

Native Red Trillium is a woodland wildflower with stunning, three-petaled burgundy flowers that float above a whorl of bright green leaves. Also known as Purple Trillium and Wake Robin, these are some of the first flowers to appear in spring and last for just under one month before becoming berries for wildlife to snack on.

Photo by Betsey Gooder

School Board discusses school renovations

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The Macon County School Board meeting was held on Monday, April 24, and included a discussion focusing on two major issues – the priority list for school project renovations; and the proposed purchase of the Higdon property.

School Board Chairman Jim Breedlove explained the priorities for renovating Macon Schools. Breedlove wanted to assure concerned citizens that the Highlands School renovation project was not off the table. He clarified that the Macon Middle School (MMS) track field project would use money left over from the MMS renovation. The Highlands School Renovation project was rated an emergency and number two on the board's list of priorities. The Franklin High School (FHS) new construction project was ranked number one. Breedlove pointed out that portions of the high school were built in the 1952 and has never been fully renovated. The third emergency project was the Highlands School Soccer Field renovation. The soccer field has been an issue for some time, due to flooding. The field floods and becomes too soggy to use. One student was injured when he twisted his foot in the muck. When the girls play in the winter the water freezes making the field too dangerous and slippery to use. Breedlove wanted to reiterate that these projects

were never taken off the list of priorities as some people thought.

The second discussion was regarding the recent proposal by the Macon County Commissioners, to purchase the Higdon property, which is located on Way Street across from FHS. Breedlove spoke about the wish for the property to be given for use by Macon Schools. Colleen Strickland, Director- Macon Virtual Academy, CTE, Testing and Accountability, spoke about using the land for CTE classes. She was hopeful that the land could be used for a mini farm and other agricultural class needs. She said that the CTE classes could really use another space to expand their ever growing classes. Breedlove acknowledged that the property purchase still has to be approved by other members of the Board of Commissioners and that it was too soon to speculate what the commissioners are planning to do with the property, if purchased. Macon County Commissioner Gary Shields stated that there will be a meeting Wednesday night to further discuss the future of the property. Breedlove also acknowledged that other interested parties might have plans for the use of the property. Ideas for this property were tabled until the commissioners decide what the plans are for its use.

The next School Board meeting will be held on May, 22, at Nantahala School, at which time the School Board is hoping to have more clarity on the use of the Higdon property purchase.

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The Big House on the Hill Focused on for Future Educational Opportunities

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

What is referred to as the “Higdon Property” or “Higdon Estate” has become the buzz within the community of late – even though the grand, columned home and surrounding acreage at 195 Wayah Street in Franklin, across the street from Franklin High School (FHS), has remained vacant for several years. Macon County Commissioners have made the first steps down a path that may lead to the property becoming part of future plans for FHS.

Robert Shook, curator at the Macon County Historical Museum, commented that since the property was less than 100 years old, it is not officially classified as historic, but he pointed out that Denton Higdon served as a significant source because “he has actually been in the house and is related to the family who lived there.”

Denton Higdon shared that he is related because his father, Sam Higdon, was first cousins with Lyman Higdon, who, with his wife, Francis Moody Higdon, had the home built. Although real estate records show the home being constructed in 1951, Denton said it was built earlier because he remembers that the couple lived there when their only son, Lyman Jr., was shot down in Poland during World War II. Even though a Polish family hid him for several days, “he succumbed to his injuries,” said Denton, “And Francis left his room just exactly as it was when he went off to war. I remember seeing that room in the home.”

When Lyman died, the home was left to his brother, Bill Higdon, who owned an accounting firm in Hawaii, according to Denton. “He and his wife would come often from Hawaii to stay in the home, but then when they died, one of their children, Frank Higdon inherited it; but he died and it was left to his surviving wife, who decided to put it on the market.”

Although the timeline is not definitive, the Higdon property has remained on the real estate market for many years. “I’ve been in the home many times,” remembered Denton. “It’s not as big as it looks on the outside.” However, the classic-style home does include four bedrooms and three baths and its distinct feature is its extensive wood paneling and moldings, as well as the large kitchen and dining area, which has an expanse of windows to view the pastures off the back of the house.

Since it went up for sale, numerous individuals, businesses, and organizations have expressed interest in the property for various reasons. Last year, a Franklin nonprofit called Kavod Family toured the home and acreage with an idea of developing the property as a private school. In a letter, shared by Director of Operations Casey Wilson, the organization conveyed: “Our vision for the Higdon Estate is to begin an academy/school in a home filled with tradition and history. The property would also eventually provide a fitness and recreation center where young people from the community could find mentorship and develop into excellent young people with the vision and the character to make a lifelong impact in this community.”

However, Wilson informed that the cost of the property did



Higdon Estate

not meet the organization’s proposed budget.

Most recently, County Commissioner Danny Antoine approached the other county commissioners about the property’s proximity to Franklin High School and how it might work to meet the school’s future needs in some capacity. Thus, discussions led to a purchase proposal presented at the April Macon County Commissioner meeting. County Manager Derek Roland offered for consideration a budget amendment regarding the agreed-upon purchase price for the property. County commissioners voted on the budget amendment pertaining to 195 Wayah Street and it was unanimously approved. The process includes a 60-day due diligence period and then 30 days to close on the purchase. Discussions included the disbursement of \$100,000 in refundable earnest money to the trust fund of Ridenour and Goss PA; and, \$10,000 in non-refundable due diligence money to Collins and Collins PA to be paid to the seller.

“There have been a lot of questions regarding the Higdon Estate,” commented Antoine, on an April 21 Kavod Family podcast. Antoine is on the board of Kavod Family and he recently merged his 20-plus-year karate studio with Kavod Fitness. He explained that it was a natural progression because Kavod Fitness is owned by his daughter and son-in-law, Lydia and Travis Shook. “After they got fully established, I realized there is so much we can do under one roof instead of being separate,” he explained. “That was a great motivation. Plus, it’s a beautiful thing to have a true family-owned business. And, we can do so much more for students in a larger facility.”

Additionally, he shared more about the Higdon Property on the podcast: “There is so much more we can do for [Macon County] children. Why is it that we cannot keep them here in this community? The high school currently has an amazing CTE [Career and Technical Education] program. Technical stuff, agriculture ... There are a number of things that can happen on that property that can benefit the students, for example, agriculture. The county purchasing that property has everything to do with benefiting the kids. Let’s teach them things that will help them thrive in their lives. No one is benefiting on a personal level – even though, unfortunately, that is what’s being put out there.”

Antoine explained that on social media, he has been attacked directly or it has been insinuated that the Higdon Property is being purchased through the county for him to establish his own private business.

He added, “I just wanted to clear the air for everyone to get

a better understanding. Everything that has been put out in social media is false. As a county commissioner, I got into this to service people. Nothing I'm doing is for personal gain. This is a beautiful county and [my family and I] love to serve you all. It's in our hearts."

Macon County Commissioners Chair Paul Higdon, though he shares the last name, said, "I know very little history of the property in question and regrettably have no family ties



At a recent Business Advisory Council meeting to discuss the future of FHS programs and the use of the Higdon Property, CTE chef team Miguel Ortega, Cesia Escobar, and Breanna Pelletier were recognized for securing fifth place in a NC Jr Chef competition for a Cajun pizza recipe they developed.

to the current owners." He echoed Antoine by pointing out that his support of the property's purchase is strictly for the good of Macon County. "These commissioners were elected by majority to represent the best interest of the taxpayers of this county and that is foremost in all our decisions. I know that there will always be some who are upset with the makeup of the board and are willing to oppose and criticize anything we do. That's called politics and we eagerly accept the associated responsibility."

At the April meeting, after commissioners cast their vote pertaining to the property, Antoine shared that he had spoken with Paul Boney of LS3P (a multidisciplinary firm offering architecture, interiors, and planning services) to learn how the property could realistically be incorporated into the FHS project process. Antoine communicated further that LS3P is planning to present potential uses for the property in the near future.

Robert Shook (Travis Shook's father) noted, "I would like to see the [Higdon] home kept intact and used. I think the county commissioners are on board regarding the preservation of properties in this community. It's important to put these old properties to good use."

Business Advisory Council's Ideas

On April 26, at a 10 a.m. meeting in FHS's library, the Business Advisory Council (BAC) for the Macon County Board of Education offered ideas for the Higdon Property's possible educational uses. Overseeing the meeting was Macon County's CTE director Colleen Strickland. After various CTE

awards and recognitions, Strickland shared objectives for a proposed Farm-to-Table Student Enterprise, which would provide learning opportunities for students in livestock management, horticulture, project management, culinary arts, hospitality and tourism, and business applications. She pointed out that the objective of the Enterprise would be to provide "a unique educational experience for our students and generate revenue for Franklin High School's CTE program."

Attending the meeting were representatives of the BAC as well as from various aspects of the community, including Joe Deal of Co-operative Extension; Jenny Collins, an agriculture teacher at FHS; Jennifer Love, STEM program; and, about 20 additional attendees.

Collins explained that she was hired a year and a half ago to expand student opportunities in Macon County. She said she had walked around the Higdon Property and thought about all the ways the school could use the property. Collins addressed the April 26 group: "I understand there is not a specified use for the property, but if it was purchased, I would like the BAC to support an endeavor for a 'land lab,' to be a unique experience that other schools in North Carolina do not offer."

The flyer she passed out touts as the working title for the proposed program "Panther Harvest: Franklin High School Land Lab – The Farm-to-Table Experience."

"Since we don't have a commercial kitchen at the school, that is limiting student learning opportunities, but we could offer a commercial program to have them ready to be caterers and chefs – taking the food developed by the agriculture program and preparing it."

Also proposed is a mini farm, hydroponic garden, and hospitality and tourism education. "I see students hosting receptions, events ..."

FHS principal Mickey Noe commented that CTE programs were the "way of the future" for students.

Paul Higdon reminded attendees of the April 26 meeting that the Higdon Property was in the 'due diligence' stage, which involves evaluating the structure, etc. Due diligence will expire in June. "What is the highest and best use of that property is what we are thinking about," he said. "Ten acres of property are right across the road [from Franklin High School] ... and we appreciate any input."

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Slanted Window marks one year in wine business

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Dion and Cathy Sena can relate to the adage, “Time flies when you’re having fun.” The couple has been reflecting in recent weeks on the one-year anniversary of their Slanted Window winery.

They recently put out this statement to the public, “When we reminisce on this past year, we think of the first time opening our doors to the community, we think of the ribbon cutting ceremony and the celebrations people have spent with us; we think of all the dancing and singing at our live music nights and harvesting grapes for new wines to share with you all; we think of the laughter, the smiles, and the cheers and we can’t wait to keep it going.”

Slanted Window is a winery that serves and sells wines produced from European-variety grapes grown on the SenAmore Vineyard in the Tellico Community, considered the first and only vineyard in Macon County. The Senas have been actively pursuing a successful vineyard and winery for the past five years. The couple finally experienced the fruits of their labor when they began offering up various wines to the local and visiting public last year at a renovated

gas station on Harrison Avenue they transformed into a distinct venue.

