



Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 994 celebrated National Vietnam War Veteran's Day on March 29 at Fat Buddies restaurant. This year marks 50 years since the last Prisoners of War came home. Tom Fouts donated a POW/MIA flag to be flown at the Macon County Courthouse, which VVA members raised on Wednesday afternoon. Above, from left, Rick Norton, Tom Smith and Mickey Stockton, hold one of the flags which were also donated to the families of POWs from Macon County, Nat Henry and Tom Pyle. Smith is the first cousin of Henry. At right, Stockton, Tom James, Sheri Chandler, Wayne Chandler, Bob Cook and Gary Shields were on hand for the flag raising. For more on the Vietnam Veteran's Day celebration, see page 12.



Photo by Betsey Gooder

Businesses pitch social district to council

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

At its monthly meeting April 3, the Franklin Town Council heard public comments on a town social district, presented a proclamation in the presence of Shriners members, and received information on a youth rally from two area youngsters. New business included requests for approval of wireless upgrades to sewer systems, a bid award recommendation for the Clyde Street waterline improvement project, and announcement of a public hearing on an ordinance amendment.

Mayor Jack Horton read a proclamation for the ninth annual '80s Flashback/Shriners Hospital Weekend, which benefits Shriners Children's Hospital, Greenville. Present for the reading were six Franklin members of the Charlotte-based Oasis Shriners organization. This year, the event will be celebrated Aug. 4 and 5. The proclamation reads, in part: "Macon County and the Town of Franklin congratulates '80s Flashback/Shriners Hospital Weekend in Franklin, North Carolina and commend its observance to all citizens and vis-

itors."

For the public comment session, all three persons speaking: Graham Norris, Head Brewer at Lazy Hiker Brewing Company; Dave Linn, an instrumental organizer of the '80s Flashback event; and Cory McCall, of Outdoor 76, had a common message – the necessity for a social district in the Franklin downtown area.

"Franklin is the only regional town, besides Robbinsville that does not have a social district."

– Dave Linn, '80s Flashback organizer

cern about patrons walking around with alcoholic beverages. He also stated that a "positive vibe and culture" has emerged downtown in Sylva.

"I'll be honest – it actually will make it more difficult for us (Lazy Hiker) in the short term; it means that instead of people having one or two drinks at our place, they might grab a drink and go hang with friends somewhere else downtown."

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UNIFY – more than just a basketball game

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Sue Waldroop named Macon Matriarch 2023

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

In an effort to honor women who have made a lasting, positive difference in Macon County, the Women's History Trail project of the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County (FHAMC) established the Macon Matriarch award in 2018. This year, the organization celebrated the achievements of 90-year-old Sue Waldroop, whose family has been entrenched in Macon County since at least the 1800s.

Former Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale, who grew up knowing Waldroop, attended the Wednesday, March 29, award reception at the Macon County Public Library and commented, "It doesn't matter how old you are, you remember people who have made a difference in your life. She certainly made a difference in my life and many other people I know. She deserves this award. I've had the privilege of knowing her for a long time and seeing how she has been a mentor and a friend to many and how she really invested in young people's lives."

Anne Hyder, chair of FHAMC, shared that not only is Waldroop a descendant of the William Morrison family who settled in the county in 1832, but she has been a Brownie Scout leader, a 4H leader, and an organizer of the Pink Ladies at Angel Hospital. In 1979, she graduated from Western Carolina University with a degree in social work and went on to a career with the Department of Social Services. She later worked with the N.C. Services for the Blind serving individuals in five counties. Further, she has served on the Macon County Dem-



Nonagenarian Sue Waldroop was honored March 29 as this year's "Matriarch," a designation by the Women's History Trail project of the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County.

ocratic Party Executive Committee and was a FHAMC board member for many years.

"Even after leaving the board, she continued to help with the Franklin Area Folk Festival for several years," said Hyder.

"This award focuses on the impact women's lives have made in this county and Sue's contributions fit all our criteria," noted Mary Polanski, another of the FHAMC-Women's History Trail team member, along with Marty Greeble, Theresa Ramsey, Claire Suminski, and Susan Ervin.

This year, four women were nominated for their service in such areas as education, local government, heritage, arts, and occupation. The FHAMC leadership team evaluates nomination comments and information as well as public opinion and stories in order to determine the annual honoree.

Waldroop's "Certificate of Appreciation" includes the verbiage: "It is a pleasure to honor you with this award and share your wonderful stories with the younger generation!"

"We have such treasures in our community," added Hyder. "We don't want to miss an opportunity to honor them."

"It's so important that our history and tradition isn't lost," agreed Polanski.

Past Macon Matriarch recipients have been Margaret Ramsey, Sally Kesler, Dot Crawford, Roberta Swank, and Jessie Cabe. Background about each woman honored has been added to the FHAMC website, along with information about the Women's History Trail self-guided tour; a downloadable brochure and map is available on the site or a printed version can be picked up at the Macon County Historical Museum.

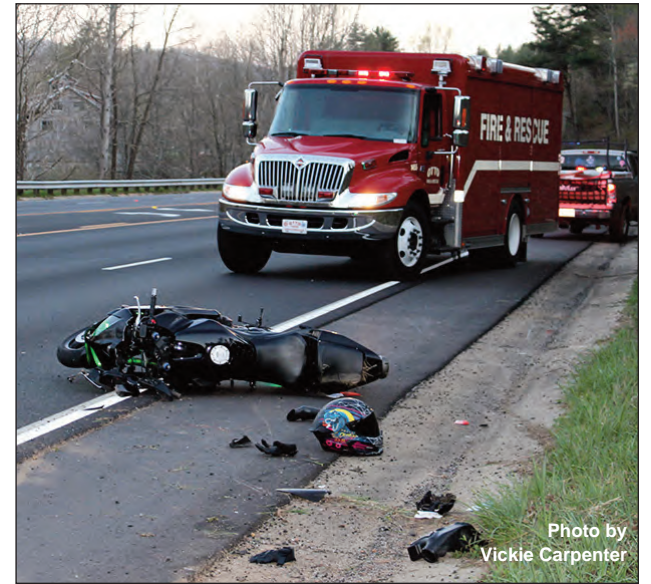


Photo by Vickie Carpenter

High speed chase results in crash

A Franklin Police Department pursuit ended in a motorcycle crash on Saturday, April 1. At 7:24 p.m. FPD Sgt. Randy Dula observed George Ames Drummond, 21, who was riding a 2006 Honda motorcycle, violating traffic laws of speeding and reckless driving on the Georgia Road. Sgt. Dula attempted to make a traffic stop, but Drummond would not yield and a pursuit ensued. Drummond continued traveling south bound at a high rate of speed. As he approached the intersection of Shope Road and US 23/441S in Otto, he began to lose control. The motorcycle traveled just south of the intersection, ran off the road to the right onto the side of an embankment, then back down onto the shoulder where the motorcycle overturned on its side. Drummond was ejected from the motorcycle and also landed on the southbound shoulder of US 23/441S. Drummond was transported to Angel Medical Center via Macon County EMS. Drummond was charged with flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle, reckless driving with wanton disregard, speeding, fail to heed light or siren, no motorcycle endorsement, following too closely, unsafe lane change, center lane violation and unsafe passing against a yellow line. He was released on a \$2,500 bond. Otto Fire Department responded to the scene and the Macon Co. Sheriff Dept. assisted with the scene and traffic control.

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Couple celebrates 50th wedding anniversary

Robert and Barbara Hall will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 7. The couple was married in Orlando, Fla., and have lived in Otto for 35 years.

SOCIAL

Continued From page 1

Norris viewed the beverage allowance as a positive in the long term because it centralizes and brings more people to the downtown district. He also viewed the potential change as beneficial to some of Franklin's festivals and the opportunities for people being able to walk around while enjoying an alcoholic beverage, and still observe and participate, which currently is illegal. Linn added that Franklin is the only regional town besides Robbinsville that does not yet have a social district. McCall lauded the Council on what it has been able to accomplish in the past few years. Regarding the district, he said, "We (Outdoor 76) opened a taproom in 2012 and saw immediately there was a large interest of folks to come and have an adult beverage and socialize."

Town Manager Amie Owens added that Sylva Mainstreet Economic Development Director Bernadette Peters will attend the May 1 TOF Council meeting to discuss what Sylva and others have experienced with their social district enablement.

Waterline bid accepted

The Town received four submittals as part of a request for proposal (RFP) process supporting the Clyde Street Waterline Improvement Project. The proposals were reviewed and evaluated by WithersRavenel to ensure all qualifications were met. Owens relayed that the bid of Buckeye Bridge, LLC. was recommended as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder for the project. Their bid was for \$730,357, while the grant from the state for the project was for \$820,000. The schedule for completion, once a contract is signed, is 240 days. Council members made a motion and then unanimously approved the recommendation, subject to a satisfactory contract being in place.

