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& Shopping Guide

Free independent weekly



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 Franklin High School • Fine Arts Building

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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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A group of hikers, led by Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy Director Brent Martin, is attempting to hike all 110 miles of the North Georgia to Western North Carolina portion of the Bartram Trail. The trail starts at Russell Bridge in Georgia near the South Carolina state line, and ends in Cheoah just beyond Nantahala Lake. Last Friday, the group of local business people, organization leaders, representatives of the Macon County Library, members of 828 Vets, and more, achieved the somewhat difficult portion of the trail from the Jones Gap trailhead to the Hickory Knoll trailhead. The trek extends along the top of White Rock Mountain, which overlooks Tennesse Road and the valley. Mysteriously, an old school bus is situated deep in the Nantahala wilderness, along the Bartram Trail. Martin said the only thing he ever heard is that the bus was once a shelter for pickers of native apples, although no solid evidence regarding how and why the bus is there. When the hikers came across the bus on Friday, they used the opportunity to take a fun photo.

Gov. Cooper signs Medicaid Expansion bill

North Carolina made national news this week as Governor Roy Cooper signed House Bill 76, Access to Healthcare Options, into law on Monday.

The governor appeared on MSNBC, Representative Mark Pless (R- District 118) held a town hall meeting covered by WLOS, The Associated Press covered the story, and *The New York Times* captured the occasion with the headline “North Carolina Expands Medicaid After Republicans Abandon Their Opposition.”

“While a solution sat just out of reach, with this law I’m about to sign, many of them will be close enough to grab it,” Cooper said, standing next to House Speaker Tim Moore, Senate leader Phil Berger and other expansion supporters on Monday prior to signing the bill.



N.C. legislators applaud as Gov. Roy Cooper displays the signed Medicaid Expansion bill on Monday. Submitted photo

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FHS athletes working hard through spring season



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First Baptist serving breakfast to AT hikers

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APRIL 4

MEDICAID

Continued
from page 1

The two legislators earlier this month finalized a negotiated agreement that contains expansion and looser “certificate of need” regulations on health care facilities before they can open more beds or use expensive equipment. The House and Senate approved the deal separately, with the final vote happening Thursday, March 23.

The legislation will expand Medicaid, which is expected to provide health coverage to more than 600,000 people across North Carolina and bring billions in federal dollars to the state. North Carolina is the 40th state to expand Medicaid. North Carolina has been among 11 states who hadn’t accepted expansion from the federal government. States with Republican leaders have recently been considering expansion after years of opposition.

State Sen. Kevin Corbin (R-District 50) has gotten a bit of backlash over the possibility that taxes will be raised to pay for the expanded Medicaid.

“We have cut taxes in North Carolina and will likely cut again this time,” said Corbin. “The 10% match is being paid by the hospitals not the state. We did this in a way that is a

net gain for taxpayers, not a deficit. Other states will likely follow our example of Medicaid reform. It was an inefficient cash hole, but we went from the terrible fee-for-service model to a predictable, managed care payment system,” explained Corbin.

“All the local hospitals in my rural district are getting money to improve rural healthcare plus we are insuring working North Carolinians at no cost to N.C. taxpayers,”

“This law, once implemented, will be the working families bill of the decade,” Cooper said. “Medicaid expansion is a once-in-a-generation investment that will strengthen our mental health system, boost our rural hospitals, support working families and so much more,” said Gov. Cooper. “This is a historic step toward a healthier North Carolina that will bring people the opportunity of better health and a better life.”

“This a historic moment that will transform the health and well-being of North Carolina,” said Secretary of Health &

Human Services, Kody H. Kinsley. “Medicaid expansion is foundational in improving access to health care in rural areas, for better mental health and for veterans, working adults and their families. For 600,000 people, Medicaid expansion is life changing.”

Expanding Medicaid has been a top priority for Cooper since he took office. Since 2017, he has worked to begin the expansion of Medicaid, even when Republican legislators sued him in federal court to stop the process. Without Medicaid expansion, North Carolina has missed out on an estimated \$521 million each month that could go to improving mental health and helping rural hospitals remain open.

Veterans, early childhood educators, restaurant workers, nursing home workers are all among the groups that often fall into the coverage gap and sometimes have to work two or more jobs to afford health care. Under the new Medicaid rules, people

under the age of 64 with an income of up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level can get Medicaid coverage through N-C Health Works.

In North Carolina, rural residents are 40% more likely to be uninsured and eligible for Medicaid expansion, and 11 rural hospitals have closed in North Carolina since 2005, with more at risk of closure due

to a lack of paying customers. North Carolina, like other states, is currently dealing with an opioid and substance abuse crisis. About 40% of overdose patients in emergency departments are uninsured, making it harder for them to get the follow up mental health care they need.

Governor Cooper’s budget, First in Opportunity, proposes using a portion of the almost \$1.8 billion Medicaid expansion signing bonus to create the Improving Health Outcomes for People Everywhere (IHOPE) Fund. The plan focuses on three areas: making mental health services more available when and where people need them; building strong systems to support people in crisis and people with complex behavioral needs; and enabling better health access and outcomes with data and technology.

Medicaid expansion will take effect upon the signing into law of the FY 2023-25 appropriations act, likely in June.



Grand opening set for heritage apple orchard

The Barbara McRae Cherokee Heritage Apple Orchard will host a grand opening on Arbor Day April 28 from 4 to 6 p.m. The orchard is on the Macon County Greenway a half mile downstream from the Big Bear Pavilion.

Franklin is home to the only Native American apple orchard in this region. In 2020, Barbara McRae spawned the idea of honoring the story of the Cherokee apple varieties and the people who grew them. Together with Nikwasi Initiative’s Executive Director, Elaine Eisenbraun, a plan began to unfold. Today a mini orchard highlights apple varieties with close ties to Cherokee farmers of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Development of the orchard depended on the input of David Anderson, horticulturalist with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). Anderson is an expert on apples and especially those developed by the earlier Cherokee farmers. The orchard site had to be cleared from a brush field full of invasive species. The NC State Historic Preservation Office oversaw a cultural survey to assure that no archeological sites would be disturbed by the planting. Then a group of hardy volunteers planted, fenced, and watered the trees. Macon Early College and Summit Charter schools helped with the caretaking.

The native orchard is a unique offering for Franklin, EBCI, and Nikwasi Initiative. It opens the door for communities to understand the value of investing in the new Cultural District. It has the potential to bring more resilient tourism and economic advancement to the region. Additionally, the program creates opportunities for school teachers, track the museum journey, or study a unique collaboration of local people working together. Jacqueline Rhew was the coordinator for Nikwasi Initiative, for the orchard that would grace the Macon County greenway.

Eisenbraun, Executive Director of Nikwasi Initiative said, “This orchard is established near the Noquisiyi (Nikwasi) Mound and is likely on land that had once been farmed by Cherokee women. Bringing back the apple trees is like restoring a small fragment of the Cherokee agronomic lifestyle that residents enjoyed. Future visitors will be able to have a holistic experience of scented blossoms, tasty apples, and a lovely little path to build their understanding of the prior residents of these mountains.”

Nikwasi Initiative preserves, protects, and promotes culture and heritage in the original homelands of the Cherokee.

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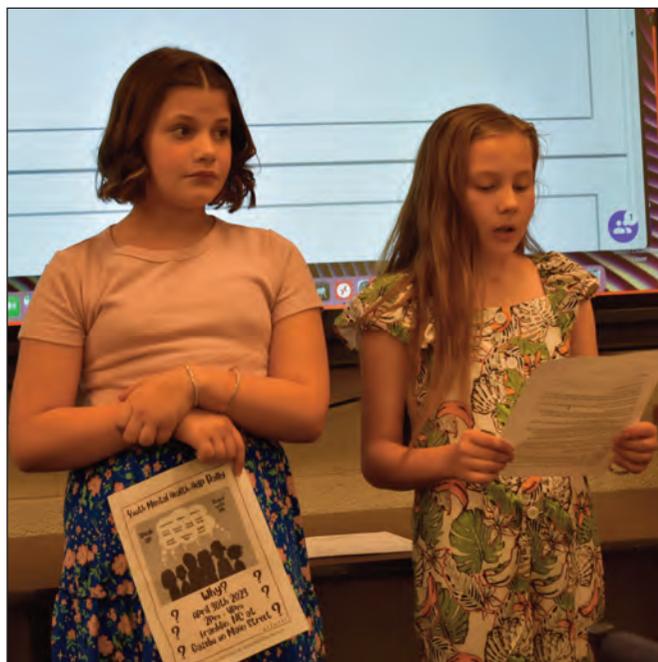
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Students urge more trauma counselors

Diane Peltz
Contributing Writer

The School Board met on March 27, 2023 with a light agenda on tap.

Fourth grader Gracie Parker gave a last minute presentation, not previously scheduled. Gracie went to Washington D.C. and spoke in front of the Capitol regarding the mental health crisis facing students (See March 9, 2023 issue of The Macon County News). In the presentation she urged the school board to hire more trauma counselors in the schools. Similar to her speech in D.C. she spoke of the many issues facing young students in elementary school and invited the members of the board to attend the Youth Mental Health – Help Rally on Sunday, April 30, at the Gazebo on Main Street. The rally will take place from 2-4 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



Gracie Parker and Kennedy Carrion gave a presentation that included an invitation to a Youth Mental Health - Help Rally Sunday, April 30, at the gazebo in downtown Franklin.

The board set the summer program for six Macon County schools. The summer program will provide students with additional learning opportunities outside of the regular academic calendar, and will allow students who may have been affected by detrimental circumstances during the administration of the EOG (end of grade) or EOC (end of course) testing, to have the opportunity to raise their proficiency score.

Cartoogechaye, Nantahala, East Franklin, Highlands, Macon Middle, South Macon and Iofla will all offer these programs from May 30 through June 1 depending on the school. Parents will be notified by May 18 if their child is eligible for the summer program. This program is not mandatory but it is strongly urged for those needing a little extra help.

School Board Attorney John Henning spoke in regard to opposing House Bill 219. The bill provides charter schools with funds and Henning explained that the funding for these schools has a negative impact on the public school system. Henning said the passing of the HB219 would cause money to be disproportionately given to charter schools which would adversely affect public school funding.

The existing General Statute contains the list of funds not shared with charter schools: reimbursements, indirect costs, tuition, fees for actual costs, sales tax revenues, sales tax refunds, gifts and grants restricted as to use, trust funds, federal appropriations made directly to local school administrative units, municipal appropriations made directly to local school administrative units, and funds received for prekindergarten programs; in addition, the appropriation or use of fund balance or interest income by a local school

administrative unit shall not be construed as a local current expense appropriation.

The proposed House Bill 219, Part VII, deletes the list of protected funds with the exception of trust funds, federal grants restricted as to use, and special programs.

A resolution signed by school board chairman Jim Breedlove and School Board Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin states, in part, that by deleting the list of protected funds, House Bill 219 creates unequal rather than equal local funding for K-12 education.

Upcoming events

– Thursday, March 30 - FHS UNIFY at 6 p.m. UNIFY March Madness is a basketball showcase for persons with disabilities who have been helped to learn the game of basketball by FHS student-athletes.

– March 31 - MVI Solar Panel Dedication, 8:15-8:45 a.m. There will be a ceremony in the morning, hands on STEM experiments, an energy exhibit and STEM activities throughout the building.

– Monday, April 3 - Friday, April 7 - Spring Break for Franklin area schools (excluding MEC), Highlands & Nantahala.

– Monday, April 10 - Students return to Franklin area, Highlands, Nantahala schools.

– April 12: Leadership Academy Field Day fundraiser for REACH. Fun activities, obstacle course, for high school PE classes throughout the day.

– April 24-27 Senior Week at FHS.

– April 28: FHS Spring Spirit Rally - Battle of the Classes

– Thursday, May 11 & Friday, May 12 – The Ballet by the Dance Arts Co-Op presents William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, 10 a.m., at The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts.

The next school board meeting is Monday, April 24, at Highlands School at 6 p.m.

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Foster children in Macon County supported by organizations, but many still need homes

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

May is National Foster Care Month, an opportunity to focus on the needs involving children who are in homes of licensed foster care providers because of instances of neglect, violence, abandonment, and much more. An estimated 12,000 children are in the state's welfare system, and Stacey Messer, with the Macon County Department of Social Services, shared that 80 children are in Macon County's foster care system, with 25 licensed foster care families and four more currently in the process of being licensed.

"We always need foster parents," she said. "We are holding orientation meetings for anyone interested in learning more on April 25 and May 30 from 6-8 p.m. at Discover Church."

She explained that North Carolina requires 30 hours of training to start the process to become licensed. New foster care licensing classes begin in June, but the dates have yet to be determined. The Macon County Department of Social Services located in Franklin can be reached at (828) 349-2124 to learn more.

Some churches in the area regularly support foster care services, with licensing training for foster parents and guardian ad litem volunteers (advocates), collecting donations for foster children, providing volunteer opportunities, and more. A few new organizations have been established to zero in on foster children and foster parent needs.

Magnolia Mission

Magnolia Mission is managed by childhood friends Becky Bennett and Jenny Lewis, who have both been involved in fostering and/or adoption. Guided by the biblical scripture in Galatians 6:2 that reads, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ," Magnolia Mission meets immediate needs of foster families when a foster child is placed into a home. Within 24 hours of placements, Magnolia Mission will provide to foster families essentials such as detergent and toiletries as well as hot meals. They will also make certain that foster homes have the necessary fire extinguishers and alarms, carbon monoxide detectors etc., as well as child-proofing gadgets, if necessary.

