



Franklin High School's Junior/Senior Prom was held at Tessentee Farm Wedding and Event Center last Saturday. "Luau Under the Stars" was the theme with Hawaii-themed entertainment like hula dancing and a fire eater along with leis for everyone. Games, food and music with a DJ rounded out the evening. For more photos, see page 12. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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Lady Panthers are softball conference champs



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Honor Flight carries N.C. veterans to Washington

Nearly a dozen sign up to speak at board meet

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

The Macon County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, May 9, at the County Courthouse for its monthly meeting. First item of the evening was recognition of the Franklin High School (FHS) Cheerleading Team where Coach Lynn Baker shared some of the group's accomplishments this past season.

"We did over 250-hours of community service; our team not only competes but cheers for football, volleyball, band, basketball, wrestling, and more. Hopefully the message came across that the kids in our program are awesome and they appreciate any and all support," said Baker.

After talking about some of the life lessons that coaches work to incorporate into the cheer team environment, cheer team members addressed the Board with comments about how their lives have been positively impacted through their time with the program. Challenges to the program include lack of

practice space and mats, relayed Baker.

A public session included 11 speakers who discussed topics that included current perception on the county, its commissioners, and their roles in school-related programs; namely the so-called Highlands pre-school and FHS projects and, more specifically, the current county process to purchase the 195 Wayah Street "Higdon Property."

One person spoke to the need for "due diligence" requirements as they apply to real estate sales and purchases. Board co-chairman, Josh Young offered a rebuttal of sorts from the board as to why it chose to move on the purchase of the Higdon property and the numerous ways it can benefit FHS.

Rebecca Tipton clarified what she and some other individuals are lobbying for regarding library collection and display at the Macon County Public Library. According to Tipton, books

See BOARD page 2

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 MAY 20

BOARD

Continued
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should be placed in restrictive access locations, not banned or burned, or otherwise removed from the library. The approach she espoused was to use a method recently enacted by the Greenville, S.C., library board that utilized an existing obscenity statute in their state and incorporated the language of it into their library collection policy. The S.C. policy reads, "... material which contains the following will not be included in the young adults collection: Graphic depictions or descriptions of rape or pedophilia ... graphic sexual depictions or descriptions ... for the purpose of this policy, material is considered graphic if a person applying contemporary community standards relating to the depiction or description of sexual conduct would find that the portion of the material appeals to those who have an "excessive interest in sexuality."

FHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) Coordinator Colleen Strickland and coach Josh Brooks provided an update on the CTE program at FHS. Over the past two years, program leaders have worked to advance CTE growth. Their efforts are focused on pathways that involve two courses, which make students "concentrators," and currently, 20 pathways are in place from which students can choose. Approximately 820 students are enrolled in at least one of the CTE pathways at FHS. Three of the newest options include aviation, healthcare professional, and emergency medical technician.

Strickland also spoke briefly to the Higdon property purchase and how it might assist with the agriculture program at FHS if incorporated into the new project. Young spoke specifically to CTE and how it applies to the effort the county is undertaking overall with the new high school. The fact that practical skills like welding, agriculture, cooking, and more are incorporated into the program should resonate positively with

the community, according to Young.

County Attorney Eric Ridenour briefed the board on the Notice of Sale and Upset Bid Period for a nearly four-acre, county-owned property located at 388 Bethel Church Road. Acceptance of an offer for \$55,350 was approved in April and the Board agreed to move forward with the process. The bid period closed May 8. No upset bids were received, and a motion was made to proceed with the sale as currently structured. The



Franklin High School Cheer team attended the Tuesday commissioners meeting to tout the benefits of the program.

motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairman Paul Higdon led a discussion on improvements to the Macon Middle School track, for which funds are available. Groundbreaking has already occurred on the MMS locker room project, which came in under the projected cost, at \$2.5 million. Contingency funds left from the locker room project can be used toward the track improvement. Starting with \$365,600 left over from the contingency funds available from the locker room project, the school has also received a \$109,936 grant, which leaves \$255,400 and the county would need to appropriate funds in order to complete the upgrade. An eight-lane option provides opportunities to host state-level track

meets at the venue. Higdon requested a scope of work be provided to the Board in order to make a better decision on voting for or against the project at the June 13 meeting.

County Planning Chairman Glenn Hedden was on hand to answer questions regarding an update to the High Impact Ordinance relating to Crypto Mining Facilities. The purpose of the ordinance, as described by county documentation is to "promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Macon County by diminishing the impacts of certain land uses which, by their nature, produce noise, odors, vibrations, fumes, light, smoke, dust, and other impacts which interfere with the quiet enjoyment of adjacent lands and disturb the peace and dignity of the county." The proposed update nominates cryptocurrency mining and similar (computer) server-based facilities to the list of existing high impact uses. No vote was held on this change at this meeting.