Public hearing on camping on public property set

The Town Manager also recommended a public hearing on an ordinance amendment to receive public input on "Offenses Against Town Regulations." The amendment will add a new section that deals with camping on public property and reads, in part, "... unregulated camping creates a public nuisance and a health hazard on public property that interferes with its use by all citizens, has deleterious effects on those engaging in such camping activities, and places a burden on



Mayor Jack Horton read a proclamation at the April Town Council meeting for the ninth annual '80s Flashback/Shriners Hospital Weekend, which benefits Shriners Children's Hospital Greenville. Present for the reading were six Franklin members of the Charlotte-based Oasis Shriners organization and event organizer Dave Linn.

public resources." Town of Franklin Police Chief Devin Holland also added that existence of "homeless huts" that result in residents moving on, leaves "a pretty big mess." Many of the public areas are also flood plains. The public hearing is set for Monday, May 1, 2023, at 6:05 p.m.

Youth Rally planned

Gracie Parker, 10 years old, and Kennedy Carrion, 9 years old, briefly informed the Council about the Youth Mental Health Help Rally. Part of their briefing was a request for an Iotla Street closure in support of the rally, which is scheduled for Sunday, April 30, from 1 to 5 p.m. It will include a short, police-led parade from Town Hall to the Gazebo as part of the proceedings. Carrion and Parker lobbied council members for their assistance.

"Bullying is hard on us kids, mentally and physically ... kids like [us] are getting hurt and need help pulling this off. Our town and community is better than this," said Carrion.

Chief Holland followed with the assurance to Mayor Horton that the request has already been submitted by "this young lady [Parker] and her grandparents and it's already a go." The Council then voted on and approved the request.

Town project updates

Public Works Director Bill Deal introduced a new meter reader, Aaron Fosler, who comes to Franklin via Jefferson County in Colorado, where he retired from the sheriff's department there after 33 years of service.

Town Planner Justin Setser discussed various projects in the works. Replacing missing sidewalk sections on Depot Street is scheduled for July. Also scheduled is an East

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Franklin loop/tie-in just above Poindexter Tire that will tie in to First Street. That project is scheduled for construction in 2024.

Road resurfacing projects include Roller Mill Road, set to be completely resurfaced sometime this year; Belleview and Clarks Chapel Road repaving, scheduled for 2024; and, Baird Cove Road, Old Murphy Road (from Baird Cove to U.S. 64), and Lake Emory Road, scheduled for 2026.

Crosswalk upgrades are also scheduled for various locations around town, including Main Street, just adjacent to Town Hall. That project will include moving the crosswalk some distance to place it in a more advantageous point of view for automobiles



Public Works Director Bill Deal introduces Aaron Fosler as new of Town of Franklin meter reader.



Carrion Kennedy (L) and Gracie Parker address Town Council regarding an upcoming youth rally.

heading up the hill toward the shopping district. Some parking re-stripping is also being looked at in the same general vicinity that the Planning Department hopes can result in a few additional spaces.

In addition, Setser reported an increasing demand for parking recreational vehicles on private property. The main emphasis appears to be new land owners who are looking to live in a trailer/camper while building a permanent home. He reported his department intends to research the possibility of

temporary – up to six months possibly – permits that may help satisfy the demand.

Lastly, Setser provided recently received census numbers for Macon County and the Town of Franklin. Between 2020 and 2022, the county grew by up to 2,499 residents formerly residing outside of North Carolina. During the same period, between 2,500 and 5,000 people moved into Macon County from other areas of the state. And again, for the same time period, 83% of N.C. counties had deaths outnumber births. Counties were not broken down in the report nor were specific reasons provided for the numbers.

A special called meeting for a budget work session is scheduled for Monday, April 17, at 6 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting will be Monday, May 1, at 6 p.m.



New ALDI opens in Franklin

A brand new ALDI located on 1320 Siler Road held a grand opening Thursday, March 30, at 8:45 a.m. The first 100 customers received a gift bag filled with a sampling of ALDI Fan Favorites products and a gift card as part of the ALDI Golden Ticket gift card giveaway program. Shoppers reportedly began lining up long before sunrise to be in line for the free giveaway. Town dignitaries attended the ribbon cutting included Town Manager Amie Owens, Town Planner Justin Setser and Town of Franklin Mayor Jack Horton.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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Tennis team playing solid; golf ties for second in tournament

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

Franklin High School (FHS) entered its annual rite of Spring Break, Monday, April 3. At the break, the school's various sports programs have experienced different levels of success, record-wise. No matter the winning percentage, however, a common theme expressed by coaches has been making better citizens of their student athletes rather than just focusing on winning and losing. This spring season has been challenging in different ways for the various sports that make up FHS athletics.

Men's Tennis – A Work in Progress

FHS's 20-plus-year-tenured men's tennis coach, Sammy Gunter, sees this season as a work in progress. As he observed his middle-seeded players take on a somewhat depleted East Henderson Eagles squad in Franklin on March 29, Gunter assessed his team's status.

"I'm not playing the top three [players] at all. Over the years, I've rolled the dice at times. Most of the time it's worked out. There were one or two times I was sweating bullets though," he stated, chuckling.

Gunter has been coaching tennis for 24 years. He began when his daughter was attending FHS between 1998-2000. At that time, the school had not had a men's tennis program

for 10 years.

"I worked out my schedule and talked to Mr. Shields, the principal at the time, and he took a chance on me."

Currently, among the various assistants who help with the team, two players from the women's team, Logan Guynn and Abigail Angel, provide Gunter with able-bodied managing and coaching. Varsity girls' coaches Heather Bell and Andrea Bosio, also former FHS tennis players, also provide assistance.

FHS defeated the Eagles by a 6-0 score, with only one singles set extending beyond the minimum six games. In doubles, the result was similar with sophomores Will Sinclair and Jack Hyatt winning 8-1, while freshman Conner Baldwin and sophomore Brennan Cabe won 8-0. In their next match again at home, March 30, the Panthers defeated Tuscola, 8-1; although, this time Gunter had his top guns in the mix.

Number-1 seeded Jack Sgro won 6-1, 6-1; #2 Mica Jacobs won 6-0, 6-0; #3 Gavin Rinker won 6-1, 6-1; and, 4th-seeded Orrin



Tennis Coach Sammy Gunter follows play during match vs. East Henderson.

Mynes won 6-0, 7-5. The #5 player, Eli Adams, won in two sets, 6-3, 6-0. All three doubles teams won their matches as well.

"Solid play from all the guys in singles and doubles," said the coach. "Overall, it was a

good performance from the guys, but we are still not hitting solid volleys and overheads at the net."

Next on the schedule is a match at East Henderson on Monday, April 10.

Varsity golf ties for second in Mountain West tournament

Following up their second-place finish in the first round of three in the Mountain West tournament, FHS again took on Smoky Mountain, Pisgah, and Tuscola – this time at Maggie Valley. In what could be considered an ongoing competition between the same schools, the golfing Panthers tied for second with the Smoky Mountain Mustangs as both teams hit the 19th hole with 338 scores. Pisgah once again had the better of the quad competitors, shooting a match with a low 308. Tuscola rounded out the scoring with a 405. For the Panthers, freshman Tanner Jones shot a team low 78; followed by junior Ashton Shope, 83; and sophomore Max McClure who shot 90. Junior Cameron Trubicza rounded out the team scoring with an 87. Senior Owen Jenkins shot a 93 and closed out the FHS scoring.

Tuesday, April 18, begins the second-round match of the Mountain West tournament and will be held at Sky Valley.



2023 Franklin A.T. Celebration Schedule
 March 20 - April 22, 2023
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<p>Friday, April 7, 6 pm AT110 Fest <i>At The Rathskeller Coffee Bar & Pub</i></p>	<p>Friday, April 14, 5 pm Food, Flix & Brews At Outdoor 76 <i>with Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy</i></p>
<p>Saturday, April 8 NHC's Easter on the Trail Trail Magic</p>	<p>Friday, April 21, 11 am - 3 pm Happy Trails to You <i>At Gracious Plates on Main</i></p>
<p>Saturday, April 22, 6 pm Outdoor Music Jam & Gear Exchange <i>At Lazy Hiker Brewing Co.</i></p>	

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Panther Baseball suffers tough loss, Softball team wins in a walk-off

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

Franklin High School Baseball continued Tuesday, April 4, when FHS hosted the Pisgah Black Bears. Unfortunately, the junior varsity team sustained another loss, their fifth in a row, and now stand at 1-5 overall. The varsity team led Pisgah going into the top of the seventh, 3-1, only to see the Black Bears take a 4-3 lead that they would not surrender. The varsity Panthers' record now stands at 5-4 (2-3) with a home game against



Freshman Caden Phillips delivers a pitch in the game against Pisgah April 4 at the Macon Middle School baseball field.

North Buncombe April 5, followed by an away game at Pisgah either April 6 or 7.