Dion has been visiting Macon County since his parents, Dr. Dick Sena and his wife, Dorothy, bought a farm and an old farmhouse in 1963 and began summering with their family when they traveled to the mountains from Miami, Fla.

The house, which is situated next door to the Tellico Trout Farm where the historic Ramsey family home is located, was built in the late 1800s and was a part of the Ramsey family's history in Tellico Valley, explained Dion.

“As each of the Ramsey children got married, they built a home in the valley and were given 150 acres. Our farmhouse was the first son, Harley Ramsey's, home.”

Dion and Cathy became full owners of the family property, which includes 28 acres, in 2009, and began restoration of the home, which had some damage due to high winds a few years earlier from Hurricane Ivan.

“We also decided to plant a few grapes to see what would happen,” he said. “After two years of

trial and error, we grew the vineyard from five rows of Chambourcin – a Pinot Noir type grape that grows well in our microclimate – and added 10 more rows of that. We then added 15



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He added, “We named our farm/vineyard SenAmore – Sena, because of our last name, and Amore, which is the word for ‘love’ in Italian.”

The name for the winery was inspired by the slanted window on the second-floor front porch of the home.

“My mother covered it with siding because she didn’t really like it,” said Dion. “However, this act ended up saving that window decades later. When we removed the siding, we discovered the old slanted window - original and intact!”

For various reasons, it took some time for the Senas to get a farm winery license. “However, because we are agricultural and our wine is a by-product, we were finally able to get licensed as the first farm winery in Macon County in the fall of 2019!” said Dion. “When starting a vineyard, and in order to have good wine, you must have good grapes. Most typically vineyards allow three years growth prior to making and bottling wine. We allowed five years of growth to strengthen and fortify the vines. Being the first winery in Macon County (which does not have an American Viticultural Area designation) there was no shared knowledge for us refer to. We have the only aging library



of wine for this area! Nobody knows how long a bottle of red wine from our area will age to proper maturity.”

The Senas teamed up with a skilled vintner, wine maker, Jabe Hilson. Dion shared, “Jabe not only understood the challenges of our microclimate with science-based knowledge but was successful in experimentation and creative wine making endeavors. Together, and with the recent addition of our nephew, Nick Roots, as vineyard manager, we have been able to take our grape growing and wines to the next level.”

To offer the Slanted Window winery to the public, the Senas in 2018 purchased an old gas station on Harrison Avenue in Franklin that had stood empty for several years. “The SenAmore vineyard and winery tasting room is far from town and very rural [in Tellico] so we thought this would be a much more accessible location,” said Dion, who remembers stopping at the station as a teenager before he ventured out to his family home in Tellico.

“We feel like we created something special, unique, and different,” said Cathy, “not only in the physical structure, which Dion and I envisioned and created with the assistance of Kopp Construction and with a designer from South Florida, Dee Malone, that I have worked with for decades, but in the concept of serving excellent but casual food, featuring local N.C. beer, local N.C. Bourbon and of course, our wines.”

Slanted Window features a classic automobile theme with parts of cars serving as decorative accessories and the former gas pumping area as the outdoor patio.

Slanted Window opened in April of 2022. “Franklin has been receptive and appreciative of our efforts,” added Cathy. “We are extremely proud of our wines and what the soil of Tellico Valley in Macon County has produced! And, we are extremely proud of the team and ‘family’ that we have developed over the past year here at the Tasting Station and the customers from near and far that have supported us in this adventure!”

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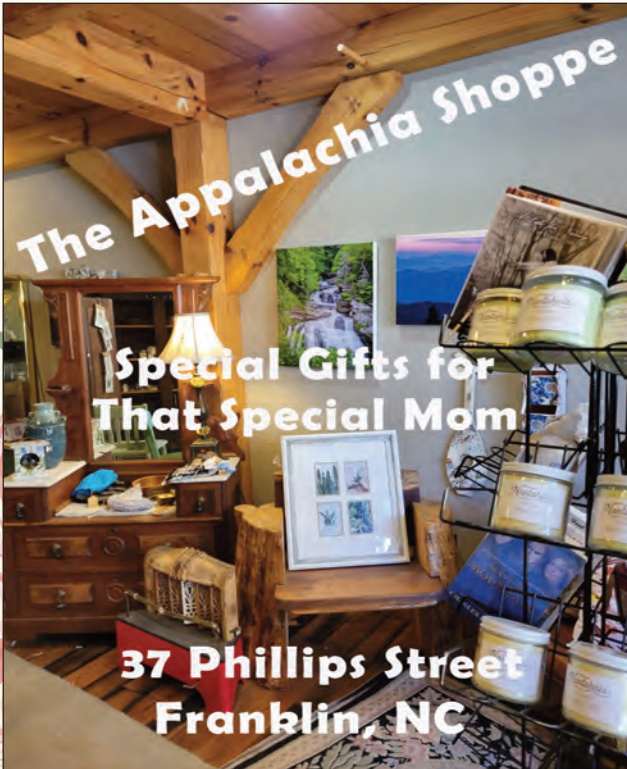


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3FHS Sports – Raby Named Conference Coach of the Year for Golf

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

As the temperature warms up, Franklin High School (FHS) athletics enters the stretch run of the spring sports season. The men's golf team finished their Mountain Seven Conference (MSC) tournament. Franklin hosted the conference tennis tournament April 24-25, and the track team had two meets in the last week as it nears the conference championship meet May 2. Women's soccer is closing out their season with one home and two away games in the next couple weeks.

Golf

Golf Coach Ryan Raby's squad completed the third and final match of the MSC tournament April 25 at the Springdale Country Club. The end result of the three-round tournament placed FHS in the number-two seeded conference position, behind Pisgah, with a 1,014 to the Black Bears' 963. Also of note, Raby was named 2023 Mountain West Conference Coach of the Year. When contacted about the honor, Raby stated, "The way I look at it, coach of the year is just another accomplishment by the kids." As for the round, he also lauded his team for their performance. "They played great. Best team score of the year. We finished up second overall and all five will move on to the Regional Championship on May 8th." Three members of the team also earned all-conference honors: freshman Tanner Jones, sophomore Max McClure, and junior Ashton Shope.

The tournament's second round had FHS participating at Sky Valley. Six teams competed in that round, which saw the Panthers log a second-place finish to Pisgah High School. As was the case in the first round, the Black Bears won the day, this time by 20 strokes over FHS, 326-346. Tuscola finished close behind the Panthers in third with a 349 followed by West Henderson who logged a 353. FHS Freshman Tanner Jones led the way with an 80 followed by sophomore Max McClure at 81. Juniors Ashton Shope (92) and Cameron Trubicza (93) rounded out the scoring for Franklin. Regionals are scheduled for May 8 in Morganton NC, at Mimosa Hills Country Club.

Tennis

As host of the MSC tournament, Franklin was part of a multi-school contingent playing for positioning in the upcoming Regionals Tournament in Hickory, May 5-6. As the second day of the conference tournament materialized, Head Coach Sammy Gunter's team found itself down to two matches that would determine where the Panthers lined up in Hickory. For singles, sophomore Gavin Rinker was pitted against the slight, but tenacious Smoky Mountain Freshman, Derek Hinkle to decide who would finish third or fourth place for the conference tournament seedings. Hinkle, using primarily a back court lobbing strategy, swept Rinker in straight sets. In doubles, FHS' Jack Sgro and Mica Jacobs swept West Henderson's Ben Mathews and William Selby in two sets 6-0, 6-4 to take first place for the tournament.

"We're going to the playoffs for dual teams, but we won't know where until probably Tuesday morning and it will be at someone's number one team," said Gunter. "In North Carolina, you can go as a team or as an individual." For regional tournament positioning, all the coaches from the West Region will gather and seed four players from among the eligible schools for both singles and doubles and then draw names out of a hat. For FHS the same three players will be participating: Rinker, Sgro, and Jacobs. Gunter further pointed out, "It's the same format; [as the conference tournament] if you win two you go to States but you have to come back the second day to get your placement."

The Panther tennis team achieved a 9-4 (9-2) record this season

and ended in second place in conference. Following a loss at West Henderson, in which they competed well, FHS headed into the final regular season match April 20 for a home contest with Pisgah on a two-match losing streak and the Panthers won 9-0. "We were dominant in nearly every match and those that were close, the guys



FHS Golf Team: (left to right) Cameron Trubicza, Ashton Shope, Max McClure, Coach Ryan Raby, Assistant Coach Dan Gibson, Tanner Jones, and Owen Jenkins.

were able to pull ahead for the victory," reported Gunter, following the one-sided outcome. In light of back-to-back losses, the victory was all the more satisfying.

In the West Henderson loss, the Panthers fought hard in a long (three and a half hours) match before falling to the undefeated Falcons. Gunter pointed out that his players made adjustments enroute to stay competitive throughout their various games in both singles and doubles. "Gavin (Rinker) lost his first set then adjusted to the attacking style (of his opponent) to win the second. The tiebreak had several momentum shifts but (Rinker) handled the pressure at the end to prevail," said the coach. With Mica Jacobs and Conner Baldwin both losing after tough matches, Gunter took the loss in stride; "Overall, it was a good effort against a quality team."

Track

The Franklin Panthers Track and Field team has been busy lately. With only two regular season events left, FHS' team competed April 25 in the Swain County Invitational at Enka High School and April 20 in the Blue Ridge Classic (BRC) at the North Buncombe High School in Weaverville, NC.

For the Swain County meet, men's Coach Matt Harfinger pointed out that only a limited number of students would be participating. "We decided to travel about half our team to the meet. Our conference meet is next week and we would benefit in some areas from a little rest heading into the Conference, Regionals, and State meets." He also pointed out that some of the student athletes had to compete at Enka due to a conference rule that requires qualifiers to compete and an event at least one time. There were also Panthers who were near qualifying for regionals, and for some, this will be their last meet of the season if they are not competing at the conference meet.

Due in part to the aforementioned strategy, not many Panthers factored in the upper scoring realm for the Swain meet. Standout performances included the boys 4X200 meter (m) relay in which FHS finished second with a 1:32.28 to A. C. Reynolds' 1:30.02. Junior Barrett Stork finished third in the boys 800m with a 2:02.56. Similarly, in the girls 200m, freshman Michelle Ortega also took third with a 27.23 time. Sophomore Boston Stringer took second



FHS Tennis' Jack Sgro and Mica Jacobs won doubles in the conference tournament. Shown in the foreground Mica Jacobs is serving and Jack Sgro is at the net in the foreground.

with a 10'6" in the girls' pole vault, tying a senior from Swain County in height. Rounding out the Panther performances of note, senior Blake Cassada continued his outstanding pole vault prowess with a 13'0", finishing second to Swain County's Matthew Gray. Overall, FHS boys finished seventh while the girls settled for eighth.

In the BRC, Mallard Creek (MC) dominated the meet but FHS boys took second, with 96.5 points behind MC with a 119 score. The girls came in fourth at 70.5 total and finished well behind the Lady Mavericks who logged 163 points to also win by a significant margin. Harlfinger focused on progress achieved by the Panthers, "Mallard Creek is a 4A school with a very good track program. I think we finished with 53 [men] and 33 [women] points last year with the same teams competing."

