or another.' She's living proof that things are going to be OK."

During a season when almost every organization in the country is desperate to find quality help, Jones said she's grateful for the role SCC plays in preparing students to enter the workforce.

In the cases of both Cook and Cartwright, that transition to employment occurred before graduation.

"I think it's immensely important that SCC has such a strong foothold in our community," Jones said. "I love the idea of planting seeds, not just at AWAKE, but also out in the field. I'm incredibly thankful for the people at Southwestern. They've been a great support for AWAKE, and in growing these individuals in all walks of life. SCC's been instrumental in developing these wonderful employees."

For more information about AWAKE, visit awakecenter.org.

To learn more about SCC and the career paths it offers, visit SouthwesternCC.edu, call 828.339.4000 or visit your nearest SCC location.



Elizabeth Cartwright, a second-year Nursing student at Southwestern Community College, conducts medical examinations at AWAKE Children's Advocacy Center in Sylva.

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Deaths & Funerals

Joe Taylor

Joe Taylor, 85, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023, he was born March 26, 1937, in Macon County and was the oldest son of the late Walter Corum Taylor and Nancy Caroline Justice Taylor. He grew up on the family farm where he was born.

He was always mechanically inclined, and this led to his later career. Upon his graduation from Franklin High School, he joined the U.S. Army, trained as a machinist, and was stationed in Germany. Upon his return to Franklin, he married Emma Jean Downs at Ridgecrest Baptist Church where they were always faithful in their attendance. He served as a deacon and enjoyed volunteering at the church.

He worked as a machinist at various businesses the last of which was Franklin Machine where he retired as manager. He always had a love of the land and was a lifelong farmer and served on the Macon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for many years. He never asked for nor expected anything to be given to him, but instead, worked very hard to accomplish his goals. He leaves a legacy of always accepting his circumstances, setting goals, and working relentlessly to accomplish them, and allowing everyone to have dignity and respect.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Jack (Erika) and Walter Jr. (Betty).

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Emma Jean Downs Taylor; daughter, Janet Taylor Gillespie and husband Karl Gillespie; and grandson, Logan Gillespie; his brothers, John Taylor (Kay) and Jim Taylor (Cheryl); as well as many nieces and nephews.

A private graveside service officiated by Rev. Guy Duvall was held Sunday, Feb. 26.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made Ridgecrest Baptist Church Attn: Cemetery Fund, 206 Ridgecrest Baptist Church Rd. Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Betty Fox Young

Betty Fox Young, 81, of Cullowhee, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Friday, Feb. 24, 2023. She was born on June 28, 1941, to the late Roy and Midia Norman Fox.

She is survived by her daughter, Rita Dyer; two brothers, Dennis and Eddie (Bonita) Fox; and sister, Janette Fox; her granddaughter, Diann Barker (Billy); and great granddaughters, Felicia Trantham and Desiree Dyer; great great grandchildren, CJ Cabe, Virginia Shell, and Silas Shell; five nieces, Cindy Kay Fox, Tammy Parris (Randy), Patsy Fox, Stephanie Harris, and Tabitha Fox; four nephews, Randy Fox (Lora), Ronnie Fox, Travis (Amber), and Stacey Tuck; and several great and great great nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 4, at 12 p.m. at Speedwell Baptist Church in Cullowhee.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that donations be made to Speedwell Baptist Church, to the attention of Lora Fox, 406 Silver Fox Drive, Cullowhee, NC 28723.



Joe Taylor



Betty Fox Young

Elizabeth Ann Leonard

Elizabeth Ann Leonard, 82, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023.

She was born in Somerset, N.J., on Sept. 29, 1940, to the late Harry and Ruth Apgar. She worked in child nutrition in New Jersey and retired from the Macon County School System where she also worked in child nutrition. She enjoyed doing many different types of crafts, as well as baking and gardening.

She is survived by a son, Donald Leonard (Janet); daughter, Tammy Lynch; stepbrother, Bobby Edsel; grandchildren, Jordan, Alexis, Gabi, Cassie; and great grandchildren, Rain, Gabriel, Asantae, Ameria, Kaiahna, and William.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Robert Wayne Leonard; a son, Jack Edward Leonard; grandson, Jack "Jr" Leonard; sister, Carol Nowak; and two brothers, Louis Apgar and Butch Apgar.