Said Bennett, a 2008 graduate of Franklin High School, "We are partnering with DSS to make sure the homes of the foster families currently going through licensing classes are up to state standards in terms of home safety criteria."

Since Magnolia Mission launched six months ago, six children have been placed in foster care. Besides meeting a foster family's basic needs initially, the organization has helped connect foster families to the right resources regarding finding such items as a crib, for instance. Plus, Magnolia Mission is able to occasionally offer donated gift cards to foster families.

"We read a statistic that indicated 50% of foster families quit within the first year because of lack of support, and there



Kaylee's Closet provides clothing and much more to foster families so they can meet the needs of their foster children.

are so many children who need the families," Bennett added. "So, we want to support the heck of out of children and their foster families. Hopefully, in a few years, we can expand to counties."

Monetary donations to Magnolia Mission help the organization meet foster care family needs. However, Bennett pointed out that individuals who want to volunteer can become involved in a "care team to come alongside foster families and learn how they can be supported. Care teams are especially for people who can't foster but want to help in some way with the foster care system."

To be on a Magnolia Mission care team will require a background check by DSS as well as other criteria, but foster care licensing is not necessary. To become involved, interested individuals can visit www.magnoliamission.org.

Kaylee's Closet

Meeting clothing needs and more for foster children for the past few years has been the goal of Kaylee's Closet, located on Highlands Road. This organization is also scripturally motivated, adhering to Psalm 68:5: "A father to the fatherless ... is God in His holy dwelling."

Steve and Patty Raby founded the local nonprofit after their own foster care experience. The couple explained how Kaylee's Closet works.

"When an emergency foster placement is made, many children arrive at their foster homes with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. They've been traumatized, some physically as well as emotionally, and the environment familiar to them has been stripped away. Kaylee's Closet provides foster children and their caregivers with the essentials all children need for health, safety, and comfort — everything from clothing, toiletries, diapers, and bottles, to cribs, furniture, car seats, backpacks, and even toys."

Kaylee's Closet is always in need of volunteers to wash

Magnolia
Mission

Magnolia Mission is a six-month-old organization in Franklin that was set up to meet some specific foster care community needs.

and fold donated clothing as well as to organize/inventory items in the “store.” Anyone interested in donating or volunteering can visit KayleesClosetFranklin.com or call (828) 371-0992.

Together We Can

Together We Can is a brand-new foster care community organization started by Julie Adams, who is a licensed foster care guardian as well as a facilitator of foster care classes. She saw a need for an organization that meets a variety of needs, from education through foster and guardian ad litem training to life skills for foster teens and individuals who have recently aged out of the foster care system. Launched March 23, Together We Can’s ultimate goal is to establish a transition house where foster children can stay – after they are placed in the care of the Department of Social Services – but before they are placed into a foster home.

“We want the transition home to be a caring, comfortable, temporary home environment where these children can feel safe and loved, so that [taking care of them temporarily until they are placed in a foster home] doesn’t fall to the social care workers. If children feel loved and cared for as soon as they enter the foster care system, that can make all the difference in their future,” said Adams.

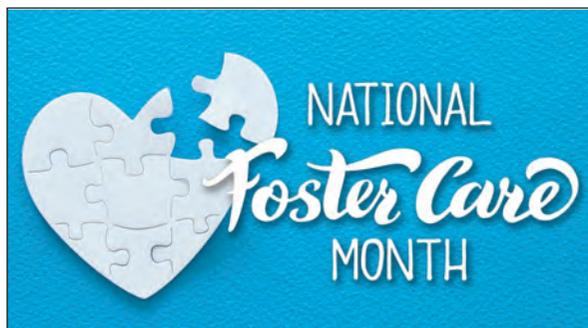
Currently, Together We Can is undergoing fundraising efforts for a transition home. Adams said the goal is \$500,000. She has been invited to share her vision with the local cham-

ber of commerce, Rotary clubs, and at churches. For the past seven years, she has helped Rachel Marshall oversee foster care initiatives at Discover Church, one of which is the successful I Love My Town Christmas, where hundreds of needed items are purchased for area foster children.

“The main obstacle to becoming licensed foster parents is ‘I’ll get too attached,’” pointed out Adams. “Yes, you get attached, but as adults, you can move past that. Yet, foster children have a harder time moving past not being loved and cared for. So, when you know you are making a difference in their lives, it helps with the emotions. But we know that not everyone is equipped to become foster parents, so there are organizations out there – like Together We Can – where people can donate financially or serve as volunteers.”

Adams explained that while Together We Can has just been launched, the effort will soon need volunteers who can teach life skills, write grants, mentor, plan fundraisers, and more. She will be a part of an event at Currahee Brewing in Franklin on May 2, Foster Care Awareness Day, that enables her to share information about Together We Can. Adams is also working with Foster Family Alliance of N.C., which serves an advisory role, to determine the best steps and direction to take “so that Together We Can will meet some of the foster care community’s needs.”

Adams can be reached by emailing: info@togetherwecan.xyz.



Mountain tradition of foxhunting topic of Swain historical meeting

Roy Burnette will be presenting “A Lost Mountain Tradition: Foxhunting” for the April 6 meeting of the Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society. The early settlers from the “old country” brought with them the sporting tradition of fox hunting. George Washington had foxhounds imported from England and he and others continued that tradition. Fox hunting was a sport for both hunters and spectators, with the thrill of the steeplechase being a popular participation event while others would find a location to listen to the hounds in the chase. Over the years, with the growth of second homes in the mountains, gated roads and communities, and aging hunters, the sport has faded from the mountains and is now rarely practiced. Burnette will be presenting the history of this sport and its practice in NC by recalling the names and stories of many well-known citizens who were avid fox hunters in this area.

Burnette, native of Swain County, grew up in the Brush Creek Community and graduated from Swain High. In 1969 he started work at WBHN radio station in Bryson City and then joined the Marine Corps that same year. While in service, he spent time with the American Forces Vietnam Network. After the military, he returned to Western North Carolina and continued to work in radio. After spending a decade teaching at Southwestern Community College, the Cherokee Central Schools Exceptional Children’s program, and Disability Partners Homecare Program, the Burnette family bought WRGC in 2012 and WBHN in 2016 and combined both stations into one facility in Sylva. Roy and his wife Janice reside in Dillsboro.

The meeting is April 6, at 6:30 p.m., at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center, 45 East Ridge Drive, Bryson City. East Ridge Dr. is a right turn off Buckner Branch Road which is west of Ingles. Free and open to the public.

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Franklin Panther athletes busy with multiple spring sports

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

With six different sports, plus both junior and varsity teams for some of them, springtime finds Franklin High School student athletes competing all around western North Carolina.

During warmups before his game March 27 versus the North Henderson Lady Knights, Franklin High School (FHS) varsity women's soccer coach Dwight Young observed a shot-on-goal bounce off the top crossbar.

"That is more or less how our season has gone so far," he said.

His Lady Panthers were defeated by their North Henderson (NH) counterparts, 5-1, March 27 at the Panther Pit. Seniors Jasmin Valencia (forward) and Stephanie Ortiz-Ruiz (defender) combined on the one FHS goal, with Valencia getting the score and Ortiz the assist. Freshman goalkeeper Carramia Anthony-Ramos was named Player of the Game due to her prowess in stopping many shots-on-goal delivered by the Lady Knights. NH spent the better part of both halves on the Panther side of the field and as such had many scoring opportunities.

Young, who hails from Hayesville, began coaching soccer at the Macon County Middle (MMS) school back in 2011. He started as an assistant coach with the varsity boys team in 2016 and this is now his fifth year leading the Lady Panthers. After he spent two years in that position, the head coach stepped down but Young said the timing wasn't right for him to step up.

"The Lord spoke and I took the girls program ... and it's been the best blessing ever."

Young also mentioned that a junior varsity (JV) team was started up (again) five years ago and it has been a growing process.

"There's no travel team for them, but you need a JV team if only to get game minutes in." He also admitted, regarding his varsity team, "We're really good, we just been unfortunate. We'll take 30 shots on goal and score one. But my job is easy because we have great girls, so regardless we're building great people in the community."

Young repeated a theme heard often from FHS coaches, who all appear to keep priorities in order. Essentially, winning can be fun but it isn't everything.

FHS tied its home game March 24 against Cashiers-based Blue Ridge Early College, 1-1. In that game, sophomore wing Lillian Holt achieved best player honors with one steal and three shots taken. FHS' record now stands at 2-5-2 overall and 1-3 in the Mountain West conference. Due to rainy weather and its effect on field conditions, the varsity soccer match between Pisgah and Franklin was moved from Franklin High School (FHS) to Pisgah on March 22. There, the Lady Panthers lost their third game in a row.

All remaining home games this season will be played at the Panther Pit (football field), located on campus at the high school due to drainage and water retention issues at the



FHS Senior Madalynn Brannon kicks off in a game vs. North Henderson March 27.

MMS field.

Golf Team begins three-match Conference Tournament

The golf team participated in two matches the past week – Sky Valley on Thursday, March 23, in a match against Smoky Mountain, Pisgah, and Tuscola golfers, and Monday, March 27, at Etowah for the first of three 18-hole rounds that make up the Mountain Seven conference tournament.

At Sky Valley, Coach Ryan Raby lauded freshman Tanner Jones who, "put together a second straight solid round shooting a 82. This was the best score of our team. And the fourth best score of the match." As a team, the Panthers tied Tuscola with a 359 which sandwiched both teams between Pisgah in first with a 324 and Smoky Mountain in last with a 364. Besides Jones, the other three golfers shot an 87 (junior Ashton Shope), a 91 (sophomore Mac McClure), and a 99 (senior Owen Jenkins).

For the first tournament match at Etowah Valley, the Panthers settled for a second place finish. "Our kids had a really strong showing ... freshman Tanner Jones and junior Ashton Shope ended the day three and five strokes respectively, out of first place [behind Pisgah]," said Raby.

FHS will be on spring break next week and Haywood County schools will be on spring break the following week. The tournament will resume in just over three weeks with the second round on Tuesday, April 18, at Sky Valley.

Track and Field continues solid season

Coaches Matt Harlfinger and Melissa Ward's student athletes were at it again March 24, this time at a meet hosted by Swain County in Cullowhee at the Western Carolina University track. The FHS girls took first and the boys placed second overall behind Christ

School, from Asheville. Harlfinger offered, "We actually had a few of the top athletes in the country at this meet. Swain did an awesome job hosting ... proud of our kids!"

Individually, sophomore Laura Covarrubias set a FHS record with a 17' 8" long jump and finished second behind Robbinsville's Zoie Shuler. Fellow sophomore, Charley Seagle took third in the girls' discus, with junior Claire Ballard finishing fourth. Seagle also finished second in the shot put with a 34' 10" throw. In the girls' triple jump, sophomore Addison Coker had a 33' 9" to finish one place behind winner Shuler. Coker also came in third for the long jump, with Shuler again winning, and teammate Covarrubias placing second. Covarrubias won the 200m race over Shuler and finished second in the girls' 100m. Senior Elijah Roots won the same boys' race with a 23.26 time and junior Barrett Stork placed third in the 3200m, as did freshman Abigail Pope for the women.

Sophomore Boston Stringer placed second in the girls' pole vault with a 10' 0" jump while senior Blake Cassada paced the FHS boys in third place for the same event with a 13' 0". In the 300 meter (m) hurdles, junior Elijah Cochran won over 25 participants, then finished just behind Robbinsville's Brock Adams for second place in the 110m hurdles, and also finished third in the boys' 100m. Junior Logan Russo placed third in the 800m.

In the team events, Franklin won the girls

mostly foreign players from Germany and South/Central America so we knew this would be an uphill battle. Overall, our guys played well as there were long rallies and several deuces and [situations] in our favor which we didn't take advantage of. Today, the RG players moved us around the court better and were a bit more consistent than we were. Hopefully we can learn from this match going forward."

On March 21, the Panthers took a 7-2 loss against West Henderson (WH), last year's champions, for their first loss in the Mountain West. In singles play, #1 Jack Sgro lost 1-6, 1-6, while second seeded Mica Jacobs also lost, 1-6, 2-6. #3 Gavin Rinker won, 7-5, 4-6 (10-8), and fourth seeded Orrin Mynes also won, 6-0, 6-2, while both Will Sinclair and Eli Adams lost their singles matches as well. All three doubles teams were defeated by their Falcon counterparts.

Gunter kept the tough match in perspective. "Playing last year's conference champion we knew this was going to be a battle. Even though the scores [for the two top FHS players] weren't close, the action at times was good against the top two players in the conference."

For his match, Rinker played a long first set before prevailing 7-5, then lost the second set. The two hour, 15 minute marathon ended with an extremely close tie break, 10-



FHS' Laura Covarrubias sets a new school record in the Long Jump.

4x400m and 4x200m relays, placed second behind Pisgah in the 4x100m relay. The boys won their 4x400m relay. For team scores, the girls tallied 134 ahead of Swain County's 127.5. The boys scored 117.83 behind Christ School's 135.33. The next meet will be held at Rabun Gap Thursday, April 13.

Men's Tennis hits rough stretch

FHS tennis was at Rabun Gap (RG) for a match Tuesday, March 27, where they lost 1-8 to the Eagles.

"Even though the score looks lopsided, the match took four hours to complete," Coach Sammy Gunter observed. "RG's lineup features

8.

Gunter added, "In doubles we played adequately in spurts but basically got waxed by WH solid approach shots, volleys, and overheads. This was the biggest disappointment as I thought we had improved in practice to fend off these tactics."

The coach also stated that the team needs to be more aggressive and comfortable at the net to be successful for the rest of the season because as it progresses, all the teams will have improved skill. "I'm glad we are in second place and hopefully will stay there until we get another shot at West," concluded Gunter.