With just over a week remaining before the conference tournament, three weeks until the regional round, and under a month until the state round, FHS is closing out its regular season on a positive and successful note. Individually, some standouts at the meet included: Junior Elijah Cochran, who broke his own school records in the 110 (15.53) and 300-meter (m) (39.34) hurdles. Junior (Jr) Logan Russo placed second in the boys 800m with a 1:59.52, less than a second behind first. Jr Barrett Stork finished just behind first in the 3200m with a 10:08.69 time. In the high jump event, Cal Drake had a 6-02 to also place second. Senior Isaiah Roots took third in the 400-meter (m) dash with a 50.94. Senior Blake Cassada (14-00) and Jr Aaron Jennings (13-06) placed second and third, respectively in the boys' pole vault. Sophomore (So) Laura Covarrubias had a 36-00.50 in the girls' triple jump to take second place. Fellow So Boston Stringer placed third in the pole vault with a 10-00 height, which actually tied the second-place finisher. Charley Seagle (So) placed third in the girls' shot put with a 37-04 throw.

Women's Soccer

FHS' varsity women's game scheduled to be played at Pisgah Monday, April 24, was moved to a home game for Franklin and will be played Friday, April 28, at 5:30. The Lady Panthers also played at North Henderson Wednesday, April 26, against a Knights team that is 7-2 in the conference.

On April 19, the junior varsity (JV) team was shut out by the Mountaineers of Tuscola, 4-1. The loss brings the junior Lady Panthers' record to 2-2 on the season.

Later the same evening, the varsity Panthers tied Tuscola, 1-1 in double overtime after senior defender Madalynn Brannon lifted a free kick over the Tuscola defensive line and past the Mountaineer goalie to score midway through the first half. Tuscola sophomore forward Chloe Crisp scored the equalizer in the second half. FHS sophomore midfielder Lilian Holt was named Player of the Game in the contest. On Friday, April 21, FHS hosted the 2A Polk County Lady Wolverines and got shut out 5-0 to bring their record to 3-8-4 overall and 2-5-1 in the MSC.

The varsity team has three games left in the regular season following their game at North Henderson, April 26. Their next contest is home against Smoky Mountain on FHS Senior Night, Monday, May 1. The JV played at North Henderson, April 26 and then will play West Henderson, on May 3.

The Legislative Review

Rep. Karl E. Gillespie



Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

In this week's edition of The Legislative Review, the House returns to normal legislative business after a brief spring recess, and the crossover deadline approaches.

For the legislative week of April 10 - April 15, the NC House held no vote sessions during their brief spring recess. The spring recess was held after the passage of the House budget the week prior.

For the week beginning Monday, April 17, 2023, the House held an administrative session with no votes. On Tuesday, various committees met, including:

Senate Education/Higher Education Committee which heard SB631, Fairness in Women's Sports Act. The bill passed committee.

House Health Committee which heard various bills, including:

- HB484, Mental Health Confidential Info. Disclosure and

- HB500, NCCWBTC/Medicaid-Related Recs. Both bills passed committee.

On Wednesday, several House committees met, including House Judiciary I which considered HB574: Fairness in Women's Sports Act, of which I am a primary sponsor. The bill passed the Judiciary I Committee and also passed the House Rules Committee that afternoon.

House session convened Wednesday afternoon and numerous bills were considered, including:

- HB319, Veteran Registration Plate Modifications, would amend the current authorization for Military Veteran special registration plates by specifying placement of design elements and by authorizing the plates to be issued on a full-color background. HB319 passed by unanimous vote.

- HB378, Firefighters Criminal History Background Check, would allow an alternative statewide criminal history record check for applicants being offered a position with a fire department to be conducted through the North Carolina Department of Public Safety or a third-party vendor if the applicant meets certain requirements. Applicants for junior membership and current junior members in a fire department under 18 years old would be exempt from the criminal history record check. The criminal record history check would only be required when a position is being offered. HB378 passed by unanimous

See GILLESPIE on page 11

Letters to the Editor

What are you supporting and why?

I have noted the ongoing controversy regarding materials available for juveniles (0-11 years of age) and young adults (12-17 years of age) at the Macon County Public Library mostly through information provided by friends and occasionally letters to the editor. As I listened and read, I wondered what was being objected to, so I read all or part of some books that were being mentioned and held up at either Library Board meetings or Commissioner meetings. Admittedly, I was shocked at what I read and immediately wondered if those opposing change to whom these books are available, how they are or are not displayed, and why there is no warning that would enable a parent or child to easily realize the content's focus, were as I was - unaware. I then wondered why none of the people objecting to the content never read from the book in meetings.

I began deciding whether this letter should include a few quotes. As I did so I began to understand why others had not read from the books in the public meetings. I questioned whether I wanted my name associated with quotes I will share. I determined that there were two primary audiences and reasons for quoting material.

First, I know from photos in newspapers and Facebook comments that there are people whom I know and have respected over the years that oppose the efforts for change. I suspect that some have been influenced by a prominent social media / public media personality and by statements misrepresenting the focus of those who advocate for change while using terms such as "censorship" and "book banning." I suspect many have not personally investigated the objectionable material and are not aware of what they are supporting by their opposition to requested changes.

Second, those who have publicly opposed advocates for change and have supported the library leadership's (Librarians and Board members) delayed response to requested changes would benefit from exposure to content they are supporting in juvenile and young adult sections.

See now quotes from two pages, written in comic book style, from "Flamer" by Mike Curato:

Speaker 1: "Check it out, it's that Chinese faggot I was telling you about."

Speaker 2: "What the fuck? Fuck off."

Speaker 1: "Why, is your kung fu friend gonna bust some moves on me?"

Speaker 2: "He could take you anytime. And he's Filipino you ignorant asshat!"

Speaker 1: "Oh, sorry, I didn't know that you and mister Miyagi were such an item. Have fun suckin' each other's dicks, ladies."

Speaker 2: "Fuck you, pencil dick."

From four of the panels on page 122.

"You're the faggot!!! You're the fudge-packing fairy cocksucking queer pansy faggot!!!"

The entirety of the verbiage on page 207.

"Flamer" is the story of a 14-year-old, Aiden, who is at a Boy Scout camp and is struggling with homosexual attraction to another scout, tent mate Elias. In addition to the theme of his homosexual attraction there is the obligatory fantasies of cross dressing, nudity, erotic dreams, sexual arousal, masturbation, and various interpersonal relations, etc.. In addition to the sexual aspects, the book is filled with anger, hate (self and others), abuse, filthy language, and more. It is classified in the library as "YA" - Young Adult; available for check out by a child.

I do not see the "redeeming social value" of such material or understand why such obscene and pornographic (You check the Webster definitions.) material should be openly available to juveniles and young adults without caution to content for parental awareness.

From my research "Flamer" is not one of what would be considered as offensive as the material in numerous other books. In fact, "Flamer" has not made the American Library Association (ALA) list of "Top 10 Most Challenged Books." "Gender Queer," also written in comic book style, appeared as #1 on the ALA list in 2022, the most recent year noted at the ALA website, and was recently moved to the "Adult Nonfiction Graphic Novel section" in our library. It is the only objectionable book moved as of April 18th. Is there no "Juvenile/Young Adult Graphic Novel section" where such "literature" could be placed thereby giving an alert to parents? If not, why not?

The "Request for Reconsideration of Library Resources" demonstrates the disparity in selection and removal of materials. Some quotes "The Fontana Regional Library Board of Trustees has delegated the responsibility for selection and evaluation of library resources to the Regional Director, the County Librarians, and the Branch Librarians ..." so apparently a single librarian can select library resources. (I wonder if the ALA recommends selections??) However, when evaluating a complaint about a book, "The Request for Reconsideration of Library Resources" form, together with resource reviews, are discussed with the FRL Director and the County Library Board. No single Library staff member or Library Board member has the authority to remove the resource under reconsideration." The process to remove is apparently laborious and reportedly often unsuccessful. I will find out soon.

Recently the decision was made to stay in the FRL system and Commissioner Higdon read a statement that included "... improvement is needed in the areas of parental empowerment and governance of the FRL System" which sounds good. However, continuing the statement he read that the counties "will look into provisions which will give parents greater ability to set restrictions on what materials their children may check out while still remaining in compliance with the law, and the structure and authority of the respective local county library boards and the regional board." Based on history, and what it has taken to arrive at the point we are, every word after "law" is concerning and continued diligence is needed.

"Improvement" does not mean a "business as usual" attitude by the librarians and boards.

Bill McGaha - Franklin, N.C.

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GILLESPIE

Continued from
page 10

consent.

– HB574, Fairness in Women's Sports Act, is an act to provide opportunities for women and girls in athletics. The bill would prevent biological female athletes from being forced to compete against biological male transgender athletes in school sports designated for females. I am a primary sponsor on the bill and it passed by a vote of 73-39.

On Thursday, the House reconvened for a voting session and considered several bills, including:

– HB223, OSHR/Various State Human Resources, makes various technical and clarifying changes to the State Human Resources Act and related statutes. The bill passed with a unanimous vote.

– HB298, Criminal Falsification of Medical Records, would make it a criminal offense for a health care provider to willfully destroy, alter, or falsify a medical record, or to direct someone else to do so. HB298 passed unanimously.

Recently co-sponsored bills

From 4/10-4/21, I sponsored the following bills:

– HB579, Amend Certain DEQ/EPA Agreements/Proceedings, would amend sedimentation control permitting requirements, to establish new requirements for memorandums of agreement between the department of environmental quality and the United States environmental protection agency, to require general assembly approval for rulemaking to incorporate by reference federal environmental regulations, to revise appointments to the sedimentation control commission, to establish the environmental policy council, and to make other changes to the administration of environmental programs in North

Carolina.

– HB580, Expand Day/Employment Options/IDD, would expand meaningful day and employment services options for Medicaid beneficiaries with intellectual disabilities.

– HB589, Protect Whistleblower LEOs from Retaliation, would protect from retaliation law enforcement officers that report the use of excessive force or other improper or unlawful activity.

– HB590, Increase Punishment for Cargo Theft, would amend the offense of breaking or entering or breaking out of railroad cars, motor vehicles, trailers, aircraft, boats, or other watercraft.

– HB593, Restrict Truck Length Through Cullasaja Gorge, would increase the penalty for exceeding tandem trailer and semitrailer length limitations on a certain designated road in Macon County.

– HB704, Right to Appeal Giglio Notification, would allow criminal justice officers and justice officers the right to appeal Giglio disclosure notifications.

– HB716, Career Course for Middle School, would add a career pathways course to the standard course of study and to require the completion of career plans in schools.

– HB736, Joel H. Crisp SUDEP Awareness Law, would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to compile and disseminate information on sudden unexpected death in epilepsy information to health care practitioners and provide a corresponding report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services.

Let us know what you think

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

Policies reducing our economy, helping other countries

President Biden has been very clear that he wants the U.S. to be the world leader in electric vehicles which would be manufactured here and use U.S. supply chain or those of our allies. He says this is necessary for environmental reasons and to increase American jobs and economy.

