

The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

Free
independent
weekly

The Arts Council & Macon Co. Art Association presents

ART Saturday
Saturday,
April 22
1-4PM
Macon County
Public Library

TEEN POETRY
NIGHT
MONDAY, APRIL 24
7PM
at the RATHSKELLER
See Pg.7

April 20, 2023 • 24 Pages

Volume 40 Number 48

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

www.themaconcountynews.com



Senior athletes kicked off the 33rd Annual Senior Games on Monday with official opening ceremonies that included guest speakers, a meal, and the traditional passing of the torch. Holding the torch is Senior Games president Mike Townsend. Seniors 50 years of age and up are eligible to compete in events ranging from pickle ball, bocce, shuffleboard, cornhole and much more. For more photos, see page 12.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Water line break prompts 'boil water advisory'

A water line break occurred on Tuesday afternoon near Food Lion which impacted water service on parts of the Highlands Road, Fox Ridge, Macon Plaza and Belleview Road. Water service was interrupted as crews with the Town of Franklin worked to repair the line. Town manager Amie Owens issued a statement regarding the line break advising the conditions that may occur when the water service was restored.

"There may be air in the lines causing sputtering of water when first turned on, cloudy or brown water, and potentially contain dirt or small particulates. Residents are encouraged to run water from an outside spigot or in the bathtub to eliminate air from the lines quickly," reads the statement.

Due to the nature of the repair, the Town also issued

See WATER LINE page 2



Crews with the Town of Franklin repaired the water line break on Tuesday afternoon near Macon Plaza.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

IN THIS ISSUE



Page 8

Varsity softball boasts a nine-game win streak



Page 16

Woodworker using skills to honor veterans

828.369.6767

www.themaconcountynews.com
maconcountynews@gmail.com

PRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 22
GOODER PUBLISHING CORP.
FRANKLIN, NC 28734-3401

SMOKY MOUNTAIN CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

1028 Georgia Rd • Franklin, NC
Local 828.524.1598 • Toll Free 866.273.4615
SmokyMountainArts.com

Chonda
Pierce
Live



APRIL 23



EASTON
CORBIN

MAY 6

- Replacement Windows
- Storm Windows
- Under Deck Roof Systems
- Mobile Home Roof Over
- Screen Rooms
- Sun & Vinyl Rooms
- Patios
- Awnings
- Carports
- Retractable Awnings
- Retractable Screens

ALUMINUM PRODUCTS *Install yourself, or professional installation available*

(828) 524-8074 | 3791 Highlands Rd. • Franklin, NC

FRANKLIN SIGNS AND BANNERS

Banners
Magnets
Yard Signs
Metal Signs
Vinyl Lettering
Custom Design
& More

605 Highlands Rd | 828-524-3999
signsfranklin.com | jennifer@signsfranklin.com

Macon County
CareNet
Feed the Need

CareNet Thrift Store
45 Macon Center Dr.
828-349-9064
Tuesday-Friday 10am till 4pm
Accepting Donations.
Everything sold goes to provide food for our neighbors in need.

FRUSTRATED WITH LOW INTEREST RATES AND STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY?

5.45%* interest rate
GUARANTEED FOR FIVE YEARS

• Tax deferred interest! • 100% of your deposits earn interest!

For more information call:
Jeff Cloer
Wayah Insurance Group
295 E. Palmer St, Franklin, NC
(828)524-4442 ext. 237
www.wayah.com

*Rate shown applies to five year multi-year guaranteed fixed annuity. Rate is effective 3/7/2023 and is subject to change without notice. Other terms and rates available. Not FDIC insured.

WAYAH INSURANCE GROUP
Trust our Experience, Strength, and Service

WATER LINE

Continued
from page 1

a boil water advisory after service resumed in this area. This boil water advisory does not affect other areas in town.

Two levels of notices are utilized when water quality is in question: a Boil Water Advisory and a Boil Water Notice. The difference is that a Boil Water Advisory is voluntarily issued when water contamination is possible. During an advisory it is recommended that customers vigorously boil water for at least one minute before using it for drinking, cooking, or any consumption. This includes water used for dental care, making ice, food preparation, or any other consumption purposes.

It is not necessary to boil water for showering, laundry, or other non-consumptive uses.

A Boil Water Notice is required by law to be issued when contamination is confirmed in the water system. The Town of Franklin issued a Boil Water Advisory for those impacted in East Franklin.

The event that initiated the boil water advisory was a water line break that required the water system to be turned off for greater than an hour and the pipe had to be opened to the environment which could allow dirt and groundwater into the system.

Water should be boiled from the time the advisory is issued and continue until

the Town of Franklin officially lifts the advisory. During the time the advisory is in effect, the Public Works Department will have an outside laboratory perform an analysis to determine if the water is safe and meets all standards. The advisory will remain in effect until lab results are received which could be 24 hours or more.

Water service was restored just before 3 p.m. on Tuesday. On Wednesday morning, the town issued a statement that said the required sampling had been completed and delivered to the lab for testing. The boil water advisory remains in effect as a precaution until the results are received.

For questions, contact the Town of Franklin at (828)524-2516.



An employee with the Town of Franklin said the waterline break likely occurred due to old pipes.
Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Drug traffickers plead guilty in Superior Court

Two men and a woman who were arrested separately for trafficking drugs pleaded guilty last week in Macon County Superior Court, District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch said.

• Adam Sackman, 35, of Franklin, pleaded guilty to felony trafficking opium or heroin (fentanyl).

Superior Court Judge Bill Coward ordered Sackman to serve a minimum of 225 months up to a maximum of 282 months in state prison.

On Sept. 14, 2022, in the wake of multiple drug overdoses, law enforcement officers were investigating drug activity at a Sarawak Road house. Probation officers Alice Sutton, Kristy Kinsland and Matt Parrish observed Sackman leaving the residence. They notified other law enforcement officers. Macon County Detective Matthew Breedlove attempted a traffic stop on U.S. 441 South.

Sackman fled, leading law-enforcement officers on a high-speed chase through an active construction zone, school grounds and along the grass fairways of Franklin Golf Course, scattering golfers at the fifth hole. The chase ended when Sackman drove head-on into a tree.

Assistant District Attorney John Hindsman Jr. prosecuted the case.

• Jeremiah Smith, 41, of Franklin, pleaded guilty to felony trafficking methamphetamine.

Judge Coward ordered Smith to served a minimum of 70 months up to a maximum of 93 months in state prison.

Smith was arrested on Dec. 1, 2022, after probation officers Sutton and Miciah Leatherman, who were conducting

a probation check, observed the convicted felon inside his vehicle. Smith was on probation and there was an active warrant for his arrest. He admitted to possessing illegal drugs.

Assistant District Attorney Hindsman prosecuted the case.

• Reyna Angelicka Garcilita, 26, of Franklin, pleaded guilty to felony trafficking opium or heroin.

Judge Coward ordered Garcilita to serve a minimum of 90 months up to a maximum of 120 months in state prison.

On Dec. 7, 2021, in response to reports of drug dealing, Macon County detectives, Franklin police and probation officers conducted a search of Garcilita's bedroom. The law-enforcement officers discovered drugs and drug paraphernalia, a handgun and a large amount of cash.

Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Harris prosecuted the case.

"We take seriously our responsibility to target drug dealers. Along with our local, state and federal law enforcement partners, we are laser focused on making our communities a hostile place for trafficking," Welch said.



Adam Sackman



Jeremiah Smith



Reyna Angelicka Garcilita

Macon County funding pool seeking applications

Macon County nonprofit organizations have until April 28, to apply for county funds allocated in the county's current fiscal year budget, through the Macon County Community Funding Pool (CFP). Application forms and instructions are available at the Macon County website, www.maconnc.org, or may be picked up at the Macon County Public Library on Siler Farm Road in Franklin, the Hudson Library on Main Street in Highlands, and the Nantahala Public Library on Nantahala School Road.

Organizations applying for CFP funds must provide financial statements such as budgets and federal tax-exempt reports, organization goals and objectives, and program/service descriptions. Questions regarding the application may be directed to Bobbie Contino at (828)342-7872. Groups not incorporated as nonprofits may enlist an established nonprofit to serve as their fiscal agent. Collaborative agency proposals are encouraged to leverage limited funding and to share resources.

The Community Funding Pool was established to help the Macon County Board of Commissioners allocate tax-generated funds to local nonprofits in a fair and efficient way. The CFP Task Force is composed of citizens chosen by the Board of Commissioners to consider applications and make recommendations to the Board, who make final funding decisions. The Community Funding Pool is a separate entity from the Macon County Community Foundation.

Decorations begin April 23 with Lower Noland Creek

In cooperation with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the North Shore Cemetery Association (NSCA) will begin the 2023 Cemetery Decorations at Lower Noland Creek, Sunday, April 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For the first time, parking passes will be required. The NSCA were given a supply of free passes specific to the Decoration. These will be available at the Noland Creek Parking Area from 9 to 10 a.m. and afterward at Campsite 64.

The group will visit the Upper Noland (Branton) Cemetery and Lower Noland Cemetery. It is a relatively easy 15-minute walk to the Upper Noland Cemetery and a somewhat difficult 30-minute walk uphill to Lower Noland. There will be a "pot luck" in which you can share or you may bring your own lunch, snacks, drinks, and other necessities. Only three picnic tables are situated at the campground so participants may wish to bring their own folding chairs and table. Decorations consist of decorating the graves at the Branton Cemetery, service in song, a short devotion, lunch, and then going to the Lower Noland Cemetery.

To attend this Decoration, travel from Bryson City west on Lakeshore Drive to the Noland Creek Parking Area, turning around and then driving to the first road on the right, travelling downhill and then crossing over the bridge and up Noland Creek 4 miles to Campsite 64 at the confluence of Mill Creek. Noland Creek road is a single-track road and is not recommended for low clearance vehicles. Drivers may have to back up to a suitable location for oncoming vehicles to pass. If your vehicle is not suited for the road, contact the Association through the Facebook page to car pool with someone from the Noland Creek Parking Area. Dress is casual and wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for hiking. No pets in accordance with Park regulations. Do not park in the turn-around area. Parking can be up to 200 yards from the campground. Check the Facebook page for the latest information: North Shore Cemetery Decorations | Facebook.

Repeats
Upscale Consignment

NOW IN OUR 37TH YEAR! - AFTER HOURS APPOINTMENTS
LADIES & CHILDRENS CLOTHING - SHOES & ACCESSORIES

(828)369-9600
Mon. - Fri. 10AM-6PM • Sat. 10AM-3PM
107 Highlands Rd., Franklin, NC

SPRINGTIME IS HERE!

BRYANT'S ANTIQUE MALL


Open: MON - SAT 10AM - 5PM, SUN 11AM - 5PM
71 E. MAIN ST., FRANKLIN, NC • (828) 524-0280

Please join Franklin Chamber of Commerce trip to

ITALY Sep 23-Oct 1, 2023
9-Day Package Rate at Just **USD\$3,399**

SUCCESSFUL CHAMBER TRIPS TO 80 NATIONS IN THE WORLD

ROME VATICAN FLORENCE SIENA PISA VENICE MILAN



Your Trip Includes:

- Roundtrip international airfare & Tax
- 9-day deluxe tour package
- 4 & 5-star hotel accommodation, breakfast & lunch
- Deluxe bus
- Fluent English-speaking tour guides
- Entrance fees to attractions

Day 1 - Atlanta/Rome
Check in at Atlanta International Airport for a connection (or direct) flight for Rome. Cross the International Date Line.

Day 2 - Rome
Change the connection flight and arrive at Rome, Italy. You will be met at the airport by your tour guide and transfer to the hotel.

Day 3 - Rome
Take a tour to **Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica**, the largest church in the world. Walk along the beautiful **Galleries of Tapestries**, admiring **Raphael's Rooms**. The tour ends at **St. Peter's Square**. Visit the ancient **Colosseum, Piazza Romana, Day L'arco Trionfale di Constantino, Piazza Venezia, Bocca della Verita, Vitoriano Memorial Hall, Piazza del Campidoglio.**

4 - Rome/Assisi/Siena/Florence
Bus journey to Assisi, tiny town built in the Middle Ages. Visit **Basilica of St. Francis** to see the masterpieces by Giotto and Cimabue. Drive to Siena, a **UNESCO Heritage Site**, world-known for the **Palio**, the historical horse race around the shell-shaped town square **Piazza del Campo**. Drive to Florence.

Day 5 - Florence

Venturing around beautiful Florence, the cradle of Renaissance, with the help of Michelangelo. Visit **Santa Maria del Fiore**, more commonly referred to as the **Duomo, Piazza Della Signoria, Palazzo Della Signoria** (also known as **Palazzo Vecchio**), **Basilica of Santa Croce, Piza dei Miracoli with the Duomo**, and **Pisa the Leaning Tower.**

Day 6 - Florence/Bologna/Padova/Venice
Drive to Bologna, see **Porticos** at city center. From **Piazza Malpighi** walk to **Piazza del Nettuno** and **Piazza Maggiore**, then King Renzo Palace **Palazzo Podesta** and the **Basilica of San Petronio**. Drive to Padova, with **Sant' Antonio Basilica**, one of the most visited churches by pilgrims of the Catholic world. Drive to Venice, the **City of Love.**

Day 7 - Venice
Private water-taxi transfer to **Pizza San Marco**, visit **St Mark's Basilica**. Sightseeing also include the **Palazzo dei Dogi**, the legendary "Bridge of Sights", roaming along **Venice's canals.**

Day 8 - Venice/Milan
Depart from **Piazzale Roma** to Milan, visit the **Cathedral Metropolitan di Santa Maria Nascente Duomo di Milano.**

Day 9 - Milan/Atlanta
Take connection flight to Atlanta International Airport.

Price reflects double share occupancy
5-star service standard with low group travel rate
Add \$800 for single room supplement
Including post departure group travel protection
Valid passport required
Free shuttle bus on departure and return day
Accept credit card payment without handling charge
Including everything on itinerary and tax

Registration and Deposit must be turned in to Franklin Chamber before June 1, 2023

Contact Franklin Chamber of Commerce for Registration Form and questions by calling 828-524-3161 or e-mail lindah@franklin-chamber.com

Plan now to join Franklin Chamber group for this once in a lifetime Italy adventure. Please call Linda at Chamber for details 828-524-3161, email registration form to lindah@franklin-chamber.com www.franklin-chamber.com Tour Operator: Citslinc International, Inc. 1-844-262-1100 Email citslinc@aol.com Website www.citslinc.org



Davis 90 years young

John Davis turned 90 years on March 24. His wife, Doris, hosted a catered dinner to celebrate at Franklin Church of God. The dinner was attended by 61 people offering birthday wishes. Born in DeFuniak Springs, Fla., Davis has been a resident of Franklin for 30 years. He served in the Army National Guard for more than 31 years and retired as a Sgt. Major.