Last Friday the Panthers beat Tuscola, 5-0, at the Macon Middle School baseball field. Seniors Davis Anders and Caleb Cloer each drove in two runs and junior Malachi Hayes went 1-3 and had the other run batted in (RBI). All the damage was done in two innings as the Panthers scored three runs in the third inning and two in the fifth. Junior pitcher Josiah Hursey faced 17 batters in five innings, allowing only two hits and striking out seven. Junior Beau Pauslon also pitched two innings facing seven batters and allowing no hits.

The junior varsity (JV) squad lost its fourth game in a row when the Mountaineers from Tuscola beat them, 6-0. Coach Colin Taylor's squad has had a tough go of it so far this year, not having won since their home opener against Swain County back on March 7.

On the women's side, the Lady Panthers found themselves down 6-1 in the bottom of the sixth inning March 31 when they faced the West Henderson Lady Falcons. Then the bats came alive in dramatic fashion. FHS put four runs on the board in each of the last two innings to win 9-6. The big contributors offensively were junior



FHS Varsity Panthers confer before taking the field to face Pisgah Black Bears.

Avery Moffitt and freshman Kendall Rumans, who also pitched the entire seven innings. Still down 6-2, in the sixth, Moffitt made the most of her one hit – a three run home-run (HR) in the sixth – to bring the Panthers within one. Rumans topped that with a walk-off, grand slam HR of her own for the final score. She also had a two-bagger earlier in the game.

On the rubber, Rumans allowed six runs on nine hits and struck out four. FHS varsity softball has now won six games running and stands at 10-3 overall, 5-1 in conference. With their win, FHS now trails only Tuscola in conference play.

The Lady Mountaineers currently stand at 5-0. Next on the schedule for the varsity girls is a home game versus East Henderson on April 11.

On the JV side, FHS lost its third game in a row, 13-3, to the Lady Falcons and fell to 1-3 overall. In the game, freshmen Meliah Mason and Makayla Pendergrass drove in all the runs, with Mason hitting an HR for two RBI. Fellow freshman Carrie Holland scored one run and hit a two-bagger of her own. The junior Lady Panthers will also play the Lady Eagles for their next game, April 11.

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FHS UNIFY: March Madness - much more than just a basketball game



Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

There are times, for most of us, when we encounter an event or circumstance that makes us stop a moment and be thankful – thankful for blessings, thankful for living in an area like Franklin, and thankful that our town is made up of people not too busy to stop and honor some less fortunate. On March 30, at Franklin High School (FHS), the fourth annual rendition of the UNIFY: March Madness (MM) event at the Panther Den did just that.

UNIFY is the brainchild of Penny Moffitt, who manages multiple roles at FHS. In addition to business education teacher, yearbook adviser, and student leadership adviser, Moffitt also orchestrates the yearly UNIFY production. Using basketball as the gathering point, UNIFY includes shared training and experiences designed to bring together students, “with and without” limitations, as part of the same team.

“Students with physical and intellectual disabilities are the ones who play in the game,” said Moffitt. “Our partners are senior students who participate in the game to assist. We choose them because underclassmen are watching and will want to be part of the effort too, once they are seniors.”

FHS leadership students helped plan and execute the event that included weekly practices; Special Education students practiced basketball for a few weeks in preparation to compete in the game. UNIFY-MM includes opening ceremonies, player introductions, periodic entertainment, and concessions, which were sponsored by the FHS Booster Club. The event is put on each year free of charge to the public and is touted as “continuing the movement of building community,” which has thus far, according to Moffitt, proven successful.

“Our biggest focus is getting all of our students and all of our staff to support something bigger than themselves. It’s a way of unifying our school – that’s where the name came from,” she said.

Moffitt explained that UNIFY was established during the 2018-2019 school year, when her yearbook leadership students sought something that could boost morale on campus and get students together in a positive environment.

“We also started the ‘Grad Walk’ in the spring of 2019, which is a community event as well, where seniors visit all of the Franklin-area Macon County schools,” said Moffitt.

The Grad Walk provides an opportunity for graduating students to greet and honor teachers who taught them in elementary and middle school. It is a particular way to interact with and personally thank teachers that impacted them most and who might not otherwise see their former students again, explained Moffitt.

At the Thursday, March 30, UNIFY event, participating students paraded into the Panther Den to the fanfare of cheering students, teachers, and parents, and accompanied by the Chick-fil-A cow, a Franklin Fire Department truck, and representatives of the Franklin Police Department. Once inside, the participating athletes were cheered as they warmed up as well as when they ran through a “tunnel,” made by supportive students wearing light purple UNIFY tee shirts. And, after a keyboard rendition of the National Anthem by Bianca Willis, each UNIFY team member, along with their senior-student partner, was introduced to the crowd by the public address announcer, and Macon Middle School Principal Mark Sutton. Many of the introductions included a distinct handshake, twirl, or comical routine.

Athletes were divided into white jersey and red jersey teams. When the two teams took to the court, UNIFY athletes were continuously assisted and encouraged by their senior partners; yet, often their skills shined independently – proving that weeks of practice paid off.

Each time a UNIFY athlete scored a basket, the large student cheering section, “Hype Man” students, and sports fans packing the bleachers erupted in supportive screams, yells, and clapping. It was an evening not soon to be forgotten, especially by all the students participating in the game.



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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Last Friday marked the resumption of the "Community Coffee with the Mayor" at the Hudson Library. These coffee sessions are usually held on the last Friday of the month, from March to October.

I want to thank the staff and board of the Hudson Library for coordinating and sponsoring these sessions between the residents and the mayor. Our

Hudson Library is a legacy community institution that we must all support. It has always been a place to obtain knowledge and information and has open dialogues.

I did an overview presentation about the impending new town budget and the priorities that town staff have identified. After my presentation, I opened the floor up for questions. Let me highlight the ideas and information that some of the questions brought up.

One resident asked about sewer connections. About half of the town is connected to the sewer, and the other half is not. Heavy rock formations have deterred the development of the sewer system throughout the entire town. Nevertheless, I do believe the town needs to revisit this issue and determine how much it would cost to extend the sewer system throughout the entire town. I know the price tag would be high. Given the investment, the board would have to consider making it mandatory that residents connect to any new extensions.

Another question was whether the town received room occupancy tax funds to offset the increasing costs associated with expanded tourism. My response was no; the town does not directly receive those funds. The Macon County Commission and the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) control the funds and allocate a substantial portion to the Highlands Visitors Center. Under the 1985 state enabling legislation that the county operates under, these tax revenues can only be used for tourist promotion. A new piece of legislation passed in 1997 permitted one-third of the room tax revenue to be used for tourist infrastructure initiatives and two-thirds for tourist promotion. The county would have to request to be put under the 1997 enabling legislation for room tax revenues to support anything other than tourist promotion. The Magellan Strategy Group published a comprehensive report in 2022 that covers all aspects of how room occupancy taxes are allocated in the state. This

See TAYLOR on page 11

Letters to the Editor

When Light pierces darkness – The Easter Story

If you're one who gets up before morning's light, and darkness is all around, then once darkness is broken by the first rays of light, you look forward with anticipation for what lies ahead for the dawning of a new day. Life is a lot like that. We're living in a world of increasing darkness, yet are refreshed when light removes the darkness that surrounds us. Many choose to live in this darkness yet are unaware of the effect this has on them and those around them.

Organizations arise in fulfilling the void or missing parts of life that help see through this darkness and to see it for what it is. We try in every way imaginable to bring a little light for ourselves that pierces this darkness, which is not fully understood. So, finding relief in the hurt of confused and saddened hearts is hard to find. Whether you find fame, fortune or just frustrated with life's emptiness then asking yourself, is there more to life, or where can the truths of life be found?

In desperation, life is often cut short with drugs, unending relationships which lack meaning; life itself becomes meaningless and for some, unbearable. We all see this for what it is, yet we shrug our shoulders and move on without answers. So if you find what seems good, is it really good? Or is this good disguised in darkness? Light and truth pierce untruth and the darkest evils of life. But what is this light, "what is truth?"

Many ask this question, it was even asked of Christ before his crucifixion, when His truth seemed clouded in darkness but was pierced by His light so bright of his life's example. Christ is truth, and the hope we seek in finding, "what truth is." Christ himself claimed to be Truth and Light, defeating death and the darkness of evil was pierced by His Divine and never ending Light.

We want truth in life, we want justice, all keeping life sensible, reasonable with understanding and balance. Something to give hope to our children. The Divine Christ is Truth which shows in His values of the truest meaning of love, peace, being just, kindness and sacrifice poured out towards you and me, everything known as good is God. Man's good is hidden in deceit and untruthfulness.

We need to think seriously: Do I place my trust in man that's shrouded in darkness, or trust in the Light that pierces deeply in a hope only found in Him? The Divine calling which all feel knowing there's something "good" beyond us, beckoning deep within. Our hearts find no peace until pierced by His light that breaks a darkened life. The "good and awe" we find in the beauty of nature, the feeling of something calling or pulling the heart when overlooking a mountain vista or a sunset. The pulling of the awestruck wonders, are just the beginning. Like the cracking of a door which brings a ray of light which begs to be thrown open for the fullness of Light, which then all things are seen more

clearly for what they are. It's like finding a "truth so good," it's like coming to the warmth ... of Home.