A typical electric vehicle battery weighs about 1,000 pounds and contains many different minerals all of which must all be mined from the earth. Estimates are that a typical EV battery requires about 500,000 pounds of dirt and rock to be mined to produce a single battery.

The U.S. probably has the most stringent safety and environmental mining regulations in the world. Mining in this country has been going down and the Biden administration, in recent months, has eliminated all mining in three, roughly 500,000-acre tracts that were being actively mined and contained minerals used for EV batteries. This means that more minerals will be mined elsewhere, with less safety and environmental regulations and using child and/or slave labor

The Biden administration says they want to grow the U.S. economy. However, their actions towards the fossil fuel industry and strong push towards electric vehicles with foreign reliance on raw materials is reducing our economy and helping other countries. In fact, a member of Biden's cabinet testified before Congress that the U.S. will be helping China's economy to increase because of our policies. The President wants more jobs in the U.S. and a more stable supply chain. Will getting more raw materials from overseas make the supply chain weaker or stronger? The Biden administration says they want a cleaner environment and increased human rights. However, they reduce mining in the U.S. and so the needed minerals and fuel will be produced with more environmental damage and slave labor. Based on his own words, President Biden is against the production of

fossil fuels and minerals, even for electric batteries, in this country for the protection of the environment. However, he apparently has no problem with these materials being produced elsewhere on the globe even though that production will be worse for the global environment than if they were produced in the USA.

This week the Biden administration announced new regulations which will effectively mean that by 2032, Americans will be forced to purchase electric vehicles since 67% of new vehicles will have to be electric to meet the requirements - EVs are about 7% now. These new regulations could result in customers not being able to buy the type of vehicle they want but the government requires. This will also further help China and hurt America since China currently controls about 80% of the global EV battery production. The U.S. hopes to greatly increase its EV battery production but even using those projections, the U.S. would only be able to produce about 10% of the global needs and China would still be, by far, the leading manufacturer.

Ken Stonebraker – 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.

What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

This week, the Highlands Town Manager and I will be attending the North Carolina

League of Municipalities annual CityVision Conference.

This conference is a forum where municipal leaders and league staff meet to address challenges and issues facing towns and cities.

Josh and I will have attended several large sessions, small presentations, and workshops. Top on my list was a workshop covering short-term rentals and municipalities. I wanted to get current information from legislative and legal perspectives and learn how other towns address STRs. Highlands has also been in state discussions about regulating STRs, so Josh and I shared our perspectives. SB 667, which attempts to establish state STR regulations, is still under legislative review. The outcome of this proposed statute will have a direct impact on how and whether Highlands and other municipalities will be able to regulate STRs. Like many other municipal leaders, I believe the issue of regulating STRs should remain the purview of local governments, not the state.

I will speak for other mayors who have been tracking proposed legislation emanating from Raleigh. We do not all believe singular statewide statutes fit all communities, and zoning and development issues are best addressed locally.

Let me cite a couple of proposed bills that underscore this position. First, there is HB 409-Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units (ACD). Are ACDs a major issue for some communities? And would HB 409 effectively solve the problem? This bill would allow across-the-state ACDs in all single-family residential zones. The bill's rationale is that it would help alleviate the workforce housing shortage. Ironically, there is no provision in the bill to disallow these ACDs from becoming STRs, so many folks in the NC League of Municipalities worry the legislation would be counterproductive. The bill also so has no parking limits or capacity limits. What? Yes, no limits like what local governments might require.

The second example of this intrusion into local government authority is SB 515-Improved Water Rates. The title sounds so good, but the bill would limit what towns could charge for water service to people living outside city limits to only 25% more than town residents. The bill has now been modified to say that if a town wants to go beyond the 25%, a public hearing has to be held where the increase has to be justified. Mayors across the state have voiced opposition to this bill that was ironically introduced by Senator Michael Lazarra, a former president of the League of Municipalities. Way back when, say 50 years ago, Highlands allowed some water lines to be run beyond the town limits with the provision those customers would pay a double water rate. In recent years over a million dollars in upgrades to those waterlines outside the town limits has justified those higher rates. In recent decades the town policy has been not to run water or sewer lines beyond the town limits. Passage of SB 515 would only underscore the town policy of not allowing water and sewer beyond town limits.

Another bill afoot is SB 317-Addressing the Workforce Housing Crisis. It, too, would pre-empt local zoning by allowing large housing complexes to be developed on ten or more acre tracts in any residential zone. Local zoning requirements would not apply. The last time I checked, it had strong support in the Senate.

If you are concerned about any of these proposed bills, please contact your representatives, Senator Kevin Corbin or Representative Karl Gillespie. Josh and I already have.

Chattanooga, Tenn., offers options as a close-to-home getaway

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Residents of Macon County often consider Asheville or Atlanta, Ga., as day- or weekend-trip destinations, but Chattanooga, Tenn., is only 140 miles away and delivers plenty of options to interest, entertain, and even awe visitors. The drive on Hwy. 64 through the Winding Stair pass toward Murphy offers majestic views of the Nantahala National

Forest. And, then, once past Murphy, the road eventually winds along the part of the Ocoee River that flows into Ocoee Lake. Chattanooga is nestled in a valley, right beside the Tennessee River, and is surrounded by ridges, foothills, and its most distinct feature: Lookout Mountain, which is part of the Cumberland Plateau. For outdoor enthusiasts and history geeks alike, recommended is a visit first to neighboring Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. It is a pristine 5,300-site replete with streams, stone bridges, wide-open field-vistas, and shaded nature paths. Most significant, this large area barely South of Chattanooga was the scene of the last major Confederate Civil War victory in September 1863. Then in 1895, it became the first and largest military park created by Congress as well as the model for most national military and historical parks to come. Thus, when walking, hiking, or biking through this park, or even taking a driving tour, individuals will experience monuments paid for and installed by Northern and Southern Civil War Veterans representing the various states' forces that participated in the battle. Memorials range from plaques to massive obelisks to stacked cannon balls and cannons. Memorial verbiage and kiosks dotting the landscape provide play-by-plays of the battle, including the setting and the players.

once housed the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). It was one of the largest sites for women soldiers during WWII, with the ability to house 9,000 personnel; and, by the end of the war, 50,000 women had trained there. It was short lived, however, and abandoned after the war; nothing remains except remnants of concrete, covered over by vegetation. The ranger informed that women veterans and their descendants visit the area annually to pay homage to the women who served.



Historic self-guided walks in Chickamauga and Chattanooga lead to preserved homes, where families factored into Civil War battles that occurred there in 1863.

Forest. And, then, once past Murphy, the road eventually winds along the part of the Ocoee River that flows into Ocoee Lake.

Chattanooga is nestled in a valley, right beside the Tennessee River, and is surrounded by ridges, foothills, and its most distinct feature: Lookout Mountain, which is part of the Cumberland Plateau.

For outdoor enthusiasts and history geeks alike, recommended is a visit first to neighboring Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. It is a pristine 5,300-site replete with streams, stone bridges, wide-open field-vistas, and shaded nature paths. Most significant, this large area barely South of Chattanooga was the scene of the last major Confederate Civil War victory in September 1863. Then in 1895, it became the first and largest military park created



An initial stop at the visitor center is advised as a 30-minute movie gives a clear understanding of why and how the Confederate and the Union soldiers ended up on that field and in those woods. A map can be found at the visitor center that clearly marks trails.

In one area of the military park are the ruins of a World War II training complex that

Since the first main battle occurred in September 1863 in Chickamauga, it behooves history buffs to spend another day at the site of the other great battle, which happened in November in Chattanooga – most specifically Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. While the Confederates won at Chickamauga, the Union forces secured Chattanooga and set up a base of operations in the city, due to its river and railroad access.

Visitors can wind up Lookout Mountain and park at the Point Park visitor center, where there are picnic tables and a visitor center. Maps clearly convey trails for walking and/or hiking the mountain to enjoy the wide vistas, popular Sunset Rock, or historic Craven's House, which was a property that came under siege when the battle ensued there. Historic photos show the "White House," as soldiers referred to Craven's house, visible from the city of Chattanooga. It has been preserved as a living history testament



Miles is open fields and wooded trails provide plenty of places to walk, hike, and bike at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park; along the way, hundreds of memorials and kiosks tell the stories of battles that occurred.

to how average citizens were affected by Civil War fighting.

At the Lookout Mountain Point Park visitor center is a 13-by-30-foot painting of the Battle of Chattanooga by 19th century painter James Walker, who witnessed the turning-point-for-the-Union battle. A small museum on the property





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The AA Chattanooga Lookouts baseball team plays regularly from spring through fall and provides an affordable night out.

presents information about Robert Michael Linn, who visited the site directly after the November 1963 battle to establish a makeshift photography studio so that soldiers could have their photos taken to memorialize the event. So many photo opportunities exist on Lookout Mountain due to the massive rock formations and views of the Tennessee River and beyond.

While on Lookout Mountain, visitors can

and should purchase a ticket for a tour of a cave that leads to the breathtaking Ruby Falls, considered the tallest and deepest underground waterfall that is open to the public. Ruby Falls, named for the wife of the man who discovered the cave, Leo Lambert, in the 1920s, is 145-foot tall and located 1,000 feet below ground. For anyone who has not experienced a cave, the walkway is easy and wide. Visitors can view such cave

features as stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and ribbons on their way to and from the tour's high point, which is the falls.

Other distinct attractions to appeal to families include the Tennessee Aquarium, which presents various animal species in realistic habitats. The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum features train travel history and historic cars. Information is provided about Chattanooga's importance as a main railroad junction and how it inspired the 1940s song, "Chattanooga Choo-Choo," by the Glen Miller Orchestra.

Downtown Chattanooga is considered by locals to be a "best kept secret" in that it offers much in the way of restaurants, breweries, shopping, parks, and even an AA baseball team – the Chattanooga Lookouts, with affordable ticket prices – but maintains a small-town vibe.



Ruby Falls, a dramatic waterfall in a cave directly under National Park Services' Point Park, where Lookout Mountain is located, is accessible by tours that run every 10-15 minutes.

Share your ideas about the Macon County Farmers Market!

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- What would a new Macon County farmers market look like?
- ¿Cómo sería un nuevo mercado de agricultores del condado de Macon?
- What would you - as a current or future market customer - want to experience in order to visit and shop at Macon Farmers Market?
- ¿Usted como un cliente actual o futuro del mercado, que necesita ver para visitar y comprar en el mercado del condado de Macon?



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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests April 16 - 23. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

April 18

Jeffery Scott Johnson, 52, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Gavin Lee Henry, 39, was charged with warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Ioan Edward Craia, 36, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance, maintaining a place for a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and fugitive from out of state. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Bobbie Anne Drelick, 51, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance, maintaining a place for a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Cyphers pleads guilty

District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch said a Franklin man who stole a vehicle and broke into a home in the Otto community faced sentencing recently as a habitual offender, North Carolina's version of three strikes and you're out.