WestBridge prepares individuals for employment

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

On Sunday, May 13, 1-5 p.m., Mother's Day, at least 19 businesses and organizations are sponsoring a Fire Truck Pull at Smoky Mountain High School Track in Sylva to raise money for WestBridge Vocational, a nonprofit organization committed to empowering individuals facing barriers to employment. Although based in Sylva, WestBridge's "catchment areas" are three counties in Western North Carolina – Jackson, Macon, and Swain – as well as the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indian (EBCI) Qualla Boundary.

WestBridge, founded in 1976, provides people with disabilities or any number of physical or emotional barriers, with training opportunities that "inspire them to learn, earn, and thrive," according to Chris Stuckey, community engagement specialist, whose key role is to provide communities with information about the offerings at WestBridge.

Teams competing in the first annual Fire Truck Pull will pull a fire truck with a rope to determine who is the fastest over a 25-foot distance.

It will be our main fundraiser each year," said Stuckey "We want people to identify this event with



WestBridge Vocational is a nonprofit organization committed to empowering individuals facing barriers to employment. Through the free programs that are offered, individuals learn a variety of job skills.

WestBridge and to learn more about who we are."

WestBridge's staff is made up of experienced education and training professionals who work with an average of 100 adult clients annually to primarily improve job skills and employment marketability. WestBridge's services are free, and Stuckey shared that one of the programs with which WestBridge is involved is called Project Search. Through Southwestern Community College and Division of Vocational Rehab, individuals are involved in vocational opportunities that enable them to learn about various jobs so that they gain real-life experiences.

Soft-skills training includes such focuses as employment resumé preparation, interview skills, job searches, and organizational behavior skills.

Besides individual donations and through fundraising efforts, WestBridge is funded by the sales of medical drapes. Currently, about 30 employees work at the Western North Carolina manufacturing company – with a few of those employees having benefitted from WestBridge's vocational training.

"We support our mission through the production of disposable medical devices such as surgical drapes and wraps. Our products are purchased by leading medical suppliers who rely on quality workmanship," noted Stuckey.

He added that WestBridge assists adults from 18 years old and older.

"People with disabilities or barriers might not know how to get a job, and an employer might not understand the benefits of having someone employed with disabilities or barriers. Anyone eligible for employment has already gone through our program and has the skills to be a quality employee."

Once an individual is hired, WestBridge "keeps track of the individuals and follows up with the employer," said Stuckey. "We might visit them once or twice a month. We are also in direct communication with the direct supervisor to see if any further information or assistance is needed."

Additional information about all that WestBridge offers is available at www.westbridgevoc.org. To participate in the Truck Pull, call Mike Rogers, director of development, at (828)586-8981, extension 204.



Life insurance made simple

Providing peace of mind for you and your family

- ✓ Guaranteed death benefits for your final expenses, mortgage or children's education
- ✓ Guaranteed level premiums that don't increase as you age
- ✓ Guaranteed cash values in your policy if needed*
- ✓ Accelerated Death Benefit Rider makes funds available in the event of a terminal illness
- ✓ Simplified application with only a few medical questions with limits up to \$100,000

*The actual cash value may be decreased by loans or withdrawals

Provide yourself with peace of mind today!



FAMILY MATTERS. NO MATTER WHAT.®
Policy Series:E/98 (20/21)

Bill Moody
Licensed Insurance Agent

904.254.1467

bill@greatatlanticsales.com

134-589 3/23

Established 1960

FRANKLIN BODY SHOP

Longest Operating Body Shop
in Franklin and Macon County

Insurance Repairs • Frame Straightening
Custom Color Matching
Factory Direct Parts
Auto Detailing
Window Tinting
Expert Body Repair • Auto Glass
24 Hour Towing • Large Well Equipped Facilities

7 Body Men / Technicians and
3 Expert Painters Ready to Serve You

56 Mill Street • Franklin, NC • (828) 524-7494

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

WHISTLE STOP DEPOT

ANTIQUES, SHOPS & RV PARK

Located in the old Cullasa School off the Highlands Rd.
145 River Rd., Franklin, NC • (828) 349-1600 whistlestopantiquesnc.com

Orchard to be dedicated on Arbor Day

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

This year's Arbor Day on April 28 holds special significance for Franklin and its long history. From 4-6 p.m., the public is invited to the grand opening and dedication of the Barbara McRae Cherokee Apple Orchard on the Little Tennessee River Greenway. McRae, a local journalist, historian, and vice-mayor, died in March 2021, but she left her mark on the community in the various projects she worked on as well as envisioned. One of her ideas was the re-establishment of a fruit tree orchard along the Little Tennessee River on what was once considered part of the Cherokee "towns" – or lands. Before she passed, McRae brought the idea to Nikwasi Initiative's Executive Director Elaine Eisenbraun and the project took root.

The orchard, named in McRae's honor, was planted approximately halfway between Big Bear Park and Suli Marsh on the Little Tennessee River Greenway, and in late August 2022, signage was erected to educate the public regarding the Nikwasi Initiative's project. Friends of the Greenway (FROG) volunteers have assisted in the development of the apple orchard. Cherokee people as well as settlers once lived and cultivated fruit trees along the river. The orchard includes such apple varieties as Junaluska, Horse, and Cullusaja. Near each variety of fruit tree at the Barbara McRae Cherokee Apple Orchard is English and Cherokee signage providing information about its origin as well as the variety's uses, and more.

Eisenbraun has pointed out that it could be 3-5 years before apples will grow and can be picked by passersby on the Greenway; if there is an abundance of fruit, some of it may be provided to nonprofits to meet area food

needs. "On April 28, we will erect a tent and have a speaker – most likely from EBCI (Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indian)," said Eisenbraun. "The public and anyone involved in the project and Nikwasi Initiative is invited. The goal is education, information, and honoring Barbara McRae and Cherokee farmers who once thrived here. Plus, it's really a great opportunity for people to come and see the orchard and learn all about it and Nikwasi Initiative."

"Barbara was on our board. The orchard was her brainchild. And if you have a good



Signage at the Barbara McRae Cherokee Apple Orchard on the Little Tennessee River Greenway, which will be dedicated in a public ceremony on Arbor Day, April 28, includes information about the woman who instigated the project before her death in 2021.

idea, I say let's make it happen. While the two of us spearheaded the orchard, it goes along with our mission to protect and promote culture in the Cherokee homelands. Most people don't know that all this area was part of the Nikwasi towns, and this orchard is just one way to bring awareness and education," Eisenbraun added.

Detailed instructions about how to get to the orchard, as well as information about the April 28 event, are on the www.nikwasi-initiative.org website. "And we will have a vehicle for people who cannot make the approximately half-mile walk to the orchard," said Eisenbraun.



Choose trained repair professionals. Because safety matters.

828-524-8080
121 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC



DRIVE-THRU \$10 Per Plate BBQ SUPPER

All Proceeds go back into the scholarship fund.



**SATURDAY, APRIL 22
4:00 – 6:00PM
Wayne Proffitt
Agriculture Center
441 South • Franklin, NC**

With your support we have been able to give out over \$37,600 to students who represent the integrity, leadership and commitment that Mr. Proffitt gave to this community.

Sponsored by: The Wayne Proffitt Scholarship Fund, Inc. Macon County Fair Board



BLACK BEAR PAVING
828-349-3390

Black Bear Paving & Construction, Inc.
6456 Sylva Hwy., Franklin, NC 28734
(828) 349-3390 • NC Contractors # 75898



Paving & Resurfacing • Excavating
Backhoe • Land Clearing
Grading & Road Repair
Rock & Gravel Hauling • Sewer & Water
Retaining Walls



Leatherman named health foundation board chair

Nantahala Health Foundation's Board of Directors elected a new slate of officers, all of whom assumed their new responsibilities in April.

Franklin-native Lisa Leatherman was elected in February by a unanimous vote of the board to serve as its chair. A founding member of Nantahala Health Foundation and a Duke Energy employee for more than 35 years, Leatherman is member of the Sylva Rotary Club and serves on boards for the Southwestern Community College Foundation, Mainspring Conservation Trust, Smoky Mountain Host and Western Carolina University's College of Engineering and Technology Dean's Advisory Board.

"It is an honor to serve as a founding member - and now chair - of Nantahala Health Foundation," Leatherman said. "The opportunity to partner with nonprofits, other human services agencies, local governments, and community leaders in the six westernmost counties in Western North Carolina to influence the health and well-being of fellow citizens is humbling and motivating."

Roger Plemens, another of NHF's founding members, was elected vice chair at the board's February meeting. Prior to retiring in 2020, Plemens began his professional career at Macon Savings and Loan Association in March of 1978 as a mortgage loan officer. The bank held \$27 million in assets with one office when he started. After being named the chief lending officer and vice president in 1984, Plemens rose to senior vice president in 1994 and president/CEO in April 2004.

"The work Nantahala Health Foundation is doing to identify solutions to health problems is vital to the future of our region," said Plemens of his service on the Nantahala Health Foundation board. "Future generations are counting on us to remove barriers to health, and I, for one, intend to do my best not to let them down."

Angie Knight, superintendent of Graham County Schools, and Alison Cochran, director of Swain County's Health and Human Service, were both elected to second terms as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

"Having spent my entire career in education, I have learned that all community issues are interconnected, including health and wellness," Knight said. "I look forward to continuing in this role to make decisions that benefit all our communities."

As a representative of Swain County and health directors across Western North Carolina, Cochran said her professional experience "...gives me an enhanced understanding of the challenges our communities face. (Nantahala Health Foundation) cannot solve these problems alone, but we can and will work with others to ensure a better future for all."

At its core, Nantahala Health Foundation's mission is to serve as a catalyst for innovation and collaboration for nonprofit organizations working to make life better for underserved members of our community, Nantahala Health Foundation Executive Director Lori Bailey said.

"Our mission frames the work of the board, including the investments they make in Western North Carolina," she said. "I am excited to begin our organization's next chapter with the backing of these stellar leaders as we continue to work together to address the social health drivers impacting our region."

Social drivers of health, coupled with lifestyle choices often based on their availability and ease of access, directly impact more than 80 percent of an individual's health outcomes, leaving less than 20 percent resulting from clinical care. To have the greatest impact on health, Nantahala Health Foundation's board of directors has consistently invested in work that improves where and how residents live, learn, work and play.

"At this point the research is undeniable: Social drivers of health and actively engaging in beneficial lifestyle choices when they are available far exceed cumulative physician visits when it comes to predicting an individual's long-term health outcomes," said Leatherman.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2030 report, social drivers of health



Lisa Leatherman

for individuals can be grouped into five categories:

- economic stability
- education access and quality
- health care access and quality
- neighborhoods and built environments
- social and community context

These health drivers can contribute to disparities and inequities within some communities. For example, people without access to grocery stores due to financial or geographic barriers are less likely to choose high-quality nutritional food. This lack of access day in and day out raises their risk of developing life-threatening health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity — and even lowers their life expectancy relative to those who do have access to healthy foods, according to Healthy People 2030.

"Unfortunately, simply promoting the benefits of making healthy choices does not eliminate these and other health disparities when beneficial choices are not available or accessible," Bailey said. "Instead, philanthropic groups like Nantahala Health Foundation must work in collaboration with public health organizations and our nonprofit partners in sectors like education, individual and family support services, transportation, and housing to take action to improve the conditions in people's environments."

About Nantahala Health Foundation

Nantahala Health Foundation partners with nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties and the Qualla Boundary to improve health and wellness outcomes for all. By addressing the root causes of health inequities and by removing barriers to health, NHF's impact is broadly felt in its partnerships with regional change-makers.

Since its establishment in 2019, Nantahala Health Foundation has employed its grantmaking programs to invest more than \$3.46 million in support to some 175 programs, all of which have contributed a total regional mobilization of more than \$15.6 million and the improvement of thousands of lives. NHF's operations, which were launched with a modest \$15 million investment under the direction of a volunteer board of directors, require public support to continue to serve as one of Western North Carolina's most influential health-related philanthropic entities.

Those who wish to learn more about their work within the region and how best to support it are invited to visit their website at NantahalaHealthFoundation.org or call 828.634.1527.

HCHF awards grant for Highlands School nurse

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF) has awarded a grant to Macon County Schools (MCS) to fund a full-time nurse at Highlands School. Macon County Schools has used the grant funds to hire Martine Salter, RN, to serve as the full-time nurse at Highlands School.

"The Macon County School System is very grateful for the partnership with Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation," said Chris Baldwin, Ed.D., Macon County Superintendent of Schools. "We are excited that our students and staff at Highlands School will be provided with a dedicated school nurse through this grant. Nurse Salter will become a valuable member of the school team, collaborating with teachers, administrators, and other professionals in order to create a safe and healthy learning environment for all."

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction states that school nurses are an integral part of access to education and work to reduce and eliminate health-related barriers to the education process for students. They promote health and safety, intervene with actual and potential health problems, provide case management services, and coordinate communication with families, appropriate school staff, and the medical home or private healthcare provider.

"I taught school before I became a nurse, so I really enjoy the setting and the culture of a school," said Salter. I want people to know that we have a school nurse in the building. I'll be a resource for the children and the staff. Anytime an emergency comes up, I will be available to help. I can offer various services that can provide an early diagnosis, strengthen prevention and overall health, improve academic achievement, and increase time spent in the classroom."

In addition to the diagnostic equipment available on the school campus, the school nurse has access to Telehealth through the partnership between Macon County Schools and Macon County Health Department. Parents can learn more about the Telehealth program and services offered by Nurse Salter by contacting Highlands School at (828)526-2147.

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation believes in good health and access to healthcare for everyone in our community," says Robin Tindall, Health Foundation CEO and Executive Director. "With school-based health being a critical need for our young people, we are pleased to provide funding for Highlands School's full-time nurse. This grant provides a tremendous opportunity to partner with the school to lift health and well-being, together."