A private family service will be held at a later date. Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Elizabeth Leonard

William Soloman Palmer

William Soloman Palmer of Cashiers, N.C., husband and father, passed at age 73.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman who never missed a chance to spend time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He will always be remembered for his admirable work ethic, his determination to ensure the success of his children, and his undying love for his wife. He was a provider but also a man who made certain that his family could withstand any challenge with or without him. From teaching mechanic skills to the art of hunting and the merit of a days hard work, he modeled what it means to be a parent and a husband. He taught resilience and how to rise above poverty and illiteracy by providing opportunities that were never afforded him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Leslie and Pearl Palmer and his brother, Phillip Palmer.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Stewart Palmer; his eldest daughter, Ginger and husband Jerry Whitman, and youngest daughter, April and husband Nathan DeBeve; four sisters and a brother; grandkids, Alex Mabry, Addison and Zoey Whitman, and Anna Debeve who will miss him dearly; and his nieces and nephews who will never forget how much he loved them.

In the end, he enjoyed that helicopter ride he swore to never take and was reunited with his brother to leisurely hunt squirrels and deer to their hearts' content.

He was deeply loved and shared what he enjoyed, thus his life has become a part of us. He will be missed! He was loved!



William Soloman Palmer

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Michael Patrick May

Michael Patrick May, 67, beloved husband of Terri Ann May, passed from this life on Feb. 23, 2023. Born on Dec. 2, 1955, he was predeceased by his parents, George W. May and Mary H. Griffin Batdorf.

He was a man of many talents. His work career included being a chef, a restaurant manager, a builder, and a construction manager. His favorite job was working with a man he held in high regard, Chris Elfrink, at Elfrink Custom Construction.

A caring man who loved his friends and family, he and Terri had 18 wonderful years together, traveling and going on cruises whenever they could. He especially loved going to Biloxi to the Golden Nugget Casino. He was also a devoted Florida State Seminoles football fan.

He was a humble man of simple means who will be remembered for his fantastic sense of humor and his many abilities as well as his great love for his family.

An Irish wake will be held at a later date.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



Michael Patrick May



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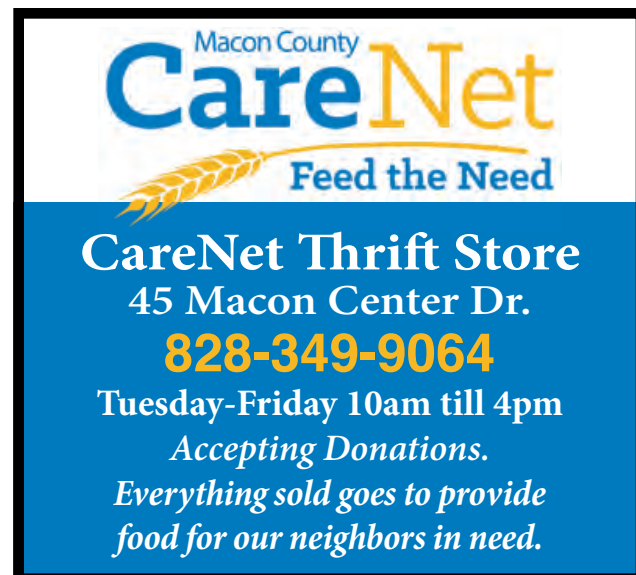


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Kyle Busch gets milestone victory in Fontana finale

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

FONTANA, Calif. – The Kyle Busch era at Richard Childress Racing began three weeks ago at the Los Angeles Coliseum, but the coronation was reserved for Sunday's Pala Casino 400 in the last NASCAR Cup Series race at 2.0-mile Auto Club Speedway.

Busch grabbed the lead from Ross Chastain on Lap 165 and regained it on Lap 180 at the end of a cycle of green-flag pit stops, as the race ran under green for the final 55 laps. He crossed the finish line on Lap 200 with a 2.998-second advantage over runner-up Chase Elliott.