Joseph Cyphers, 33, pleaded guilty to felony breaking and entering, breaking and entering a motor vehicle and possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

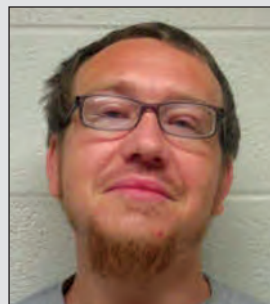
Alerted to a breaking and entering in progress, deputies arrested Cyphers on Feb. 23, 2022, in the home he had broken into. That same day, he had also stolen a vehicle.

Cyphers' criminal history included multiple prior felony convictions. Prosecutors can seek habitual felon status for defendants who have been convicted or have pleaded guilty to three felony offenses in federal or state courts.

Habitual-felon status toughens judges' options when handing down active prison time.

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Bill Coward ordered Cyphers to serve a minimum of 186 months and a maximum of 260 months in state prison.

Assistant District Attorney John Hindsman Jr. prosecuted the case.



Joseph Cyphers

April 19

Jacob Lee Norris, 31, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny after break/enter, possession of stolen goods/property and injury to personal property. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Eddie Bird, 32, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Deputy Jacob P. Ledford made the arrest.

April 21

Dustin Carnell Sheppard, 41, was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Detective Darrell J. Brooks made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

April 16

Steven J. Clark, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession with intent to sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, maintaining a vehicle for use/sale/keep of a controlled substance, misdemeanor flee to elude, fail to head light and siren, possession of drug paraphernalia, speeding 35 mph in 25 mph zone and speeding 58 Mph in 55 mph zone.

April 17

Joshua Bryan Parker, was charged with assault inflicting serious injury, assault with a deadly weapon and domestic violence protective order violation. G. D. Hovis made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

April 17

Matthew Robert Lequire, 22, of Whittier, was charged with driving under the influence. No bond was set.

Devin Rashawn Stewart, 28, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Charles Painter Mills, 49, of Sylva, was charged with stalking. No bond was set.

Tashana Star Ward, 38, of Sylva, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. No bond was set.

Dennis Woodrow Shelton, 34, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession with intent to sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$90,000 was set.

April 18

Joshua Michael Woodring, 41, of Sylva, was charged with simple assault. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

William Donald Cline, 31, of Cherokee, was charged with warrant service for other jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Sierra Salome Jenkins, 32, of Whittier, was charged with warrant service for other jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$499 was set.

Angela Lyn Crouch, 48, of Sylva, was charged with simple assault and misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set.

Joseph Curtis McCoy, 52, of Cherokee, was charged with warrant service for other jurisdiction. A secured bond

of \$250 was set.

April 19

Martin Gary Noone, 59, of Whittier, was charged with driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Ryan Keith Watty, 28, of Sylva, was charged with warrant service for other jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Travis Arthur Wall Cable, 31, of Canton, was charged with all other offenses. A \$500 bond was set.

Reginald Johnathan Jones, 23, of Sylva, was charged with trespass of real property. No bond was set.

April 20

Randall Lewis Marrinan, 55, of Glenville, was charged with local ordinance and communicating threats. No bond was set.

Angel Antonio Palma, 44, of Cherokee, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

April 21

Anna Elizabeth Parton, 42, of Cherokee, was charged with defraud drug/alcohol test, felony probation violation, probation violation and failure to appear on a felony. A secured bond of \$155,000 was set.

Austin Levi Ewart, 30, of Waynesville, was charged with resisting a public officer, domestic violence protective order violation and possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. No bond was set.

Arturo Hernandez, 37, of Cullowhee, was charged with driving while license revoked impaired revocation, open container after consuming alcohol and driving while impaired. No bond was set.

April 22

Jacquelyn Ruth Stewart, 37, of Franklin, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of stolen goods, larceny, felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine and possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. A secured bond of \$77,000 was set.

April 23

Luis Antonio Ramos Ketter, 45, of Sylva, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Davin Rashawn Stewart, 28, of Cullowhee, was charged with driving while license revoked no impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Bethanny Elise Shaw, 24, of Cullowhee, was charged with possession of a concealed gun. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Hunner Nathaniel Humphrey, 25, of Cullowhee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a schedule VI controlled substance. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

David Warren Hooper, 57, of Cullowhee, was charged with child support, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A \$5,714.82 bond was set.

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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.

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 program and do not need to have children or teens in their homes. 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.

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

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

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

Friends of the Greenway FROG Quarters is open Wednesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 573 E. Main. Free internet. Reservations taken for the shelters.

Celebrate Recovery at Discover Church Monday nights, 6 to 8 p.m. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life. Free childcare up to five years old for attending parents. Discover Church is located at 47 Macon Center Dr. (behind Bojangles). For more information, email cr@discover.church for questions.

Crawford Senior Center Zoom Classes include exercise, tai chi, and more. For more information, or to register, call the Senior Center at (828)349-2058.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center 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.

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

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

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

Prentiss Church of God is holding Sunday worship service in its sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m., and streamed online on the Prentiss Church of God Facebook page. Prayer and Worship service is the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Sunday School relaunch in March. Sign up for Connect Groups at prentisschurch.com. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road. Phone: (828)369-3885.

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.

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

Macon Middle School to compete in Gravity Games Saturday

Diane Peltz
Contributing Writer

Macon Middle School (MMS) will be taking part in the Gravity Games for the first time on April 29, in Lenoir.

The NC Gravity Games competition is supported by Google, Appalachian State University, the University of North Carolina and the City of Lenoir. These games are designed to be an educational, hands-on activity designed to get young people excited about science. The Gravity Games are a signature event of the North Carolina Science Festival, a multi-day celebration highlighting the educational, cultural and financial impact of science in the state. The first games were held in 2011 and went through 2019. COVID halted the games for three years, and now they are back.



Macon Middle School students Justing Gonzaliz, Maceon Jowers and Christopher Jones, started with a kit, assembling the Soap Derby Car from the parts, and art classes designed the body of the car. The students are tasked with making the car as fast as possible using science principles and simple mechanics. The students will travel to Lenoir on April 29 with their cars, where safety inspections will be conducted and assure weight guidelines are met.



Brian Wilkinson is a STEM teacher at MMS. His class will be participating in this event and his students have been working diligently all year, building "Soap Derby Cars."

Wilkinson was awarded a grant of \$4,000 through the NC Science Festival to cover the cost of the materials and travel to the competition.

Seventh grader Justin Gonzales, who will be participating in the event acknowledges that "A great deal of science is behind the building of these Soap Derby Cars."

The school purchased several kits, which students had to assemble. The kits came with a wood base and shell and many other parts, which had to be put together by the students. A lot of engineering design and physics went into the building of these cars. Carpentry and construction in Mr. Greenwood's CTE classes were also a crucial part of the building.

Maceon Jowers is also a 7th grade student who will be participating in the games. He says, "participation depends on good behavior." He also noted that an engineer will be coming to visit their class to show them how to reduce weight and friction so the cars can run faster. He has already

contoured his car several times.

Christopher Jones is an 8th grade student who will also be entering his car in the derby. He explained, "the weight limit for each car is 200 lbs. The car itself weighs 50 lbs., so when a person sits in the car they have to be less than 150 lbs. Some of the



cars had to be shaved a bit to reduce the weight." Since the car has no motor and is propelled by gravity, the weight is crucial for speed.

Justin also spoke about the art work on the cars. He explained, "the art class painted the body of the cars. I am in art class so I got to paint my own car."

When the cars were completely assembled they went out onto the field to test them. Maceon downloaded an app that measures speed. He clocked Christopher's car at 30 mph. He said "that's a good speed!"

Last month the class took a trip across the street to Mountain View Intermediate and demonstrated their derby cars to the 6th graders, with the hope that they will consider participating in the derby next

year.

Once at the event the team from Appalachian State University (ASU) will conduct the safety inspection. The inspection is comprised of a visual and physical inspection of the car. For the physical inspection of the car, the driver must get in the car and travel along a short-course. ASU is making sure that the car is both within the proper weight guidelines (both with and without the driver) and that the car can stop when pressure is applied to the brakes. The car must stop before hitting the hay bale that is located on the short course. Adjustments can be made before the event begins but time will be limited.

Prizes will be awarded but that's a surprise. Bragging rights, awards and medals will be distributed along with some cool stuff from ASU and Google.

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WCU takes home 11 Hermes Creative Awards

For the second consecutive year, Western Carolina University's Communications and Marketing team has received 11 awards from the Hermes Creative Awards. The international competition is one of the oldest and largest creative competitions in the world.

"Our team is very thankful to receive these awards for entries they worked hard to create and to tell the narrative of how WCU students, faculty and staff 'Live Western' every day," said Travis Jordan, chief marketing and communications offi-

cer for the university. "This team is an extremely talented group of individuals who are committed to teamwork and excellence and the awards are a true testament of UCM's hard work, dedication and unmatched skill."

UCM, which includes 22 staff members, is responsible for university communications, marketing, photography and video, design, social media, paid media and web.

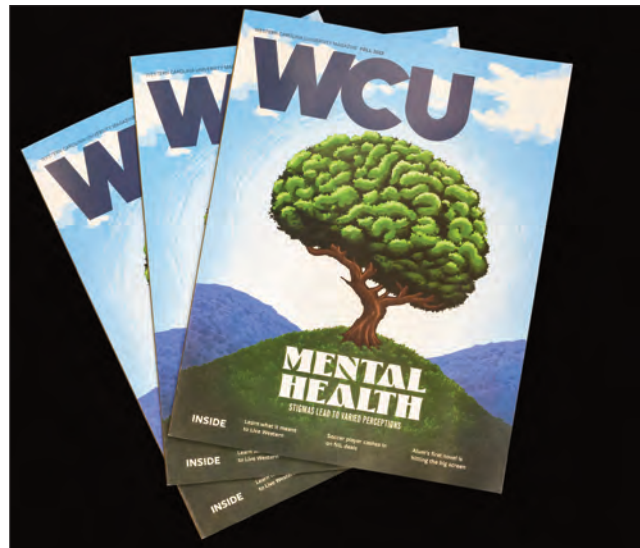
This year, the team received 11 awards.

Three platinum awards, which were the highest honors, were given for the 2022 issue of WCU Magazine, and both the illustration and portraits of the 2023 Black Fantastic series, which highlights several WCU Black faculty and staff members.

Four gold awards were given for illustration of the magazine's cover story, "Stigmatized" and portraits in the "We will not be Silenced: Standing for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women" series. The last two golds were awarded for the overall "Live Western" brand campaign and digital advertising for the campaign.

Three honorable mentions were awarded for Instagram social media engagement for a commencement series of graduation photos; a live challenge for "Live Western" Brand Launch Event; and a Final Weeks Gif. The fourth honorable mention was given for web design of the mental health feature story, "Stigmatized."

Each year, judges for the Hermes Creative Awards evaluate the creative industry's best publications, branding collateral, websites, videos, advertising, marketing and communication programs. Winners ranged in size from individuals to media conglomerates, universities and Fortune 500 Companies.