Powder Puff game benefits REACH

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

Franklin High School’s (FHS) Interact Club has put on a “Powder Puff” football game the past six or seven years. This year’s game occurred last Thursday, March 23, with many in the community cheering on the teams.

The main purpose of the powder puff games is fund raising. This year, the school’s female athletes chose a local nonprofit organization, REACH of Macon County. REACH has a shelter in Franklin and focuses on providing resources for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. REACH also seeks to bring awareness to these crimes and offers ways to reduce such incidents through intervention and education.

REACH is the recipient of fund raisers throughout the year, but last Christmas extremely cold weather caused facility pipes to burst and flooding occurred, requiring repairs to fix the unforeseen and unbudgeted damage.

REACH provides an educational unit as part of FHS’s health course classes. That relationship resulted in FHS girls being given opportunities to create informative billboard material. Their work can be seen in three locations around Macon County.

As for the football game, fellow male FHS athletes handled the coaching chores leading up to and throughout the game. Typically, the girls provide coaching for the boys when they play powder puff volleyball games; however, volleyball did not occur this year due to the school’s net system being in a precarious state. A new volleyball apparatus will cost around \$10,000. Basketball and volleyball coach Bekah Brooks explained before the game.

“Usually this (the football game) is held in November and the boys do a volleyball game around this time. The kids love it because it

brings the school together, they get to tailgate, they get to eat, ... they practice on Sundays for about four weeks to get ready for the game,” she said.

While the name “powder puff” may insinuate non-competitiveness, the four freshmen-through-senior squads participating were playing to win and for bragging rights. From the moment FHS marching band member Kadence Watford finished a rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner,” and FHS coaches



FHS coaches Jay (L) and Josh Brooks performed referee duties for Thursday’s annual Powder Puff game.

(and brothers) Josh and Jay Brooks took the field for referee duties, the games took on an air of both fun and competition.

In the first matchup, the freshmen girls won out over the seniors. In the second round, the sophomores bested the juniors. And, for the final round, the sophomores beat the freshmen girls for the title of 2023 Powder Puff football champs.

The game was well attended by around 200 people and included concessions that provided additional monies, along with entrance fees, to be donated to REACH.



Freshman Kendall Rumans scores a touchdown in Powder Puff flag football game.

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Panthers baseball, softball near mid season

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

The Franklin High School (FHS) baseball Panthers were at Waynesville March 28 to face the Tuscola Mountaineers. The varsity men were defeated 8-4 in a game that saw FHS take a three-run lead into the fourth inning, only to have the Mountaineers score five in the bottom of the frame. In the top of the fifth the Panthers answered back with a run to get within one but again Tuscola increased its lead with two runs in the bottom half of the inning. FHS will have a chance for redemption Friday, March 31, as Tuscola comes to Franklin for games against both junior and varsity Panther squads.

Last week, both squads fell to the East Henderson Eagles on the road at East Flat Rock March 21. The varsity men lost their Mountain Seven conference opener 0-7, while the junior varsity (JV) boys were defeated 12-2. In the rematch games played March 24 at the Macon County Middle School field, the JV again came up short in a 12-5 loss. Freshman Caden Phillips pitched 2.2 innings before being relieved by Brock Bradley, who was then relieved by Andrew Vinson. After falling behind 7-1, the JV Panthers staged a third inning comeback to draw within two runs. But Eagle bats and the clock (one hour time limit) both ended the game in the fourth inning.

On the varsity side, FHS avenged their recent shutout loss against the Eagles with a 3-0 shutout of their own. Junior Josiah Hursey pitched a complete game, four-hit shutout, getting five strikeouts in the process. The Panthers only managed three hits of their own. Senior Davis Anders drove one run in with a double. Junior Malachai Hayes also drove in a run with a hit and Tyler Williams scored the other run.

The varsity Lady Panthers won their fifth game in a row at Smoky Mountain on March 28, 10-0. Junior Meyaeh Tran pitched a five-inning shutout with two strikeouts (K). On the offense side, junior Avery Moffitt and senior Tori Ensley each drove in three runs, with Ensley doing so by way of two home runs. This win followed a 7-3 triumph over Murphy the previous evening, where freshman Kendall Rumans was the star. Rumans pitched a complete game seven innings, with six hits and three runs allowed to go along with five Ks. She also went 3-4 at the plate with two runs batted in.

The two victories bring FHS' record to 9-3 (4-1). Earlier they won their third conference game at home on March 24 over the visiting North Henderson Lady Knights, 9-1. In that game Rumans had a home run and Tran again went the distance from the mound, with 10 hits allowed, but just the one run to go along with two Ks. That win followed a victory over the Pisgah Sugar Bears by the same score on March 21, where the Lady Panthers celebrated the win and then gathered on the field after the game to sing "Happy Birthday" for their coach, Bobby Bishop. The varsity women are now 7-3 overall on the season

as they won earlier in the week, 7-2 over the Lady Eagles at Hiwassee Dam Monday, March 20. The team did lose its conference opener March 15, 0-5 at Tuscola where the JV team also was defeated 17-1.

The next contest on the schedule is home against West Henderson Friday, March 31.

Abby Carpenter undergoes shoulder surgery

Somewhere near the end of her stellar wrestling season and career at FHS, Abby Carpenter realized she had injured her shoulder. Being the competitor that the Bluefield State University (BSU)-bound student athlete is, she kept wrestling. Once the season was over, it was learned that she had a "9-to-2" tear in her labrum and a partial tear in her bicep tendon. So, what did the multi-sport senior do while waiting for surgery? She logged three games with the varsity softball team, batting at an .857 clip, with six hits - 2 doubles and a triple - along with two runs batted in.

However, in spite of her love for the game, Carpenter did have surgery in mid-March.

"Now I'm going to shut [softball] down and I'll probably just be getting back on the mat [after rehab]," she said. "In my last at bat at East (Henderson, March 10) it felt like my shoulder fell out." Carpenter added that she assumed the surgery would end her softball season, and of course, her career at FHS, so it was gratifying to at least be with the team and get a few games



FHS freshman Caden Phillips delivers a pitch against East Henderson March 24.



Tessa DeHart hits a double in a game with North Henderson March 24.

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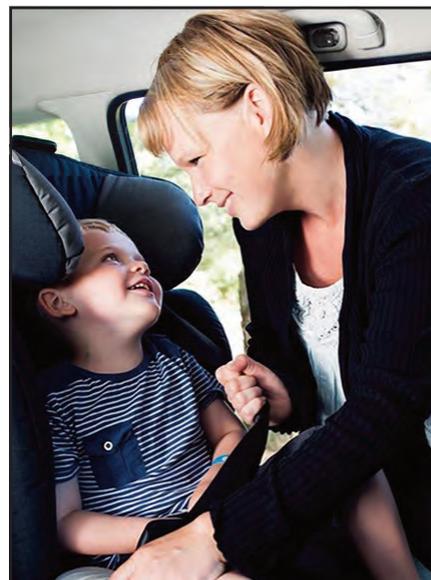
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HEALTH

Connecting with others important aspect of self care

**Clint Kendall –
Angel Medical Center
CEO/CNO**



Clint Kendall

Now that winter is all but behind us, the reward is that we will get to see the beauty of spring, which is already popping up around us. March can be a difficult month for me, since it often feels like I'm running low on willpower, after that exciting period during the New Year when I enthusiastically set my goals. I hope you feel encouraged by these columns, to stay on course with your health, wellness, and financial resolutions. If we cheer each other on, I think we have a greater chance of long-term success.

I've touched on self-care and the importance of it for our physical and mental health in several of these columns, and many things come under the heading of self-care. These include eating right and exercising, adopting healthy habits and losing unhealthy ones, like smoking. One aspect of self-care we haven't talked a lot about is how connection with others supports our good health.

Having frequent contact with others is healthy — whether this is our family, friends, or even beloved pets. It's not only important that we have daily contact with others — through work, school, getting together with a group of friends, or visiting the dog park — it also opens up our life to new people and experiences, another positive. There are some ways to make your life richer by connecting with others that you may not have thought about before. These include giving your time and energy as a volunteer to a deserving local organization, like your child's school, animal rescue, or any cause you believe in, and even Angel Medical Center. Our volunteers help with everything from patient assistance and office tasks to pet therapy and special event planning and facilitation. If interested, call (828)524-8411 and ask for Rick VanGilder.

Another way to interact with others in a healthy way is to seek fellowship if you are struggling with an issue, such as alcohol or drug dependence, from a support group like Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous. There are many more, including groups centered on cancer support, grief, and others, depending on what type of support you are seeking. Joining a group that's focused on one of your interests can be good too, like a local gardening club or a sports club. Connecting can happen easily if you take an adult education class as well.

From a therapeutic perspective, establishing a relationship with a therapist or psychologist can do a lot of good if you find yourself struggling with emotional issues. No matter how you choose to connect, make sure you do, since loneliness and isolation has been proven to be detrimental to your health.

On a different note, please join me in welcoming our newest physicians to the Franklin community. Cardiologist Dr. Scott Westermeyer, who is board-certified in cardiovascular disease. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Westermeyer, contact Asheville Cardiology Associates – Franklin at (828)349-6611. Dr. Samantha Brothers, a family medicine physician who is passionate about caring for the whole family at every stage of life, including newborns. She is also able to care for women and their gynecological care. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Brothers at Mission Health Center

Franklin, call (828)349-6800. Dr. Mark Moriarty, Orthopedic Surgeon, who has a specialty in sports medicine and adult reconstructive surgery. He also manages a wide variety of orthopedic trauma that is seen in Macon County. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Moriarty, please call Mission Orthopedics and Sports Medicine – Franklin at 828-349-8260.

During March we also recognize physicians on National Doctors Day, which is Thursday, March 30, this year. It's a good opportunity to say "thank you" to physicians for all they do, and specifically to those who call Macon County home and make our community healthier. Our community is growing by the day because people feel confident that if they come here to live, they will have access to excellent doctors. We still have a need for more physicians to join our community, however, and seeking your care close to home is one powerful way to grow local healthcare.

Another celebration that dovetails nicely with National Doctor's Day is Patient Safety Awareness Week, which was March 13-19. This is a time when we also acknowledge who we are as a hospital and as such, are focused on caring for this community, where you need it and when you need it. This means that we provide care and services that keep you healthy, ensure your care is local, and if necessary, we are ready to give you lifesaving and life-sustaining care as well.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and a time when we talk about the importance of the screening colonoscopy procedure. It is one of the most important health screenings you can receive. This is because if this cancer is detected early, it is highly treatable and curable, and colonoscopy is what enables early detection. And I realize that the "prep" for colonoscopy — drinking a solution that causes you to eliminate everything in your colon — is about as much fun as mucking a horse stall in the summer, but it's well worth it, because stopping the spread of cancer is critical. Starting at age 45 and every 10 years or as advised by your provider, you should have a colonoscopy. If they state that you need one more often, do not be alarmed, simply discuss the reasons with your provider. It's best to be informed and empowered as a patient.

Stop and tell our doctor "thank you" for their care this month, and for choosing to practice in our great community. I also salute our dedicated medical staff here at Angel for serving the Franklin community. We are well cared for, thanks to them.

Clint Kendall, FACHE, MBA, MSN, BSN, RN, is Chief Executive Officer/Chief Nursing Officer of Angel Medical Center.

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The Legislative Review

Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

In this week's edition of The Legislative Review, two of my primary sponsored bills pass the House and the first draft of the state budget proposal nears completion.

For the legislative week beginning Monday, March 13, 2023, a no-vote session was held on Monday afternoon. Tuesday morning, the AgNER Chairs presented their area budget proposal to the full Appropriations Chairs.

Additionally, my bill, HB133, Graham County Occupancy Tax was heard and passed two committees that morning. It was sent to the House Rules Committee later in the afternoon and received a favorable report.

Rep. Terry Brown and I met with a group of farmers from Carolina Farm Trust where we discussed how the state legislature can support urban farmers across the state.

During the afternoon I traveled to the Highway Patrol Driving Track, where my colleagues and I met with NCDPS and Highway Patrol and viewed the High Speed and Use of Force Scenario, followed by a high-speed pursuit display with Aviation Unit assistance terminated by precision immobilization technique. This was a great first-hand opportunity to see what our troopers do and understand the challenges they face on a daily basis. Later that afternoon I held a meeting with the nonprofit Golden LEAF Foundation. Tuesday's House session was administrative and no votes were held.

Wednesday morning I attended a mandatory ethics training for all returning members. Thereafter I met with individuals from the NC Forestry Association and also discussed storm resiliency matters with an advocacy group. After meeting with NCDPS to discuss a local issue, I attended the House Agriculture Committee where we heard two bills: HB341, TS Fred Unexpended Funds/Wildfires, which passed committee, and HB327, Clarify Animal Welfare Statutes, which was withdrawn from committee with the intent for the bill to be heard at a later date.

My colleagues and I attended a caucus at 2 p.m., and headed to the House chamber for a voting session at 3 p.m. We voted on more than 20 bills, including:

– HB130, Preserving Choices for Consumers, would limit cities and counties from prohibiting consumer choice of energy service based upon the type or source of



Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

See GILLESPIE on page 11

Facing the ravages of addiction in North Carolina

Erik Mendez, MPA – Guest Columnist

The opioid epidemic has ravaged communities across the United States, leaving a trail of broken families, shattered dreams, and untold suffering in its wake. How did we get here? How did a nation that prides itself on its ingenuity, resilience, and compassion become so deeply addicted to a class of drugs that has caused so much harm? The answers to these questions are nuanced, multifaceted, and often too painful to confront, but one thing is clear: We must confront the root causes of this epidemic if we are to overcome it.