The victory was the 61st of Busch's career, most among active drivers and ninth all-time. For the 19th straight season, Busch has won at least one NASCAR Cup Series race, breaking a tie with seven-time champion Richard Petty for the series record.

Kyle and Kurt Busch now hold the record for most combined Cup victories by brothers with 95, one more than the total accumulated by Bobby and Donnie Allison.

Coincidentally, Busch claimed the first Cup win of his career at Auto Club, the bulk of whose property was recently sold—with plans to replace the 2.0-mile speedway with a half-mile short track.

Busch's victory at Auto Club came in his second start in the No. 8 Chevrolet for RCR, the team he joined after 15 seasons and two series championships with Joe Gibbs Racing.

"I can't thank Richard and Judy (Childress) enough, Austin (Dillon) for calling me and getting me talking and getting me the opportunity to come over here to RCR," said Busch, who had to overcome a pit road speeding penalty under caution on Lap 43.

"The guys did a great job. (Crew chief) Randall (Burnett)—everybody that worked so hard in the off-season. We did a lot of sim stuff, a lot of testing in general, just trying to get up to speed. There is nothing more rewarding than being able to go to Victory Lane..."

"You put yourself in a different situation and you're able to reward your guys. It's not about me always winning, but about the guys. I've worked with a lot of great people who've given me a lot of great opportunities in my career. It's awesome to be able to reward them."

With qualifying rained out on Saturday, Elliott started 31st according to a metric formula based on owner points and performance in the previous race (the DAYTONA 500). Throughout the race, Elliott's crew made the No. 9 Chevrolet better. By race's end, it was competitive with the fastest cars in the field.

"Yeah, just really proud of our team," Elliott said. "We obviously didn't run very good there toward the end of the year last year, and just everybody really went to work hard over



Kyle Busch, driver of the #8 Lucas Oil Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Pala Casino 400 at Auto Club Speedway on Feb. 26, 2023, in Fontana, Calif.

Photo by Meg Oliphant/Getty Images

Suárez ran fourth, followed by Kevin Harvick. Denny Hamlin, Brad Keselowski, Alex Bowman, Austin Dillon and Joey Logano completed the top 10.

A multicar accident during a restart on Lap 86 eliminated polesitter Christopher Bell, as well as Ryan Preece, Aric Almirola and Tyler Reddick. Ryan Blaney, who ran at or near the front of the field in Stage 1, sustained heavy damage to his No. 12 Ford during the wreck and finished 26th.

the winter to try and get better...

"Obviously, I think we still have some work to do, but it was really nice to just see a lot of that hard work pay off and have the car driving like we were wanting it to do. So that's always a good thing..."

"Congratulations to Kyle. For him to leave and then to go get the job done like that is pretty cool. He's always been really good to me, so happy for them and looking forward to getting to Vegas and hopefully competing for some more wins."

Chastain led a race-high 91 laps to Busch's 27 and finished third after sweeping the first two stages, the second by 6.673 seconds. Chastain's Trackhouse Racing teammate, Daniel

John Hunter Nemechek rides to victory in last race at Auto Club Speedway

FONTANA, Calif. – After the sun set on Auto Club Speedway, John Hunter Nemechek drove his No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota to victory in Sunday's Production Alliance Group 300 in the final race at the 2.0-mile track.

It wasn't supposed to be that way. The NASCAR Xfinity Series drivers were scheduled to race on Saturday, leaving the speedway's swan song to the NASCAR Cup Series on Sunday, but rain and snow—yes, snow in Southern California's Inland Empire—forced postponement of the race until Sunday.