Sharing life brings a unity and friendship which is much needed. Let's share life over coffee or email.

Happy Easter,

Deni Shepard – deni.shepard828@gmail.com

Easter can be a time to choose what to believe

About 4000 years ago Abraham took his only son on a donkey to the site where the sacrifice would take place. He placed the wood on his son's shoulder for him to carry. On that day a ram was sacrificed. About 2000 years later God would have his only son ride a donkey to the town where nearby a sacrifice would take place. The wood (cross) was placed on Jesus's shoulder for him to carry. On that day a lamb was sacrificed -The Lamb of God. Three days later Jesus rose from the tomb.

It is no coincidence that there was only three people crucified that day and it is no coincidence that Jesus was between the two sinners. One chose to believe that Jesus was the son of God and was told that night he would be in paradise (heaven). The other chose not to believe and would spend eternity somewhere else. That same scene has been going on time after time, year after year and generation after generation. One will choose to accept Jesus as his Savior and spend eternity with Jesus in heaven and one will choose not to believe and will spend eternity with Satan in the lake of fire.

This Easter many will attend church to worship Jesus Christ, Kings of Kings, Lord of Lords, and our risen Savior. For some this will be one of two times they attend church in a year and that is okay. God would rather you attend church twice a year than never at all. For some, this might be the first time in a long time that you attend church or it might even be your first time, but Easter would sure be a good time to start. As you give your children Easter baskets, chocolate bunnies, Happy Easter and God Bless.

Mike Townsend – 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.

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The most innocent person ever indicted

This man spent several years doing all kinds of good deeds for the benefit of many people. He had been very wealthy, yet sacrificed for them, and served without pay. But he said and did things that the "powers that be" didn't like. He was perceived as a threat to their control.

He had to be stopped because his popularity among the people was soaring. His social programs fed thousands and restored health to many. They tried several times to take him out, but could not succeed. They finally found one of his followers who was willing to betray him for a nifty sum of money. They arrested him, and subjected him to the court system. False witnesses were called to testify against him. They questioned him in a failed attempt to get him to say or do something they could use against him. He never took the bait.

When they asked him who he was, he said, "if I tell you, you will not believe. And if I ask you, you will not answer." When they tried to entrap him, getting him to admit to being who they said he was, he said, "You say that I am (that person)." He then faced another government authority, who also tried to get him to confess to something they could use against him. But he said, "You have said so." This authority gave up when he could find no legitimate charges against him. So he referred him to yet another government authority, who still couldn't find any charges that would "stick," so he sent him back to the previous judge.

Public pressure from the people who hated him finally prevailed. Unbelievably, they wanted to let someone who actually had committed crimes (murder and insurrection) go free, while demanding that the innocent be punished for crimes he did not commit. Never had such a gross injustice been seen! Yet it was all part of a much larger plan. The crime against this innocent man completely backfired. The whole world seemed to be turning to him!

After his cruel punishment that resulted in his death, he was buried and the tomb sealed and guarded because he had said several times that after three days he would rise. But after three days, sure enough, he rose from the dead! He was seen by hundreds, and his influence set the world afire. He had promised before his death that he would go and prepare a place for those he had come to save. He ascended into heaven in full view of the people. After that, his followers, who had been cowering in fear, became as bold as lions, proclaiming Jesus Christ to be Lord of all. All but one of them were martyred by the government, but they didn't care, because they had seen Jesus after he rose from the dead.

Ed Hill – Franklin, N.C.

A compromise must be reached to save library

As a parent, as a teacher of elementary children, and as a former member of the Macon County Library Board, I have some thoughts about the library controversy.

Children should not have access to pornographic material at our schools and libraries. That is common sense. It is also common sense that we should not destroy our community libraries due to a handful of materials.

I agree with freedom of expression and information as outlined in our 1st Amendment. I believe it is important to lead with values. I also believe in the spirit of compromise as it was written into our Constitution. In that reality, nobody gets 100% of what they want, but fair solutions are possible and must be pursued. That is what is needed here and now.

That compromise could include moving sensitive materials and/or labeling those that have sexual acts graphically displayed, regardless of sexual orientation. It could be something else that achieves the same ends. What we do not need is stonewalling on the one hand, and torches and pitchforks

on the other.

I understand emotions are running high and everyone wants to stand their ground, but that isn't what's best for the community.

We do not need to get past the point of no return, where a group of partisan commissioners micromanage our community libraries and hand-pick library staff, and many dedicated and skilled library employees lose their livelihoods.

We also don't need Macon County taxpayers to come up with several million dollars for books and videos (currently over 80,000 in the Franklin library alone), magazines, computers, internet servers, network equipment, broadband contracts, subscriptions, IT services, shelves, tables, desks, and chairs. Currently, Macon County owns the Franklin and Nantahala library buildings, but NOTHING inside.

We need to be clear about what is behind the push to remove materials: a well-orchestrated fear campaign targeting our LGBTQ+ community. The point is to silence, isolate, and disappear our friends, family members, co-workers, and neighbors. Unfortunately, the teen suicide rate in the LGBTQ+ community is extremely high, due to labeling, rejection, persecution, humiliation, bullying, and discrimination. None of this is true Christian behavior. Jesus spent time with the outcasts of His culture, and He treated them with dignity and respect. We should all do the same.

Time is running out for common sense solutions. The Macon County Commissioners are meeting next week, and as is often the case, decisions are made before the meeting begins. The time for compromise is now.

Dan Kowal – Franklin, N.C.

We will see about Mike Pence

Is former Vice President Mike Pence being duplicitous? Certainly, he can sport a white hat for counting the electoral votes on Jan. 6, 2021. However, he may have to take it off over the need to testify in the Special Counsel's Jan. 6 investigation. He is trying to use some "speech and debate" shield to keep his unique knowledge of facts leading up to Jan. 6 under wraps. Bear in mind, though, what constitutional scholar Laurence Tribe asserts: "Pence's evidence goes straight to the heart of a crime against democracy that nearly succeeded."

Pence insists he has "nothing to hide." Yet, he is attempting to hide his unique knowledge that only he can provide in this criminal investigation.

Will his efforts pay off for him in his attempt to remain silent? Does he not have a greater responsibility to protect democracy? Do we not elect our political leaders in hope that protecting the Constitution and democracy overrides everything else? If Pence ultimately succeeds in using the "speech and debate" principle does he not, in effect, keep himself and, thereby, Donald Trump above the law?

Remember: There is a crime being investigated here.

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

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TAYLOR

Continued from page 10

report identifies several options for managing and allocating occupancy taxes.

Another question was raised about motorists speeding as they pass through Highlands. The question was asked if cameras could be installed to issue speeding tickets. Tallulah Gorge and Sky Valley are already doing so. My position on the ticket cameras is very clear. I am against them. While we have security and tourist cameras located in limited places in town, I do not want to see us rely on some "robot" police camera to enforce traffic laws. People have the right to face their accusers. On the other hand, I favor using more radar speed signs that let motorists know when they exceed the speed limit at a certain level.

Another question was about limiting growth in the town. My response is that we have zoning and related development ordinances. If a property owner can meet these requirements, then the town has no authority to tell the owner they cannot develop their private property.



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Help Support Programs for Veterans

VVA Chapter 994 marks National Vietnam War Veterans Day



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 994 president Tom James reads from the Missing Man Table message on the symbolic meaning of the elements at the table.



Vietnam veterans Gary Shields and Charlie Ward present a POW flag to the widow of Lt. Colonel Thomas S. Pyle, Cheryl Pyle.



Guest speaker Cheryl Pyle, widow of Vietnam Prisoner of War Lt. Colonel Thomas S. Pyle II, offered insight on the events leading to the release of POWs in 1973, 50 years ago.
Photos by Vickie Carpenter



A traditional Missing Man Table was set "symbolizing those who have not returned from war, but who have not been forgotten."



VVA Chaplain Dale Cannon opened the gathering with prayer.



Fat Buddies Restaurant in the West Gate Plaza offered the local VVA Chapter 994 a space to observe National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29.



Wayne Chandler honored the departed whose names will be engraved on the plaque nearby. Chandler acknowledged the contribution of Bill Handley in establishing the memorial plaque as a way to forever remember Macon County veterans who served in the Vietnam War. The memorial board will hang in the local VVA office.

A.T. hiker activity still going on in Franklin

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

This past week and weekend saw Appalachian Trail (A.T.) hikers in droves descending on Franklin to take a “Zero” (rest day off the trail) or at least spend time eating, re-supplying, and adjusting gear, and more, before re-entering the trail. The mostly northbound section- or thru-hikers on their way to Mt. Katahdin in Maine started their journey at Springer Mountain in Georgia and traveled 110 miles before getting off the trail most likely at Rock Gap or Winding Stair in order to partake of all that Franklin offers.