Macon County Schools has hired Martine Salter, RN, to serve as the full-time nurse at Highlands School.

Mountain View sixth graders finally go to DC after three-year hiatus

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

Mountain View Intermediate (MVI) sixth grade students are on their way to Washington DC. Academic Expeditions with some 210 students, parents, and staff on four busses left MVI at 5 a.m. sharp on Wednesday morning on the 10-hour journey after a three-year hiatus due to COVID. The attending school staff has been to



More than 200 Mountain View Intermediate sixth grade students and staff set out for Washington DC Wednesday morning at 5 a.m. The group will experience a whirlwind tour of the nation's capital and return to Franklin on Saturday.

Photos by Diane Peltz



Washington DC eight times.

On the itinerary for their first stop of the day at 3 p.m., is the National Air and Space Museum. The group will have dinner at the Pentagon Mall and then onto the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Wall and Korean War Memorial. They will be staying at the Hilton Garden Inn Woodbridge in Woodbridge, Va.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be full of adventures which include a tour of the Capitol. The Holocaust Museum, Smithsonian and Fords Theater is next with another stop on the tour that includes the Pentagon Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial and the Arlington Cemetery. Two military family students will lay wreaths, something that they had not been privileged to do on previous trips.

On Friday a tour guide will take them to George Washington's Mount Vernon Mansion, where they will learn of the rich history behind the mansion. They will depart on Saturday but not before visiting the National Museum of the Army.

All travelers received food vouchers for their meals. A pit stop for souvenirs will be made along the trip, and virtually endless photo opportunities.

Changes coming to P-EBT food program for students

A program that helped 1.6 million children get healthy food for the last three years is coming to an end, NCDHHS announced. However, the Pandemic EBT program continues this summer for K-12 students who attend school in person. The United States Department of Agriculture funds P-EBT and granted the extension. Benefits for all other children will end in May at the end of the school year. This includes children younger than 6 who receive Food and Nutrition Services. Benefits also end in May for students who attended virtual or home school.

The North Carolina P-EBT program will not be available in the 2023-2024 school year.

To be eligible, a student must take part in their school's free- or reduced-price meals program this school year. (Check here to see if your child's school participates.) Students must be approved by May 31 to receive benefits this summer. They must also attend school in person. Eligible students will receive one payment of \$120 in July to cover the summer. The payment is made to the card for families who receive FNS benefits or P-EBT benefits. Families new to the program will receive a card in the mail. COVID-19 related absences are not a factor in summer.

Families who have not already qualified for free or reduced lunch should apply by May 1. Applications take more than a month to process and must be approved by May 31. Apply to the school's free or reduced meals program or Food and Nutrition services. Enrollment for P-EBT and school meals is automatic for families with FNS benefits on or before May 31.

If you need information on how to apply for free or reduced-price meals, contact your child's school. To apply for FNS, visit www.ncdhhs.gov/FNS or apply through your local county department of social services. While P-EBT ends this summer, the FNS program is still available to North Carolina families. Families with children under 5 may be eligible for the WIC program and can learn more at www.ncdhhs.gov/ncwic.

For more information on P-EBT, frequently asked questions or additional updates, visit www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT. NCDHHS administers P-EBT in partnership with the NC Department of Public Instruction.



ART Saturday

Saturday, April 22 • 1-4PM

Macon County Public Library
Children's Area

149 Siler Farm Rd. • Franklin, NC

Nature-related make & take art projects with artist-educators, for elementary school-age children. Materials, light snacks provided.

Teen Poetry Night @ The Rat

Free poetry event for High Schoolers.
Read, Recite, Discuss, Enjoy!



MONDAY, APRIL 24 • 7PM

at the RATHSKELLER COFFEEHOUSE

58 Stewart Street • Franklin, NC

Produced by The Arts Council & Macon County Art Association 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net

Varsity softball wins ninth consecutive game, soccer teams log victories

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

Franklin High School's (FHS) softball teams took on the Tuscola Mountaineers on Tuesday, April 18, in a home conference game that, for the varsity team, determined first place in the Mountain 7 Conference (M7). Coming into the game, the Lady Panthers stood at 12-3 overall and 6-1 in the conference. The Lady Mountaineers, who came off a non-conference loss to T.C. Roberson, were 8-3 overall but undefeated in the M7 at 6-0. FHS would be tied with Tuscola with a win in the head-to-head matchup.

The game started off in FHS' favor as senior shortstop Tori Ensley led off with a triple to left-center and was driven in by freshman Ashlynn McConnell, who hit a solid double. After



Tori Ensley smacks a triple to lead off the game vs. Tuscola.

pitcher Kendall Rumans fanned, junior catcher Avery Moffitt hit another double to drive in McConnell and make the score 2-0 Franklin. Junior Meyaeh Tran then hit a single and got her own run batted in (RBI) to increase the score to 3-0. Before the inning was over, senior infielder Tessa Dehart slammed an RBI double to center, driving in Tran to end the first inning, 4-0 Panthers. After a scoreless second, Moffitt also hit a homerun in the third to make the score 5-0 before the Lady Mountaineers finally put a run on the board.

Things got tight in the top of the sixth when Rumans walked a couple batters who both came around to score and, when all was finished, FHS found their lead down to 5-3. However, in the bottom of the frame, Franklin scored seven runs and then held Tuscola scoreless in the top half of the seventh to win, 12-5. The Panthers have a nine-game winning streak going and now are 7-1 in the conference and 13-3 overall.

On the junior varsity side, the Lady Panthers came into their game with a 2-3 record overall but hoping to build off a recent 20-3 shellacking over the East Henderson Eagles. They did not disappoint, winning in a tight 4-1 contest that saw the game tied heading into the last inning.

Both squads are scheduled to play next at Pisgah Friday, April 21, at 4:30 and 6 p.m.

Last week, the varsity team hosted Madison in a non-conference contest that proved to be FHS' eighth win in a row following an 8-3 win over the Lady Patriots. Madison, out of Marshall, N.C., plays in the Western Highlands Conference (1A/2A), where the team is currently in first place with a 7-1 record. The Lady Panthers built a 3-0 lead through four innings only to see Madison score in two consecutive innings to reduce the lead to one run. Then, in the bottom of the sixth, FHS banged out five runs before allowing just one more to their opponent in the top of the seventh.

Rumans went the distance allowing three runs on four hits but only one of the runs was earned. She also walked seven while striking out eight. Offensively, Ensley scored three runs off one hit, with that hit being a home run. Freshman Ashlynn McConnell managed two hits, as did junior Laura Holland, and Rumans. McConnell and Holland each had a double as well as a run batted in (RBI). Rumans led the team with three RBI and also had a triple for one of her two hits. Junior Delaney Stiles had a hit, scored a run and had an RBI of her own. Senior Tessa Dehart rounded out the scoring with two runs to go along with one double.

Panther Baseball

Tuesday night also saw the baseball Panthers playing Smoky Mountain Mustangs on the Western Carolina University (WCU) campus as the first leg of a home-and-home series between FHS and the Smoky Mountain to be played at WCU. On the varsity side, FHS got out to a quick 4-1 lead in the first only to see the Mustangs put six runs on the board in the bottom of the inning to make it 6-4. By the third inning, FHS was down 14-5. In the final frame, the Panthers staged a furious comeback to score six runs, but the Mustangs prevailed, 14-11. Multiple players had multiple hits in



Kendall Rumans pitches against Tuscola.

the game including Tyler Williams, who went 3-4 and scored three runs, and Davis Anders, who went 3-5 and drove in four runs. Caleb Cloer also had three hits while Jaxon Hursey went 2-3, with two doubles, scored two runs and drove in three. The varsity team stands at 9-5 overall and 5-4 in conference to leave them in third place, behind West Henderson and Tuscola. The junior varsity (JV) squad suffered a 15-5 loss to end their brief two-game win streak. Their record now stands at 3-8.

Both teams will play Friday, April 21, vs. Smoky Mountain, again at WCU.

Last week, FHS was in Hendersonville to face a varsity North Henderson Knights team who were struggling somewhat with a sub .500 record this year. The Panthers fell behind in the first inning but scored six unanswered runs and came away with a 6-2 victory. FHS piled up 14 hits in the win with six players getting two hits each. Ian Knepp and senior Anders each had a double, while freshman Addix Sutton had two singles. Junior Josiah

Hursey started and went six strong innings, giving up only three hits and two runs. He did walk three but struck out four. Fellow junior Beau Paulson finished up the game going one inning, allowing no hits and getting one strike-out of his own.

Following a much-needed win April 11 at home against the Knights with a 10-9 squeaker, the JV Panthers were also at North Henderson to face the same team April 13, where they won 6-2. For the first time this season, Coach Colin Taylor's team strung together two wins in a row – both over the same team.

"We really needed to sweep that week and it was a huge confidence boost for the guys," he said.

Panthers Soccer

Monday, April 17, provided opportunities for both FHS women's soccer teams to play different opponents at the Panther Pit. The evening started off with the JV team again beating Cherokee, 3-1. FHS's only two victories on the season have been against the Lady Braves with the first contest a 6-0 shutout March 6. On the varsity side, the Lady Panthers entered half time of their game vs. East Henderson in 0-0 tie. However, in the second half, four goals were scored – three by FHS to log a 4-1 win by the home team. Madalynn Brannon, Claudia Zalapa-Flores, and Jasmin Valencia-Lopez each logged a goal to help the Panthers gain a solid conference win, with Valencia-Lopez also contributing an assist. Senior Stephanie Ortiz provided another assist and goalkeeper Carramia Anthony-Ramos was named player of the game for the second time this season. The varsity Panthers raised their overall record this season to 3-7-3 and are now 2-5 in the Mountain Seven conference. Both FHS squads play Friday, April 21, at home vs. Polk.



FHS JV soccer coach Juan Morales talks to the team before the game against Cherokee on April 17.



Varsity soccer defender Madalynn Brannon takes a corner kick.

Tennis, track delivering winning seasons for FHS

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

While baseball and softball tend to garner the most attention at the high school level, Franklin High School (FHS) has equally successful and in some cases better records in their other sports, including tennis and track and field.

Tennis team wins back-to-back conference matches

April 17 saw the Panthers hosting conference foe Smoky Mountain. Building on a tough win in Hendersonville last week, FHS handled the Mustangs, 7-2, without the benefit of their top-seeded player winning his singles match. With Jack Sgro losing 1-6, 2-6, Mica Jacobs, Gavin Rinker, Orrin Mynes, Eli Adams, and Conner Baldwin all won singles matches to set the tone for the day. In doubles, Sgro/Jacobs won 8-4, while Rinker/Adams lost 5-7. For the final victory, Mynes/Sinclair took their match, 8-3.

Head Coach Sammy Gunter admitted that after a close match in the first meeting with the Mustangs, he was expecting another one, “but the guys played well and won it in singles. Jacobs, Rinker, Mynes, and Baldwin all blitzed their opponents in impressive fashion,” Gunter said. He also added that in doubles, he was pleased with the performance of all three teams.

“Mynes and Sinclair played their best match by far as they dominated the net and hit better overheads in tough, windy conditions. This was a good win for the guys and should spur them on to continue to improve,” he said.

Last week, FHS was at North Henderson on April 12 to face the Knights in another Mountain Seven conference match. The Panthers fielded eight sophomores and one freshman with hopes of besting a struggling North Henderson team. However, Gunter pointed out that with his fourth-seeded player, Mynes, away at a state competition, “the match was going to be a bit tougher against a much-improved North team.” Proving to be prophetic, the coach was correct – FHS squeaked out a 5-4 win over the Knights.

In singles, #1 seeded Sgro won easily, 6-3, 6-1. Second-seeded Jacobs also dominated his opponent, winning 6-1, 6-0. However, Rinker lost in two sets, 4-6 and 3-6. Number 4 seeded (with Mynes’ absence) Eli Adams won his match in three sets, losing the first, 2-6, winning the second, 6-3, thereby forcing a tiebreaker, which he won, 10-8. Number 5 seed Will Sinclair split his two sets only to lose 8-10 in the tiebreaker, while #6-seeded Conner Baldwin prevailed 6-2, 6-0.

“In singles, Sgro, Jacobs, and Baldwin all outplayed their opponents for relatively easy wins,” said the coach.

The close battles involved Adams and Sinclair, where both lost their first set and then bounced back to win the second, forcing a tie break. In doubles, Hyatt and Jacobs won 8-6, while Rinker and Adams lost 8-9 (4-7), requiring yet another tiebreaker to decide the outcome.

“I was glad we won even though it was by the skin of our teeth. We still need to work on being more relaxed and confident when our opponents are attacking at the net and when we are up at the net. This would make life much easier for us in the tail end of the season,” said Gunter.

Track and Field teams compete at Asheville and Rabun Gap meets

FHS’s Track and Field student athletes were in Asheville

April 18 to participate in the 2023 Navy-Gold Challenge. Team-wise, the men finished second with 106 points, only behind A.C. Reynolds with 110. On the ladies’ side, the Panthers placed third with 88 points, behind host Asheville (107.5) and West Henderson (113.5). In individual events, Junior Elijah Cochran won the 300-meter (m) hurdles with a 39.39 time and finished second in the 110m hurdles with a 15.54, both new FHS records. Sophomore Laura Covarrubias won the 100m dash at 12.70, while senior Isaiah Roots took first in the 400m with a 50.12 time. Covarrubias also came in second in the triple jump, with a 35’ 10.5”. Senior Blake Cassada again won the pole vault event, this time clearing 14’ 4”. He finished in front of two fellow Panthers – junior Aaron Jennings (13’ 0”) and sophomore Adam Rogers, also at (13’ 0”). Sophomore Charley Seagle won the girls’ shot-put competition with a 35’ 5” and the discus with a 100’ 1” toss. Senior Seth Brewer placed second in the shot-put with a 48’ 1” throw. In the girls’ 4X400m relay, FHS came in second behind Asheville with a 4:30.38 time.