Following a recent modification enacted by the Franklin Town Council, commissioners considered a similar measure applicable to the Greenway Ordinance that forbids camping along the Little Tennessee River Greenway. Additionally, a public hearing is scheduled for June 13, as presented by Macon County Sheriff Brent Holbrooks. Holbrooks provided his assessment on how to best designate suitable areas for people to camp sufficiently away from the Greenway. In support of concern for those who do frequent the area for recreational use, the sheriff expressed hope that the upcoming public hearing will assist in determining the best approach.

County commissioners voted to recess until Tuesday, May 23, at 6 p.m., when the county manager will present the recommended fiscal year 2023-2024 budget and for any other business that may come before the board.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held June 6, at 6 p.m. in the commission boardroom, on the third floor of the Macon County Courthouse.

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Celebration honors '2022 Outstanding Conservation Farm Family'

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Adam Huscusson learned months ago that his farm business, H&H Farms, was chosen among farms throughout the entire state of North Carolina as the “2022 Outstanding N.C. Conservation Farm Family.” A showcase video on H&H, filmed by the Farm Bureau of Macon County, began airing on YouTube and has garnered 12,000-plus views.

To celebrate the state-wide honor, hundreds of people gathered at the Moss Valley Venue on May 9. H&H is the first Macon County business to receive the N.C. Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (NCASWCD) recognition in the organization’s nearly 50 years of existence. (See May 4 Macon County News article for background.)

Adam Huscusson’s humility has prompted the recently retired 15-year fire fighter to pronounce, “If I had known how much attention this would draw to me, I may not have allowed my name to be included.”

However, the farm business that he and his wife, Katy, and his father, Harold Huscusson, as well as both sides of the family, have worked was nominated by the local Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District and H&H became a contender and then the winner of the coveted award. Several people in attendance at the May 9 mid-day event spoke of the reasons why H&H was selected. Generally, H&H piqued the district office’s attention due to such best farm management practices as planting cover crops, fencing livestock out of creeks, installing livestock watering systems, rotating cropland and pasture land, stream restora-



George Teague, president of the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, presented on May 9 to H&H Farms’ Adam and Katy Huscusson the statewide “Outstanding Conservation Farm Family Award” - making it the first such business in Macon County to receive the honor.

tion, and more.

County Manager Derek Roland expressed that he was not surprised by the honor bestowed on H&H.

“I have had the privilege of knowing these families my whole life,” he said. “Adam and I graduated high school to-

gether ... played football together. And Adam was then and is now a true gentleman who has never wanted recognition, but who has always been hard working ... tough as a pine knot. He has a never-give-up spirit, and he poured everything into this [farm business] while also maintaining responsibility for the land.”

“We didn’t strive for recognition; recognition came to us,” said Harold.

“The resources in our area are finite,” Adam pointed out. “There’s not much farmland, so we have to take care of the farmland we do have. And although this is an honor to me in an extreme, the main thing is to do the very best we can and take pride in what we do.”

When asked if any one person mentored Adam when he began farming, he offered, “There are so many good farmers in this room that I’ve called on to help me along. Everyone in here has gotten us where we are.”

He also conveyed to the crowd that he was up before sunrise to tackle responsibilities on the farm before the award celebration began and that he was ready to return.

“A little fellow inside me wants to be outside working on the farm,” he shared.

Katy sang the National Anthem a cappella at the awards’ ceremony, and attending guests included Macon County commissioners, N.C. State Rep. Karl Gillespie, Sheriff Brent Holbrooks, representatives from Raleigh’s N.C. Division of Agriculture & Consumer Services, and many more. Sarah Clancy, soil conservationist for the district, who was on the nominating committee for the award, oversaw the organization of the May 9 event.

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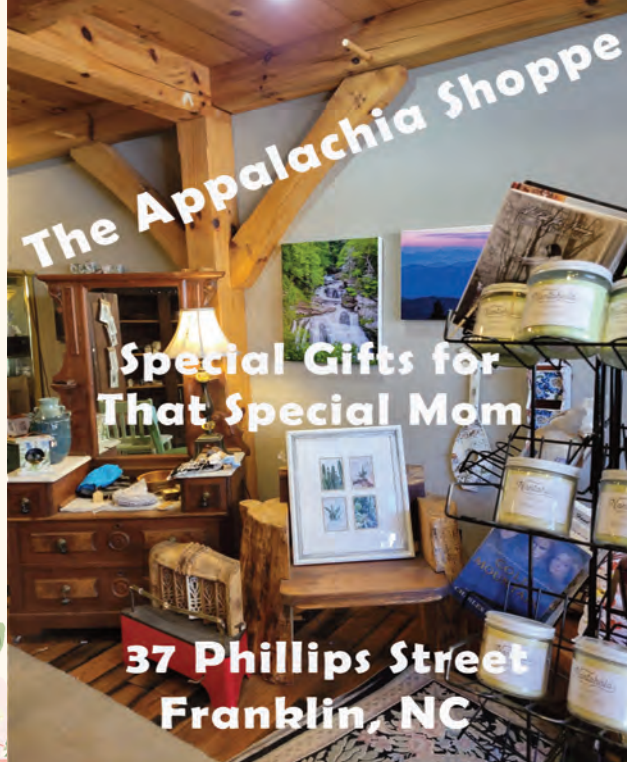
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Softball conference champs; advances to second round playoffs