Hikers having lunch on Sunday, April 2, made by one of Discover Church’s fellowship “life groups,” represented around 10 states and included two married couples. The hikers consumed turkey and cheese wraps, fruit, chips, and Easter goodies. One hiker was from Switzerland and said he had planned to hike a European trail this year but learned of the A.T. at a meeting he attended in his native country.

At the Nantahala Hiking Club-sponsored annual Hiker Chow Down on Saturday, April 1, at Lazy Hiker Brewing Company, hikers from all over the United States and a few from European countries were provided plenty of food and an opportunity to listen to a Celtic music jam and play games, such as cornhole.

“We fed 35, which was down from last year,” said Nantahala Hiking Club President Victor Treutel. “We can only assume it was because of the nice weather and they were all back on trail, because the number of registered hikers is only slightly lower



Hikers and volunteers gathered during a recent free breakfast offered to A.T. hikers at First Baptist Church. The church will offer the breakfast through Earth Day.

staying at a local hotel. Saturday, we went to wish them well on their departure. Their shuttles arrived, but there was not enough room, so we shuttled several of the children to the Albert Mountain Fire Tower parking area. We walked with them to the A.T., where they picked back up their journey north.”

The Franklin Appalachian Trail Community Council met at the First Baptist Church on April 4 for its monthly meeting to meet hikers who are served a free breakfast offered by the church during the annual Franklin A.T. Celebration, which takes place this year from March 20-April 22, the first day of spring to Earth Day.

First Baptist Church member Patsy Parker serves hikers every day for four weeks each spring. “It’s been a real ministry and a passion for me,” she said. “I’ve been serving since Craig Miles started this. He hiked the A.T. and came back to the area because he loved it so much and was hired on as our associate pastor. We started off serving pancakes and bacon for two weeks in 2008. Then we served for three weeks in 2009, and expanded it to four weeks since 2010. That’s the bubble time, when a lot of hikers come through – from late in March to end of April. We average about 18-20 hikers daily, but we have had more than 40 at a time.”

Besides breakfast, the church also offers other donated items: Cookies, chips, fruit, and more. Large sheets are placed on the walls for hikers to sign as well as blank cards on the tables that the church will mail “anywhere in the world,” expressed Parker.

She said she has met and spent time with hikers from all over the world, including this year from 10 countries. Before 2020, an average of 1,000 hikers annually were fed the free breakfast. She expects

the numbers are back to pre-pandemic levels.

“I just love to see the camaraderie of the hikers,” she said. “You know they must have just met each other on the trail, but it’s so wonderful how they get along and support one another. And, to think of the beauty of relationships happening between here and Maine. It’s nice to see and be a part of.”

Parker also acknowledged the synergy between the businesses and organizations in Franklin that support hikers. “It’s nice when we are all working for the same thing, and hikers are so appreciative and complimentary.”

Upcoming this week for both A.T. hikers and the public is the AT110Fest at The Rathskeller Coffee Haus & Pub on April 7. Nantahala Hiking Club’s Easter on the Trail/Trail Magic occurs on April 8. Volunteers grab prepared bags of fruit, raw vegetables, and sweet treats and walk parts of the A.T. or wait at trailheads from the Deep Gap section of the trail to Tellico Gap to hand out the approximately 100 bags to hikers.



Volunteers with Nantahala Hiking Club fed at least 35 hikers on April 1 at Lazy Hiker Brewing Company during its annual Hiker Chow Down event.

than last year. On Sunday, a hiker I encountered was number 1,650 ... but the [total of registered hikers] appears to be over 2,600.”

In fact, according to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, approximately 3 million people visit the A.T. every year, with more than 3,000 on average attempting to thru-hike the entire trail. In general, about a quarter of individuals registered as thru-hikers actually complete the trail annually, cited the Conservancy.

Police Chief Devin Holland had his photograph taken in front of a Franklin A.T. Mile 110 sign with a large family hiking the A.T. together. He explained that he had helped the mother, Nikki Bettis, with a police matter while she was in Franklin resting and resupplying. Bettis is hiking with 14 of her 15 children, ages 4 years to 25-years-old.

“I gave each child a FPD patch,” said Chief Holland. “Later that evening, I took my family to meet hers while they were

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Public Health seeking to add Molar Roller unit

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

The Macon County Board of Health public meeting was held March 28, with a full a full slate of items to review, including North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper’s signing of HB 76 into law (see Macon County News article, March 30, 2023).

“The governor signing is a historic moment for the health and wellbeing of our state,” according to Macon County Public Health Director Kathy McGaha Medicaid expansion will extend coverage for both physical and behavioral health to approximately 600,000 North Carolinians in a timely way that improves quality of life.”

People who think they may be eligible can begin enrollment online at ePass.nc.gov to see if they currently qualify for Medicaid benefits. Existing Medicaid beneficiaries should update their contact information during Continuous Coverage Unwinding so they do not inadvertently lose coverage. More information can be found at <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/End-of-PHE>.

Health board signs tobacco resolution

The Tobacco 21 Resolution, signed by McGaha and Macon County Health Board Chair Director Jerry Hermanson, is titled “Protecting Our Kids from Vaping and Nicotine Addiction.” The resolution first reports statistics, such as: “every five deaths in North Carolina is associated with cigarette

smoking; and, 95% of users start before the age of 21. The resolution goes on to say, “Whereas nicotine is harmful to developing brains ...” followed by two pages of statistics and information regarding youth and the effects of e-cigarettes and tobacco; the resolution’s final paragraph specified: “... we, the members of the Macon County Board of Health, strongly supports that North Carolina must protect our kids from vaping and nicotine addiction by establishing a tobacco retailer permitting system, raising the minimum age of sales from 18 to 21, restoring local authority, and adopting other needed provisions of legal sales of tobacco products to match federal law.”

In addition, it was announced at the meeting that a bid request package for a new Molar Roller Unit will soon be available. The Molar Roller is a mobile dental clinic that travels around Macon County to offer routine dental services for children. Children under 18 are eligible for the services, and the clinic is currently accepting new patients with North Carolina Medicaid, Health Choice, or who qualify as self-pay. For more information about Molar Roller, call (828) 349-2513.

Forthcoming will be a State of the County Health Report. A presentation on the report was made at the meeting by Jimmy Villiard, Population Health Section Administrator, Macon County Public Health, and Jen Germain, health educator.

The next public meeting of the Macon County Board of Health is scheduled for May 23.



The Macon County Health Department is seeking bids on a new Molar Roller mobile unit that provides routine dental services for children who meet certain requirements.

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The Arts Council sponsors Student Talent Showcase 2023



Overlook Theatre Co. actress Sarah Weeks, 16, and her puppet, Roscoe, emceed the Student Talent Showcase which featured performers from all the schools in the Franklin area. The event was held in the Fine Arts Center.



Neelley Vinson, Bailey Robinson and Ileah Ezechiel – Gymnastics
South Macon Elementary



Ruthie McClain & Rayne Watchhorn
Vocal duo – South Macon Elementary



Zeta Hudson – Vocal solo
Macon Middle School



Iotla Valley Elementary School Choir



Tiara Daniel – Vocal solo
Union Academy



Harper Hamlin – Piano solo
Cartoogechaye Elementary



Erik Brandon Acevedo Ordaz
Vocal solo
Mountain View Intermediate



Faith Lefevbre – Dance solo
Mountain View Intermediate



Esmeralda Sanchez Mendoza
Vocal solo – East Franklin Elementary



Jeremiah Jennings
Whistling
South Macon Elementary



Abram Lynch – Piano solo – Homeschool



Dawson Kendall – Piano solo
Mountain View Intermediate School



Kinley Austin – Martial Arts
East Franklin



Tatum Carrion & Willow Norris
Vocal duo – Mountain View Intermediate



Quinn Pyles – Vocal solo
East Franklin Elementary

Photos by
Ellen Randall



Cameron Ramsey – Vocal solo
Macon Early College



Isaiah Stockton – Piano solo – Franklin High School

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Deaths & Funerals

Charles Donald Baldwin

Charles Donald Baldwin, 86, passed away on April 3, 2023, at Eckerd Living Center after a period of declining health.

He was born in Macon County on Sept. 20, 1936, to the late Donald J. Baldwin and Maude Welch Baldwin. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by an infant sister, Betty Lou Baldwin.

He graduated from Franklin High School where he played the tuba in the marching band. After high school, he joined the US Marine Corps serving from 1954 to 1957. He was a graduate of Georgia State University. He worked at Square D in Atlanta, Ga., before returning to Franklin where he worked for many years for the North Carolina Employment Security Commission in Bryson City, Cherokee and Franklin. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Franklin.