Last week saw the FHS Track and Field team in Georgia as part of a five-school invitational April 13. The Rabun Gap Nacoochee School (RGNS) Eagles always present a challenge for the Panthers when they are in the mix and this meet was no different. The boys’ team placed second out of the five teams, totaling 111 points to RGNS’ 120. For the girls, four teams participated and the Lady Panthers were bested only by the Eagles, 131-103. Some highlights included the boys 4X100 relay team getting the best score ever for FHS with a 43.53, while the girls had a second all-time best score in the same event with a 52.06. Covarrubias achieved a 45.94 in the 300m hurdles, which is second-best ever for the school, while senior Cal Drake also had the next best school score, historically, with a 6-5 high jump.

Coach Matt Harlfinger pointed out that after some time practicing and away from official meets, it was good to get back on the track.

“We have four track meets in 14 days before we head into our championship schedule with the Mountain Seven Conference Meet, Regionals, and then State. These next four meets should prepare us for a championship run and we feel like we have the ability to be in contention again.”

In other events where FHS excelled, Roots took first in the 100m dash (11.32), Cochran finished first in the 200 meter (22.88), and in the 110m hurdles (16.16). Sophomores Talon Smith (44.00) and Braylen Dezarn (44.88) finished first/second respectively in the 300m hurdles. Drake, in addition to the high jump, placed first in the triple jump (41-10), while senior Aiden Stewart took first in the boys’ discus with a 127-05 throw. Brewer placed first in the shot put with a 50-00 toss.

On the women’s side, four Lady Panthers topped the 400m dash: Juniors Rylee Cassada (1:03.54) and Claire Ballard (1:05.81), freshman Michelle Ortega (1:05.95), and sophomore Maddie Holden (1:08.71). Sophomore Addison Coker took the top spots in 100m hurdles with a 17.78 and in the triple jump (34-03.25). Fellow sophomore Maddie Breeden finished second in the high jump with a 4-09 and Charley Seagle also took second in both the discus with (102-05) and the shot put (34-10).

Upcoming meets include April 22 at AC Reynolds, April 26 at Swain County (hosted on the Western Carolina University campus), and April 29 at TC Roberson.

Sophisticut
HAIR SALON & DAY SPA
308 Depot St. Franklin, NC
(828) 524-2419 or (828) 524-3395

Hydromassage & Facial
\$99.95



Rusted Arrow Market
Farm House - Shabby Chic - Antiques
828.421.0820

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-3pm
19 East Palmer Street • Franklin, NC
(across from Wells Fargo Drive Thru Bank)

YOUR NEXT CHAPTER AWAITS

NOVEL ESCAPE
Reserve your spot now for the Spring Tea on May 13th!
across from Wells Fargo
828-369-9059
NEW/USED BOOKS & MORE Tues - Sat 10am to 5pm



SEVERAL HOMES READY FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

GEMSTONE VILLAGE
55 and over Active Adult Community
Platted Subdivision off Prentiss Bridge Road with Internet, City Water and Sewer



NOW AVAILABLE - Starting at \$180,000: MANUFACTURED HOMES + LAND

AVAILABLE IN 2023 - Starting at \$275,000: DUPLEX TOWN HOMES + LAND

CALL 828-200-4168
GemstoneVillageNC.com
Manufactured Home Dealer License No. 47699

The Macon County NEWS & Shopping Guide

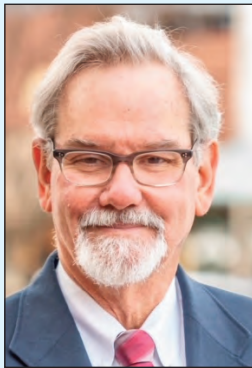
SUBSCRIBE FOR ONLY \$29.00 PER YEAR Includes Tax

(828) 369-6767 26 W. Main St. • Franklin, NC maconcountynews@gmail.com



What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

The Highlands School has been a unique educational institution for this community, and frankly, I can't understand why any parent wouldn't want their children to attend this small K-12 school. Our school is one of only a few schools in North Carolina with the 13-grade format. The school has an excellent record of students going on to make outstanding achievements both here in Highlands and across the country.

For a number of years, my wife Sallie was the art teacher at the school. She shares my views on the Highlands School size and grade structure. Coming from a metropolitan school to the Highlands School years ago, this jewel of a school was a breath of fresh air. Sallie views her tenure at the Highlands School as a high point in her 25-year career as a teacher. Our daughter was a graduate of the school.

Thursday night at the April Town Board meeting, I will ask the commissioners to approve a resolution asking the Macon County Board of Commissioners to reinstate the \$329,000 contract with the LS3 architects order to complete the design phase for the additions to the Highlands School. The design phase includes two classrooms for a Pre-K program and four classrooms for the regular school program, and would also include upgrades to the school's media center. If the project were to move forward, it would cost around \$5 million. To put that number in a budgetary perspective, the proposed new Franklin High will cost about \$120 million and the Highlands project cost \$5 million. As a matter of comparison and some fairness, the Highlands School improvements would be about 4% of what it will cost to build the new high school, yet about 50% of the Macon County property tax base comes from the Highlands Plateau. It gets down to basic equity of a sort as our children will not attend Franklin High School; nevertheless, I support the building of the new high school.

Sallie and I will be supporting the Highlands School Town Scholarship program again this year. On Honors Day in May, each graduating senior will receive a scholarship to further their education.

We are supporting the scholarship program by entering the Three Rivers Fly Fishing Festival, which will be from

See TAYLOR on page 11

Letters to the Editor

A well regulated militia?

For those Republicans who have been and will continue to be sickened and saddened by mass shootings please consider doing two things in an effort to spawn change.

Number one - memorize the Second Amendment: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the Right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Your power resides in the first clause: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State..."

Number two - abandon the Republican Party until they see that Americans mean business. Tell Democratic candidates why you are supporting them, lest they lose sight of your mission. You are not advocating the confiscation of all firearms. You want to control military style guns. You want to do your part to prevent mass murders-save human lives. Remember: the majority of Americans favor stricter gun laws. Also, remember: there are about 25 million AR15 style firearms in America today. Our Constitutional framers did not envision this type of firearms. A note of reference here: there are roughly 1.5 million Armed Service members. Not even every one of them is authorized to possess an assault weapon.

There is no law that demands that you vote for Republicans who refuse to change. When we effect modern gun laws you will be free to go back to your party.

What is your mission? Gun rights? A well regulated Militia? Or both as the Second Amendment provides for?

America can change. What will you do to see that it does?

Dave Waldrop - Webster, N.C.

Proven tenets, accountability have been discarded

So many questions: Should the town of Franklin designate a downtown Social District? Why is there a shortage of school nurses? Should we eliminate kindergarten and Pre-K and return to a time when parents, families and villages raised children until they were ready to go to school at age six? Should the county commissioners pass land use guidelines to prohibit crypto-mining in Macon County? I don't know - what's a crypto mine?

State Representative Karl Gillespie (in his "Legislative Review") explained bills HB-10, HB-347, HB-142, HB-248 (and several others) and how he voted on each. Conspicuously, he didn't explain SB-41, or why he voted to override that particular bill.

Is it possible Governor Roy Cooper was right to veto SB-41 because eliminating strong background checks really will allow dangerous people to own handguns and reduce law enforcements' ability to stop them from committing violent crimes? Let us hope we don't find out the hard way. Oh, so

many questions.

One question that left my grandparents' and my parents' generations mystified was this one: "How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?"

I know, you're reaching for that toy you carry in your hip pocket and stare into 12 hours a day. I found the answer years ago - in a library.

Now the correct answer to that age old question is - probably none. Woodchucks are not particularly tee-oriented, and while they can climb to find food, they prefer being on the ground. In fact, they got the name "woodchuck" from British trappers who couldn't quite wrap their tongues around the Cree Indian name "wuchak." More commonly (and accurately) known as groundhogs, these animals are closely related to squirrels, marmots, and prairie dogs which they share an affinity for burrowing. And actually, a burrowing woodchuck can chuck dirt, in the form of tunnels that can reach five feet deep and as much as 35 feet in length. So, based on that number, New York State wildlife expert, Richard Thomas, calculated that if a woodchuck could chuck wood, he could chuck as much as 700 pounds of the stuff.

One last question ... Have we learned anything from 21-year-old Airman 1st Class Air National Guardsman, Jack Teixeira, having posted highly classified documents on social media, ostensibly to impress his friends?

Considering the seriousness of the crucial breach of national security, the public may never be entitled to details. By the same token, can we not at least conclude, this grave violation is the indirect result of what six decades of liberal (a.k.a. "progressive") thinking has wrought?

We've eclipsed the necessity of expertise and eliminated essential accountability. We've discarded proven tenets of behavior, well-established moral doctrines and ethics and reduced time-tested standards to their lowest common denominator. In that process time-honored parenting concepts and teaching skills have been lost. In their place, delusions of inclusion, diversity and other flights of fancy have prevailed.

Perhaps we'll learn from the Teixeira episode, or perhaps we won't - our allies and our enemies surely have.

David Snell - Franklin, N.C.

The Macon County News letters page is a public forum open to a wide variety of opinions as a right guaranteed in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Letters are neither accepted nor rejected based on content. Letters must be signed and contact information provided. Views expressed are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of publisher, editor or staff. Writers are asked to refrain from personal attacks against individuals or businesses.

The Macon County
NEWS
& Shopping Guide

26 West Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734
(828) 369-6767 • FAX: 369-2700

www.themaconcountynews.com

Email: maconcountynews@gmail.com

Deadline for display advertising is Friday at
4 p.m. Classified deadline Monday, 3 p.m

Betsey Gooder

Publisher /Advertising Director

Teresa S. Tabor, Editor

Jay Baird

Advertising Representative

Shana Bilbrey

Graphic Designer

Emily Hughes

Graphic Designer

Vickie Carpenter, Classifieds/Photographer

Deena C. Bouknight

Contributing Writer

Dan Finnerty

Contributing Writer

Diane Peltz

Contributing Writer

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The publisher assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions of any advertisement or supplement beyond the actual cost of the advertisement or supplement. In no event shall publisher be liable for any consequential damages or any damages in excess of the cost of the advertisement or supplements. The Macon County News and Shopping Guide reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. No brokering of advertising space or supplements will be accepted without prior approval of publisher. Third Class Mailing Privileges Authorized at Franklin, N.C. 28734

Issues besides the library represent major concerns

Mr. Antoine: Thank you for bravely tackling the issues facing county government. I urge you, however, to slow down, listen carefully, and support policy derived from thorough research.

What describes your concern with the library? Do you believe that a young person will choose their sexual orientation based on the prose and pictures within one book - amid thousands? I disagree.

I was a nurse at Emory University Hospital during the early years of the AIDS crisis and I listened to the stories of dozens of young, gay men. Not one reported they chose to become "gay" after reading a book. Most knew by age six they were "different." For many, that revelation led to an emotionally painful life without support of their family or community. We can do better.

We have a choice in Macon County: Make decisions based on ignorance and absurd fear or establish policy based on the voices of compassion and educated, rational information.

If you want to protect young people, then initiate red flag laws and ban assault weapons. Those issues represent major concerns.

Dismantling the library and the exceptional staff are totally off-limits.

Beaupre Preston - Franklin, N.C.

Proper procedures followed regarding library materials

Mr. Dan Kowal's second letter to the editor is a doubling-down on the insults and distortions of his previous letter, and requires a response. I'm glad he spoke with the Macon and Jackson librarians, but their account is only one side of the story. Ms. Hardison has only been the Macon librarian for about two months, and she was not involved in this controversy or personally knowledgeable about the vast majority of what occurred. Most of our dealings have been with the previous Macon head librarian and former FRL Director, Karen Wallace, and the newly-appointed director, Tracy Fitzmaurice.

In regard to the criticism about library forms, this is a new talking point from the FRL director, inaccurate in terms of key details, and a total and utter distraction from the issues. First, several Franklin moms and dads attended a meeting of the Macon County Library Board at the Highlands library last August. At this meeting Karen Wallace provided us with the materials reconsideration forms. She also said point-blank that submitting forms was not the only way to initiate a reconsideration of a book, its placement in a specific section, or other library policies, and that showing up to a FRL board meeting and voicing a specific concern had the same effect. We got this directly from the Fontana Regional Director at the time. So, we did both. We submitted some forms requesting books be moved from the teens section to the adult section and we attended meetings regularly and voiced our concerns. We were actually reluctant to use the forms, because we did not want that to give rise to charges that we wanted to remove or ban books, because that is not our goal. (Did you hear me? We do not want to ban or remove books. Full stop.) Ironically, now Mrs. Fitzmaurice, Mr. Kowal and others want to make this debate about paperwork: "You didn't submit the forms! You didn't follow procedure!" If we had submitted more forms, we would have been criticized for that.

As to books being "properly vetted" as Mr. Kowal claims, that is highly debatable. We have spoken to the head librarians about their process of selection, and they've admitted that library staff do not read books before they are purchased and shelved, even if they have a lot of sexual content and are placed in the teen's section. They

give a lot of deference to glowing reviews found on various online sites and awards given to books, many of which are given specifically to books that feature sexual topics, such as the Stonewall Award. These things carry more weight with them than the concerns of actual parents in the community, and are cited in answer to our forms as to why they won't move explicit books to the adult section.

Mr. Kowal goes on to accuse us of demonizing the library staff and "the LGBT community." This is false, and an example of his demonization of us. We have never demonized LGBT people. That is a lie meant to "escalate fear, division, and disinformation within our community" - the very thing he accuses us of doing. And regarding library staff, we have clearly and consistently pointed out the flaws in their selection criteria for minors and their display policy, and challenged some of their actions and biases, but we have not attacked or vilified them personally.

Mr. Kowal slams concerned citizens for pointing out that the Fontana Regional Library directors and board have implemented policies that sexualize children. Wikipedia defines "sexualize" as "to make something sexual in character or quality or to become aware of sexuality." When a child picks up a book from a display in the children's section entitled "Julian Is A Mermaid" and sees illustrations of a little boy around age 5 repeatedly undressing down to his underwear, donning women's clothes, and joining a pride parade with adult drag queens, that is sexualization. When a teenager (or God-forbid, an even younger child) picks up "Gender Queer" (now shelved in the adult section, but displayed in the teens section this past September), and views illustrations of two girls engaging in oral sex with the assistance of a wearable dildo, that is sexualization. Whether they intended to sexualize children is beside the point. Sexualization is the clear effect.