And after Kyle Busch won the Cup race, Nemechek, who

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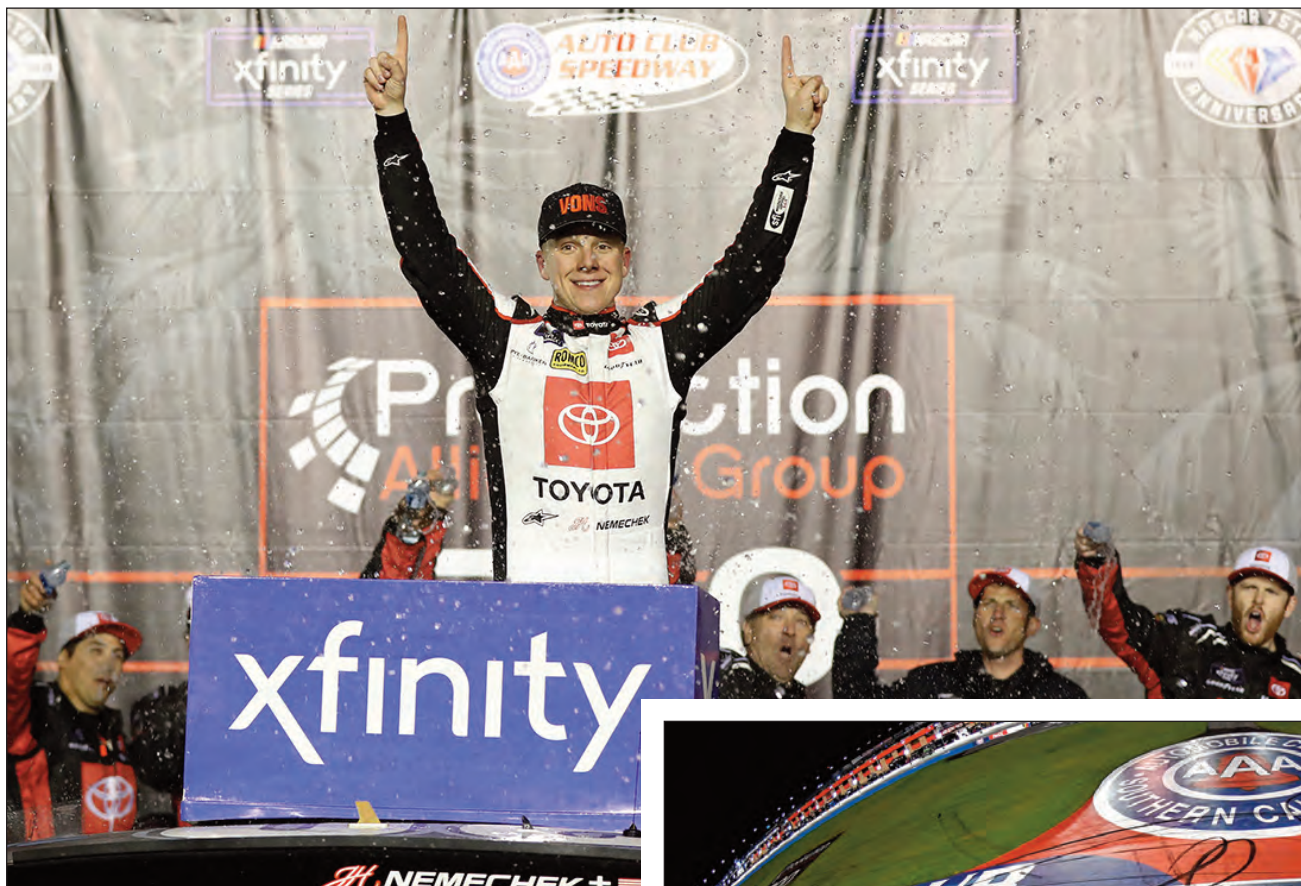
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John Hunter Nemechek, driver of the #20 Vons/Albertsons Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Production Alliance Group 300 at Auto Club Speedway on Feb. 26, 2023, in Fontana, Calif.

drove for Busch in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series last year, took the checkered flag in his first full-time stint in the JGR Supra.

“Man, this whole 20 team gave me one heck of a race car,” said Nemechek, who took the lead for the last time after a restart on Lap 139 of 150. “Just a huge shout-out to all the guys who work on this 20 team.

“I think a lot of guys doubted (crew chief) Ben (Beshore) coming down from the Cup Series, and to have him on the box and to be able to establish the relationship I have with him, it’s been awesome. I’ve worked with a lot of the guys on the team the last couple of years, and the pit crew—they got it done when it counted tonight.”