At the heart of the opioid crisis lies a perfect storm of factors: a profit-driven pharmaceutical industry, a medical establishment that prioritized pain relief over patient safety, and a culture that fetishized individual autonomy and self-medication. The result was a flood of prescription opioids that flooded the market in the late 1990s and early 2000s, fueling an addiction crisis that has claimed tens of thousands of lives every year.

North Carolina has sadly been adversely struck by the opioid epidemic, with 13,000 deaths related to opioid overdoses in the state since 1999. In 2022, North Carolina had record highs in opioid overdose hospitalizations and deaths. According to early numbers from the North Carolina Medical Examiner's office, 4,243 suspected overdose deaths were documented.

In the same year, the state reported 9,243 opioid overdose emergency department visits. This is nearly 12 deaths per day and over 25 emergency department visits every single day.

The roots of North Carolina's opioid addiction crisis can be traced back to the late 1990s, when the potent opioid painkiller OxyContin was being aggressively marketed as a safe and effective treatment for chronic pain. Eventually, the drug would become licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and as a result, the number of opioid prescriptions in the state skyrocketed. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, North Carolina providers wrote 61.5 opioid prescriptions for every 100 persons compared to the national average of 51.4 prescriptions. Ranking the state as the 12th highest opioid prescribing rate in the country in 2018, as reported by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

But these drugs, as we have become so blatantly aware, were not as safe as advertised. As addiction rates soared, many people began turning to cheaper, more potent opioids like heroin and fentanyl, leading to a surge in overdose deaths. In 2019 alone, North Carolina a total of 2,352 North Carolinians die from overdoses. That number increased by almost 1,000 deaths over the following year, to a total of 3,304 deaths recorded in 2020.

The epidemic has hit North Carolina's rural communities particularly hard. For many, Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) is seen as a personal failing, rather than a disease that requires treatment. Stigma surrounding OUD has led to a lack of access to addiction treatment and prevention services. But despite the

severity of the crisis, progress has been slow. Stigma, lack of funding, and a lack of political will have all contributed to a situation where too many are still struggling with OUD.

But tackling stigma is not easy. It requires a multifaceted approach that involves expanding access to addiction treatment and prevention services, challenging negative attitudes towards OUD, and promoting empathy and understanding towards those struggling with OUD. This means expanding education and awareness campaigns that help to break down the stigma surrounding addiction, increasing funding for addiction treatment and prevention programs like naloxone distribution, and supporting community-based initiatives that promote recovery and healing. We need a comprehensive approach that tackles the root causes of addiction and holds pharmaceutical companies accountable for their role in creating this crisis, this also includes cracking down on overprescribing and illegal drug trafficking.

However, there is hope on the horizon in the form of the National Opioid Settlement (NOS), which aims to provide much-needed resources and support to communities affected by the epidemic. The NOS is a \$26 billion agreement between states, cities, and counties and three major pharmaceutical distributors - McKesson, AmerisourceBergen, and Cardinal Health - as well as Johnson & Johnson. The settlement funds will be used to support addiction treatment and prevention efforts, as well as to fund research into pain management alternatives to opioids. In North Carolina, the state will receive over \$750 million over the next 18 years to combat the opioid epidemic.

According to a report from the CDC, rural communities in North Carolina have higher rates of opioid prescribing and overdose deaths than urban areas. One of the primary ways that the NOS hopes to help North Carolina is by providing resources to rural communities that have been disproportionately affected by the opioid epidemic. The settlement funds will be used to expand access to addiction treatment and prevention services in these communities, as well as to provide funding for research into effective strategies for addressing the opioid epidemic in rural communities.

The opioid epidemic is a complex and convoluted crisis, but it is also an opportunity for North Carolina to come together as a state and confront this challenge head-on. While the NOS represents a significant step forward in the fight against the opioid epidemic in North Carolina, there is still much work to be done. We must continue to advocate for policies that prioritize addiction treatment and prevention, and we must continue work to reduce the overprescribing of opioids that has contributed to the crisis. It will take a collective effort from all of us to overcome this crisis, but I am hopeful that we can succeed. With the right resources, support, and determination, we can ensure that North Carolina becomes a place where all individuals and families can thrive, free from the harms of opioid addiction.

Franklin native Erick Mendez is a strategic project coordinator with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

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GILLESPIE

Continued from
page 10

energy to be delivered. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 77-37.

– HB133, Graham County Occupancy Tax, would create Graham County as district G and would authorize the levy of an occupancy tax in the district. I am the primary sponsor of this bill and it passed, 111-5.

– HB258, Novel Opioid Control Act of 2023, would update the state controlled substances act. The bill passed unanimously, 112-0.

Closing out the legislative week, Joint Appropriations met Thursday morning to receive a presentation on the Governor's recommended budget. Thereafter, I presented my bill, HB97, In-State Tuition Pilot Program, and it passed the House Education-Community Colleges Committee. No votes were held during Thursday's House session.

For the legislative week beginning March 20, 2023, the House held a no-vote session Monday afternoon.

On Tuesday, I met with the AgNER Chairs and Wildlife Resources to discuss budget requests. After a brief meeting with NCDPS to discuss a road safety issue in my district, I had the pleasure of meeting with a Clerk of Superior Court from my district. Clerks and district attorneys from across the state traveled to Raleigh for a conference and many took the time to visit their legislators at the General Assembly.

At 4:30 p.m., the House Rules Committee convened and heard my bill, (HB97, In-State Tuition Pilot Program) and it passed the committee. Rules is the final committee stop for all bills in the House, and it was then calendared to be heard on the House floor.

Tuesday's session was administrative; with no voting.

On Wednesday, I met with various groups, from NCCAT to Blue Ridge National Heritage Area and Haywood EMC. After an afternoon caucus with my colleagues, House session convened where we considered 20 bills, including:

– HB96, NC REACH Act, would require at least three credit hours of instruction in American history or American government in order to graduate from a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina with a baccalaureate degree or a community college with an associate degree. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 69-47.

– HB97, In-State Tuition Pilot Program, would authorize the state board of community colleges to implement an in-state tuition pilot program for residents of certain Georgia counties. I am the primary sponsor of this bill and it passed by unanimous consent.

– HB187, Equality in Education, would demonstrate the General Assembly's intent that students, teachers, administrators, and other school employees recognize the equality and rights of all persons and to prohibit public school units from promoting certain concepts that are contrary to that intent. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 68-49.

On Thursday, House session convened at 10 a.m., and we voted on various bills, including:

– HB76, Access to Healthcare Options, would provide North Carolina citizens with greater access to healthcare options. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 87-24.

– HB77, Drivers License Designation/Autism, would direct the Division of Motor Vehicles to develop a designation for drivers licenses that may be granted upon request to a person with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The bill passed by unanimous vote, 111-0.

– HB288, Remove Fee/Fire Dept. & Rescue Squad Plate, would remove the additional fee for a fire department or rescue squad member special registration plate. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 110-1.

Governor Cooper lets two bills become law

Two bills are becoming law without Gov. Cooper's signature. The anti-rioting bill has bipartisan support and House

Speaker Moore says "our communities will be safer now that this bill will finally become law." Likewise, widely supported, the hotel safety bill should create a safer environment for guests and hotel owners.

Recently co-sponsored bills

From 3/13-3/24, I sponsored the following bills:

– HB320, Create Bldg. Code Permit Tech. Cert., would create a state building code permit technician certification.

– HB322, Tri-Share Child Care Pilot Funds, would establish a tri-share childcare pilot program to increase access to high-quality, affordable childcare and to appropriate funds for that purpose.

– HB326, NC Time Zone/Observe DST All Year, would designate the time zone of North Carolina and to adopt daylight saving time year-round if authorized by Congress.

– HB336, Healthy Students - A Nurse in Every School, would require at least one school nurse in every school in a public-school unit beginning in the 2023-2024 school year and to appropriate additional funds to meet that requirement.

– HB337, 2023 Appropriations Act, would make base budget appropriations for current operations of state agencies, departments, and institutions.

– HB338, Lifetime Concealed Handgun Permit, would allow the issuance of lifetime concealed handgun permits.

– HB341, TS Fred Unexpended Funds/Wildfires, would allow unencumbered funds for tropical storm Fred to be used by the department of agriculture and consumer services for wildfire damage recovery, relief, and planning.

– HB346, Reorganization & Economic Development Act, would establish a procedure for a hospital service corporation to reorganize by creating a nonprofit holding corporation.

– HB347, Sports Wagering, would authorize and regulate sports wagering on professional and college sports in North Carolina.

– HB349, Firefighter PFAS Management/Research, would appropriate funds to address and minimize exposure of firefighters to PFAs [per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances] in fire-fighting foam.

– HB350, Western Carolina University Engineering Funds, would appropriate funds for the college of engineering and technology at Western Carolina University.

– HB359, Require Passen. to Give Driv. Info to Law Enf., would require a passenger of a vehicle in an accident to provide driver information to law enforcement.

– HB361, Require Report/Protection & Advocacy Agency, would require the protection and advocacy agency for North Carolina to report its actions regarding its impact on persons with disabilities.

– HB376, Little Federal Model NC Edition, would amend the North Carolina Constitution to provide that each senator represents two counties, to permit the General Assembly to revise the Senate districts from time to time, and to require that the state is composed of one hundred counties.

– HB402, Motor Vehicle Insurance Reform, would make various changes to the motor vehicle insurance and service of process laws of North Carolina.

– HB414, Broadband Speed Standardization, would conform the state public utility standard for broadband speed to the Federal Communications Commission's broadband speed benchmark.

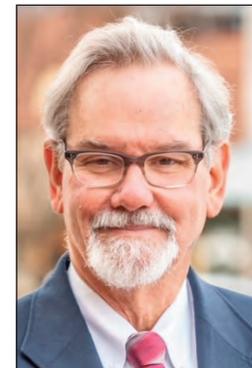
– HB426, Revise Aquaculture General Permit, would direct the Environmental Management Commission to withdraw the 2021 NPDES general permit for aquaculture and revise it to be substantively identical to the previous general permit.

Let us know what you think

Concerned about a particular issue? Contact us and we will assist you in any way we can. E-mail: Andrew.Bailey@ncleg.gov or telephone: 919-733-5859

What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Since the recent Duke Energy power outage shut down the Highlands grid, I have had a number of suggestions and questions about the issue. Let me respond to several of these items as best I can.

Since the outage, our town manager, public works director, and I have reviewed many power-related issues with a Duke Energy representative. In fact, we routinely converse with Duke Energy concerning operations and the administration of our wholesale contract with them.

Some folks continue to ask why the town does not restart operations of our generating plant that was built in 1929. In the coming weeks, I will address this question in more detail on my website, AskmayorPat.com, but for now, let me give you a few high points of that matter.

The original power building and equipment are in shambles and are now the property of the U.S. Forest Service. It would take years of studies and permitting to reinstate the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license and millions of dollars to build a new system. In terms of output, the best the original power plant could do was to generate 1 megawatt at maximum efficiency. Our town engineer estimates a new hydro plant, using the same water system to generate about 1 megawatt, would provide electricity to power the downtown street lights and maybe a little more.

Currently, we are using 10 megawatts in town on light-demand days, and on high-demand periods almost 15 megawatts can be used. With the trends toward electric heat and cars, the demand will continue to expand.

The national trend is to move away from using hydro generation and to complicate matters, every environmental organization in WNC would challenge a new hydro project as a green energy initiative. So would I.

As for Duke Energy, there will continue to be isolated periods when their power grid is down. As a wholesale customer, Highlands has a power loss when Duke does. Some people have said we need an additional transmission line from another source to guarantee power to Highlands. That would cost millions of dollars to build, and you can surely imagine any new transmission right-of-way would face tremendous resistance from residents near its path. As an example, just look at the tall, brown metal utility poles Duke Energy has on US 64 coming in from Cashiers. It was a major construction project for Duke Energy to install those supply lines.

Another option would be to use solar energy as either an alternative to the current system, or as a way of reducing peak demands, or as a backup in the case of town power loss. In optimal conditions – and the Highlands topography is not optimal – it takes 10 acres of solar panels to generate one megawatt of power. To fully power our grid with the present technology, it would take about 100 to 150 acres of solar arrays. To support the solar grid, the town would also need to have a battery storage system, another costly investment. These options could be explored, and the first step would be to find the 100 acres or so of south-facing land for the solar field. It might be in the future that Highlands can design and finance such a system.

First Baptist ministering to AT hikers

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

Bryant Mutual Burial Association, INC. Franklin, NC

RECEIPTS	
Assessments Collected	\$1,460.80
Total Interest Earned.....	-0-
Other.....	-0-
Total Receipts	\$1,460.80
DISBURSEMENTS	
Salaries.....	-0-
Collection Commissions.....	-0-
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	\$700.10
Total (not to exceed 30% of amounts of 1 & 4)	-0-
Membership Fees Paid Agents	-0-
Refunds.....	\$12.10
Death Benefits Paid @\$50.....	-0-
Death Benefits Paid @\$100.....	\$600.00
Death Benefits Paid @200.....	\$6,800.00
Total	\$8,112.20
ASSETS	
Cash on Hand	\$2,695.74
Investment Account - Lincoln Financial Securities	
Account AAU-041745.....	\$170,958.00
Total	\$173,653.74
LIABILITIES	
Death Benefits Unpaid	-0-
Other Unpaid Expenses.....	-0-
Total Payables.....	-0-
Reserve : 915 Members x \$21 (Members in good standing at close of books).....	\$19,215.00
Total	\$19,215.00

Note: The data reported herein represents the total cash assets and liabilities of the Mutual Burial Association. The Association is subject to complete financial review during routine on-site examination by Board Staff.