He had a quiet undemanding personality, always appreciative of any small kindness shown to him. He enjoyed the beauty of nature, the stillness and quiet of the forest, feeding the birds and squirrels, and felt we should never waste anything.

He is survived by his sisters, Nell Baldwin Hubbell (Clarence) and Thelma Baldwin Crawford (the late R. L. Crawford of Sylva; nieces, Sharon Davis (Carl) of Sylva; Elizabeth Medford (Mitchell) of Austin, Texas, Rebecca Barr (Bill), Linda Crawford Robinson (John); and a nephew, Bob Crawford (Kari) of Franklin.

No services are planned.

Donations may be made to the Burningtown Baptist Church Cemetery, PO Box 2193, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

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

Teresa Arlene Henderson Ammons

Teresa Arlene Henderson Ammons, 59, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with her Lord on Sunday, April 2, 2023, after a long period of declining health.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of Geraldine Lee Henderson and the late Arley Eugene Henderson. She was a member of Iotla Baptist Church. She cherished her family and loved caring for chickens when she was able.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband, Kenneth Ammons of Franklin; children, Melissa Ammons Quiletorio (Ilde) and Zachary Ammons, both of Franklin; one brother, Vic Henderson (Diane) of Raleigh, N.C.; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, April 6, at 2 p.m., at Iotla Baptist Church. Rev. Brandon Breedlove and Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate. Burial will be in the Iotla Baptist Church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., one hour prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 2610 Wycliff Road, Suite 101, Raleigh, NC 27607.

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



Charles Donald Baldwin



Teresa Arlene Ammons

Harold Jackson Welch

Harold Jackson Welch, 94, of Franklin, N.C., formerly of Charlotte, N.C., passed away on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Allen Jackson Welch and Laura Hughes McCoy Welch. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Kate Smith Welch; six brothers, Odis, Floyd, Carl, Everette, Jud, and Darrell; and four sisters, Texie, Dove, Oleta, and Pallie.

He was of the Baptist faith. He faithfully served our country in the US Army during the Korean conflict. After returning to Macon County, he became a charter member of VFW Post 7339 in Franklin.

He is survived by one sister, Ann Black of Jonesboro, Tenn.; one sister-in-law, Hazel Breedlove Welch of Franklin; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, April 13, at 2 p.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. Military honors will be provided by VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108.

Burial will be in the Tellico Baptist Church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108 in Harold's memory.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Harold Jackson Welch

David Carey Cabe

David Carey Cabe, 80, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus, on Saturday, March 25, 2023.

Born in Macon County he was the son of late Carey W. and Veo Burrell Cabe. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Leila Gonzalez Cabe; two brothers, John Cabe and Odell Hopkins; and two sisters, Frances Hopkins and Frankie Hopkins.

He proudly served his country, first serving in the Navy and later serving in the Coast Guard. After retiring from the service, he returned to Franklin where he worked as a paper carrier for the Asheville Citizens and the Atlanta Journal Constitution. He was a longtime member of the Macon County Coon Hunters and a faithful member at Union United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his five children, Leila of Jacksonville, Fla., Elaine of Long Island, N.Y., Victor of Ft Lauderdale, Fla., Jess of Franklin, and Rosemary of Franklin; three sisters, Frances Cabe of Mountain City, Ga., Rose Stiles of Otto, N.C., and Opal Tilley of Galivants Ferry, S.C.; and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

A graveside service will be held Tuesday, April 11, at 12 p.m., at the Union United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Janet Greene officiating. Military honors will be provided by VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108.

The family will receive friends on Monday April 10, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be members of the Macon County Coon Hunters Club.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Union United Methodist Church, C/O Lana Hires, 101 Morrison Church Road, Franklin, NC 28734 or the Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



David Carey Cabe

W. Bryant Ledford

W. Bryant Ledford, 98, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

He was the son of the late Zemry and Mamie Sanders Ledford. He was a Charter member of First Assembly of God of Franklin and current member of Franklin Church of God. He was a US Navy Veteran of World War II. He was the founding owner of Ledford Grading. Most of all, he loved the Lord, and usually would be saying "Glory" with that big smile.

He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife of 59 years, Dorothy Cunningham Ledford; brothers, Dennis Ledford, Gene Ledford; sisters, Jeanette Williamson, Ruth Cowart, Ann Patterson, and Mildred Anderson.

He is survived by his wife of 10 years, Dorothy Prasek Ledford; son, Randy Ledford (Kim); three grandchildren, Colton Ledford, McKinley Ledford, Trent Ledford; sisters, Sue Ramsay, Audrey Brabson, both of Franklin, Pat Lowe of Virginia Beach, Evelyn Tallent of Atlanta, Ga.; numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Friday, March 31, at the Franklin Church of God. Revs. Mike Stephens, Mike Barres, and Tom Grubb officiated. Burial was in the Addington Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Joel Holland, Mark Foster, Tim Ledford, Rick Ledford, Gary Brabson, and Duane Brabson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies, P.O. Box 2157, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



W. Bryant Ledford

Linda Henderson Morrow

Linda Henderson Morrow, 77, of Franklin, N.C., died April 2, 2023 at Angel Hospital under Hospice care.

She was the daughter of the late Lester Calhoon and Adeline Teague Henderson. In addition, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Max Henderson, Charles Henderson and Con Henderson.

She graduated from Franklin High School in 1963. She attended Weslyn College in Macon, Georgia and graduated from WCU in 1967 with a degree in education. She was employed as a Field Advisor for the Girl Scouts of America. She was very active in scouting throughout high school which she enjoyed. A teaching position became available at East Franklin Elementary School. She taught there for 30 years, until her retirement in 2001.

She was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church and attended regularly. She enjoyed arts and crafts and has a large collection of dolls, many of which she made. She also loved baking cookies for family and friends during the holidays. She volunteered many hours at the Scottish Tartan Museum representing the Henderson Clan. She was a very loving person. Often she would see a former student and give them a big hug. She and her husband looked forward to vacationing with Sam and Patti McClure annually. She will be sadly missed by family and friends.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Gene R. Morrow; a daughter, Elizabeth Anne Thomason; and son, Robert Rafe Morrow; a big sister, JoAnn "Jodie" Henderson, all of Macon County; and several nieces and nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Burial was held at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences can be sent to www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



Linda Morrow

Harry Mordecai Binkow

Harry Mordecai Binkow, 68, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Saturday, April 1, 2023.

He was born in Miami, Fla., to the late Charles E. and Ruth Long Binkow. He was a previous judge at the American Kennel Club and loved all animals.

He is survived by his brother, Phil Binkow (Nancy) of Atlanta, Ga.; and sister, Amanda Wittenberg of Bridgeton, Mo.; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society, 200 Gable Dr, Sapphire, NC 28774.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Thomas 'Tommy' Edgar Roten

Thomas "Tommy" Edgar Roten, 83, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Friday, March 31, 2023.

Born on Easter Sunday in Macon County, with six inches of snow on the ground, he was the son of the late Elmer Edgar and Ira Edna Holbrook Roten. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by six sisters, Patsy Henderson, Kathryn Cruse, Martha Schulties, Jane Ledford, Mary Sue Murray, and Maxine McClure.

He loved bear hunting and was an avid supporter of Franklin High School athletics. He has gone to every home game for many years. He helped the athletic program by building trophy cases in the gym, building lockers in field house, painting, and doing whatever he could to help. He was a Franklin Panther for life.

He is survived by his two sons, Eric Roten and Chad Roten, both of Franklin; one granddaughter, Kaylee Brooke Roten of Franklin; brother, Bill Roten of Franklin; and a sister, Linda Griffen of Wadkinsville, Ga.; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held Thursday, April 6, at 7 p.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 7 p.m., one hour prior to the service at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made the Franklin High School Athletics Department in memory of Tommy Roten.

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



Thomas Edgar Roten

Mary Arnold McCoy

Mary Arnold McCoy, 87, of Seneca, S.C., passed away Friday, March 24, 2023. She was born Dec. 24 1935, in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late Phillip and Carrie Henry Craine. She was a nurse, loved flowers, fishing, and word search puzzles.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Arthur Arnold Sr.; her second husband, Sherille McCoy; and a daughter, Joan Arnold.

She is survived by her daughter, Barbara Arnold of Kentucky; her son, Arthur Arnold Jr. of Oklahoma; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and brother, Ernest Craine of Clayton, Ga.

A graveside service was held Thursday, March 30, at Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery.

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

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



Mary Arnold McCoy

Michael Carl Nation

Michael Carl Nation, 52, of Bradenton, Fla., passed away on Sunday, April 3, 2023.

He was born in Abbeville, S.C., on Feb. 4, 1971, the son of Linda Willis Nation Evans and the late Marshall Victory Nation Sr. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a brother, Marshall Victory Nation Jr.

As a young boy living in Franklin, he attended Longview Baptist Church. He was an avid Carolina Panthers fan, loved to scuba dive and all other watersports. He will be remembered for his quick smile whenever he met anyone.