Nemechek, who finished second by a matter of inches in the NASCAR Xfinity Series season opener at Daytona, led a race-high 49 laps and finished .761 seconds ahead of runner-up Sam Mayer. The Xfinity Series win was the third of his career, and it came at the track where his father, Joe Nemechek, won the first Cup pole of his career and the first-ever pole at the venue.

Justin Allgaier ran third, followed by Chandler Smith. Josh Berry was fifth, joining JR Motorsports teammates Mayer and Allgaier in the top five.

Mayer chased Nemechek for the final 12 laps but couldn’t get close enough to make a move for the win.

“I’m super proud of my team,” Mayer said. “We struggled early on, that’s for sure. We had our work cut out for us, but we threw the kitchen sink at it, and we ended up second. All things considered, I’m really happy and really proud of these guys.”

Cole Custer may have had the fastest car in the race. The driver of the No. 00 Stewart-Haas Ford, the defending race winner, swept the first two stages and led twice for 46 laps. But after a Lap 91 restart, Custer hit the outside wall on the backstretch, thanks to a flat tire, and sustained further damage when the Chevrolet of Austin Dillon couldn’t avoid Custer’s wounded car.

Custer finished 27th, one lap down.



Atlanta Motor Speedway brings party to NASCAR weekend
HAMPTON, Ga. – NASCAR weekend at Atlanta Motor Speedway is always packed with thrilling racing on the track and great entertainment off the track – and the Ambetter Health 400 weekend is no exception.

Atlanta hosts 850 miles of racing across all three of NASCAR’s national touring series during the March 17-19 weekend. When cars aren’t on the track, race fans will enjoy parties that make race weekend a can’t-miss event.

This year the fun gets started on St. Patrick’s Day Friday night after NASCAR Xfinity Series qualifying with the Camper Appreciation Party in Bootleggers. Fans will enjoy complimentary hamburgers, hot dogs, and Coca-Cola beverages, Legends racing on Atlanta’s ¼ mile short track, and a Q&A session with NASCAR driver Chris Buescher. Best of all, it all comes free of charge as a thank you to fans at the track during race weekend, with dozens of TVs showing live sports and a great social atmosphere around Bootleggers’ massive 360-bar.

Returning for its second year in the infield, the Peach Pit kicks off the infield party after the checkered flag drops on the RAPTOR King of Tough 250 on Saturday night. The Peach Pit will be packed with games and activities, plus live music on its concert stage from Back In Black performing AC/DC’s biggest hits into the night. NASCAR driver Todd Gilliland will stop by for a Q&A, and the night is capped off with a colorful fireworks display. Any ticketholders or fans camping at the track welcome to join the party at the Peach Pit for no additional

charge.

All of this is on top of the previously announced Parmalee pre-race concert before the Ambetter Health 400 on Sunday, March 19, and all the driver appearances and attractions fans will enjoy in Atlanta Motor Speedway’s Fan Zone throughout the weekend.

‘Go Bowling! PBA NASCAR Invitational at Phoenix Raceway’

PHOENIX – The inaugural Go Bowling! PBA NASCAR Invitational, bringing the worlds of bowling and auto racing together in bowling competition at Phoenix Raceway, will air March 12 at noon ET on FOX Sports’ FS1. The telecast will air prior to the 2023 NASCAR United Rentals Work United 500 on FOX.

Go Bowling!, a proud sponsor of Phoenix Raceway and the PBA, is partnering with QubicaAMF to construct a custom pair of lanes inside The Barn on the grounds of Phoenix Raceway. Fans and guests are invited to attend the event free of charge, which will be taped March 10, and have the chance to bowl on the lanes once competition concludes.

“We are thrilled to extend our relationship with NASCAR with the addition of the made-for-TV event in Phoenix,” said Kevin Krauss, President, Bowling Proprietors’ Association of America (BPAA). “It will demonstrate the fun of bowling to everyone tuned in and also to everyone following their favorite drivers, bowlers and celebrities on social media.”