Cover of the fall 2022 WCU Magazine



Patrice Brown pictured in WCU's Black Fantastic series that took home a platinum award from Hermes.

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Deaths & Funerals

Gail Cohen Vitale

Gail Cohen Vitale passed away peacefully in her sleep surrounded by close family on March 7, 2023. Her departure was deeply felt as she made the most of her 80 years here. She was born into a loving family of Polish Catholics in Dearborn, Michigan in 1942, at the height of World War II. Even as a young girl, Gail loved challenges before graduating into the 1960's. Upon reaching adulthood, she channeled her considerable energies into being one of the first women to manage a national employment agency office, in Washington DC, drive race cars, and do everything else in her power to overturn the social order. While working in DC, she met her future husband, Al Cohen who swept her off to Florida where she raised a family of four children, including a photo-journalist, a biologist, a teacher and a businessman. Despite the demands of motherhood, she maintained her adventurous spirit that instilled a love to travel in all of them. She was a loving parent and wife who never failed to put her family first, (and pets a close second). After the passing of her husband, she subsequently met and married Robert Vitale in 1981 and moved to Jupiter Florida. Together, they founded a business called Nightingales along the hustle and bustle of Worth Avenue in Palm Beach. While in Jupiter, she and her husband helped construct one of the most unusual geodesic dome homes in the Southeast.



Gail Cohen Vitale

Eventually, the call of the North Carolina mountains in late 1990's led them to relocate to Franklin, N.C. where Gail indulged in her love of natural gemstones, furry woodland creatures and the beauty of the Smoky Mountains. For many years leading up to her passing, she indulged in her love of cooking. She loved to watch food tutorials and travel channels during her spare time and positively reveled in her visits to her children around the country. She was always full of adventure and created loving memories. Her visits to her children living around the country over the years were full of adventures and loving memories. She is survived by her caring husband, Robert Vitale and four children, Albert, Alan, Abigail and Ami. She also leaves behind three beautiful grandchildren, Emily, Cassandra and Eva. Her sister Loretta, brother Michael and their immediate families were never far from her mind, and we will all miss her deeply. The family also wishes to thank all of those who cared for her during her last days with such kindness and grace. To everyone who came to know her during her memorable journey, including her menagerie of four legged friends, we offer our warmest gratitude. Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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Marlin Kaufman

Marlin Kaufman, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, April 17, 2023.

He was born in Johnstown, Pa., to the late Merle and Ruth Harshberger Kaufman. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Galen Kaufman. He was a painter and served our country in the Army during the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Joanne; daughter, Suzanne (Granville) Younce of Franklin, three grandchildren, Ryan, Rachel, and Renae Younce; and a great granddaughter, Oaklyn Grace Younce; sister, Sonya Eller of Bridgewater, Va; half-brother, Gary Kaufman of Johnstown, Pa.; and half-sister, Arlene Schaffer of Johnstown, Pa.

A celebration of life was held Monday, April 24, at Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Vic Greene officiating.

Military honors were provided by VFW Post #7339 and American Legion Post #108.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Hospice House Foundation, P.O. Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Marlin Kaufman

Dennis Martin Hodgin

On April 3, 2023 we lost our dad Dennis Martin Hodgin. His 77 years included 50 years of marriage to Maxine Beaver. He and Maxine had 2 girls; Kelly and Kristi; 3 grandchildren Austin, Sennora, and Seever; 2 great grand twins Noah and Conner.

Proud of his Granny's Cherokee Indian heritage, Dennis loved to tell stories of growing up in the mountains of NC with 6 siblings and their many shenanigans.

He loved to fish, hunt and dig ramps. "Never kill unless you eat it" he told us. He taught us how to cook: bear, deer, rabbits, squirrels and goat. The best of times were meals eating groundhog or catfish, along with his homemade hush-puppies. Christmas morning ham and Hodgin soup was an annual treat. He called it "unique" meat. He said you "unique" up on it and get it. ??

However, spending time with his grandchildren brought him the most happiness. Funning with his nieces and nephews brought laughter.

His lively past found peace later in life as he gave his life to Jesus.

Today we will mourn his absence, at a later date we will celebrate his life.

Townson-Rose Funeral Home in charge of all arrangements.

You may send tributes to the family at www.townson-rose.com



Dennis Martin Hodgin

William 'Bill' Pell Hodges

William "Bill" Pell Hodges, 56, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

Born in Canton, Ohio, he was the son of Diane Buzzard Mayle and the late Thomas Junior Minard. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Danny and Denver Hodges. He was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife of 35 years, Millie Clark Hodges; five children, Crystal Clark of Canton, Ohio, Victoria Hannum of Canton, Ohio, Stephanie Hannum of Hollywood, Fla., William Hodges Jr., of Franklin, and Ronald Wickham Jr. of Franklin; granddaughter, Marissa M. Clark of the home; three siblings, Debbie Hodges of Bradenton, Michael Hodges of Bradenton, Fla., and Angie Hodges of Ripley, W. Va.; and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, April 26, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Steve Reeves officiated.

Memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice.

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



William Pell Hodges

Gary Lynn Gibson

Gary Lynn Gibson, 75, went to be with the Lord on April 16, 2023.

He was born Nov 8, 1947 in Okmulgee, Okla., to the late Audrey and John B Gibson. Gary was the youngest of 3 sons.

He is survived by his Nephew John M Gibson and wife Debbee of Franklin, N.C.; Nephew Geoffrey Gibson of Franklin, N.C.; Great Nephew Joshua Gibson and Great Niece Kelsie Gibson Persechino, and many other extended family members and friends.

Gary resided in Tulsa, Okla., for most of his life, then moved to Clearwater, Fla., and then Franklin N.C., for 13 years. He resided with his family John, Debbee and Joshua Gibson for 15 years. Then 2 years ago he was moved, due to health reasons to Skyland Care in Sylva, N.C..

He said his mother Audrey wanted a girl so he would tell you that's why his middle name was Lynn. While he was born mentally handicapped, but he didn't let that stop him from trying to live life as full as possible. His first an foremost loved God and coming to church. In fact he would read his Bible so much, he wore out a Bible he had since a young man.

We admired his ability to always be in a good mood and very little seemed to ever bother him. He loved being around people. And would always engage in conversations in any way he could. And always had a story of his own.

When Gary moved in with us 17 years ago he enjoyed walking, and he was able to navigate miles on foot to the mall and go on little adventures and this was all on his own.

When he was younger, he worked at various workshops for the handicapped. He would tell you that the best workshop was the one for American Airlines where he would fold shirts and jackets. In fact, Gary had his own blue American Airlines Jacket he would wear all the time.

He was such a good help. He would load the dishwasher and after that he would empty it. He tried to help in anyway he could. His favorite activity was participation in the Special Olympics as a young man. He won half a dozen medals.

Despite being mentally handicapped, he had an amazing ability to remember people's names. And, for Gary, no one was a stranger. He would walk up to anybody, and just say, "hi, my name is Gary Gibson, what's yours?"

Gary was truly a blessing in our lives, and to all those who knew him.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is in charge of the arrangements.



Gary Lynn Gibson

Moffitt Family FUNERAL CARE David Moffitt OWNER/FUNERAL DIRECTOR
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Rodney Whitcomb Amig

Rodney Whitcomb Amig, 89, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Saturday, April 15, 2023.

He was born to the late Rodney Amig Sr. and Lois William Amig. He was a member of The Moose Lodge, Brick Layers Union, and the owner of Double A Electric in Franklin. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Franklin, but was recently attending Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church. He loved to work and spend time outdoors.

He was preceded by his parents; wife of 49 years, Mary Evelyn Wilbanks Amig; brother, Edward Phillips Amig III; and a step-son, Ronnie Hammond.

He is survived by his daughter, Linda Sandridge of Ivor, Va.; step-son, Bill K. Brown of Winnebaw, N.C.; step-daughter, Cheri Finefrock of Covington, Ga.; sister-in-law, Janet Louise Amig of Franklin; and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, April 29, at 1 p.m., at Woodlawn Cemetery. Rev. Dr. Robert Brown will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to First Baptist Church of Franklin, 69 Iotla St, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Ernest L.C. Higdon

Ernest L.C. Higdon, 72, of Lakemont, Ga., formerly from Sylva, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, April 17, 2023. He was born on Sept. 26, 1950, to the late William Lee Higdon and Ellen Jane Franks Higdon. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Scotty Higdon.

He loved hunting, fishing, camping, and watching Braves baseball. He was a member of the Macon and Rabun Coon Hunters Association.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Faye; one son, Lynn Higdon (Angela Gravitt); two grandsons, Brandon (LeeAnn) Higdon, Billy (Leanne) Higdon; one granddaughter, Lindsey (Daniel) Higdon; 12 great grandchildren; two sisters, Julie Houston (Larry), and Mary McCurry; brother-in-law, Billy Hughes (Lytha); sister-in-law, Phyllis Dale, all of Franklin; and sister-in-law, Judy Anderson (Lynn) from Warsaw, N.C.

Funeral services were held Friday, April 21, in the chapel of Appalachian Funeral Services with the Rev. Eddie Stillwell and Rev. Mark Bishop officiating. Burial followed in Zion Hill Cemetery.

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

Mireille Evelyn Rostallon

Mireille Evelyn Rostallon, 83, of Franklin, passed away Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

She was the daughter of the late John and Marguerette Starke Alley. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Robert Edward Rostallon. She was a member of First Methodist Church. She loved watching her kids and grandkids play sports, enjoyed speaking French, and helping others.

She is survived by her sons, James Rostallon of Franklin, N.C. and John Rostallon of Toccoa, Ga.; a brother Raymond Alley of Charleston, S.C., eight grandchildren, and numerous great grandchildren.

No services are planned at this time.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Ernest L.C. Higdon



Mireille Rostallon

Maxine Fortner

Maxine Fortner, 60, of Franklin, NC, passed away Monday, April 17, 2023 after a period of declining health. She was a native of Jackson County and the daughter of the late Fornes Gene (Doc) Fortner and Flora Jean (Cunningham) Fortner. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her brother, Jeffrey Lee Fortner and her grandparents, Arthur and Mindora (Broom) Fortner and Kelly and Elmina (Simonds) Cunningham.

She was witty, a great friend and listener, funny, compassionate, protective and a very hard worker. She enjoyed the beach, lake camping, music, softball, spending time with her family and a great pair of jean shorts. Maxine will be remembered for her intense concern for others struggling in life...she opened her heart and door to many. She graduated from Cullowhee High School in 1981. For much of her professional career she was a bookkeeper and supervisor for Winn Dixie of Cary, NC.

She is survived by her son, Mark Thompson of Cullowhee, N.C., (Callie Owens) and her daughter Leighann Thompson (Jamal) of Sylva, N.C., Four grandchildren, Kaiden Russell Long, Jaiden Noah Long, Chaya Arshawn Jones and arriving in June, Charlie Rawlings Thompson. "The most precious jewels you'll ever have around your neck are the arms of your children and grandchildren."