He is survived by his mother, Linda Willis Nation Evans of Franklin, N.C.; two sisters, Michelle Heard (Zack) and Dedra Justus, both of Travelers Rest, S.C.; seven nephews, Jesse, Gregory, Nate, Eli, Jacob, Thad, and Isaac; and one niece, Gracie.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, April 8, at 11 a.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Steve Reeves and Rev. Brandon Breedlove will officiate. Burial will be in the Iotla Baptist Church cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m., one hour prior to the service at Macon Funeral Home.

The family requests memorial donations be made to the Iotla Baptist Church Youth Group.

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



Michael Carl Nation



Deaths & Funerals

Betty Cannon

Betty Cannon, 92, of Franklin, N.C., formerly of Fayetteville, N.C., went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on April 1, 2023. She was born in Easley, S.C., to the late Elijah and Letha Mae Bagwell on March 10, 1931.

She was of the Baptist Faith and attended of Riverbend Baptist Church. She worked for the North Carolina School System for 20 years. She loved to garden and watch the flowers bloom in the springtime. She loved her family and her church family and will be truly missed by all that knew her.

She is survived by two sons, Steve Cannon (Anne) and Eric Cannon; one brother, Elijah Bagwell; two grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Lee Cannon, and a daughter Vickie Cannon.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday April 15, at 11 a.m., at Riverbend Baptist Church. Pastor Steve Cannon will officiate. Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is assisting the with arrangements.

Martha Jean Stiles Francisco Wells

Martha Jean Stiles Francisco Wells, 89, of Franklin, N.C., went to be with the Lord, Monday, March 27, 2023.

She was the daughter of the late George and Agnes Angel Stiles. She was a member of Longview Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ross Wells; two daughters, Debbie Griffen, Lori Jordan; brothers, Steve Stiles, Nelson Stiles; sisters, Patsy Drake, Prudence Anderson, and Joanne Hubbs.



Martha Wells

She is survived by her children, Beth Francisco of Lucasville, Ohio, Ricky Francisco of Douglas, Ga., Mickey Francisco of Danridge, Tenn., Danny Francisco of Milton Fla., Tony Francisco of Milton, Fla., Teddy Francisco of Knoxville, Tenn., Matthew Francisco of Douglas, Ga.; siblings, Fred Stiles, Becky Holland, Alma Bryson, all of Franklin, Margaret Banks of Fairview, N.C., and Dan Stiles of Waynesville, N.C.; and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, April 15, 4 p.m. at Longview Baptist Church. Rev. Johnny Lee will officiate. The family will receive friends from 2 to 4 p.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to the Franklin House, 186 One Center Court, Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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Kyle Larson and team grab first win of 2023 at Richmond Raceway

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

With the benefit of a fast final pit stop, Kyle Larson was able to put his No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet out front at Richmond (Va.) Raceway and then hold off the field in the last 25 laps of Sunday's Toyota Owners 400 to earn his first NASCAR Cup Series victory of the 2023 season.

The 30-year old Californian had to out-duel his Hendrick Motorsports teammate Josh Berry on a pair of re-starts in the closing laps to secure the win at the first short track event of the season at the .75-mile Richmond oval. Berry, driving the No. 9 Hendrick Chevy for injured Chase Elliott, finished runner-up capturing his best ever NASCAR Cup Series finish – 1.535-seconds behind Larson to the checkered flag.

Trackhouse Racing's Ross Chastain, Joe Gibbs Racing's Christopher Bell and Stewart-Haas Racing's Kevin Harvick rounded out the top five.

It was the 2021 NASCAR Cup Series champion Larson's 20th career win and the first ever NASCAR Cup Series victory for his interim crew chief Kevin Meendering, who has led the No. 5 team at-track while fulltime crew chief Cliff Daniels – along with the Hendrick team's other three crew chiefs – finish out a suspension penalty from NASCAR.

"It's really cool, we've been close to winning a couple," Larson said, adding, "Things just worked out and my pit crew had a great stop."

It was certainly a Hendrick Motorsports day with Larson and Berry besting the field. And their teammate William Byron leading the most laps (117) and winning his series-best fifth stage. The season's only two-time winner Byron looked poised to have a say in the trophy hoist too, only to be knocked out of contention when he was hit from behind by Christopher Bell on a restart with 20 laps remaining.

"I was just re-starting fourth there, just trying to stay tight to the 9 [Berry] and get a good restart and got tagged in the left rear," said a frustrated Byron, who finished 24th. "Just a dive-bomb move on his [Bell] part. It is what it is. I had a great race car.

"The Raptor Chevrolet was awesome all day. We'll just keep bringing fast race cars like that. It was looking like another win before that caution there, but that's the way it goes."

Larson led four different times, totaling 93 laps on the afternoon and survived contact on pit road with Daniel Suárez's Chevrolet early in the race. It was Larson's second Richmond win (also in 2017) and the fifth for Chevy through the season's opening seven races.

The Toyota contingent looked to give the Chevys a real run, looking especially strong mid-race. Four Toyota drivers combined to lead 154 laps – more than the manufacturer had been out front in the previous six races. Denny Hamlin's No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota paced the Toyotas leading 71 laps and claiming the Stage 2 win, but a pair of pit road penalties – including a costly one on his final stop, took him out of contention. He finished 20th.

"What an awesome Hendrickcars.com Chevy," Larson said. "Can't say enough about it. I got into the 99 [Suarez] on pit road there sometime in the second stage, and we were awful after that. I was hoping the damage was the reason why, but they had to calm me down a little bit and get refocused and was able to get it done.

"Thanks to everyone on this team, Cliff Daniels, for everything he does to prepare the team to be as strong as we are without him on the box. So good to get a win, and hopefully many more."



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, and Jeff Gordon, Vice Chairman of Hendrick Motorsports celebrate in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Toyota Owners 400 at Richmond Raceway on April 2, 2023, in Richmond, Va.

Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images



Michael McDowell finished sixth - his first top-10 finish of the year. Reigning series champion Joey Logano was seventh, followed by polesitter Alex Bowman, rookie Ty Gibbs and owner-driver Brad Keselowski. Gibbs ninth place effort marked his third consecutive top-10 finish.

The series returns to action next Sunday with the Food City Dirt Race at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway (7 p.m. ET, FOX, PRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Kyle Busch is the defending race winner.

Chandler Smith Grabs First NASCAR Xfinity Series Victory at Richmond Raceway

Rookie Chandler Smith earned his first career NASCAR Xfinity Series victory Saturday afternoon at Richmond (Va.) Raceway holding off John Hunter Nemechek on a final race restart with six laps remaining to hoist the ToyotaCare 250 trophy.

Smith's No. 16 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet led a race best 83 of the 250 laps – the bulk of that early in the race. But the 20-year year old Georgia native was able to run among the top five for most of the day and ultimately drive his Chevy around Nemechek's No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota on that last restart, pulling away to a .298-second victory after some intense side-by-side action for the lead in the closing laps.

Smith has had three top-five finishes, including a gut-wrenching near miss at Las Vegas last month. After leading a dominant 118 laps and being out front with one lap to go at

for Nemechek at the 0.75-mile Richmond track; including a NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series race and the last two NASCAR Xfinity Series races there.

"We weren't very good on the short run, we had a long-run speed car," Nemechek said, "But we came from the back up there to battle for the win, put ourselves in position."

"Disappointed to run runner-up again, that's the last three races I've run here, finished second. Frustrated but we'll go back to work. The 16 (Smith) just had the best car on the short run."

JR Motorsports driver Josh Berry finished third in the No. 8 JRM Chevrolet. He led 63 laps and was out front with 65 laps remaining until a series of caution flags and restarts that characterized the race ending.

Kaz Grala turned in a strong day with a fourth place showing in the No. 26 Sam Hunt Racing Toyota – equaling his career best effort in the Xfinity Series. And Cole Custer rallied to a fifth place finish in the No. 00 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford after a problem on pit road and some tight side-by-side racing late in the day.

Justin Allgaier - who started his No. 7 JR Motorsports Chevrolet from pole position after qualifying was rained out Saturday morning – led laps early but had an up-and-down day. Ultimately, he finished 13th and was good enough to take the first \$100,000 bonus in the Dash 4 Cash sweepstakes sponsored by Xfinity.

With his work, Allgaier now joins Saturday's three new

qualifiers – Chandler Smith, Berry and Nemechek to contend for the next \$100,000 check at the series' next race at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway on April 15.

“Weird day today, we didn’t fire off quite as good as we hoped for but they kept working, great pit stops all day.” Allgaier said, adding, “It’s weird finishing 13th and still be standing here holding this check but the other guys had a rough day. This puts us in next week for the Dash 4 Cash so huge thanks to Xfinity for all they do for the sport.”

Seven different drivers led at least 24 laps – and for much of the race there were at least three drivers ranked among the top 10 looking for their first career Xfinity Series win.