The Go Bowling! PBA NASCAR Invitational at Phoenix Raceway will feature four professional bowlers—PBA Tour players Kyle Troup and Jesper Svensson and PWBA Tour stars Daria Pajak and Verity Crawley—teaming with four NASCAR drivers and celebrities, including NASCAR’s Aric Almirola and Ryan Preece in doubles competition.

In addition to the doubles tournament, the event will feature a special shootout in which celebrities will compete against each other in fast-paced bowling competition.

“Many NASCAR drivers have shown a great interest in bowling, so to be able to bring stars from the PBA and PWBA together to team with current racing personalities at Phoenix Raceway during a big race week will be a treat for fans of both sports,” said Tom Clark, PBA Tour Commissioner. “This event is going to be a lot of fun, but highly competitive. When you bring the best in the world at their respective sports together, there will be fireworks.”

“The friendly competition among the drivers, the stars of the PBA/PWBA Tours and other celebrities should make for a fun show and a great way to get ready for the big NASCAR Cup Series race in Phoenix,” added Krauss.

Viewers can live stream the PBA on the FOX Sports and FOX Now apps or at FOXSports.com. Select highlights will be available on @FOXSports social handles across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. International fans can watch on BowlTV.



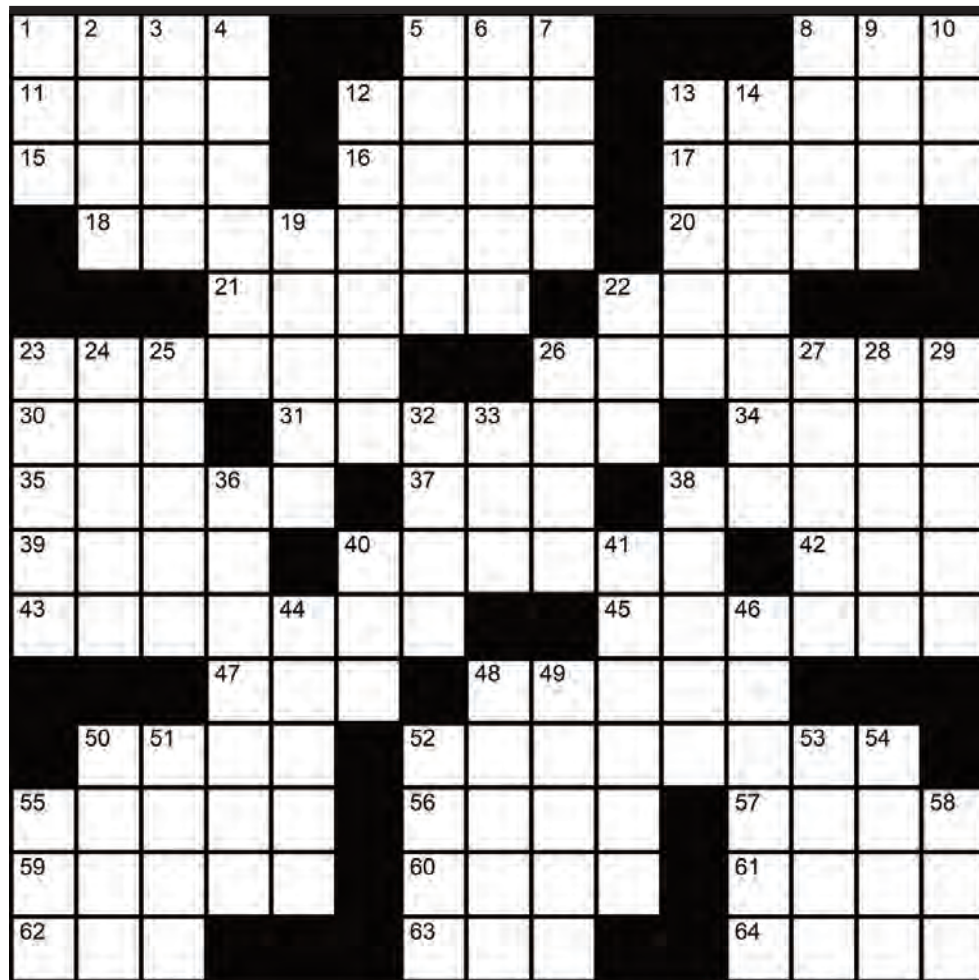
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- 5. Medicinal amt.
- 8. Say no
- 11. Popular Scotch mixer
- 12. Country dance formation
- 13. List of candidates
- 15. Certain battery component
- 16. Exclamation of sorrow
- 17. *"The Game of Unspeakable Fun"
- 18. *"Fascinating two-handed strategy game"
- 20. Dutch cheese
- 21. Not quite right
- 22. *"I thee ____"
- 23. CrÈme de ____
- 26. Where Japan is
- 30. Part of circumference
- 31. Threatened Asian or African odd-toed ungulate
- 34. Ready for picking
- 35. Reasons to sue
- 37. Romanian money
- 38. English county
- 39. Popular Arabic name
- 40. Lemon, in Paris
- 42. Latissimus dorsi, for short
- 43. Angola's southern neighbor
- 45. Dairy farm glands
- 47. Relax, or ____ out
- 48. Brooke or John Jacob, of New York
- 50. USPS delivery
- 52. *Cards against what?
- 55. Medicinal plant with purple berries
- 56. Bug-eyed