I'm glad that the FRL board and the Macon County Commissioners are going to sit down and attempt to renegotiate the terms of our agreement. It's outrageous that after all we have invested in the Fontana library system over the past 79 years, they would confiscate all the library resources in our Franklin and Nantahala libraries (but not the Highlands library, oddly enough) if we voted to leave. That, and the policies that have subjected children to sexually explicit and sexualizing material have got to be seriously revised. We have followed the process, now we entrust this to our Commissioners to resolve in the best manner possible.

Rebecca Tipton - Franklin, N.C.

Applications sought for open seats on TDA Board

The Town of Franklin Town Council is accepting applications to fill the following vacancies on the Tourism Development Authority board. Applications should be submitted no later than May 17, 2023 for consideration. Applications are kept on file for one year.

Tourism Development Authority - six (6) positions including two currently unfilled positions - must be residents of, own, operate or have an interest in a business entity in the Town of Franklin.

The term for these board positions is three years and appointments are made by the Town Council.

Applications are available online at www.franklinnc.com/boards-authorities-franklinnc.html or can be obtained at Town Hall, 95 East Main Street, Franklin. For more information, contact Town Manager Amie Owens at (828)524-2516 x 305 or via email at aowens@franklinnc.com.


TAYLOR

Continued from page 10

May 4-6. We are sponsoring two teams this year: my son with his wife and Sallie with me. We probably won't win the tournament, but believe me, the family competition will be intense. The women in the family are convinced they will catch the most fish.

All proceeds from the festival go to the Highlands School Town Scholarship fund, so that is why we are participating. I hope others will fish for our students' benefit also. If you don't fish, you can make a contribution or send a \$250 entry fee. Google the Three Rivers Fly Fishing Festival for more information. To make a donation, send a check to the Town of Highlands Three River Fly Fishing Festival and mail it to PO Box 460, Highlands, NC, 28741. In recent years we have had tremendous and generous support for this program.

If you want to wait to support the scholarship program, the Highlands Scholarship Golf Tournament will be this fall at the Sky Valley Country Club. More information about the golf tournament will be coming soon.



BAHÁ'Í FAITH
LIGHT OF UNITY

"So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth."
-- Bahá'u'llah

Weekly devotions and discussions in Franklin, open to all. Call 302-383-6835.
1-800-228-6483 www.bahai.us
Franklin • Murphy • Sylva • Waynesville



**AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY BINGO**
614 West Main Street • Franklin, NC

**EVERY
WEDNESDAY**
Doors Open at 3:30pm
Games Begin 4:00pm

SNACK BAR AVAILABLE

*Come One, Come All!
Come Have a Good Time!*

Help Support Programs for Veterans

33rd Annual Macon County Senior Games underway thru May 5



Macon County Extension Director Christine Bredencamp spoke to the group gathered for the kickoff of the 33rd Annual Senior Games on Monday at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building. She explained the different services offered through the extension office.



Kim Crawford with the Macon County Senior Center spoke about the services offered at the center, such as meals, monthly trips, in-person and Zoom classes and more.

Photos by
Vickie Carpenter



Senior Games participant Karen Symonds led the pledge of allegiance.



Cody Brooks is the coordinator for the Macon County Senior Games.



Lauren Avery with Fyzical Therapy and Balance Center, spoke about health issues common in seniors.



The tradition of passing the torch signaled the official kick-off of the 33rd Annual Senior Games followed by a pot luck meal.

More Guardians ad Litem needed to advocate for children in Macon County; training begins May 12

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

“More than 1,700 abused or neglected children go to court in North Carolina each year without someone to advocate just for them,” according to information provided by Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Supervisor Jake Shamblin, in an informational film. “They need a guardian ad litem volunteer to speak up for their best interest in court.”

Shamblin, who oversees GALs in Macon and Graham counties, has stressed the importance of volunteers advocating for children; in fact, the need is as great as foster families. He explained what it is involved in becoming a GAL.

“North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program, a division of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, recruits, trains, and supervises child advocate volunteers to represent and promote the best interests of abused, neglected, and dependent children in the court system. We provide screening, training, legal guidance, and supervision to each volunteer that commits to this call to action.”

Sarah Clancy, Soil Conservationist with Macon Soil and Water Conservation District, was accepted into the GAL program in July 2021 and took on her first case after being sworn in in October of that same year. The 46-year-old was motivated to apply to the GAL program after watching a call-to-action during a pandemic-lockdown Discover Church online sermon. She explained, “I had been considering volunteering as a GAL for about four years. I thought about it from time to time, but had pretty much put it in the back of my mind. One Sunday there was a video presentation about the GAL program that reignited my interest. Just a few weeks later, a friend mentioned to me out of the blue that they were thinking about volunteering. It kept coming up, and I felt pretty strongly that I was being prompted to move forward in that role.”

Although Clancy’s job with Macon Soil and Water is full-time, she realized she had “so much care in my heart for kids and some extra time to invest in helping. I didn’t feel that fostering was a good fit with my full-time job, and the GAL program was a better fit for my situation.”

Since embarking on her GAL journey, Clancy admitted she has learned much.

“I’ve learned that we can passionately advocate for children to help achieve for them a safe and permanent home and still have compassion for their birth parents and family situations that include struggles like substance use and mental and emotional health issues, some of which are generational,” she said. “The hope would be that the parents are able to successfully correct the issues that resulted in their children being in DSS [Department of Social Services] custody so they can be reunified with their children, but permanency may also include guardianship or adoption. Having never been in a courtroom prior to this, I have learned so much about court proceedings, and how to write reports on behalf of the children for the court. It has been eye-opening to see how much time and effort the foster parents, DSS caseworkers, attorneys, visit supervisors, the GAL Supervisor and GAL Attorney Advocate, and other professionals put into what they are tasked with.”

Although becoming an advocate for children can be emotionally draining, Clancy added that the personal rewards are palpable.

“Undeniably, the highlight for me is the children – visit-



Sarah Clancy uses a stream table to demonstrate stream dynamics to 7th graders at Conservation Field day at Standing Indian Campground in 2021. When she is not working for the county, she is advocating for children as a Guardian ad Litem.

ing them and watching their progress. Cases can take years, and I get to see them two to five times per month. I love the thought of being able to watch them thrive and advance in life, graduate from high school, and start families of their own one day. I’m their voice in court right now, and I take that responsibility very seriously. Seeing their smiling faces, getting to play and interact a bit, and thinking of their safe and stable future is quite the reward.”

She is also up front about challenges associated with becoming a GAL, such as learning to exercise patience as cases work their way through the court system.

Clancy further shared, “If you’re considering becoming a GAL, definitely don’t hesitate to inquire about the program and fill out an application. The training will prepare you for your first case, and the GAL supervisor is helpful and responds quickly, so you’re never alone in any of it. It might be challenging at times, but it is most definitely worth it. If you have the time to invest and you care about the well-being of abused or neglected children, I couldn’t recommend a more worthwhile investment of your time and skills.”

A new GAL training class is planned to begin May 12 at Discover Church in Franklin. Training is offered in-person and online. Interested individuals must first fill out an application online at volunteerforGAL.org; or, email to GAL.District30@nccourts.org; or call 1-800-982-4041 (toll free)/828-371-9331 (local).



FAMILY AUTO CARE

Complete Auto Repair Shop

Thank you to all of our customers for another successful year of business!




Mon. – Fri. 8-5

(828) 369-2155

976 E. Main St.
Franklin, NC






NO CREDIT CARD FEES!





Porcelain Pros

828-586-1429

Professional Tub
Repair &
Conversions

Randy Bertke
828-421-5204 cell
porcelainpros@yahoo.com

PETS OF THE WEEK

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



Sushi is a 18 months old neutered male. He is energetic, playful, and loves to be outside! Will play with other dogs. Housebroken. Up-to-date on vaccines, and heartworm medication. Will chase squirrels and birds, and may not be good with cats. Call 239 595-0623 and let's meet!



Jojo is a 1 year old male cat, does well with other cats, and is shy.

Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests April 7 - 16. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

April 11

Danelle Kay Jimenez, 36, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Cody Ryan Winnegar, 35, was charged with an indictment. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Brach Alan Brasier, 32, was charged with trafficking opium or heroin, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, maintaining a place for controlled substances and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sergeant James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Danelle Kay Jimenez, 35, was charged with failure to appear. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

April 12

Jacob Lee Norris, 31, was charged with driving while license revoked, display expired registration plate, widow tint violation, breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods and injury to real property. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

April 13

Jacob Lee Norris, 31, was charged with possession of burglary tools. Jay Wright made the arrest.

Daniel Keith Cabe, 72, was charged with failure to appear. Sergeant Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Luis Angel Mejia-Garcia, 27, was charged with probation violation. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

April 14

Garrett Daniel Jones, 33, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property. Caleb G. McConnell made the arrest.

Richard James Kozlosky, 63, was charged with domestic physical. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

April 16

Luther Victory Stinnett IV, 29, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Celeste Devereux Henry, 21, was charged with misuse of 911 system. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

April 7

Alexia Shakiya Turner Stewart, 23, of York, S.C., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, felony possession of cocaine, conspire traffic MDA/MDMA by transportation, trafficking in MDA/MDMA by transportation

and trafficking in MDA/MDMA by possession. A secured bond of \$170,000 was set.

April 8

Marcus Thad Deville, 28, of Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

April 9

William Clay Tucci-Caselli, 27, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, resisting a public officer, misdemeanor conspiracy, attempted break/enter a motor vehicle, second degree trespass, larceny by anti inventory device, larceny of a motor vehicle and probation violation. A secured bond of \$86,000 was set.

William Miles Matter, 31, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for disorderly conduct. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

April 10

Thomas Daniel Hensley, 60, of Waynesville, was charged with child support purge. A \$2,600 bond was set.

Eric Ross Wallen, 35, of Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear to operate a vehicle with no insurance and driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Matthew Allen Minnillo, 40, of Cullowhee, was charged with civil contempt/child support purge. A \$408.32 bond was set.

Billy Joe Smith, 28, of Sylva, was charged with second degree trespass. No bond was set.

Jessica Irene Jones, 37, of Whittier, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, conspire to traffic methamphetamine, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance and traffic in methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$250,000 was set.

Norma Kay Driver, 49, of Cherokee, was charged with conspire to traffic methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$75,000 was set.

Coy Alan Rogers, 26, of Robbinsville, was charged with conspire to traffic methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$75,000 was set.

Nicole Dominique Bradley, 30, of Cherokee, was charged with second degree trespass. No bond was set.

Ryan Keith Robb, 29, of Cullowhee, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of less than 1/2 oz of marijuana, maintaining a vehicle to store a controlled substance and possession of synthetic cannabinoid. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

April 11

Sesar Leon Rodriguez, 38, of Arden, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Sierra Astrid Blalock, 30, was charged with failure to appear for felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Jonathan Daniel Barker, 47, of Robbinsville, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, felony probation violation and possession of cocaine. A secured bond of \$40,000 was set.

Kaetlyn Jade Cabe, 19, of Otto, was charged with failure to appear for exceeding a safe speed, fail to wear seat belt for driver, drive left of center, drive after consuming under

21, no operators license and driving while intoxicated. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Mary Heather Dickson, 42, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor probation violation and possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

April 12

Keith Andrew Basty, 34, of Franklin, was charged with resisting a public officer, misdemeanor larceny and habitual felon. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set.

Edwin Antonio Romero, 43, of Sylva, was charged with contributing to a delinquency of a juvenile, misdemeanor child abuse, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Kelley Marie Walkingstick, 34, of Sylva, was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile, misdemeanor child abuse, carry a concealed gun, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Matthew Douglas Owen, 39, of Tuckasegee, was charged with simple assault and communicating threats. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Hiram Lee Butler, 49, of Whittier, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and felony possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Lisa Eugenia Wykle, 48, of Sylva, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property. No bond was set.

April 13

Sierra Astrid Blalock, 30, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Colby Alexander Dillard, 25, of Sylva, was charged with shoplifting and vehicle theft. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

April 14

Brooke Tiffany Clonch, 30, of Sylva, was charged with allow unlicensed driver to drive and possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

Laranzo Daniel Wilnoty, 36, of Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine and driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Jeffery Allen Murphy, 49, of Tuckasegee, was charged with failure to appear for breaking and or entering and misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$17,500 was set.

Whitney Allison Downs, 30, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer and larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Rashonda Lashae Bradley, 35, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Lehua Joan Walkingstick, 44, of Sylva, was charged with possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises and violation of court order. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

April 16

John Michael Hurley, 55, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for simple affray. A secured bond of \$750 was set.

Zachary Chase Wood, 23, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

The Macon County
NEWS
& Shopping Guide

26 W. Main Street
Franklin, NC 28734
(828) 369-6767



SUBSCRIBE FOR ONLY
\$29.00 PER YEAR
Includes Tax

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

Prentiss Church Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2 to 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane. For more information, call (828)369-3885.

M.S. Support Group of Macon County will meet on Thursday, April 20, 2 to 4 p.m., at the Macon County Senior Center. Family members and caregivers are welcome to attend. For more information go to facebook MS Support Group of Macon County.

Heartland Band Old Time Gospel Singing will be held on Friday, April 21, 6 to 8 p.m., at West Franklin Church, located on Sloan Rd., next to the Forest Service Office. All are welcome.

Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, April 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. The church is located at 86 E. Hickory Knoll Rd. For more information, call the church at (828)369-9300 or Jannie at (813)305-9433.

Friends of the Greenway and Macon County Parks & Recreation Open House will be held on Tuesday, April 25, at FROG Quarters, 573 E. Main Street, from 1 to 3 p.m. The public is invited to offer best wishes to Terry Browning who will be retiring on April 28 after 20 years providing maintenance to the Little Tennessee River Greenway. To send a card, mail to FROG Quarters, 573 E. Main St., Franklin, NC 28734.

Angel Medical Center Outpatient Rehabilitation hosting Free Falls Assessment Community Program on Tuesday, April 25, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Macon County Public Library, 149 Siler Farm Rd. The program is adapted from the STEADI initiative developed by the CDC. The program will involve a short quiz assessing fall risk followed by physical tests to assess strength, balance, and stability while walking. For more information, call Angel Medical Center Outpatient Rehabilitation at (828)369-4171.

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

Free yoga at the Macon County Public Library will be held on Thursday, April 27, 6 to 7 p.m. Meet and practice outside the library, weather permitting; otherwise it will be held in the library Living Room. Bring a mat. The library is located at 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin.