Sheldon Creed, Ryan Sieg, Parker Kligerman, the season’s three-race winner Austin Hill and Derek Kraus rounded out the top 10. It was the first series start for Kraus, who raced among the top 10 in his No. 10 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet for most of the day.

Riley Herbst, who led 27 laps and Brandon Jones, who led 24, were involved in an accident while contending for fourth place late in the race. Herbst finished 23rd while Jones was 21st.

The next race is the Call811.com Before You Dig. 250 at Martinsville Speedway on April 15 (7:30 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

Carson Hocevar Grabs First-Career Win in Double Overtime at Texas Motor Speedway

Nick Sanchez led an absolutely dominant 168 of 172 laps in Saturday’s SpeedyCash.com 250 at Texas Motor Speedway, but the 21-year old rookie and reigning NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series champion Zane Smith collided at the front of the



Chandler Smith, driver of the #16 Quick Tie Products Inc. Chevrolet, celebrates after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series ToyotaCare 250 at Richmond Raceway on April 01, 2023 in Richmond, Va.
Photo by David Jensen/Getty Images



field after taking the white flag and Carson Hocevar instead drove through to take his first career victory in double overtime.

The 20-year old Hocevar led only that last overtime lap in the No. 42 Niece Motorsports Chevrolet to claim his first win by 1.628-seconds over Kyle Busch Motorsports driver Chase Purdy – career best finishes for both drivers.

After slight contact with Smith racing door-to-door for the win, Sanchez got loose and had to regain control of the truck heading to the white flag. Video replays show that as he steadied his truck, he was hit from behind by Hocevar, whose truck

was carrying the momentum as Sanchez was recovering from his slight miscue. The contact from behind was just enough to spin Sanchez back across the track and collect Smith’s truck, while Hocevar drove forward to the finish line and waited for official word of the win.

“I didn’t mean to get into him, I just meant to give him a push and he got sideways the second I hit him, I apologize to them, I’ll take the fall for it, I wrecked a Chevy and I’ll go talk to him about it - he deserved to win for sure,” Hocevar said of the contact with Sanchez.

“But all the times we were the fastest car and I don’t win, and this team deserves to win more than anything, I can stop getting the same question asked all the time now,” said Hocevar, who has four career runner-up finishes.

“We didn’t deserve to win today but we were in the right spot at the right time.”

Certainly, Sanchez got plenty of practice in mastering re-starts with six of the 12 cautions coming in the final 40 laps of the race. He drove his No. 2 Rev Racing Chevrolet to the front each time, having to duel side-by-side with Smith late in the race.

“Obviously coming to the last lap, me and the 38 [Zane Smith] were playing an aggressive side-drafting game and I got a little too aggressive on him, got loose, went through the grass and saved it,” Sanchez said. “Just got hit by the 42 [Hocevar]. I don’t know what else to say about that.

“It is what it is, that’s racing.

“This is what we’ve been working hard to do,” continued Sanchez, who swept both Stage wins. “We don’t want to just win, we want to dominate. Today we dominated, but we didn’t win so just got to go back and see what I can do better. Try to build on strengths. I guess, the positive is we got stage points, that’s something to fall back on. But I want to win, that’s my goal.”

Veteran Stewart Friesen finished third with Ty Majeski and Jake Garcia rounding out the top-five; Garcia the highest finishing rookie. Hailie Deegan equaled her career best finish with a sixth-place run. Corey Heim, Ryan Vargas, Jack Wood and Ben Rhodes rounded out the top-10.

Smith was scored 14th and Sanchez was scored 16th. The race leaves Majeski now with a three-point edge over Smith atop the championship standings.

The NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series returns to action next week in Saturday’s Weather Guard Truck Race on Dirt at the Bristol Motor Speedway Dirt track (8 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).



Carson Hocevar, driver of the #42 Worldwide Express Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series SpeedyCash.com 250 at Texas Motor Speedway on April 01, 2023, in Fort Worth, Texas.
Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images



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THEME: COLORS

ACROSS

- 1. Partner of pains
- 6. "Raiders of the Lost _____"
- 9. Opposite of flows
- 13. Flesh of fish
- 14. Grazing area
- 15. Soft palate hanger
- 16. Boatload
- 17. Wood-shaping tool
- 18. Old episode
- 19. *Alice of "Color Purple" fame
- 21. *Fruit and color
- 23. Long reef dweller
- 24. Sound of pain
- 25. Math class total
- 28. Excessively abundant
- 30. *"Royal" color
- 35. Arrival times, acr.
- 37. *Color quality
- 39. Shininess
- 40. White House "sub"
- 41. Spritelike
- 43. Cupid's counterpart
- 44. Serengeti grazer
- 46. *Feeling blue
- 47. Hokkaido native
- 48. *Color wheel inventor
- 50. Walk with a hitch
- 52. "Malcolm X" (1992) movie director
- 53. Stare open-mouthed
- 55. Napoleon of "Animal Farm," e.g.
- 57. *Between blue and violet
- 60. * ____ phobia, intense fear of colors
- 63. Opposite of cathode
- 64. North American country
- 66. Run ____ of the law

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- 68. Geography class book
 - 69. Local area network
 - 70. It's firma
 - 71. Has divine power
 - 72. Banned insecticide, acr.
 - 73. German surrealist Max
- DOWN**
- 1. "General Hospital" network
 - 2. Crop of a bird
 - 3. Zeus' sister and wife
 - 4. Two under par on a golf hole
 - 5. Meat-cooking contraption
 - 6. Winglike
 - 7. *Predominant color of Mars
 - 8. Type of membranophone
 - 9. Like never-losing Steven
 - 10. Town
 - 11. *Primary color
 - 12. ____ Juan, Puerto Rico
 - 15. 7th planet from the sun
 - 20. Chosen few
 - 22. Nicki Minaj's genre
 - 24. Not womenfolk
 - 25. *Number of colors in a rainbow
 - 26. Of service
 - 27. Colorful parrot
 - 29. *The LumiÈre brothers' colorful creation
 - 31. "Cheers" actress Perlman
 - 32. Jeopardy
 - 33. Sergio of Spaghetti Westerns fame
 - 34. Follow as a consequence
 - 36. Email folder
 - 38. Cone-shaped quarters
 - 42. Naiad or maenad
 - 45. Motherless calves
 - 49. Old horse
 - 51. Long John Silver, e.g.
 - 54. Modified "will"
 - 56. Bottom-ranking employee
 - 57. Opposite of "out of"
 - 58. Hall of Fame Steelers' coach
 - 59. June 6, 1944
 - 60. " ____ Buy Me Love"
 - 61. Between dawn and noon
 - 62. Yours and mine
 - 63. Expression of pleasure
 - 65. Melancholy
 - 67. Latissimus dorsi, for short

HAULING

- DIRT
- GRAVEL
- MULCH



Otto • Dillard
Franklin

(828) 371-2432

PETS OF THE WEEK

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

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



Athena is a Labrador Retriever mix and is just under 2 years old. She is house trained, walks well on a leash, and knows basic commands. She gets along well with other dogs.

Oliver is a 1.5 year old neutered male. He gets along well with other cats and is very loving.



SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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SPECIAL OFFER

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WALK-IN TUB

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

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

The Classifieds

Services

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Help Wanted

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

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

RELIABLE HOUSEKEEPER For Nice House in Franklin Area. 1 to 2 times monthly. Must have own transportation. Good Pay. (828)369- 0048.

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

Boats & Campers

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

Misc. For Sale

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

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

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

Rentals

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

SUMMER VACATION RENTAL Lakefront 1BD/1BA Lower Duplex, Franklin, Easy Access, No Pets, 3 Night Minimum, Full Furnished. Ideal corporate rental. Seasonal, not permanent. Sarah (770)757-7500.

2 BEDROOM Fully furnished apartment in wooded area four miles from town. \$1200/monthly plus deposit, Utilities Included. Short term rental of three months. Available May 1. Call or text (828)380-0275.

Real Estate

3.66 PRIVATE ACRES with Tiny House. Well, Septic, Spring, Reservoir, Several House Sites, State Road Frontage, Beautiful Cowee Valley. (828)371-6310.

Animals

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

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

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

Garage & Yard Sales

HUGE MULTI-FAMILY Indoor, Friday and Saturday, 8-1. Household, decor, furniture, kitchen, antique and vintage items, baby and kid items, clothes for the entire family, farm fresh eggs. Follow signs to Coon Club Building, 3056 Wide Horizon Drive. Beginning Saturday at 8, Most everything Half Off Don't miss this sale! No Early Birds!

MULTI-FAMILY INSIDE Carson Community Center, 3001 Old Murphy Rd., Friday & Saturday. 8-1. Everything from Antiques to Books and Clothes.

Community Fundraisers

MULTI-FAMILY INSIDE Carson Community Center, 3001 Old Murphy Rd., Friday & Saturday. 8-1. Everything from Antiques to Books and Clothes.

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

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

Commercial Rentals

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

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.

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