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- 57. Tiny bottle
 - 59. a.k.a. jumping bone
 - 60. Plucked string instrument
 - 61. Makes a mistake
 - 62. *"____ Day," desirable square in The Game of Life
 - 63. Bard's before
 - 64. Rip apart
- DOWN**
- 1. Govt. property org.
 - 2. Fabled fliers
 - 3. Mine passage
 - 4. India's Chennai, pre-1996
 - 5. Flooring choice, pl.
 - 6. Hose woes
 - 7. 100 centavos in Mexico
 - 8. Rum cake
 - 9. Particle in A-bomb
 - 10. What's-old-is-new-again prefix
 - 12. Somewhat late
 - 13. Be at the helm
 - 14. *Not chutes
 - 19. #39 Across, pl.
 - 22. Is no longer
 - 23. *Trade, build, settle this island
 - 24. Oenophile's concern
 - 25. Curtain fabric
 - 26. *Connect how many?
 - 27. Theater passage
 - 28. Asparagus unit
 - 29. Written works
 - 32. Hipbones
 - 33. Butterfly catcher
 - 36. *Like pursuit of no vital importance
 - 38. "____ a high note"
 - 40. A Camel, for short
 - 41. Result of equipment failure
 - 44. The beauty of the ball?
 - 46. Morgan Freeman in "Driving Miss Daisy," e.g.
 - 48. Sign of bad news
 - 49. Inflict a blow
 - 50. Supernatural life force
 - 51. Drunkard, slangily
 - 52. Exhibiting good health
 - 53. Swing seat, sometimes
 - 54. Knitter's supply
 - 55. Tree fluid
 - 58. Dropped drug, acr.

HAULING

- DIRT
- GRAVEL
- MULCH

Otto • Dillard
Franklin

(828) 371-2432

PETS OF THE WEEK

Macon County Animal Services,
Open M-F by appointment only, call
(828)349-2106.

Pictures of Lost and Available Pets,
www.facebook.com/maconcountyanimalservices



Stetson is a 1 year old Lab mix that loves to play with other dogs of all sizes. Stetson is deaf and is currently learning hand signs.



Mr. Business is a 2 year old male.

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

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

SALE OR RENT \$800/ or buy \$157,000. OBO. 3BR/2BA. Living room, dining room, eat-in kitchen, bonus room. New windows, etc. 3 BR/2.5BA with 2 Fireplaces and decks. 3 BEDROOM PLUS ROOM garage, fully furnished, many closets. Need room? This home has plenty! \$259,900. On the web MUST SELL MA 3BR/2BA/2000sqft. factured Home, HO \$129,900. For more please contact. Own

The Classifieds

Services

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

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

MELTON'S ROOFING Gutter Cleaning and Chimney Sweeping. Give Us a Call at cell# (828)421-6712 With All Your Roof and Gutter Needs.

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

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

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

I'M LOOKING FOR AN Office to Clean. Reliable and Dependable. If Interested Please Call (828)347-6284.