OFFICERS: Nicholas E. Page, President • Jack J. Dendy, Vice-President
 Guy E. Grant, Secretary-Treasurer

DIRECTORS: Ashley Grant Virga, Edwin Grant, Dale Roper



First Baptist Church of Franklin has been serving breakfast to hikers for many years. Church member volunteers cook the pancakes, make the coffee and offer up encouragement to hikers passing through on their way to Mt. Katahdin, the terminus of the Appalachian Trail. Franklin one of the first major stops for thru hikers to rest and restock as it is situated at the 110-mile mark of the AT. Not only does FBC offer a hot breakfast, volunteers also offer post cards to send home, hiker survival kits, information and fellowship. Hikers sign the Class of 2023 autograph wall before heading back on the trail.



Photos by Vickie Carpenter



Community First Bank opens new office in Franklin

Community First Bank announces the recent opening of a new office in Franklin. From its earliest opening in the Upstate of South Carolina more than 32 years ago, Community First Bank has committed itself to being an integral part of the communities we serve. Community First Bank is located at 143 Porter Street, Franklin.

The event was celebrated with the Franklin Chamber of Commerce staff and Chamber Board members, customers, and bank staff in attendance.

Community First Bank's motto is "We Know What Matters" and this is something the staff and management live by when managing the business dealings of its customers. This is also on display with the hiring of an outstanding local team of professional Community Bankers including, Senior Vice President and Commercial Team Leader for Western NC and East Tennessee, Joshua Brant; Branch Manager Heather McDonald; and Senior Customer Specialist, Betty Jo Tilson. Reach the Franklin branch by calling 828-220-4336.

The team of Community Bankers will provide the Franklin and surrounding areas of Western North Carolina with competitive deposit, mortgage, and small business products.

President and CEO, Richard D. Burseson stated, "It is an honor and a privilege to become a part of the Franklin Community. We look forward to earning the trust and business of the community and to being good stewards of this amazing community. We believe our brand of Community Banking will be well received in this community. At Community First Bank we are committed to exemplary customer service in



Community First Bank is located at 143 Porter Street, Franklin.

every community we serve, and we offer competitive loan and deposit rates. Additionally, Community First has an excellent product offering for small business and commercial customers.

Community First Bank now has 12 full-service financial centers in North, South Carolina, and Tennessee, with two offices in Seneca, S.C., and single locations in Anderson, Greenville, Williamston, Walhalla and Westminster, South Carolina, Dallas, Charlotte, and Franklin, North Carolina, and Elizabethton and Johnson City, Tenn.

For additional information visit www.c1stbank.com.

New HR firm opens to serve business community

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony welcoming Extension HR [Human Resource] Services to the Franklin business community.

Owner Sheila Murray says, "At Extension HR, we know that a successful business depends on great employees who are talented and engaged. We partner with our clients to solve real business challenges. Our customers are typically small businesses with HR needs, or organizations with an HR Department that need additional resources. We provide a full suite of human resource services, from Talent Acquisition, HR Strategy, HR Compliance, Payroll Administration to Benefits Administration. We have 30 plus years experience in all areas of HR. Let us take care of your HR needs so you can remain focused on what matters most – building success with your customers and your special team. Call 252-626-8931 or email Sheila@extensionHRservices.com



Extension HR Services offers its expertise to local businesses in a wide variety of resources.

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For additional information, visit www.ExtensionHRservices.com.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

Potts Mutual Burial Association, INC. Franklin, NC

RECEIPTS	
Assessments Collected	\$428.80
Total Interest Earned - Lincoln Financial	-0-
Other	-0-
Total Receipts	\$428.80

DISBURSEMENTS	
Salaries.....	-0-
Collection Commissions	-0-
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	\$506.70
Total (not to exceed 30% of amounts of 1 & 4)	\$506.70
Membership Fees Paid Agents	-0-
Refunds.....	\$10.80
Death Benefits Paid @\$50	-0-
Death Benefits Paid @\$100	\$100.00
Death Benefits Paid @200	\$1,400.00
Total	\$2,017.50

ASSETS	
Cash on Hand	\$1,446.30
Investment Account - Lincoln Financial Securities	
Account AAU-041746	\$47,925.67
Total	\$49,371.97

LIABILITIES	
Death Benefits Unpaid	-0-
Other Unpaid Expenses	-0-
Total Payables	-0-
Reserve : 216 Members x \$21 (Members in good standing at close of books)	\$4,536.00
Total	\$4,536.00

Note: The data reported herein represents the total cash assets and liabilities of the Mutual Burial Association. The Association is subject to complete financial review during routine on-site examination by Board Staff.

OFFICERS: Kimberly Page, President
Kathy Rogers, Vice-President • Carolyn Young, Secretary-Treasurer
DIRECTORS: Turner Page, Linda McCall Garner,
Judy Keener, Carolyn Crisp

Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests March 20 - 26. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

March 20

James Edward Hughes III, 45, was charged with warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Tyler Garret Converse, 29, was charged with warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

March 21

Nathaniel Joshua Cabe, 39, was charged with parole violation. Tristan Howard made the arrest.

Kaz Ryan Heaton, 34, was charged with failure to appear and probation violation. Deputy Jacob P. Ledford made the arrest.

James Julius Sarvis, 29, was charged with assault on a female. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

Nicole Julian Wend, 40, was charged with domestic criminal trespass. Robert Young made the arrest.

March 22

Tyrice Rochard Hutchins, 44, was charged with trafficking in cocaine, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession of cocaine and possession of firearm by a convicted felon. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Joshua Curtis Kruger, 41, was charged with sex offender/child on premises and child support enforcement contempt. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

March 23

Michael J. Crews, 34, was charged with second degree trespass. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Brittany Gibson, 30, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Miguel Martinez Dominguez, 34, was charged with failure to appear for a misdemeanor. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Clarence James McCall, 30, was charged with probation violation, misdemeanor probation violation and child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Justin Dane Southard, 46, was charged with failure to appear. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

March 25

Matthew Scott Rodriguez, 27, was charged with assault on a female. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Courtney Leigh Shaffer, 23, was charged with assault and battery. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

March 26

Jose Delores Orozoco Zamora, 40, was charged with driving under the influence. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

March 21

Marissa Kristen Shook, 23, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay, possession of heroin and destroy evidence. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

March 22

Dominic Salvatori, 33, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay and possession of a firearm by a felon. Jonathan M. Lauffer made the arrest.

Michelle Nicholson, 30, was charged with larceny from a person. Kelly J. Fosler made the arrest.

March 23

Scott Earle Laflam, 60, was charged with obtain property by false pretense. Jonathan M. Lauffer made the arrest.

March 24

Lucas Cooper Knighten, 38, was charged with assault by pointing a gun at law enforcement officer, assault by pointing a gun, going armed to the terror of the public and resisting a public officer. L.C. Beegle made the arrest.

March 25

Walter James Thomason, 55, was charged with driving under the influence. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

March 20

Angelina Lynette Crews, 30, of Whittier, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Max Nathan Hurley, 21, of Whittier, was charged with simple affray. A secured bond of \$750 was set.

March 21

Nathan Luke Queen, 41, of Sylva, was charged with aggravated assault. No bond was set.

Quincy Watty, 47, of Whittier, was charged with drive/allow a motor vehicle with no registration, no liability insurance, driving while license revoked not impaired revoked, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana greater than 1/2 oz to 1 1/2 oz, simple possession of a schedule III controlled substance and simple possession of a schedule III controlled substance. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

March 22

Pedro Cruz Gomez, 46, of Sylva, was charged with family offenses nonviolent. A \$1,948 bond was set.

Hunter Lee Lewis, 26, of Sylva, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A \$10,000 bond was set.

Shira Lynn Littlejohn, 33, of Cullowhee, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Pedro Cruz Gomez, 46, of Sylva, was charged with civil contempt/non-support. A \$1,491 bond was set.

March 23

Ashley Savannah Frady, 36, of Cashiers, was charged with failure to appear for school attendance violation. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

James Alan Buchanan, 46, of Cullowhee, was charged with domestic violence protective violation. No bond was set.

Gregory Lillis Smith, 32, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Brandon Michael Ray Hill, 23, of Sylva, was charged with communicating threats and assault on a female. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Lucinda Faye Childers, 40, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 12 oz and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Ariella Jo Watty, 38, of Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Kristan Lea Blackfox, 30, of Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Charles Richard Osborne, 41, of Bryson City, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. No bond was set.

James Marcus George, 37, of Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. No bond was set.

Charles Michael Nash, 34, of Whittier, was charged with true bill of indictment and resist a public officer. No bond was set.

Norma Kay Driver, 48, of Whittier, was charged with traffic violations. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

March 24

Leslie Lee Taylor, 25, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for larceny of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Blaine Aaron Owen, 24, of Sylva, was charged with possession of stolen motor vehicle. No bond was set.

Adam Warren David Evitt, 34, of Cullowhee, was charged with family offenses non-violent. A \$2,000 bond was set.

Fancisco Chavez Sanchez, 30, of Cashiers, was charged with driving while impaired.

March 25

Charlene Anita McCoy, 52, of Cherokee, was charged with breaking or entering. No bond was set.

Jeremy Lee Griffin, 36, of Tuckasegee, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

March 26

Cathleen Marie Mettville, 53, of Sylva, was charged with communicating threats, simple assault and stalking. No bond was set.

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Edible flowers, deer resistant plants, and bear smart tips

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Local wildlife and gardening experts provide a glut of essential information via presentations, online resources, websites, and more.

Christine Bredenkamp, Macon County Extension director, Horticulture and Community Development, recently shared that edible flowers are possible to grow in Western North Carolina.

“Plants such as pansies and nasturtiums can be planted in the landscape along with other annuals and perennials,” she explained.

Additional plants with edible flowers include bachelor buttons, bee balm, calendula, chamomile, chicory, chrysanthemum, dandelion, daylily, dianthus, marigold, passionflower, sunflower, and more.

Besides providing nutrients, edible flowers enable home cooks to beautifully plate meals and add a sense of wonder and even whimsy to what might otherwise be a staid dish. Plus,

edible flowers can be consumed fresh, cooked, candied, dried, or preserved in oils or vinegars.

N.C. Extension’s publication, “Choosing and Using Edible Flowers,” does caution that consumers should make certain that a flower

is listed as safe to eat; that no flowers on a roadside should be eaten (due to possible contaminants); and, that flowers sprayed with any type of insecticide are to be avoided.

Gardening for Deer Resistance

Bredenkamp pointed out that while deer are “beautiful, graceful creatures,” their charm fades when they eat everything in a garden.

She noted, however, that gardening can be successful in deer habitats by planting deer-resistant vegetables and “giving some thought to the organization of your garden. It’s difficult to eliminate deer damage completely, since there are few vegetables that deer won’t eat if they’re hungry enough. But deer may find some plants unat-

tractive for a number of reasons.”

For example, if a plant has a strong flavor, is prickly, or gives off an aroma deer find unappealing, a garden may be safe. Also, if the plants are difficult to eat, deer will most likely not put forth the effort. Root vegetables are mostly safe, for instance, because deer are not well-equipped for digging up roots. Thus, carrots, potatoes, radishes, and rutabagas, to name a few, are primarily not susceptible to deer damage. What deer might do, however, is munch on the new and tender above-ground foliage of root vegetable plants.

Anything in the allium category of vegetables, including onions, leeks, chives, garlic, and shallots, are pungent and a deterrent to deer, as are the nightshades: tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers. Plus, they mostly shy from prickly varieties, such as cucumbers, summer and winter squashes, melons, and artichokes. Asparagus and rhubarb are not only unappetizing to deer, but rhubarb is toxic to them.

Finally, a great many herbs are deer resistant, due to strong flavors. Common herbs are dill, lavender, lemon balm, mint, parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme. And fennel is both a vegetable and an herb.

The vegetables deer love to eat most are greens, most everything in the brassica family (cabbage, broccoli, kohlrabi, and cauliflower), peas and beans, sweet corn, chard and spinach, and most tree fruit or berries. Planting these deer goodies closest to a home or behind a deer-proof fence helps protect the plants. Or, deer-appealing plants can be planted among crops unappealing to them.

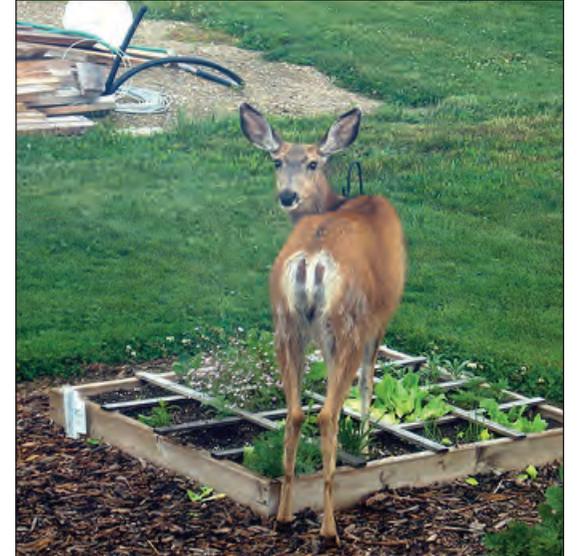
Scent-based and motion-activated deterrents might be effective temporarily, but a territorial dog is the best defense, offered Bredenkamp.

Printouts and more about gardening are available at the Macon County Extension Office or by visiting <https://macon.ces.ncsu.edu>; a free emailed newsletter provides seasonal horticulture tips and more.