American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, April 27, 10:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Nantahala School Gym, 213 Windingstairs Rd., Topton. Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter nantahala to schedule an appointment.

Beyond the Box Event for Operation Christmas Child will be held on Saturday, April 29, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at Lighthouse Baptist Church, 2577 US Highway 441 S., Sylva. For more information or to RSVP, contact June Trull at: jtrull.occ2017@hotmail.com

Trout Unlimited Sylva is hosting a fun afternoon of kid friendly activities followed by a hamburger and hot dog cookout and with gear raffles Tuesday, May 2, from 4 to 8 p.m., at East Laporte River Park. Newcomers and anyone curious about fishing and conservation are welcome. The event will be held rain or shine. Email to

tu.sylva.373@gmail.com if you plan to attend or for more information.

Charles Gandy Embellished Knitting Workshop will be held on May 5, 1 to 4 p.m. Get Weaving with Sarah Howard on May 5, 10:30 a.m., live ZOOM Talk taking place during the Cowee Valley Quilt & Fiber Celebration at the Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center. Go to coweeschool.org to RSVP limited spaces.

International Cultural Exchange Services (ICES) seeks host families for the 2023/24 School Year. Students are 15-18 years old and from Europe, Asia and South America. Students have their own health insurance and money to pay for their expenses. Family application process includes completing online application, reference checks, background checks and a home visit interview. Families can host for a full school year or semester. Ongoing Support is provided to the family and student throughout the student's stay. For more information, call Donna Bell (828)421-8843; or email dbell@icesusa.org; or www.icesusa.org.

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center Sunday, April 23, at 11 a.m., guest speaker Rev. Dr. Katherine Greysen's topic is "No one told me I could fly!" Yoga with Ashley Mondays at 6 p.m., free and open to all. On Thursdays a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and then optional out to eat afterward. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

Resurrection Lutheran Church (LCMS) invites you to worship with them in the Sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship with light refreshments in the fellowship hall. Adult Bible class begins at 9:15 a.m. The church is located at 38 Wayah Street, Franklin.

East Franklin Baptist Church holds Sunday School at 10 a.m., Worship service 11 a.m. Prayer meeting is Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Son Rise International Ministries Christian Fellowship Services are held on Friday evenings at 7 p.m.; Wednesday ladies prayer and Bible Study from 1 to 3 p.m. Mens Bible Study Thursday at 7 p.m. The church is located at 462 Depot St. For more information, call (828)369-2465.

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

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

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

All Saints Episcopal Church, Franklin Services are held Rite I, 8 a.m. without music and Rite II, 10:15 a.m. with music, every Sunday. First and third Sundays at St. Agnes Chapel, 66 Church St. and second and fourth Sundays at St. Cyprian's Chapel, 216 Roller Mill Rd. Sunday 10:15 a.m. services can be viewed live on the website: www.allsaintsfranklin.org and past Sundays can be viewed on YouTube search "All Saints Franklin".

Olive Hill Church Services are held on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Pastor is Keith McWhite. The church is located at 2389 Olive Hill Road.

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

Email church calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

Franklin craftsman uses woodworking skills to honor veterans

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Kenneth (Kenny) Elkins has been working with wood almost his entire life. His father taught him wood craftsmanship, and over the years he has not only perfected those skills but has in recent years focused on honoring veterans by making signs, keychains, flags, and much more.

About six years ago, in his vast woodworking shop on S. Old Prentiss Road in Franklin, Elkins began building a memorial wall that resembles an American flag. On it are wooden dog tags that include the names of individuals who fought in wars from the Revolutionary War to modern wars. Family, friends, and visitors have taken time to write their own names or names of ancestors on those dog tags – which represent all branches of the U.S. military. The 8- by 10-foot wall has been presented a few times at Franklin festivals and events, but its permanent home is at Elkins' carefully curated private museum, adjacent to his woodworking shop, that he allows the public to view by appointment.

Elkins served in the Army in the early 1980s and then spent his career in manufacturing before retiring in Franklin.

“My father taught me woodworking early, but then I took every woodworking class I could – and I even went back to my school in Ohio, where I grew up, to help with woodworking classes,” he said.

While he has made all types of items out of wood, mostly pine, he said he strictly crafts only military- and veteran-

themed items, such as a sign that was recently installed at Nick Mottola's home to honor fallen Beirut veterans during the recent kick-off of a traveling Beirut memorial wall effort. (See Macon County News article, March 23.)

“I have at least 20,000 patterns at my shop, several saws, paints, and more,” said Elkins. “I happened to meet Nick and he talked to me about his ideas for a sign and I was able to make it for him.”

He added, “When I'm making something, I listen to '80s music full blast and get into a zone. I work every day in my shop because my passion is woodworking and supporting military efforts. So, it's great to combine my two interests.”

On one of his handcrafted American flags is featured individually crafted kneeling soldiers as “stars,” and saluting soldiers and military firearms as “stripes.” He crafts numerous military and first-responder themed key chains to give away to veterans. His woodworking skills are evident in projects outside the shop as well.

Whenever possible,



Kenny Elkins woodworking designs often start with a sketch and then he uses a scroll saw to cut out pieces to assemble 3-D creations.

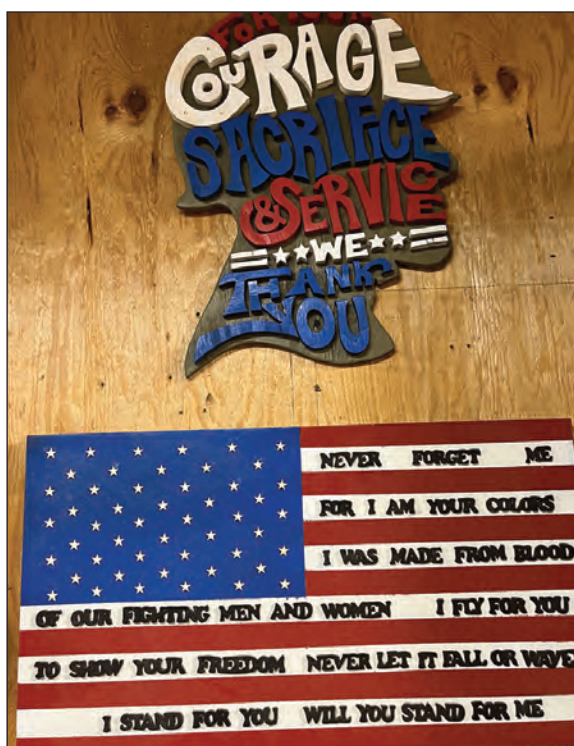


Kenny Elkins's woodworking shop is located on South Old Prentiss Road off Georgia Road and is open to the public to talk to him about his veteran-themed creations.

Elkins grants permission for people to peruse the museum's memorial wall, various military formal and informal uniforms, a military toy collection, and various books, posters, utilitarian items, and more.

Currently, Elkins is at work on a large-scale 3-D piece depicting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Anyone interested in visiting with Elkins in his woodworking shop or scheduling a time to see his military museum can text or call: (419) 631-0906.



An appointment is required to view Kenny Elkins's carefully curated, on-site museum of military items from the Civil War to modern wars. Also in the museum is his handcrafted veteran memorial wall.



Highlands again named on 'best small town for shopping' list in reader's choice contest

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

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

The contest allowed voters to select the winner, allowing one online vote each day until voting closed on Feb. 20. The top 10 winners in the "Best Small Town for Shopping" are as follows:

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

"The picturesque Main Street in the small North Carolina town of Highlands is a shopper's paradise stocking a little of everything – sportswear, gift items, European and American antiques, home decor and accessories, fine art and kitchen gear," reads the description on the 10Best website.

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

About 10Best.com

10Best.com provides users with original, unbiased, and experiential travel content of top attractions, things to see and do, and restaurants for top destinations in the U.S. and around the world. The core of the site's uniqueness is its team of local travel experts: a well-traveled and well-educated

group who are not only experts in their fields - and their cities - but discriminating in their tastes. These local experts live in the city they write about so the content is constantly updated. 10Best.com averages 5 million visitors per month. It was acquired by USA TODAY in January of 2013.



About the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC

Formed in 1931 to serve as the voice of business, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce has grown to provide services and support to businesses, residents and visitors. Conveniently located on Main Street in the Marchant-Parker-Davis-Patterson House, its Highlands Welcome Center is open to all who visit, live and work in the community. The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC hosts an array of special events and programs throughout the year, including the Plateau Pick-Up, Leadership Highlands, Business After Hours, the Outdoor Concert Series, Meander in May, July 4th Fireworks and an array of holiday and winter festivities.

For more information or to inquire about being a member or volunteer, visit highlandschamber.org, stop by the Highlands Welcome Center at 108 Main Street or call 828- 526-5841.

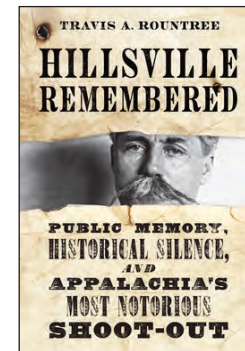
Book Launch: 'Hillsville Remembered' at City Lights

City Lights Bookstore and the Jackson County Public Library will celebrate the book launch of *Hillsville Remembered* by Travis A. Rountree on Friday, April 21st, at 6 p.m. The event will take place in the Community Room of the Jackson County Public Library.

On March 14, 1912, in Hillsville, Virginia, native Floyd Allen (1856-1913) was convicted of three criminal charges: assault, maiming, and the rescue of prisoners in custody. What had begun as a scuffle between Allen's nephews over a young woman ended with him being charged as the guilty party after he allegedly hit a deputy



Travis A Rountree



in the head with a pistol. When the jury returned with the verdict, Allen stood up and announced, 'Gentleman, I ain't a-goin.' A gunfight ensued in the crowded courtroom, which claimed the lives of the judge, prosecuting attorney, sheriff, a juror, and a witness, and wounded seven other people. The men of the Allen family fled the scene, but detectives from the Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency apprehended the men two months later. The state of Virginia put Floyd and Claude Allen to death by electrocution the following spring. Within days of the shoot-

out, local and national media sensationalized the event, maligning the Allen men as rough, uncouth residents of impoverished Appalachia. More than a century later, the 'Hillsville Massacre' - as it was dubbed - continues to impact the citizens and communities of the area as local newspapers recirculate the sordid story and give credence to annual public reenactments that continue to negatively impact the national perception of the region.

In this first book-length scholarly review of the Hillsville shoot-out, author Travis A. Rountree examines various media written about and inspired by this sensational moment in history. Overall, this book provides an extensive analysis of this historic conflict and reveals a new understanding of the shaping of memories and stories from the event.

Travis A. Rountree is an assistant professor of English at Western Carolina University. His writings have appeared in the *North Carolina Folklore Journal*, *Appalachian Journal*, *Journal of Southern History*, and *Storytelling in Queer Appalachia: Imagining and Writing the Unspeakable Other*. To reserve copies of *Hillsville Remembered*, call City Lights Bookstore at (828)586-9499.

Arts Council planning free events for youth

Free Earth Day ArtSaturday for kids April 22

A free nature-themed art workshop for elementary school-age children and young families will be held on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 1 to 4 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library Children's Area.

With instruction from Franklin Uptown Gallery artist-educators, participants will create take-home projects including leaf confetti collages, newspaper owls, paper rubbings, and tin can flower planters. Trail mix snacks and all materials will be provided, as well as a creation station for preschool-age siblings.

No pre-registration is required; wear comfortable clothes and shoes and come for any part of the three-hour session. The wheelchair-accessible Macon County Public Library is at 149 Siler Farm Road in Franklin. This free event is produced by the Arts Council and Macon County Art Association; for details email arts4all@dnet.net or phone 828-524-ARTS.



Teen Poetry Night in Franklin Monday, April 24

The annual Teen Poetry Night, an open-mic event for high school-age poets and poetry lovers, will be held Monday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m., in Franklin's Rathskeller Coffee Haus.

To celebrate National Poetry Month, young poets are invited to read or recite their original works, as well as favorite works by other poets, earning RAT Bucks to be spent at the event on The Rathskeller's healthy beverages, sandwiches, snacks and desserts. There's no pre-registration; participants are given stage time in a round-robin format. Family members and friends are invited to come and cheer their teens on.

The Rathskeller Coffee Haus is at 58 Stewart Street, a half block south of Main Street behind Books Unlimited. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; there is no admission charge. For more information contact the event sponsor, the Arts Council, 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

EATING YOUR
OUT GUIDE
TO AREA
DINING



THE WAIT IS OVER!
WE ARE NOW OPEN

At Our New Location
38 Palmer St Circle - Franklin, NC
Downtown Beside The Old Ingles

Hours
Mon - Thurs 11am - 8pm
Fri & Sat 11am - 9pm • Closed Sun

Delivery **828.369.9999**

Grow herbs in containers for homegrown flavor

Melinda Myers
Columnist

Keep your favorite herbs within easy reach for cooking and seasoning by growing them in containers. A few pots set by your door and grill or on the patio, deck, or balcony make it easy to include some homegrown flavor.

Start by growing those herbs you like to use for seasoning food and beverages, making pesto, or preserving. Include some with fragrance for a bit of aromatherapy or for your craft projects.

Make sure the plants you select will thrive in the amount of sunlight in the growing space. Most herbs prefer full sun but some like mint, thyme, chives, parsley, and lemon balm will tolerate some shade. A bit of afternoon shade is welcome to many sun-loving plants growing in hotter regions. Check the plant tag or seed packet for detailed planting information.

You can grow individual plants in their own container. Place these among other pots to create an attractive display. Or mix several different herbs in one larger container to create a herb garden in a single pot. Make sure all the herbs will thrive in the same soil moisture and sunlight.

In general, place three or four plants in a 10-12" pot, four to six in a 14-16" container, and six to eight in a 16 to 20" planter. Adjust this number based on the size of the transplants purchased and the mature size and growth habit of the herb selected.

Use a container with drainage holes to provide proper drainage and reduce the risk of root rot. Terra cotta pots dry quickly and are a good choice for those gardening in wetter regions or who tend to overwater. Plastic, fiberglass, and glazed pots don't dry out as quickly. Self-watering pots have water reservoirs to extend the time between watering.