DIESCHER ELECTRIC Professional service. Reasonable rates. NC Licensed and fully insured. 20+ years experience. (845)807-1326.

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

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

MASONRY SERVICES Block, Rock, Cultured Stone, Stucco, Also New Construction, Repairs. 30 Years Experience, (828)200- 4478.

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

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

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

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

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

PROFESSIONAL KNIFE and scissor sharpening Mon-Sat. Kitchen Sink Inc. 72 E. Main Street, Franklin (828)524-2956.

Help Wanted

OPENING FOR Children's Ministry Director (F/T or P/T). First United Methodist Church in Franklin. Experience in providing leadership in ministry with children and families preferred. Email discipleship@firstumcfranklin.org for job description.

PART-TIME RV Park Manager. Seeking office person to fill-in on Park Manager's off days. 20-24 hours per week. Customer service and telephone experience preferred. Park is located in Franklin. Contact Mike at mgrizzwc@yahoo.com.

RV PARK MANAGER Seeking couple to manage medium size RV park in Franklin. 2 person team. 1 office and 1 outside maintenance. Office- Customer service, telephone and book-keeping experience. Outside Maintenance- Light plumbing, electrical and grounds maintenance experience. Small tools repair and maintenance experience preferred. Long term commitment. Send resume to mgrizzwc@yahoo.com.

Wanted

LOOKING TO FIND Old Muzzle Loading Gun with initials carved in stock. No questions asked. Will pay reasonable price. (828)524-7681.

Misc. For Sale

B & M MILITARY SURPLUS MRE'S Military Boots, Clothing, Rain Gear, Cold Weather Gear, Sleeping Bags, Vests, Packs, Bags, Field Gear, Camo Netting, GI Wool Blankets,USMC ILBE 3 Day Assault Packs. W/C, Poncho Liner, Woobie. We Buy, Trade all Types Military Clothes, Field Gear. Open Monday-Friday 9-6, Saturday 9-5, 329 Bennett Ridge Rd. Franklin, (828)349-3140. bandmsurplus@gmail.com

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

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

SIDE LOFTED Storage Barn 10x20, Brown & Stone, 2 windows 2 lofts, 6 months old urethane siding, Good Condition, Original \$7,000 now \$6,000 Buyer pays to move. (828)349-6022.

Community Fundraisers

FISH FRY Friday March 10 & 24, 4:30 - 7 p.m. St. Francis Catholic Church, 299 Maple St., fried whole fish and fish filets with hush puppies, French fries, coleslaw, dessert and beverages. Dine-in or Take-outs Available. Adults \$15, Child's plate \$5.

BINGO American Legion Hall, 614 W. Main St., Every Wednesday. Doors open at 3:30 p.m., bingo 4 p.m. Snack Bar Available.

APPALACHIAN ANIMAL Rescue Thrift Store, Open Tuesday thru Saturday, 9am- 4pm, 1521 Old Murphy Rd., (828)369-3046.

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

REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow, open Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, Benefits Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. Information call (828)369-2040.

Animals

(2) COCKAPOOS 4 month old puppies, (male and female), Rare Markings Exquisite Dogs. High Energy, Very Intelligent. \$2500 each. Serious Buyers Only. (770)757-7500.

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

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

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

Rentals

NICE CLEAN & NEAT 3BD/1BA House. Electric Range, New Refrigerator, W/D, Convenient Location in Holly Springs. Non-smoking, No Pets. 1 Year Lease, \$1,100/monthly, First, Last, Security Deposit, References, Credit Check Required. (828)421-6666.

Commercial Rentals

OFFICE FOR RENT Large 2 room suite in Franklin, Courthouse Plaza Building. Rent includes power, heat and air. \$790/month. Office available for third room. Call (828)524-7799.

OFFICE FOR RENT Large 1 Room Suite in Franklin, Courthouse Plaza Building. Rent includes power, heat and air. \$250/monthly. (828)524- 7799.

Boats & Campers

15' SPEEDBOAT Rinkerbuilt Tri Hull, New Battery, Nice Condition, 85hp Mercury. (828)349-0061.

Classifieds
\$8.00 20 words or less
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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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