Becoming Bear Wise

Recently, at the monthly Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center’s “Where We Live: History, Nature and Culture Speaker Series,” Ashley Hobbs, Assistant Black Bear and Furbearer Biologist at N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, presented “Black Bears in Western North Carolina.” She provided participants information on the North Carolina bear population, their behavior, and their biology, and shared what bears tend to do in March and as spring sets in. For example, while some black bears leave their dens by March to stretch their legs and then return to sleep for more days or weeks, other bears, especially the adult males, begin to leave dens for good in March.

And, although black bears lose about 30% of their body weight during the winter, they do not gorge right away. They are sluggish and



Plenty of garden plants are appealing to deer; the challenge is to find the ones that are not.



Some flowers are edible and add flavor, nutrients, and color to dishes.

begin to first nibble on plants to restart the digestive system; plus, they drink much water to work their kidneys. Eventually, they will eat berries, rosehips, winter-kill carcasses, and more – especially garbage, which needs to be secured in a bear-proof trash can if bears are prevalent around a home.

Hobbs noted that black bear families primarily stay together until the end of May or early June, when cubs will strike off on their own.

Safety around black bears requires common sense: do not corner them, feed them, or mess with their babies. Back away slowly – never run – if encountering a bear on a trail. Take bear spray when hiking in known bear territories and make loud noises if a bear approaches or follows.

Mainly, black bears are afraid and will want to avoid human interaction, but a bear provoked or attempting to protect its babies may be aggressive. Visit the www.bearwise.org site for more.

The next monthly Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center’s “Where We Live: History, Nature and Culture” event is on native plants and is set for April 17 at 6:30 p.m. These events are free to the public.



Ashley Hobbs, biologist at N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, presented “Black Bears in Western North Carolina” at Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center recently.



2023 Franklin A.T. Celebration Schedule
March 20 - April 22, 2023
FIRST DAY OF SPRING - EARTH DAY

<p>Friday, March 31, all weekend long 29th Anniversary Hiker Fest <i>At Three Eagles Outfitters</i></p>	<p>Saturday, April 8 NHC's Easter on the Trail <i>Trail Magic</i></p>
<p>Saturday, April 1 12 - 2 pm NHC's Thru Hiker Chow Down <i>At Lazy Hiker Brewing Co.</i></p>	<p>Friday, April 14, 5 pm Food, Flix & Brews At Outdoor 76 <i>with Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy</i></p>
<p>Friday, April 7, 6 pm AT110 Fest <i>At The Rathskeller Coffee Bar & Pub</i></p>	<p>Friday, April 21, 11 am - 3 pm Happy Trails to You <i>At Gracious Plates on Main</i></p>
<p>Saturday, April 22, 6 pm Outdoor Music Jam & Gear Exchange <i>At Lazy Hiker Brewing Co.</i></p>	

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Student Talent Showcase is Saturday, April 1

Talented Macon County youth will take the stage Saturday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m., in the annual Student Talent Showcase, a non-competitive talent show for selected third to twelfth graders. Held in the Franklin High School Fine Arts Building, this annual event features students chosen from the Macon County's schools performing a variety of entertaining acts from vocal and instrumental numbers to dance, gymnastics, comedy routines, and more.



There is no admission charge; donations will be received to support the Arts Council's Artists-in-the-Schools Program, an Arts Council/Macon County Board of Education partnership that brings diverse interactive, instructive arts programs to our public schools. Franklin High School is on Panther Drive off Business 441 in Franklin. The Showcase is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County, 524-ARTS or arts4all@dnet.net.



Mid-Day music at FROG with Al Scortino

Friends of the Greenway will welcome noted singer/songwriter Al Scortino, along with Greg "Squeezebox" Thomas on Saturday, April 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Frog Quarters, 573 E. Main Street, Franklin.

Scortino has been playing and writing songs for more than 30 years, as strictly a closet singer/songwriter for many years, until being hired to a jam session many moons ago at a small music shop in Melbourne, Fla. One thing led to another and soon he was playing at open mics in the area. Prior to forming the Florida folk group, the Ashley Gang with his compadre Paul Garfinkel, Scortino released two solo recordings: "Mr. Singer" in 1995, and "The Promised Land" in 1998.

One of Florida's best and most respected singer-songwriters, Al Scortino is a multi-instrumentalist and outstanding performer. He has been a multiple Will McLean Festival (Florida Song) award winner for his song crafting, and several time finalist in the South Florida Folk Festivals National Song Writing competition. He won first place for Best Contemporary Song at the North Florida Acoustic Music Festival in Jacksonville for his song "Just Like You" and won second place in 2013 at the South Florida Folk Festivals national songwriting competitions with his song, "Mollie's MakeUp." Scortino has also been a finalist at the Susquehanna Music and Arts Festival in Abingdon, MC and the Flat Rock Music Festival in Flat Rock, N.C. His songs tell stories about simple folk and places winning the hearts of many.



Larry Unger in Concert at John C. Campbell

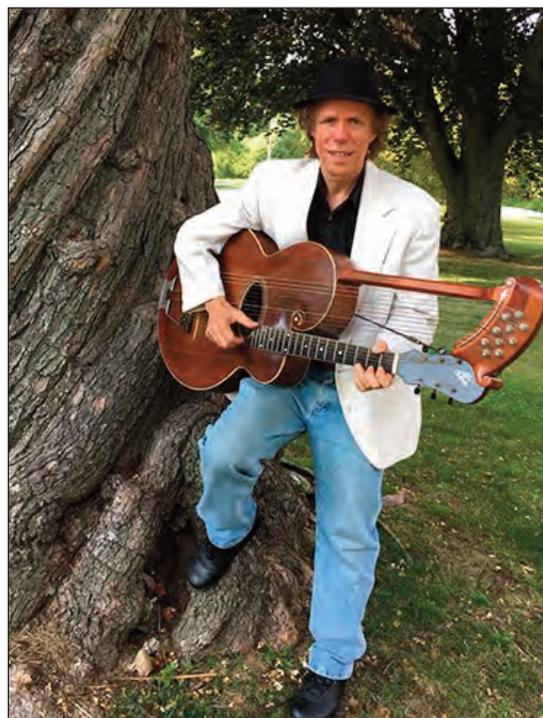
On Friday, March 31, at 7 p.m. multi-instrumentalist Larry Unger will present a concert in the Folk School's Keith House Community Room. His solo concerts include a wide variety of music: finger-style blues and slide guitar, rags, old-time banjo tunes, original waltzes and fiddle tunes. He enjoys telling stories about the people he learned from.

Unger, raised in Detroit, moved to Boston as a young adult. He has been a full-time musician since 1984 and has toured Canada, England, Scotland, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Denmark and Sweden, Afghanistan, and India. He plays guitar, banjo, and bass in top dance bands with varied styles from old-time, New England, Celtic, and international. He spent many hours playing blues with Etta Baker, John Jackson, and other masters of the style.

Unger has composed more than 5,000 tunes. They are widely played at contra dances. His compositions have been featured in Ken Burns television documentaries. His tune "Door County #2" was played on the Grand Ole Opry by Mike Snider. "That Schoenberg Rag" was performed by the San Luis Obispo Symphony Orchestra. For more, visit larryunger.net

Friday Night Concerts feature some of the finest regional and national acts performing eclectic roots music and offer something for everyone. The Keith House Community Room has standard seating, along with a family-focused social area in the library. Concerts are scheduled for most Fridays. All are welcome.

A donation of \$5-10 per adult is suggested for this



Larry Unger in concert at the John C. Campbell Folk School this Friday.

event, but all are welcome regardless of contribution. The Folk School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and any funds raised support traditional arts and help with equitable pay for performers.

Easter Egg Hung Saturday, April 8

Grab your baskets and hop over to the John C. Campbell Folk School for the annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 8. This lively event is a springtime favorite for kids, that features crafts, dancing, and entertainment. The Easter Bunny has been extra busy this winter, storing eggs and candy for this year's hunt.

All the fun will take place in the Folk School's Festival Barn. Arrive at 1 p.m. for craft making or 1:30 p.m. for music, games, clogging, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The egg hunt for ages 1-5 will begin promptly at 2 p.m., and the egg hunt for ages 6 and up will begin promptly at 2:20 p.m.

Parking is available near the Fiber Arts building or in the large gravel

lot on the corner of Brasstown Road and Harshaw Road. Call the Folk School at 828-837-2775 or visit the website at folkschool.org/calendar



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Highlands Botanical Garden planning spring events in April

The Highlands Botanical Garden is planning free spring events throughout April.

Spring Wildflower Walks

Spring is in the air, and the Highlands Botanical Garden is waking up, and with it, an abundance of wildflowers is beginning to display. Join the Highlands Nature Center for an easy stroll through the Botanical Garden each Wednesday and Saturday this April between 4 and 5 p.m. to explore what spring ephemerals are blooming. Along the way, you'll learn tips for identifying them and a little about their unique characteristics. These programs are free and open to the public, no registration is necessary. For more information, visit highlandsbiological.org. The Highlands Nature Center & Botanical Garden is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

Earth Day Extravaganza!

Celebrate the beauty and wonders of Earth at the Highlands Nature Center's Earth Day Extravaganza on Saturday, April 22, from 12 to 3 p.m. Grab your family, and get ready to explore and appreciate the natural world with a scavenger hunt that will have you searching high and low for Earth's treasures in the Highlands Botanical Garden. Then, tap into your creative side with nature art and DIY crafts that will inspire you to use recycled materials to make beautiful, eco-friendly creations. The celebration will continue at 4 p.m. with a Wildflower Walk through the garden to see which spring blooms are on display. Whether you and your family members are budding artists,

intrepid explorers, or nature enthusiasts, there's something for everyone at this free, community event. In the case of severe weather, the event will be canceled. To learn more about other upcoming events, visit highlandsbiological.org. The Highlands Nature Center & Botanical Garden are part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

biology and environmental science.

A semester at HFS serves as an introduction to field work and environmental research equipping students with experiences and references to seek further academic and professional opportunities as they transform into environmental leaders. The impact can be seen in the enthusiasm and dedication of the students who have participated. Each has left

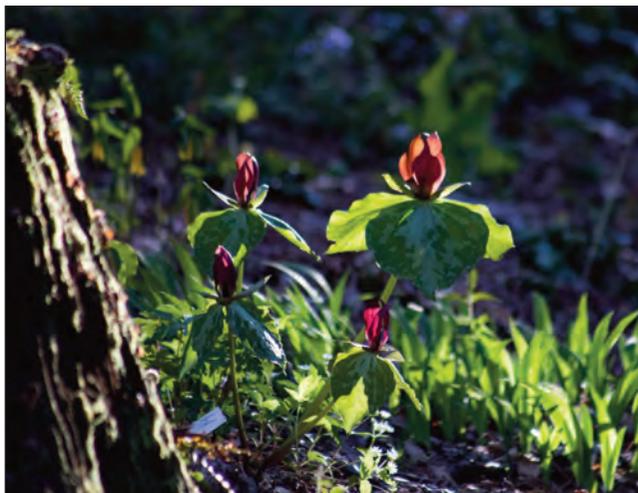
the program with a better understanding of ongoing environmental challenges as well as new skills and knowledge to help address these challenges.

Dr. Rada Petric, local field biologist and HFS Director, spoke about the impact of the program on students, stating, "The Highlands Field Site provides tremendous training opportunities for the students, and it

provides a leg up for them when they're searching for their next job or position. We find that it increases the likelihood of students' succeeding and exploring spaces in the field they haven't considered before."

"With a mission to stimulate, promote, and fund biological research and education in the southern Appalachians, we could not be happier with our investment in the HFS program. Our vision is to create the next generation of field scientists and that is exactly what this program does," noted Charlotte Muir, the Foundation's Executive Director.

This program is a true collaborative effort between UNC-Chapel Hill's Institute for the Environment, the Highlands Biological Station (a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University), the Highlands Biological Foundation, and several regional organizations. Funding provided by the Foundation is made possible by support from our local community. To learn more about HFS and other programs supported by the Foundation, visit highlandsbiological.org/foundation.



Wildflower Walks are being held each Wednesday and Saturday in April at the Highlands Nature Center.

Highlands Biological Foundation celebrates investment in Highlands Field Site Program

The Highlands Biological Foundation is proud to announce its latest capital investment in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Highlands Field Site (HFS) program at the Highlands Biological Station. Since 2021, the Foundation has invested a total of \$300,000 to support the field site in providing unparalleled opportunities for undergraduate students to gain hands-on experience in the field of

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Foundation Executive Director Charlotte Muir and field biologist Dr. Rada Petric celebrate the \$300,000 investment in the Highlands Chapel Hill Highlands Field Site.



Deaths & Funerals

Joy Ann Robinson

Joy Ann Robinson, 86, passed away on Oct. 4, 2022, in Miami, Fla., after a time of declining health. She was born on Sept. 2, 1936, in Miami, Fla., to Laura Wright Wimmer and George W. Wright.

She was a homemaker and later worked in the catering business until retirement.

She was well liked by everyone had many friends both in Miami and Franklin.

She and her husband built a summer home in Franklin, N.C., in 1987 and spent many summers and falls here. They loved the mountains.

She had many interests, including crocheting, crafts, gardening and loved doing jigsaw puzzles on their front porch. As their children grew up, she was a cub scout leader and won the Silver Beaver Award. She loved watching NASCAR and soccer with her husband as well as traveling. They were members of the Model A Ford Club in Miami and went on many fun rallies.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Douglas M. Robinson; son, Glenn Robinson; brother, W. Carl Wright; and a sister, Sandra Palmer.