Use a quality potting mix that provides adequate drainage, as most herbs require well-drained soil. Whether planting seeds or plants, you will want to leave space between the top of the potting mix and the container. This allows you to water thoroughly without washing the soil out



Melinda Myers

of the pot. Leave a space about half an inch in small planters and an inch or more between the top of the pot and potting mix in larger containers.

Water new plantings and seedlings often enough to keep the soil slightly moist. Gradually reduce frequency and water thoroughly when the top inch of soil is crumbly and dry. Check containers once a day and more often in extremely hot weather. Water thoroughly as needed.

Reduce watering and increase success by incorporating Wild Valley Farms' wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com) into the planting mix. This sustainable soil amendment reduces

watering by up to 25% and adds air space for better plant growth.

Harvest a few leaves and stems as needed throughout the growing season. Regular harvesting encourages more growth for future harvests. Herbs have the most intense flavor when harvested just before flowering. You can remove even more when large amounts of herbs are needed for preserving and craft projects. Cut annual herbs back by 50 to 75% and perennial herbs by one-third at one time.



'Dolce Fresca' basil growing and thriving in a container in full sun. Photo courtesy of All-America Selections

The plants will recover for future harvests.

Make room for some herb-filled containers to enjoy this summer. They make great additions to outdoor gatherings for you and your guests to enjoy their beauty, fragrance, and flavor.

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



Deaths & Funerals

Teresa Lynn Seay

Teresa Lynn Seay, 58, contracted a sudden illness and died unexpectedly on April 15, 2023.

She was born in Franklin, N.C., on Aug. 21, 1964, to Roger Lee Seay Sr. and Bobbie Burch Seay. She lived in Franklin most of her life. She was strong in her faith. She knew where she was going. She grew up in the Wells Grove Baptist Church, where she and her sister, Susie, played organ and piano. In recent years, she attended the Franklin Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Teresa was an excellent business entrepreneur. She was strong-willed and extremely hard working, but she was not greedy, selfish, jealous, or covetous. Rather, she was generous and compassionate, which is why she was so great at what she did. She began and ultimately sold Ambassador Automotive, an auto repair business. In recent years, she was a successful real estate broker in Franklin and Highlands. She worked at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Meadows Mountain Realty in Highlands, with people who appreciated and loved her.

She was kind and good. She laughed a lot – often at herself. She was humble, friendly, decent, honest, ethical, forgiving and optimistic. She grew up on a farm and loved gardening and animals. Her little dogs, Auggie and Rose, will miss her loving care. She was a unique person, an example for the rest of us.

She was deeply in love with her special man, Maury Burstein, and planned to be married this August.

She was predeceased by her parents.

She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Roger Lee Seay Jr. and Beth; her sister and brother-in-law, Cassandra "Susie" Seay Woleslagle and Rick; her uncles, James "Red" Seay; her aunt, Judy Seay; her uncle, Larry Burch; her aunt, Frances Teague; her niece, Mary Margaret Seay; her nephews, Rhys McVicker, Adam Woleslagle and Aaron Woleslagle; and a host of the Seays and Burches. She loved them all.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

For as Heaven is higher than the Earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9

A funeral service will be held Saturday, April 22, at First United Methodist Church of Franklin, at 11 a.m. Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Teresa Lynn Seay

The Macon County
NEWS
& Shopping Guide

Advertise
with Us!

Cost-effective advertising for
small & large businesses

(828) 369-6767

26 W. Main Street • Franklin, NC 28734
themaconcountynews.com

CORNERSTONE MEMORIALS



DOYLE YORK, Owner

Located at Rabun Flea Market

(706) 746-2548

(706) 746-9977

Please Call For Appointment

(706) 746-2837

134 Market Circle • Rabun Gap, GA 30568



Deaths & Funerals

Barbara Louise Michaels Cabe

Barbara Louise Michaels Cabe, 91, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, she was the daughter of the late Henry Arthur and Edith Maurer Michaels. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three husbands, Louis Licea, Robert McCullum, and David Cabe; and two siblings.

She was a member of Union United Methodist Church. She was the first woman school bus driver for the Catholic school in Miami; and retired driver's license examiner for the state of Florida. She enjoyed square dancing, sewing, stained glass art, and she loved all animals. She will be remembered for always loving and caring for others.

She is survived by her three children, Bill Licea of Miami, Fla., Michael Licea (Tabitha) of Miami, and Luann Blynn of Brattleboro, Vt.; two siblings, Josephine Keller, and Arthur Keller, both of Florida; five grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

No local services are planned. The family will have a celebration of life at a later date in Florida.

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

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



Barbara Louise Cabe

John Joseph O'Connor

John Joseph O'Connor, 88, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

He was born in New York, N.Y., to the late Patrick and Elizabeth Mulkeen Clynes O'Connor. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a granddaughter, Brianna Kennedy, and grandson, Kevin O'Connor. He was of the Catholic faith and the former owner of Sleepy Hollow Cottages. He was a member of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 81, Signal 82 of Florida, and Highland Park Association.

He is survived by his two sons, Michael O'Connor of Venice, Fla.; Thomas O'Connor of Ocoee, Fla.; two daughters, Eileen Worthington of Flatwoods, Ky., Phyllis DeNeef (Gino) of Franklin; and a sister, Mary Laffen, Madison, N.C.; seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

At his request, no services are planned.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to FOP Lodge 81, Macon/Jackson, PO Box 12, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Patricia Joyce Phillips

Patricia Joyce Phillips, 83, was born on Sept. 14, 1939, in Elm City, N.C. She experienced a "New Morning Has Broken" with her Christ on April 8, 2023, at her home in Swiss Colony, Franklin, N.C., surrounded by family. She died from a short illness with cancer.

Joyce, as she was always known, was the daughter of John Clayton Winstead Sr., of Elm City, Wilson County, N.C., and Pallie Rickman Winstead, of Cowee, Macon County, N.C. Her parents met when her mother left the mountains to teach school in Eastern North Carolina. They married, and they remained in Elm City to raise their children. Her mother coveted her trips back to Macon County to family and friends, and two of her children retired here.

She relocated to Macon County in 1995, retiring from Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia, after 30 years of teaching.

In the early years, she was very involved with her community, including Swiss Colony, volunteering at the Banquet Table at St. Agnes Episcopal Church, as a thrift store worker for the animals, as a member of the Board for the Animals, and at St. Agnes Episcopal Church, where she was a member. In her later years, this was more challenging for her, but her spirit of helping others always thrived. Whenever possible, she often was busy helping family and friends who were ill.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, LouRee Winstead Batts of Florida, her sister, Daphne Winstead Powers, of Cowee in Macon County, N.C., and her niece, Elizabeth Batts.

She is survived by her brother, Dr. John Clayton Winstead Jr., and wife Linda of Mesa, Ariz.; niece, Dr. Rachel Sanchez and her family of Arizona; nephew, Jim Winstead and family of Pennsylvania; niece, Brenda Joyce Powers Walker of Cowee, and family including her goddaughter, Kimberly Joyce Walker and her family of New Jersey, and her nephew, Wayne Powers of Cowee; nieces, Linda Jo Batts Eldredge and family of Florida, and Margaret Joyce Batts Wallace and family of Florida; and dozens of cousins especially in Macon County.

As per her request, no formal services are planned. A private interment was held at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Those of us who knew her, knew how much she loved children and animals. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to All Saints Episcopal Church Community, 66 Church Street, Franklin, NC, 28734; the Animal House Veterinary Clinic (Good Mama's Memorial Fund at PO Box 509, Franklin, NC, 28744); or St. Jude Children's Hospital (stjude.org).

The family is appreciative of Four Seasons Hospice and Macon Funeral Home for their assistance.

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

Daisy Ann Sanders

Daisy Ann Sanders, 89, of Franklin, N.C., went to be with Jesus on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

Born in Macon County to the late Mitchell and Rose Brendle Sanders. She was a member of Watauga Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Leonard (Snipe) Sanders, Asbury Sanders, Arthur Sanders; sisters, Sally Sanders, Elsie Sanders, Maxine Sanders, Dixie Sanders, and Lucille McMahan.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Saturday, April 15, at Watauga Baptist Church with Revs. David Lee Williams, Wesley Price, and Thomas James officiating. Burial was in the Watauga Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were her nephews, Mitchell Bishop, Bobby Sanders, Doug Johnson, Dennis Johnson, Kirk Johnson, Tyler Hughes, Greg Ensley, Chad Jones, Jason Cochran, Adam Cochran, Tucker Hughes, and special friend of the family, Stuart Beach.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Watauga Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Norris Clouse, 2864 Watauga Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.

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



Daisy Ann Sanders

Ross Eric Hunter

Ross Eric Hunter, 76, of Franklin, N.C., went home to Jesus on April 6, 2023.

Ross, aka Eric, Dad, Grandpa, Pops, Great Grandpa, was the third son born Jan. 19, 1947, to Reese and Jane Hunter, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

He showered his family and friends with love and laughter. He relocated with his family to Florida in 1977, then to North Carolina in 2020. He spent most of his career working in management – from retail to a shell mine to fast food. Most recently he worked at the Iotla Recycling Center. No matter what he did it was with a smile and kind heart.

He is survived by his loving wife, Peggy; his brothers, Buck (Mary) and Randy (Linda); daughters, Kelly Hunter and Tracy (Matt) Nelson; his grandchildren, Brian (Mia) Knight, Sean (Lauren) Knight, Erin (Cameron Holt) Knight, Adam Nelson, and Gabby Nelson; and great grandson, Hunter Knight. He was predeceased by his parents, Reese and Jane.

He loved Jesus, America, his family, and his friends. He liked to play as hard as he worked. He liked to travel, scuba dive, snorkel, and enjoy time with family and friends. He always had a smile and positive attitude. His favorite sports teams were the Ruskin Christian Warriors and the Providence Christian Knight (the teams his grandchildren played on).

The family is planning a "Celebration of Life" service at a later date. The family will be building a weir in the branch in his honor so he will always be close by.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.




Ross Eric Hunter

A celebration of life will be held in memory of

Colin Gooder

known to the AT Community as 'Zen' from Gooder's Grove Hostel & Retreat.



Sunday, April 30
4 to 6PM

The Rathskeller
Coffee Haus & Pub
located at 58 Stewart Street, Franklin, NC

Friends, Family and the AT Community are all invited to attend.



David Moffitt
OWNER/FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Because Funeral Care Shouldn't Cost So Much

828-634-1966
668 Highlands Road • Franklin, NC

Kyle Larson claims first win at Martinsville Speedway

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

MARTINSVILLE, Va. – Kyle Larson's Hendrick Motorsports team gambled on a late race two-tire pit stop to give him a fighting chance for the victory, and he took the opportunity and drove away to a commanding 4.142-second win in Sunday's NOCO 400 NASCAR Cup Series race at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

It was the 2021 Champion's first victory at the famed half-mile track; making the pass for the win in his No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevy with 30 laps remaining, but then having to hold off another past champion Joey Logano, whose runner-up finish Sunday was also impressive considering he started at the rear of the field after a post-qualifying adjustment to his No. 22 Team Penske Ford.

"I feel like [crew chief] Cliff [Daniels] and everybody did a great job all day on pit road, making the right calls and having great pit stops and it all kind of worked out for me there at the end, we had a great car, that was the best my car had been," said Larson, whose final 30 laps out front were the only laps he led on the day.

It marks the second win of the season for the 30-year-old Californian Larson who joins his teammate William Byron as the only multiple race winners on the year.

That late-race pit gamble for Larson was indicative of a dramatic final few laps when pit strategy played a big role in the race. Logano was one of four drivers who did not pit on a caution flag with 56 laps remaining, choosing to take track position instead after he'd gone down a lap not once but twice earlier in the afternoon.

"Solid recovery for what the start of the race looked like," Logano said, joking that at one point he would have been happy just to finish on the lead lap.

"Stayed out at the end when everyone pitted, which put us on the front row and had a shot to win the race," he continued. "I tried to hold off Larson as long as I could. But overall there's some days when you're mad about second [place]. Today's not one of those."

Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Martin Truex Jr. and Denny Hamlin finished third and fourth – the first top-five finishes for both drivers this season. Stewart-Haas Racing's Chase Briscoe finished fifth just in front of his teammate Aric Almirola.

The SHR team was especially strong Sunday with three of its four drivers combining to lead 264 of the 400 laps. Ryan Preece, who started from the pole position for the first time in his career, collected his first stage win and led a race best 135 laps, but was penalized for speeding on pit road and had to go to the rear of the field. He recovered to finish 15th. Briscoe led 109 laps and Kevin Harvick, who claimed his first stage win since 2020, was out front for 20 laps, but a late race issue left him 20th.

Logano's Team Penske teammate Ryan Blaney was seventh, followed by this year's DAYTONA 500 winner Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and 23XI Racing's Bubba Wallace – who also had to recover from a pit road speeding penalty.



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, and crew celebrate in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series NOCO 400 at Martinsville Speedway on April 16, 2023, in Martinsville, Va. Photos by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

Perhaps the most noteworthy Top-10 finish of the day belonged to Hendrick Motorsports' driver Chase Elliott who was making his first start since suffering a broken leg in a snowboarding accident seven weeks ago.

"It was pretty good, honestly, about what I expected, so that was a good thing," Elliott said of his leg after the long day. "Just it was warm [temperatures] and I've been sitting on the couch for six weeks so that probably hurt me more than anything."

"We struggled every run but the last one and finally got it going there at the end and I was able to start making some passes and do things I didn't really think I was going to be capable of doing. So, I was pleasantly surprised by that and got a top 10 of our first day back so that was definitely nothing to be too bummed out about."

Elliott acknowledged the earnest and warm welcome he received at the race track all weekend – the first time he's been to a track since his injury six weeks ago.

"The people, honestly, from my peers to my teammates just the competitive nature of being here and wanting to be better," Elliott said of what he missed most being away from the track during his recovery.

"Really nice to be back and I appreciate the warm welcome this weekend by everybody. I appreciate that and it didn't go unnoticed."

With the win, Larson moves to fourth in the championship

standings – only 17 points behind leader Christopher Bell, who finished 16th on Sunday. Trackhouse Racing driver Ross Chastain is second, five points behind Bell. He finished 13th at Martinsville.

The NASCAR Cup Series returns to action next Sunday in the GEICO 500 at the renowned Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway (3 p.m. ET, FOX, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Ross Chastain in the defending race winner.