Forever remembered by her siblings: Three brothers, Willie Joe Fortner (Nikole) of Cullowhee, N.C., Tilmon Gene Fortner of Charlotte, N.C. and David Lee Fortner (Vel) of Canton, N.C. One sister, Patricia Ann Queen (Kenny) of Cullowhee, N.C. "Side by side or apart, siblings will always be connected by the heart." Her many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins will miss her deeply.

They will be celebrating Maxine's life in a private family and friends ceremony at Mathis Cemetery (Tuckasee, N.C) on Sunday, April 30 at 11 a.m.

"I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, where I am you may be also." John 14
Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Maxine Fortner

Bobby Ray Camp

Bobby Ray Camp, 64, of Franklin passed away Saturday, April 22, 2023. Bobby was born September 6, 1958 in Toccoa, Ga to the late Lawrence G. Camp and Geraldene McCurry Camp. He worked in the retail industry for many years. Bobby loved Atlanta Braves baseball and his dogs, Roscoe and Pepper.

Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Kim Camp; a sister, Pat Cash (Darvin) of Carnesville, Ga., step-mother-in-law, Carol Ayers of Franklin, N.C.; brother-in-law, Keith Ayers of Demorest, Ga., and a cousin-in-law Lisa Whitworth of Sandersville, Ga.

In addition to his parents, Bobby was preceded in death by a sister, Bonnie Carter; a brother, Wayne Camp; and his beloved dog, Cocoa.

A Celebration of life Service will be held 2 p.m., Saturday, April 29, 2023 in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home. The family will greet friends following the service. A private burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to 4 Seasons Hospice, 571 S. Allen Rd. Flat Rock, NC 28731.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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



Bobby Ray Camp

Justin Daniel Moe

On Sunday, April 23, 2023, Justin Daniel Moe passed away in the comfort of his home.

Born to Harold and Jennifer Moe on July 27, 1974, in Sarasota, Fla.

He spent the past 30 years in Western North Carolina. He and the love of his life, also his wife, Kristina Moe, celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary this year. He loved Kristina, his family and his dog, his art, albums, coffee, laughter, and yes, farting. He was the kind of man who always showed up, and he will be dearly remembered by all those lucky enough to have known him.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Kristina Moe, and their dog Mazzy. He is also survived by his father and mother, Harold and Jennifer Moe, brother Christopher Moe, and sisters, Gretchen Moe, Rachel (Steve) Kelly, and Jessica (Robert) Moe, in addition to his many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 30, 2023, at Macon Funeral Home. A visitation will be held at 1 p.m., with a service to follow at 2 p.m. Following the Memorial, a Celebration of Life will take place at Cowee School.

In addition to flowers, donations to Appalachian Animal Rescue Center (where he found his dog) or the Macon County Public Library (where he found his wife) are welcome.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Justin Daniel Moe




View obituaries at themaconcountynews.com

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.

Kyle Busch avoids 'Big One' to speed to victory at Talladega

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

TALLADEGA, Ala. – Kyle Busch is a Las Vegas native after all, so he was “all in” to stay on track instead of pitting for fuel during a pair of overtime restarts in the GEICO 500 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway Sunday afternoon. And he ended up, the big winner.

Busch's No. 8 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet had just enough gas to make it back to the checkered flag as a half dozen other lead pack cars around him were collected in a multi-car accident while maneuvering forward to challenge for the lead on the final overtime lap.

“We got to gamble,” Busch, 37, said he told his crew while contemplating whether to pit for fuel or stay in the lead pack for the final overtime restart – noting afterward he probably wouldn't have been willing to be so daring if he hadn't already earned a victory this season at California's Auto Club Speedway. He didn't even do a celebratory burnout after the race, convinced his Chevrolet didn't have enough fuel at that point.

Busch and 23XI Racing driver Bubba Wallace exchanged the lead during the final two laps of the race but Wallace's No. 23 Toyota was tagged by Ryan Blaney in the No. 12 Penske Racing Ford as those two vied for the lead just after the white flag flew, signaling one lap to go.

Wallace's Toyota turned sideways, hit the wall and triggered a chain-reaction accident that eliminated several other of the frontrunning cars while the two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Busch was able to continue forward and take his second win of the season and 62nd of this career. It's Busch's second career win at Talladega – the first coming 15 years (and 55 wins) ago.

“Sometimes you've got to be lucky, you know,” said a smiling Busch, who led only three laps in securing the RCR team its 13th Talladega victory. “Sometimes these races come down to that and you've got to take them when they come your way.”

“The seas kind of parted there when they [Blaney and Wallace] went up the race track there. They were trying to push-draft and these cars are just not stable enough to do that. I saw the 23 (Bubba Wallace) turn a little bit sideways, and I was like, ‘just get out of the way.’”

Blaney, who led a race best 47 of the 196 laps, looked poised to snap a 55-race winless streak at Talladega before the last lap incident. He was still able to continue after the contact with Wallace, but finished runner-up despite leading the most laps on the afternoon.

“It's just you get big runs and you take them when you can,” Blaney said, noting of the contact with Wallace, “I'm glad everyone's okay, but in my mind you can't make a triple move like that, a triple block. You can't block three times, I don't know, the runs are so big and as the leader Bubba's (Wallace) trying to block, which is the right thing to do. But I think he kinda moved three times. I got to go somewhere. I hate for cars to get torn up and I hate for us to be so close to the win.”

“I'm not blaming anybody. It's just



Kyle Busch, driver of the #8 McLaren Custom Grills Chevrolet, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series GEICO 500 at Talladega Superspeedway on April 23, 2023 in Talladega, Alabama. Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images

hard racing at the end of this thing and unfortunate that cars got torn up and we missed out on another win.”

Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing driver Chris Buescher finished third, followed by Stewart-Haas Racing's Chase Briscoe and RFK owner-driver Brad Keselowski, who leads all current competitors with six career Talladega wins.

Legacy Motor Club's Erik Jones, Hendrick Motorsports' William Byron, Joe Gibbs Racing's Christopher Bell, Trackhouse Racing's Daniel Suarez and Front Row Motorsports' Todd Gilliland rounded out of the Top 10.

It was by all accounts, the typical, hard-nosed, tight-quarter racing fans and drivers have come to expect at the 2.66-mile Talladega Superspeedway. Sunday's race featured 57 lead changes – the most at Talladega since 2011 (72 lead changes).

It was a markedly different top of the final leaderboard based on the afternoon's efforts. SHR drivers Aric Almirola and Kevin Harvick each led 11 laps and ran among the front pack for most of the day, but were collected in a multi-car accident on the first overtime period. They finished

20th and 21st, respectively.

Wallace, whose 35 laps out front in his No. 23 Toyota finished 28th after the last lap accident.

Also noteworthy, Chase Elliott finished 12th and led seven laps – the first laps he's led since returning to competition last week after missing six races recovering from a broken leg. Pole winner Denny Hamlin led seven laps on the day and finished 15th.

Ironically the race's earlier mishaps didn't happen from aggressive action on the race track but instead in slower miscues on pit road. Tyler Reddick spun his No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota getting on pit road making his first stop of the race and only six laps later Briscoe spun his No. 14 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford on pit road bringing out a yellow flag – only to recover and take that top-5 finish.

Wallace, who earned his first career NASCAR Cup Series win here at Talladega in 2021, led the most laps (23) in Stage 1. But it was Hendrick Motorsports' Elliott who ultimately drove forward to claim his first stage win of the season leading the final 11 laps.

There were 17 lead changes among nine drivers in Stage 2 – with Almirola moving out front in the final feet to the finish line get around Elliott and claim that stage win.

As for the two victories in the opening 10 races of Busch's tenure with Childress, the NASCAR Hall of Fame owner grinned.

“I think he's helping us build RCR back up to where we want it to be,” Childress said, glancing with a smile at bottle of race-winning champagne he brought to the winner's press conference.

Hamlin captures first superspeedway pole of his career

TALLADEGA, Ala. – Veteran Denny Hamlin earned the first Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway Busch Light Pole Award of his celebrated 18-year career Saturday morning, besting the field by a slight .032-seconds to take the coveted starting position in Sunday's GEICO 500 (4 p.m. ET, FOX, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).



Denny Hamlin driver of the #11 FedEx Freight Direct Toyota, poses for photos after winning the pole award during qualifying for the NASCAR Cup Series GEICO 500 at Talladega Superspeedway on April 22, 2023 in Talladega, Alabama.

Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images

Hamlin's No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota ran a lap of 180.751 mph (52.979 seconds) around the 2.66-mile speedway to claim the top starting position – his 37th career pole. Aric Almirola will start his No. 10 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford alongside him – marking the second consecutive week he's qualified second fastest and fourth time in 2023 he's qualified in the top 10.

"I was well aware I'd never gotten a speedway pole," the two-time Talladega and three-time Daytona 500 winner Hamlin said with a smile.

"I don't know that there is one [advantage], honestly" Hamlin continued. "If I had qualified 18th I'd have been just as optimistic. Although, I will say qualifying on the pole means my car is very capable and will be fast leading. I haven't been fast in the Next Gen era while leading on superspeedways so certainly that gives me the confidence we should be able to lead the pack quickly, which will make it harder for them to pass us."

Hamlin's JGR teammate, Sunoco Rookie of the Year candidate Ty Gibbs was third fastest in the No. 54 JGR Toyota – the best NASCAR Cup Series starting position to date for the first-year fulltime driver. He'll start alongside Almirola's teammate Chase Briscoe in the No. 14 SHR Ford.

Two-time Talladega winner Ryan Blaney, Christopher Bell (who started on pole in both of last year's Talladega races), Martin Truex Jr., Joey Logano, last week's Martinsville (Va.) winner Kyle Larson and Chris Buescher rounded out the top 10, all advancing to the final round of qualifying. The top group included all four JGR team cars (Hamlin, Gibbs, Bell and Truex).

Defending race winner, Trackhouse Racing's Ross Chastain, the only driver to earn top five finishes in both 2022 Talladega races, qualified his No. 1 Chevrolet 22nd for Sunday's grid.

Hendrick Motorsports driver Chase Elliott, who is making only his second start since returning to competition after a six-week recovery for a broken leg, will roll off 29th in the No. 9 Chevrolet. He is a two-time Talladega winner, hoisting the trophy in last fall's Playoff race. He finished 10th in his return to racing last week at Martinsville.

Jeb Burton wins action-packed NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Talladega following double-overtime restart

TALLADEGA, Ala. – It was the kind of hard-nosed, impatient – and thrilling - competition that NASCAR fans have come to expect in the final laps of racing at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway. In the end, Jeb Burton took the checkered flag on a double overtime restart to claim the victory in Saturday's Ag-Pro 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race.



Jeb Burton, driver of the #27 Solid Rock Carriers Chevrolet and Sheldon Creed, driver of the #2 Whelen Chevrolet, race during the NASCAR Xfinity Series Ag-Pro 300 at Talladega Superspeedway on April 22, 2023 in Talladega, Alabama.

Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images

The victory was the Virginia-native Burton's second in this Spring event on the 2.66-mile Talladega high banks – both his career wins have come there – and he earned it being fast, patient and at times, truly fortunate. His No. 27 Jordan Anderson Racing Chevrolet led 20 of the race's 121 laps on the afternoon, won the second stage and most importantly, was able to hold off Sheldon Creed by a mere .113 seconds to earn the team its first ever NASCAR Xfinity Series win.

Burton, 30, the son of 2002 Daytona 500 winner Ward Burton, was hoarse after the race; having used his voice instead to scream congratulations to his team on the radio on the cool-down lap. It was a big afternoon-turned-evening for all involved.

"Man, I'm pumped up and out of breath from yelling," Burton said grinning. "These guys have made racing fun for me again."

The fans were on their feet in the grandstands as the field filed up for the final restart; both Burton and Creed racing for their first wins of the season and most of the remaining top-10 drivers racing for the first win of their careers.

"I let the 27 [Burton] get way out there and had the 00 [Cole Custer] on me getting ready for a big run," said Creed, who was in front of Burton when the last caution came out but the field is set according to the last scoring line and that went in Burton's favor allowing him first choice on lane selection for that final restart.

"Nonetheless a great day," he added. "Plate racing is not my best and I've been trying to get better at it. Happy to get Whelen Manufacturing a good finish. We've been up and

down this year so just to have a solid day like that is really good for us."

Big Machine Racing's Parker Kligerman finished third with Stewart-Haas Racing's Cole Custer and JD Motorsports' Brennan Poole rounding out the top five.

Caesar Baccarella was sixth in the Alpha Prime Racing Chevrolet – his best career finish in part-time starts since 2017. Parker Retzlaff was seventh, followed by Gray Gaulding, Joey Gase and Josh Williams who all earned their first top-10 finishes of the season.

The dramatic race ending was indicative of the afternoon – restarts and close-quarter racing. Two red flags slowed the event – a result of multi-car incidents that have become characteristic of this style of competition.

Twelve cars were involved in an accident with three laps remaining – including then leader Daniel Hemric who ended up upside down against the wall. A red flag was thrown while the safety crew got Hemric out of the No. 11 Kaulig Racing Chevy and Hemric waved to

the crowd, walking to the ambulance on his own.

"Just got too far out it looks like," Hemric said watching his accident on video replay afterward. "For sure late on the block there. I committed – there had been so much give and take on the day."

Driver Blaine Perkins was transported to a local medical facility in an abundance of caution after being involved in the first accident to bring out a red flag. He and Dexter Stacey's cars collided just before the second stage break and Perkins car flipped over multiple times. Both drivers climbed out of their cars on their own.

Stewart-Haas Racing's Custer won the Talladega Dash 4 Cash \$100,000 check with a fourth-place finish – the only one of the four eligible for the bonus to finish the race. With that effort, he, race winner Burton, Creed and Kligerman are eligible for the bonus in next weekend's final of the four Dash 4 Cash events at Dover (Del.) Motor Speedway.

"It's nice to have a little bit of luck, I've been on the wrong side of that many times at these superspeedway races," said Custer, driver of the No. 00 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford, adding "This is the happiest I've ever been running fourth."

Austin Hill, who leads the series with three wins, reclaimed the NASCAR Xfinity Series points lead by four-points over John Hunter Nemechek, who finished 32nd. Brett Moffitt's 20 laps out front was most among the 12 leaders.

The NASCAR Xfinity Series returns to competition next week in the A-Game 200 at Dover (Del.) Motor Speedway on Saturday (1:30 p.m. ET, FS1, PRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

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- 9. Precedes drab
- 13. Giraffe's cousin
- 14. Big Island flower necklace
- 15. Icelandic currency
- 16. Grating sounds
- 17. Software program, for short
- 18. Tool with toothed wheel
- 19. *Mellow ____ or ____ ribbon
- 21. Butter ____ or ____ tape
- 23. a.k.a. Common Market
- 24. Printer cartridge color
- 25. Toothy fish
- 28. *Battle ____ or ____ tissue
- 30. *Ninja ____ or ____ dove
- 35. Oil group
- 37. *Drug ____ or ____ friendly
- 39. Old TV episode
- 40. Nobel Peace Prize capital
- 41. *Amazon ____ or ____ valley
- 43. Ages and ages
- 44. Earth shaking
- 46. Hokkaido language
- 47. *Odd ____ or ____ soup
- 48. Stay clear of
- 50. Vegetative state
- 52. Olden day "your"
- 53. Olden day "you"
- 55. Sib
- 57. Park bench friend?
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- 63. LDS missionary

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- 64. Cacophony
- 66. Goodbye, to amiga
- 68. Gaelic-speaking Celts
- 69. Mozart's "L' ____ del Cairo"
- 70. Courage to go on
- 71. Fitness centers
- 72. Drenched
- 73. Not a trick
- 8. Slightly drunk
- 9. "Doggone it!"
- 10. College drilling org.
- 11. 1/36th of a yard
- 12. "____, humbug!"
- 15. #15 Down, pl.
- 20. Come to pass
- 22. Feline
- 24. Fissure
- 25. *Silly ____ or ____ down
- 26. Church part, pl.
- 27. Antiquity of the past
- 29. *Southwest ____ or ____ Minor
- 31. Lou of The Velvet Underground
- 32. Rainbow swimmer
- 33. *Free ____ or ____ hour
- 34. Glorify
- 36. Weighted weapon
- 38. Nevada Wolf Pack's home
- 42. Cuban dance
- 45. 1.094 of a yard, pl.
- 49. *Doctor ____ or ____ knows?
- 51. Description of a fool
- 54. Give qualities or money
- 56. More eccentric
- 57. Theatrical performance
- 58. Previously mentioned, acr.
- 59. Hair styling products
- 60. Annoying biter
- 61. Irish name of Ireland
- 62. Very bright star
- 63. *Easter ____ or ____ salad
- 65. *Dry ____ or ____ cream
- 67. Part of tennis match

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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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

Misc. For Sale

PENCIL POST KING Size Bed Frame, pine wood, cherry finish custom made by Hartford House in Alto, Ga. \$350. Call (828)369-9052 to see in Heritage Hills, Franklin, NC

FARMERS MARKET 8-12, Saturdays. Come Out and Support Your Local Farmers Market. Spring greens are in! Honey, Soap, Pastries, Preserves, Eggs. 200 Block East Palmer.

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

Motor Vehicles

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

Help Wanted

HOUSEKEEPER POSITION Now Hiring for up to \$20/hour. Must Work Weekends and Holidays. This is a no Smoking Property. To Apply call (828)524-3380 or come by the Carolina Motel to fill out an application.

THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT and Learning Center is hiring for several seasonal positions in Highlands. Kitchen staff, farm hands, maintenance and camp counselors. For more information email steph.anderson@themountainrlc.org

MELTON'S ROOFING Looking for Experienced Roofers and Subcontractors. Excellent Pay. Cell# (828)421-6712.

SOCIAL MEDIA WIZ Knowledge of FB, Instagram, Internet marketing. Call Sarah at Diva's (770)757-7500.

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.

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

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. \$1,500. (828)349-0061.

2021 FOREST RIVER R-POD 19' RV with Slide-out and Lots of Options. New, never Used. Call (828)371-1497.

Rentals

COZY LAKEFRONT Cottages, 2 Separate Unites, 1 free standing and 1 lower duplex. 1BD/1BA, Fully furnished. Close to Town, No pets, Easy Access Franklin. Ideal corporate rental. Suitable for 1 to 2 persons, Seasonal, not permanent. Call for price. Sarah Miller, Diva's (770)757-7500.

Commercial Rentals

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

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.

Community Fundraisers

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

FIRE TRUCK PULL Saturday, May 13, 1-5pm, Smoky Mtn. High School Track, Sylva, Benefits WestBridge Vocation, More Information (828)586-8981.

SPIRITUAL LIGHT CENTER Benefit Sale, April-May, Sundays, 1-4, Behind Gazebo Restaurant. New Stuff Added Weekly.

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

Animals

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

POM-A-POO and Shih-pom puppies. Adorable colors and personalities. 3 females, 4 males. 10 weeks old, shots current. \$250. ((828)200-5101.

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

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

Garage & Yard Sales

COMMUNITY YARD SALE Several Houses, Friday, April 28, 9am-2pm, Saturday, April 29, 8am-1, 441 North, Brendle Rd. No Early Birds. Cancel if Rain.

SATURDAY 4/29, 8am-4pm, Turn left on Bennett Road and Follow Signs From Iotla Bridge to 82 Lyle Downs Rd. Rain or Shine.

SPIRITUAL LIGHT CENTER Benefit Sale, April-May, Sundays, 1-4, Behind Gazebo Restaurant. New Stuff Added Weekly.

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FROM **\$28,995**

FROM **\$47,995**

FROM **\$24,995**

CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2023	Toyota	Camry TRD	6,718
2021	Chevrolet	Corvette	5,792
2021	Kia	Optima EX	20,010
2020	Chevrolet	Camaro	25,641
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox AWD	47,233
2019	GMC	Acadia	17,045
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Ford	Focus SE	48,973
2018	Hyundia	Elantra	51,067
2017	GMC	Acadia	80,692
2017	Honda	Fit	59,209
2016	Ford	Focus	68,653
2013	VW	Beetle Convertible	67,099

SUVS

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

2022	Jeep	Wrangler Sahara Unlimited	10,539
2022	Kia	EV6 GT	3,251
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	Cadillac	XT6 AWD	23,121
2021	GMC	Yukon XL	53,356
2021	Jeep	Wrangler Sport	8,094
2021	Subaru	Ascent AWD	28,045
2020	Acura	MDX AWD	46,606
2020	Buick	Encore	34,808
2020	Chevrolet	Trax	7,250
2020	Chevrolet	Trax Premier	28,030
2020	Jeep	Wrangler Rubicon Unlimited	24,249
2019	Chevrolet	Trax LT AWD	18,211
2019	Chevrolet	Trax AWD	16,288
2019	Honda	Pilot EX	40,801
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox LT	23,569
2018	Jeep	Compass 4x4	61,613
2017	Ford	Escape AWD	35,601
2015	Suburban	LT	92,352
2013	Jeep	Wrangler	132,418

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	Chevrolet	2500 LTZ	4,635
2022	Chevrolet	2500 HD	5,114

2022	GMC	Sierra	11,577
2022	Hyundia	Sante Cruz Ltd	2,682
2022	Nissan	Frontier Pro 4x	7,859
2022	Nissan	Titan Pro 4x	1,729
2022	Toyota	Tacoma TRD	12,056
2021	Chevrolet	1500 4x4	10,243
2021	Chevrolet	1500 RST	34,026
2021	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	10,842
2021	Chevrolet	LT Trailboss	34,069
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	5,822
2021	Chevrolet	Trailboss Crew	22,256
2021	Ford	F-150	23,858
2021	Ford	F-150 SuperCrew Cab	32,251
2021	Ram	2500 Tradesman	3,647
2020	Chevrolet	2500 Diesel	8,241
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	36,463
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	Toyota	Tacoma SR	12,448
2019	Chevrolet	Trailboss LT	44,594
2018	GMC	Sierra Reg Cab	94,092



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