She is survived by sons, Randall Robinson and Keith Robinson; grandsons, Kyle Robinson and Jeremy Robinson (Madina); great grandsons, Hunter Robinson and Rowlan Robinson, all from Miami area; sister, Penny Forray (Tom) Arizona; brother, Chuck Wimmer, Arizona; sister-in-law, Sharon Wright, Seattle, Wash.; sister-in-law, Linda Keenum (Neal), Franklin; and many nephews and nieces.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 1, at 10:30 a.m., in the old chapel at First Presbyterian Church of Franklin with interment at the First Presbyterian Memorial Gardens. Dr. Royce Browder will lead the celebration and interment.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Care Partners, Franklin.

Rev. William 'Johnny' Norris

Reverend William "Johnny" Norris, 79, of Cashiers, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Friday, March 10, 2023. He was born in Macon County on March 18, 1943, to the late Warner and Lucy Norris.

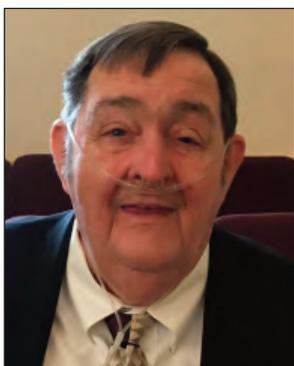
His passion was people, nothing brought him greater joy than serving others and being the hands and feet of Jesus in their lives. He pastored many churches during his ministry. He considered himself a friend and pastor to everyone. He was always there when needed. He started his ministry at Heady Mountain Baptist Church and he delivered his last message at Heady Mountain.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Smith Norris; three children, Melodye Norris, Matt Norris, and Charlie (Kristi) Norris; one grandson, Evan Norris; one brother, JC (Sheraldeen) Norris; and a cousin that he loved like a sister, Mary "Puzz" Clark; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Friday, March 24, at Cashiers Baptist Church with the Revs. Lewis Smith, Hayward Tomblin, Josh Holden, and Jeremy Queen officiating. Burial followed at Pine Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Appalachian Funeral Services to help with funeral expenses.

An online registry is available at www.appalachianfuneralservices.com.



Rev. William Norris

Kenneth Leslie McKinney

Kenneth Leslie McKinney, 78, of Franklin, N. C., passed away Sunday, March 26, 2023.

He was born to the late Kenneth and Hazel McCollum McKinney in Liberal, Kan.

He was an electrical engineer for 29 years. He served our country in the U.S. Air Force.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Diana McKinney; and sister, Patricia McKinney Gross of Castle Rock, Colo.

No services are planned at this time.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Kenneth McKinney

Lillian Juanita Zachary Waller

Lillian Juanita Zachary Waller, 91, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Saturday, March 25, 2023. She was born May 16, 1931, in Highlands, to the late Lyman and Dora Chastain Zachary.

She was a waitress at Mountaineer Restaurant for 30 years and after that, a waitress at Chestnut Hill. She loved gardening, growing vegetables, shopping and she was a great cook. She always made everyone feel special, happy, and welcome. She loved her family and spending time with them. She was a member of the Highlands First Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Lendal Waller who died July 22, 1999; a son, Butch Waller, who died in 2018; siblings, Mildred Wilson, Mattie Crawford, Bernice Hedden, Rena James, Ernestine Reed, Claude Zachary, Carl (Bub) Zachary, Lloyd Zachary and Jim Zachary.

She is survived by her sons, Ronnie Waller (Vickie) of Highlands, and Kevin Waller of Highlands; daughter-in-law, Susan Waller of Highlands; four grandchildren, Kenny Waller, Allison Waller, Michele Martin and Krista Chapman; four great-grandchildren, Rachel Chapman, Zachary Chapman, Karson Martin and Emory Martin; and a sister, Lucille Potts of Highlands.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Friday, March 31, at 2 p.m., at Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery, with Dr. Mark Ford officiating. Pallbearers will be Morris Reed, Justin Chapman, Zachary Chapman, Josh Martin and Doc Wilson. Honorary pallbearer will be Kenny Waller. The family will greet friends after the service.

"The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever." Isaiah 40:8.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Waller family.

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



Lillian Waller

Marjorie Lois Cook Ramsey

Marjorie Lois Cook Ramsey, 71, went home to be with the Lord Sunday, March 19, 2023, at her home. She was born Aug. 19, 1951, in Burke County, North Carolina, to the late William Roosevelt Cook and Mary Marie Cross Cook.

She loved sewing, her husband, children, and grandchildren. Most of all she loved the Lord and reading her Bible. She was a member of Tellico Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband of 50 years, Clinton Ramsey; two daughters, Angela R. Bush (Kevin) of Franklin, N.C., and Renee Ramsey of Franklin; four grandchildren, Samantha Bryson, Jamie Bryson, Emily Bryson, and Allyson Ramsey.

A funeral service was held Friday, March 24, at Tellico Baptist Church with Rev. David Lee Williams and Rev. David Hall officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were James Waldroop, Kevin Bush, David Hall, Brian Hall, Sam Worley, Emory Worley, and Steven Holbrook.

Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family.



Marjorie Lois Ramsey

Rose Irene Goode

Rose Irene Goode, 87, passed away on March 25, 2023, in her home in Franklin.

She was born in Jacksonville, Fla., to Sadie and Charles Tatt.

She is survived by her children, Sherry Mansfield and Michael Riley, Pam and Jay Diamond, Beth and Jim LeQuire, and Michael Goode and Leah Edwards; and her sister, Carolyn Krestul, as well as grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and a nephew.

The family will hold a private celebration of life later this summer in Florida.

Rose will be sorely missed. Zichrona livricha - may her memory be for a blessing.

"There are stars up above, so far away we only see their light long, long after the star itself is gone. And so it is with people we loved - their memories keep shining ever brightly though their time with us is done. But the stars that light up the darkest night, these are the lights that guide us. As we live our days, these are the ways we remember." - Hannah Senesh

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

Macon Funeral Home is assisting the family.



Rose Irene Goode



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Tyler Reddick wins first race with 23XI Racing at Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

AUSTIN, Texas - AUSTIN, Texas - Tyler Reddick prevailed in three overtime re-starts to claim his first trophy of the year – and first with his new team, 23XI Racing, with a 1.411-second victory over two-time series champion Kyle Busch in the EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix – the NASCAR Cup Series' first road course race of the season.

It was a field of international champions and NASCAR's very best at the famed Circuit of The Americas course but for most of the race the outcome looked to be decided in a good ole Texas duel between the two fastest cars all weekend driven by Reddick and Hendrick Motorsports' William Byron. The pair exchanged the lead, lap after exciting lap for most of the afternoon.

And on the final two-lap restart Reddick was able to put his No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota out front exiting Turn 1 - a tight left-hander - and power forward to the lead; while Busch and third-place finisher Alex Bowman, fourth-place finisher – and defending race winner - Ross Chastain and fifth-place Byron fought door-to-door bumper-to-bumper as they chased after him.

"I've been wanting to win here in a Cup car for a long time," the 27-year-old Californian Reddick said, who now has four NASCAR Cup Series wins, but noted this was his first as a Toyota driver and with his 23XI Racing Team – co-owned by fellow competitor Denny Hamlin and NBA superstar Michael Jordan.

"It means the world," said Reddick, who sat down on the track and leaned against his car with a bag of ice after winning to cool down on the typically Texas-hot afternoon. "This whole 23XI team has been working hard all winter long to make the road course program better and was extremely motivated to come in here and improve performance. Just so proud of this Monster Energy team and TRD (Toyota Racing Development). All the resources they've put in to turn around the road course program means a lot."

As often happens late in a road course race, patience lags and urgency increases. That was certainly the case Sunday with three different overtime restarts deciding the outcome. Reddick and Byron's No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet combined to lead 69 of the race's 75 laps with Reddick out front a race best 41 of those, most of them after hard-fought



Tyler Reddick, driver of the #45 Monster Energy Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix at Circuit of The Americas on March 26, 2023 in Austin, Texas. Photos by Chris Graythen/Getty Images



challenges and back-and-forth corner after corner with the race polesitter Byron.

"It feels good to get a top five, but we had a top-two race car really with the 45, he was really better than everybody, but I thought we were a close second," said Byron, a two-race winner already in 2023, whose fifth-place finish at COTA was his career best on a road course. "We'll keep building on it."

Busch's runner-up effort was an impressive comeback. He had been mid-pack for most of the afternoon but gambled on fuel strategy to move forward during some late race cautions in regulation.

"Even if we were on equal tires, they were lights out," said Busch, driver of the No. 8 RCR Chevrolet.

"Overall, for as much effort as we put into coming here and focusing on this place and all the testing we did in the off-season, we're coming out of here with a good finish. Tyler's obviously a really good road course racer."

In addition to the NASCAR stars, the field that raced Sunday included four big names from other racing genres including IMSA champion Jordan Taylor, who drove the No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet for injured former COTA winner Chase Elliott; a pair of former Formula One champions in Jenson Button and Kimi Raikkonen and popular IndyCar Series regular Conor Daly.

Among these four, the Englishman Button – the 2009 Formula One champion – claimed the top finishing position, 18th in the No. 15 Rick Ware Racing Ford. Taylor, a two-time winner at COTA in the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Series fin-

ished 24th but made a huge impression in his debut after qualifying fourth.

Raikkonen, the 2007 F1 World Champion from Finland, finished 29th but ran as high as fourth place late in the race. Daly only got 16 laps into the race before his team had to take his No. 50 The Money Team Racing Chevrolet behind the wall for extended repairs. He finished 36th.

Seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Jimmie Johnson didn't even get a full lap of green flag racing in only his second start of the 2023 season. The owner-driver of the No. 84 Legacy Motor Club Chevrolet was collected in a multi-car accident that eliminated his Chevrolet and left him 38th in the standings.

Team Penske's Austin Cindric, 2023 DAYTONA 500 winner Ricky Stenhouse Jr., RFK Racing's Chris Buescher, Joe Gibbs Racing's Ty Gibbs and Front Row Motorsports' Todd Gilliland rounded out the top-10.

Chastain takes over the championship lead by 19 points over Busch. Ty Gibbs, who finished ninth, continues to lead the Sunoco Rookie of the Year points standings.

The NASCAR Cup Series returns to competition Sunday in the Toyota Owners 400 at Richmond Raceway at 3:30 p.m.

Allmendinger holds off Byron for second Xfinity win at Circuit of The Americas

AUSTIN, Texas - A.J. Allmendinger started on pole position and won the NASCAR Xfinity Series' Pit Boss 250 presented by USA Today on Saturday afternoon on the world-renowned Circuit of The Americas road course.

The 46 laps in between the green and checkered flags, however, were dramatic and full of emotional highs and lows for the veteran Allmendinger, who led 14 laps to start the race and the final 14 laps to close it out. The series' all-time road course winner earned his 11th road course trophy (and 16th career Xfinity Series trophy) despite having to navigate through the field after falling back to 25th place during mid-race green flag pit stops.

It was a major league road course lesson for the rest of the



Kimi Raikkonen, driver of the #91 Onx Homes/iLOQ Chevrolet, signs an autograph for a NASCAR fan prior to the NASCAR Cup Series EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix at Circuit of The Americas on March 26, 2023, in Austin, Texas.

field as the 41-year-old Californian diced and sliced his way forward in the No. 10 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet to win this race for the second consecutive year. He ultimately took a .853-second victory over relentless Hendrick Motorsports driver William Byron in the No. 17 Chevrolet.

“William Byron put his best foot forward, you’ve seen all the Cup races he’s winning,” Allmendinger said of the season’s two-race winner Byron. “I knew it was going to be tough just trying to fight to get back up to the front there. Hate that I had contact with Sheldon [Creed], he got under me, I was trying to stay off him, so I hate that happened but so proud of everyone at Kaulig Racing. The Celsius Chevy was really hooked up and with all the damage we had it didn’t hurt the car.”

“I spent a lot of years not winning anything so I’m going to celebrate every one of them like it’s my last one,” Allmendinger said. “You never know. As much pressure as I put on myself, I’m always going to try to live up to it. The pit crew was awesome and I’m so proud of everyone.”

NASCAR Cup Series rookie Ty Gibbs – the 2022 NASCAR Xfinity Series champion – finished third in the Joe Gibbs Racing No. 19 Toyota, just ahead of his JGR teammate Sammy Smith and veteran JR Motorsports driver Justin Allgaier.

The 3.41-mile, 20-turn COTA track is regarded as one of the more challenging stops on the NASCAR schedule and Allmendinger certainly had his work cut out for him on Saturday. He led early, but was shuffled back after winning Stage 1 and gambling on a pit stop later than the other frontrunners.

Forced to line up for a re-start toward the back of the field – and miscommunication from the team to driver regarding the exact position he should take – left him 25th near the race midpoint. He answered by reeling off one car after another and made his way into the top-10 with 15 laps remaining – making a dramatic push forward on that final restart to go from sixth to first with 14 laps remaining. He took the lead after a spirited battle with Sheldon Creed, who spun out after contact between the two.

Allmendinger then drove off to more than a 1-second gap on the field, but, was doggedly chased by Byron, who will start Sunday’s NASCAR Cup Series race at COTA from the pole position.

“I was getting one final run at him, but obviously they were really good all day, just great at these road courses,” Byron said. “Just a little bit to gain and then made a mistake [navigating the esses].”

“It was a great effort, just need to clean it up in the cars ... but had a lot of fun racing,” Byron added.

Kaulig Racing’s Daniel Hemric, JR Motorsports teammates Sam Mayer and Josh Berry, Creed and Stewart-Haas Racing’s Riley Herbst rounded out the top-10.

Austin Hill, a three-race winner in 2023 that was leading the



AJ Allmendinger, driver of the #10 Celsius Chevrolet, leads the field during the NASCAR Xfinity Series Pit Boss 250 at Circuit of The Americas on March 25, 2023, in Austin, Texas.

Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

championship standings by nearly 50 points coming into Austin, suffered mechanical problems in his No. 21 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet and took a DNF. He still holds a 15-point advantage over Herbst atop the championship, however.

This was a Dash 4 Cash qualifying race with the four top-finishing fulltime NASCAR Xfinity Series competitors now eligible for a \$100,000 bonus next week at Richmond (Va.) Raceway; the top finisher among the four will earn the big paycheck and is eligible for another the following race at Martinsville, Va. on April 15.

With their showings on Saturday: Sammy Smith, Justin Allgaier, Daniel Hemric and Sam Mayer are the four drivers who race for the Xfinity Dash 4 Cash \$100,000 in next week’s Call811 Before You Dig 250 at Richmond Raceway at 1 p.m.

Zane Smith wins back-to-back Truck Series races at Circuit of The Americas

AUSTIN, Texas - Zane Smith became the first repeat NASCAR winner at the famed Circuit of The Americas road course, the reigning series champion holding off veteran Kyle Busch to claim his second straight victory in Saturday’s XPEL 225 NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series race.

The 23-year-old Californian’s No. 38 Front Row Motorsports Ford led the final 15 laps – a race best 16 of the 42 laps in all - and crossed the finish line an impressive 5.451-seconds ahead of the two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Busch. The win makes Smith’s Front Row Motorsports team a perfect 3-for-3 in CRAFTSMAN Truck Series races at COTA. Todd Gilliland won the 2021 inaugural here.

Ford driver Ty Majeski, Toyota’s Tyler Ankrum and last year’s NASCAR Cup Series COTA winner, Ross Chastain, in a Chevrolet rounded out the top-five.

It’s the second victory of the year for Smith, who won the season-opener at Daytona too – the same first two victories he

earned in his 2022 championship season as well.

“Shout out to Chris Lawson for an amazing strategy,” said Smith, whose Ford F-150 had a small fire under it extinguished after his burnout.

“Once we got to that eight-to-go point and I was told Kyle [Busch] was in second, my heart rate went up a little bit, just because he’s so good at managing his stuff when it mattered,” Smith continued. “So, I just tried not to make any mistakes.”

The polesitter Chastain and Busch exchanged the lead for much of the early race – combining to lead 22 laps between them. Smith was able to take the lead after pitting just before the final caution and getting track position. Chastain’s truck actually fell back to 28th for the final restart and Busch’s was 17th yet they both rallied to top-five finishes.

But both of the NASCAR Cup Series full-timers wasted no time navigating upward through the field. On just the single restart lap, Busch had moved up 10 spots and ran seventh – picking off positions with ease. He moved into second place with six laps to go, but by that point Smith had already opened up more than a five-second advantage.

“Played the long game and unfortunately the long game didn’t work, they got lucky and beat us,” Busch said of gambling with a pit strategy that took the No. 51 Kyle Busch Motorsports Chevrolet into the pits two laps – and a caution flag - after Smith made his final stop.

Corey Heim, rookie Nick Sanchez, Tanner Gray, Kaz Grala and Ben Rhodes rounded out the top-10. NASCAR has eliminated stage breaks at road courses in 2023 but both Christian Eckes – who ultimately finished 30th after mechanical problems – won Stage 1 (his third stage win of the year) and Busch won Stage 2.

The win Saturday was Smith’s ninth in the NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series and puts him in the driver standings lead by two-points on ThorSport Racing’s Majeski heading into the next race, the SpeedyCash.com 250 next Saturday at Texas Motor Speedway at 4:30 p.m.



Tyler Reddick, driver of the #45 Monster Energy Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix at Circuit of The Americas on March 26, 2023 in Austin, Texas.

Photos by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

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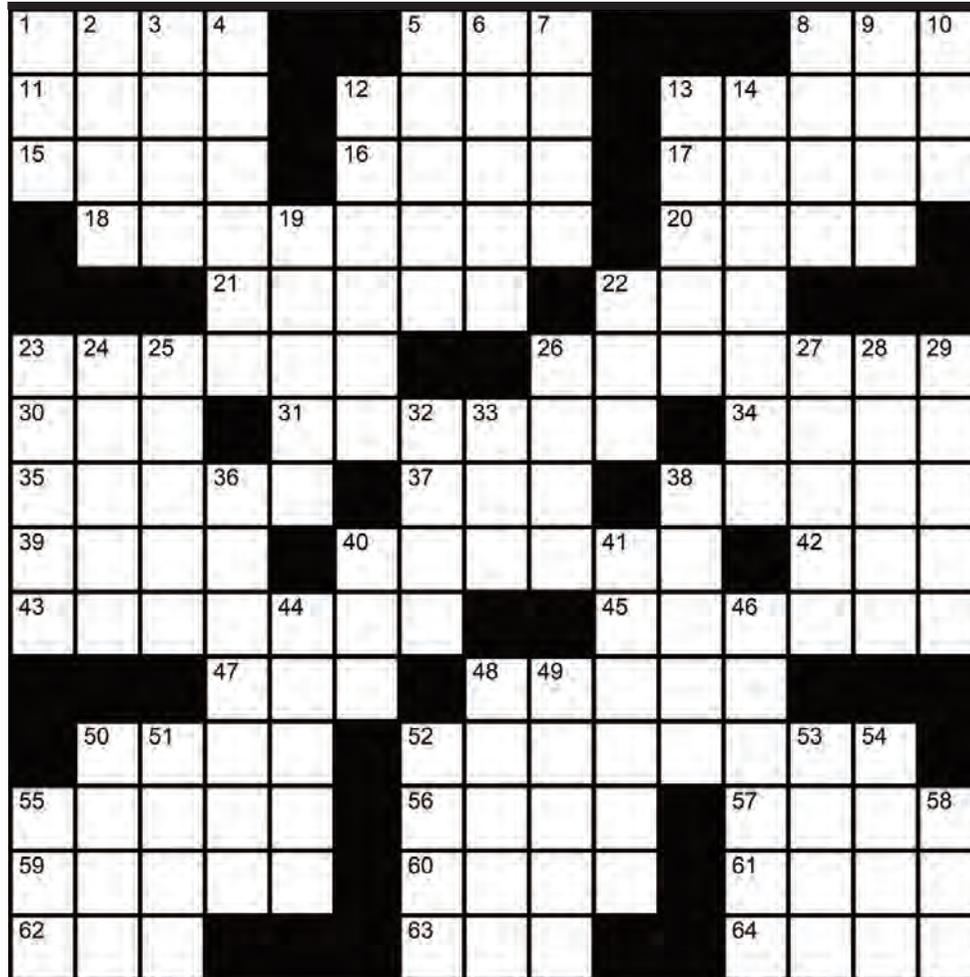
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- 8. Blue
- 11. A perch for Christmas partridge?
- 12. Domain
- 13. Fill college entrance form
- 15. Archaic preposition
- 16. Chili seed
- 17. Ski run
- 18. *Swedish environmental activist
- 20. Makes lace
- 21. Pi meson, pl.
- 22. Digital map marker
- 23. *Rachel Carson's " ____ Spring"
- 26. Heater
- 30. "Wheel of Fortune" vowel request
- 31. Trouble, in Yiddish
- 34. Epochs
- 35. Type of single-story house
- 37. Noble title
- 38. Sandler and Driver
- 39. Not "out of"
- 40. Advice on shampoo bottle
- 42. *Pollinator of plants
- 43. ____ Cray, a.k.a. the father of supercomputing
- 45. *Earth Day founder
- 47. Benatar or Boone
- 48. Lacking clarity
- 50. Singer-songwriter Tori
- 52. *1969 Santa Barbara disaster
- 55. To some degree
- 56. Dig like a pig



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- 57. Honoree's spot
 - 59. Apartments, e.g.
 - 60. Swine and avian diseases
 - 61. Primary source for Nordic mythology
 - 62. Cash machine
 - 63. It's all the rage
 - 64. Swallow's house
- backdrop
 - 10. Yellow #5 in list of ingredients
 - 12. Highly-ranked ecclesiasts
 - 13. On the move
 - 14. Arranged in advance
 - 19. Usually the last inning
 - 22. Wound fluid
 - 23. Delhi dresses
 - 24. Absurd
 - 25. Like a dryer trap
 - 26. *Cuyahoga River disaster, Clean Water Act precursor
 - 27. Omani and Yemeni
 - 28. Tarantino in his own movie, e.g.
 - 29. Ruhr's industrial center
 - 32. ____-friendly
- 33. Mourner's wish
 - 36. *Refuse turned fertilizer
 - 38. Consumed (2 words)
 - 40. Monotonous routine
 - 41. Teenagers' emotions
 - 44. A mirage?
 - 46. City in Netherlands
 - 48. Between violin and cello
 - 49. Not silently
 - 50. Polly to Tom Sawyer
 - 51. Disfigure
 - 52. ____ Approach, music education
 - 53. Serve soup
 - 54. *Plastic tops of coffee cups
 - 55. Sine ____ non
 - 58. College entrance exam, acr.

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

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

Rentals

SUMMER VACATION RENTAL Lakefront 1BD/1BA Lower Duplex, Franklin, Easy Access, No Pets, 3 Night Minimum, Full Furnished. Sarah (770)757-7500.

COZY LAKEFRONT Cottage, 1BD/1BA, Fully furnished. Easy Access Franklin. Ideal corporate rental. Seasonal, not permanent. Call for price. Sarah Miller, Diva's (770)757-7500.

Animals

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

VOLUNTEERS & DOG Walkers Needed at Macon County Animal Services. 18 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

Community Fundraisers

DRIVE-THRU Dinner Saturday, April 1, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Rd., Turkey Soup, Salad, Cornbread and Cookie.

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.

Misc. For Sale

SPRING OPENING of A&L Studio, 685 Peeks Creek Rd., Franklin. Open year-round Friday and Saturday 10-3. Interior decorative items, collectables, True Antique furniture, Vintage finds, claw foot DR table, 3 buffets, farmhouse cabinet, computer desk, student desk, trunks, occasional tables, chairs, vintage lamps, Retro and vintage jewelry, Adult gift baskets, 100's of items. Two buildings full must see to believe, grand opening, variable discounts. Master wood craftsman on site.

SNAPPER RIDING Lawn Mower. Used Less than 1 Season 13 1/2 HP 33" cut. \$890. Call (828)342-9211.

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.

Boats & Campers

2005 28' KEYSTONE COUGAR 5th Wheel, 7K pounds can be pulled w/ 1/2 ton truck. New roof spring 2022, new suspension, like new 10 ply tires. Well kept. Everything works as it should \$10,000. (828)347-0118.

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

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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.

Help Wanted

DONATION PICK-UP Lift up to 50 lbs, Monday-Friday, Some Saturdays, Nonsmoker. Able to pass drug test. Apply at Habitat for Humanity, 56 W. Palmer St., Franklin. M-F, 10-4.

THOMPSON LANDSCAPE CO. located in Highlands, NC, is hiring full-time Maintenance Crew Leader positions starting at \$18 per hour depending on experience. Must have a valid Driver's License, willing to work in some seasonal weather conditions, able to lift 50 lbs., good work ethic, and responsible individuals who are looking for good opportunities and advancements. Request an application at greg23@thompson-landscapeco.com or call (828)526-5280.

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.

EXPERIENCED CARPENTERS and helpers wanted for new local construction tools and transportation required. Text or call (828)332-2457.

HOUSEKEEPER/ORGANIZER Needed for Sundays, 4 Hours. Sarah (770)757-7500.

CAREGIVERS all skill levels, certified and non certified, wage \$15-\$20 apply at http://www.MyChoiceHome. Care

Services

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.

DEPENDABLE CLEANING Services by Experienced Team of Ladies. Quality Work. Excellent References. Reasonable Rates (828)342-7269 or (828)371-4545.

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IN HOME AID Run Errands, Dr. Appointments, Grocery Store/Pharmacy. References. CNA Trained Caregiver, Over 15 Years Experience. (828)342-3750.

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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.

LAWNS MOWED in Macon County Area, 26 Years Mowing Experience. Starting at \$35. Call (828)524-0114.

SHUTTLE CAR Service to Airports, Bus & Train. (305)216-7234 or (954)650-3851.

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

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.

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CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2023	Toyota	Camry TRD	6,718
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	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Ford	Focus SE	48,973
2018	Hyundia	Elantra	51,067
2017	GMC	Acadia	80,692
2017	Honda	Fit	59,209
2016	Ford	Focus	68,653
2013	VW	Beetle Convertible	67,099

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2023	Chevrolet	Tahoe	257
2023	Honda	CRV AWD	8,584
2023	Hyundia	Sante Fe	14,470
2022	Chevrolet	Tahoe 4x4	16,410
2022	Ford	Bronco	1,315
2022	Jeep	Cherokee Trailhawk	882

2022	Jeep	Wrangler Sahara Unlimited	10,539
2022	Kia	EV6 GT	3,251
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	Cadillac	XT6 AWD	23,121
2021	GMC	Yukon XL	53,356
2021	Jeep	Wrangler Sport	8,094
2021	Subaru	Ascent AWD	28,045
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 LT AWD	18,211
2019	Chevrolet	Trax AWD	16,288
2019	Honda	Pilot EX	40,801
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox LT	23,569
2018	Jeep	Compass 4x4	61,613
2017	Ford	Escape AWD	35,601
2015	Suburban	LT	92,352
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	Hyundia	Sante Cruz Ltd	2,682
2022	Nissan	Frontier Pro 4x	7,859
2022	Nissan	Titan Pro 4x	1,729
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	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	Toyota	Tacoma SR	12,448
2019	Chevrolet	Trailboss LT	44,594
2018	GMC	Sierra Reg Cab	94,092



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