John Hunter Nemechek wins with dominating performance in Martinsville

MARTINSVILLE, Va. – John Hunter Nemechek led a dominating 198 of 250 laps to win Saturday night's Call811.com Before You Dig 250 – besting his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Sammy Smith by 1.518-seconds to earn his second NASCAR Xfinity Series victory of the 2023 season and first win in his first series-start at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

The 25-year-old Nemechek, of Mooresville, N.C., took the lead for good on a race restart with 32 laps remaining after winning the first two stages of the race. He, Smith and third place finisher Cole Custer were easily the class of the field all night running some version of 1-2-3 for most of the race.

Smith was able to nudge his way past Custer on the final lap for that runner-up showing.

As Nemechek took his No. 20 JGR Toyota to the front stretch to do a traditional burnout celebration, he literally set the track on fire briefly – perhaps a fitting finale to his hot night behind the wheel. Not only did he win the race, he won the \$100,000 Dash 4 Cash incentive prize awarded by series sponsor Xfinity.

"I can't say enough about this whole team, if you would have asked me yesterday if we would have won, I thought we were a 10th place car in practice," said Nemechek, whose car was ironically sponsored by a fire extinguisher company (Pye Barker Fire & Safety). "Just grateful the guys made the right adjustments."



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, signs autographs for NASCAR fans on the red carpet prior to the NASCAR Cup Series NOCO 400 at Martinsville Speedway on April 16, 2023, in Martinsville, Va.



John Hunter Nemechek, driver of the #20 Pye Barker Fire & Safety Toyota, poses with the \$100,000 Xfinity Dash 4 Cash check in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Call811.com Before You Dig. 250 at Martinsville Speedway on April 15, 2023 in Martinsville, Va.

Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

“Let’s celebrate.”

While Nemechek’s car was so good on the night, there was still a lot of compelling wheel-to-wheel competition behind him. Fourth place finisher Josh Berry, for example, led the next highest number of laps (27) – his No. 8 JR Motorsport Chevrolet looking especially strong until a tire situation forced a long pit stop midway through the race. He rallied back through the field, however, to take his seventh-consecutive top-10 finish on the year tying the the longest stretch of his career.

Berry’s JR Motorsports teammate Brandon Jones finished fifth – his first top 10 of the season in the No. 9 JRM Chevrolet – followed by another teammate, Justin Allgaier, who was able to keep his No. 7 JRM Chevy in the lead group of cars despite not feeling well himself and finishing the race on much older tires than the rest of the lead group.

Nemechek – who swept both stage wins - Smith, Custer and Berry are now eligible for the next installment of the Xfinity Dash 4 Cash \$100,000 award – next week at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway. The top finishing driver from among that four gets the big check.

“Congrats to them, they were the best car all night,” Smith said.

Kaulig Racing teammates Daniel Hemric and Derek Kraus, AM Racing’s Brett Moffitt and Kaulig’s Chandler Smith rounded out the top 10.

Austin Hill – who leads all drivers with three wins this season - finished 16th and with Nemechek’s win the second-generation driver takes over the points lead by 21 points over Hill.

The NASCAR Xfinity Series moves from the shortest track in the sport to the largest track in the sport – Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway where it will race the Ag-Pro 300 (4 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio)

Corey Heim's Time in Martinsville

MARTINSVILLE, Va. – Corey Heim prevailed at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway late Friday night to earn his first NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series victory of the season after persevering through both rain and dry conditions, two red flag periods for weather and multiple charges by the highly-motivated veteran Kyle Busch.

The 20-year old Georgia-native, Heim, led his first laps of the 2023 season at exactly the right time – holding the point for an impressive 82 of the 124 laps of the Long John Silver’s 200. Including the most important lap.

An accident with 85 laps remaining brought out the yellow flag and after several circuits under caution, NASCAR brought the trucks to pit road where the red flag flew for rain and the race was declared official on lap 124 of the scheduled 200 laps.

“Rain, rain, come on,” Heim told his TRICON Garage crew on the radio, just before climbing out of his No. 11 Toyota truck during that final red flag period.

“This race was cut short and that’s definitely unfortunate, but this truck was fast all night,” he said adding, “I couldn’t ask for a better group of guys.”

Heim had to work for this, holding off Busch – who was racing for Kyle Busch Motorsports’ 100th win – and reigning series champion Zane Smith on four different re-starts to claim the famed one-of-a-kind grandfather clock Martinsville trophy only minutes before that clock would strike midnight.

“We just didn’t have a good enough short run truck,” said Busch, who finished second. “Being a little bit loose and free that we were, we were hoping that would pay off in the long run but never had a long run. The longest run of the race was on rain tires.

“It did not go our way today, unfortunately.” Heim swept both stage wins – his first of the season as well.

“I bring a 100-percent effort to every race every week so to be able to sit here and have it pay off is phenomenal,” Heim said.

Smith finished third in the No. 38 Front Row Motorsports Ford with ThorSports Racing’s Ty Majeski and Heim’s TRICON teammate Tanner Gray rounding out the top five.

Ben Rhodes, Matt DiBenedetto, Taylor Gray, William Sawalich and Chase Purdy completed the top 10. It was the 18-year old Sawalich’s NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series debut – helping the TRICON team to four top-10 finishes.

Majeski maintains the points-lead after Martinsville by 26 points over Smith and 49 over Rhodes.

The trucks take a couple weeks off and will return to competition on May 6, at Kansas Speedway in the Heart of America 200 (8 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).



Corey Heim, driver of the #11 Safelite Toyota, and crew celebrate in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Long John Silver's 200 at Martinsville Speedway on April 14, 2023 in Martinsville, Virginia. Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

HIGHLANDER
ROOFING SERVICES INC. 828-524-7773
highlandernc.com

Franklin, NC - Five Day Forecast

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
80°/50°	77°/53°	65°/44°	62°/33°	63°/34°
2%	10%	55%	25%	5%

Decks & Additions Tractor Service
Home Remodeling Driveway Repair
Flooring Grading

KZ CONSTRUCTION

828-283-0659
BuildwithKZ@gmail.com

Gooder
GRAFIX

AWARDS & ENGRAVING
IMPRINTED APPAREL
SIGNS

gooderorders@gmail.com Guy & Alicia Gooder
1021 East Main St. • Franklin, NC 828-349-4097

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME:
CARTOON CHARACTERS

ACROSS

- 1. Unsuitable
- 6. Agency behind food labels, acr.
- 9. Pastoral sounds
- 13. More painful
- 14. "Maggie May" singer
- 15. Secret storage
- 16. Hajj destination
- 17. Inflated feeling
- 18. One in a quiver
- 19. *Scooby-Doo's best friend
- 21. *Stone Age Fred's best friend
- 23. Zip
- 24. Type of wave
- 25. "Mangia!"
- 28. Apple leftover
- 30. Unlike Pinocchio
- 35. Law school test acronym
- 37. Tiger's forte
- 39. Jack Black's Libre
- 40. For ___ kitchen counter
- 41. Jewish folklore creature
- 43. Singer Whitman of "Secret Love" fame
- 44. Formerly known as dropsy
- 46. Spanish Surrealist
- 47. Stay out of its way!
- 48. Make a remake
- 50. Shawm
- 52. Yoda: "Do or do not. There is no ___"
- 53. Like hard times
- 55. Tube in old TV, acr.
- 57. *Jessica or Peter
- 60. *Anthropomorphic squirrel's last name
- 63. Small and elegant

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
	19				20			21	22					
			23					24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41			42		43				
44				45		46				47				
48					49		50			51		52		
					53		54			55		56		
		57	58	59					60			61	62	
63						64	65			66				67
68						69				70				
71						72				73				



SWITCH & GET
\$25

Off First Month of New Service!
USE PROMO CODE: **GZ590**



Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

- 64. Mozart's "L' ___ del Cairo"
- 66. Like a whistle?
- 68. Optical illusion creation (2 words)
- 69. "Time," e.g., colloquially
- 70. Hint of color
- 71. "The Way We ___"
- 72. Farm pen
- 73. Skedaddle

DOWN

- 1. What hedonism and idealism have in common
- 2. Rejections
- 3. Flatfoot's lack
- 4. Pie option
- 5. Calamitous
- 6. One of the Eagles

- 7. *Pluto or Snoopy
- 8. Acrobat maker
- 9. Rural building
- 10. Homesteader's purchase, sing.
- 11. Nabisco's "Chips ___!"
- 12. To use a Singer
- 15. Dairy industry missing person-seeking prop
- 20. Nordic gl, hwein
- 22. Ooh and ___
- 24. Troublemaker
- 25. *Fudd's first name
- 26. Line to the audience
- 27. "It is silent," in sheet music
- 29. Living space
- 31. Don Johnson's Bridges
- 32. Plaudit and pomp

- 33. Bake an egg
- 34. *One of the Pickles
- 36. Like a broken horse
- 38. *Phineas' stepbrother
- 42. Be a parasite
- 45. Just about (2 words)
- 49. Hula necklace
- 51. Builds a tower, e.g.
- 54. Very small particles
- 56. Opposite of ecbatatic
- 57. Ready for picking
- 58. A bit cracked
- 59. Not the life of the party
- 60. Same as cagey
- 61. Lotto variant
- 62. Palm starch
- 63. Gift topper
- 65. *Garfield or Tom
- 67. Butterfly catcher

HAULING

- DIRT
- GRAVEL
- MULCH



Otto • Dillard Franklin

(828) 371-2432



Beautiful, One of a Kind Farmhouse for Rent

PREMIER LOCATION

- Located on the Franklin River Estate in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains on the Cullasaja River.
- This house has just been remodeled and updated.
- A very rare find, this farmhouse has 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Living Room with gas fireplace, central heat and AC, with a spacious open floor plan.
- New appliances in the kitchen - Refrigerator, Oven with Cooktop, Microwave and Dishwasher. Washer and Dryer on site.
- Just minutes from Downtown Franklin & Highlands, NC.
- Internet access and Cable TV available.
- Water & Lawn Maintenance included.
- Annual Lease only.
- Please, Only 55 & up Need Apply
- Non-smoking property.

\$1,900 Per Month

First, Last & Security Required

Please Call Debbie, 877-524-3380

TheMaconCountyNews.com

SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

Call today and receive a

FREE SHOWER PACKAGE

PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In-Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in-tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

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

© StatePoint Media

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

The Classifieds

Services

THE DUCT GUY HVAC Ductwork & Dry Vent Cleaning. Window & Pressure Washing. FREE Estimates. Insured & Experienced! Call (828)342-5540.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

LAWNS MOWED in Macon County Area, 27 Years Mowing Experience. Starting at \$35. Call (828)524-0114.

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.

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.

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

RON IS RETIRING Thank You to Patrons Over The Years. Complete Hydroseeding Business and Equipment for Sale. \$10,000. Evenings (828)332-4415.

GUTTER & DOWNSPOUT Cleaning and Repair. New Installation, Leaf Guards. No Job Too Small, Free Estimates. Call Rick Hall (828)371-3566.

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!

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.

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.

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

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.

Help Wanted

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

CONSTRUCTION LABOR needed for remodeling projects in Highlands. Great benefits Health, Dental, Vision and Paid Holiday, Vacation and Personal days. Call (828)482-4424 Gerri.

SKILLED CARPENTER needed for remodeling projects in the Highlands area. Great benefits Health, Vision, Dental Insurance along with Paid Vacation, Holiday and Personal days. Call (828)482-4424 Gerri.

NEED EXPERIENCED Handyman, Inside/Outside Work, Part-time or Full-time. Call Marty (386)437-1074.

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

Community Fundraisers

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

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

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

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

Misc. For Sale

SALE 25% OFF Furniture and Accessories, Two Building Full, Indoor Shopping, 685 Peeks Creek Rd., Franklin. Open Friday- Saturday, 10-3, Rain or Shine. Veteran Owned.

B & M MILITARY SURPLUS 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

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/macocaninimal

Rentals

MOBILE HOME 2BD/1BA washer/dryer hookup. \$650 monthly. No pets. (828)369-8598.

Commercial Rentals

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

Motor Vehicles

MECHANIC'S SPECIAL \$2,000 1995 Ford Explorer, 140,000 miles, needs head gasket. Still driving around town. (828)342-8689.

Boats & Campers

2005 28' KEYSTON 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 \$9,000. (828)347-0118.

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

Garage & Yard Sales

HAND TOOL'S Carpenter Tools, Lawn Tools, Nascar Memorabilia, Tractor Implements, Saturday, 7:30- 1, 105 Haven Meadow Lane.

164 OAK DR 8-4, Friday, April 21 & Saturday, April 22, Franklin, Lots of Unusual Collectables, Cast Iron, Felted Wool, Lots More!

Musical Instruments Repaired
REASONABLE!



Buy, Trade & Sales Lessons
Call Peter (828)524-1010

Accessorize Your Ride!



Anglin RV • TRUCK & TRAILER
In Otto since 1998

9957 Georgia Rd.
Otto, NC
828-349-4500

Felix's Tree Expert, LLC

For All Your Tree Needs!

- Complete Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Firewood Delivery/Mulch

Accepting All Major Credit Cards

Insured & Reliable • Call Us Today for FREE ESTIMATES
(828) 200-1052

TreeServiceFranklinNC.com

Beat The Rush!

Only A Few Remaining!



Gear Up Now For Spring!

Hours: M-F 8AM-5PM Sat 8AM-12PM

MACON RENTAL CO.
SINCE 1978

537 W. Main Street • Franklin, NC
828-524-8911 • maconrentalco.com



Beautyrest®

HARMONY™

DESIGNED FOR DREAMING AT
THE CROSSROADS OF COST,
COMFORT AND CONSCIENCE.



Visit [Beautyrest.com](https://www.beautyrest.com) to see the collection.

CHOOSE FROM
OUR 2 LEVELS!

Harmony Cayman Series
Extra Firm, Medium, or Plush

\$999 QUEEN
MATTRESS

Harmony Cayman Series
Medium Pillowtop or Plush Pillowtop

\$1099 QUEEN
MATTRESS

MACON FURNITURE MART

560 DEPOT ST. • FRANKLIN, NC

(828) 369-8296

[MaconFurnitureMart.com](https://www.MaconFurnitureMart.com)

Beautyrest Harmony Emerald Bay Medium Pillow Top model featured above. ©2020 Beautyrest, Inc.