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

Panther softball wins regular season conference title; advances to second round of the NCHSAA State Playoffs

The Franklin High School (FHS) softball team finished up an 18-3 and 11-1 conference season last Thursday. With their final 11-0 shellacking of 3A/4A T.C. Roberson, the Lady Panthers put the stamp on an outstanding regular season and ensured the top seed in the upcoming Mountain Seven Conference (MSC) tournament. Additionally, junior outfielder/catcher Avery Moffitt was named FHS Athlete of the Month for April. Moffitt has been integral to the team's 14-game winning streak with a .407 batting average since mid-March. She has also logged 14 of her total 16 runs batted in (RBI) since the team's last (and only conference) loss against Tuscola, in mid-March.

In their past two games, the first on May 2 at West Henderson, and their last, against the aforementioned Rams, FHS has completely dominated the competition. In the latter, many players made contributions: freshman Ashlynn McConnell went 3-for-3 with an RBI and scored four runs; senior Tori Ensley had two hits in four at-bats, one a triple, and scored two runs; junior Avery Moffitt went 4-for-4 at the plate, scored four runs and also had one RBI; junior Bree Carver went 1-for-3 hitting but drove in a team high three RBI; freshman Kendall Rummans, in addition to her stellar pitching, also went 1-for-3 with one run scored and two RBI; senior Tessa Dehart had two hits in four at-bats, including one double. She also drove in three runs. Rummans threw for six innings, allowing but one hit, two walks, and seven strikeouts in an equally dominant pitching performance.

Perhaps the most notable performance of the evening was senior Abby Carpenter – out for most of the year after shoulder surgery – coming on in the last inning and having an at-bat, where she could only swing with one arm. Predictably, she did not get a hit, but it spoke volumes about what she wanted, and she agreed to take a final at-bat for the season.

In their conference-clinching victory over the Lady Falcons, FHS scored 13 runs in the seventh inning alone to overwhelm them, 20-3. With 16 total hits logged for the game, the Lady Panthers top performer was senior Tori Ensley. Ensley had five hits in six at-bats with a double and a homerun, scored five runs, and drove in six. Junior Laura Holland also went 4-5 with four runs scored and two RBI of her own.

On Tuesday, May 9, the West Regional Tournament, which



Junior softball player/catcher Avery Moffitt was named FHS April Athlete of the Month. Pictured with Avery are (L-R) Bobby Bishop, Head Varsity Softball Coach; Matt Bradley, Co-Athletic Director; Moffitt; Cori Sellers with Matt Corbin Dental; and Hank Hodge, First Citizens Bank.

is the semi-final round for State, began. FHS hosted the first round, which pitted the Lady Panthers against North Buncombe. The final score was 11-1, and the Panthers win means they will move onto the next round of the N.C. High School Athletic Association Championships (3A). The victory increased their winning streak to 15 in row. The Lady Panthers will host conference foe, West Henderson, this Friday, May 12. Game time is set for 6 p.m.

Tennis advances in playoffs

FHS Tennis had a successful day participating in Regionals at Hickory on Friday and Saturday, May 5-6, as did the Mountain Seven Conference as a whole. On Friday, conference champions Jack Sgro and Mica Jacobs were selected as the fourth seed in the draw for doubles. They first played a team from Fred T. Foard High School (HS) and won 6-3, 6-3.

"In the second round, they faced a team from South Point that had a different style of play, which gave us fits," said Head Coach Sammy Gunter. "Losing 2-6 in the first set and trailing 4-5 in the second, we finally adjusted by chipping and charging the net to finally take control and won the last nine games to qualify for state."

On Saturday, playing for regional seeding purposes, the same pair played the top-seeded team from Hickory, losing 6-0, 6-2. The third and final match was against the #2 seed from St. Stephens High School. In the first set, Sgro/Jacobs got off to a slow start and were down 0-3 before fighting back to 3-3. The set went back and forth from there to 6-6, whereby the St. Stephens team won. In the second set, the Panthers got out front early to win 6-2. The third set was again close as both teams traded excellent shots and untimely errors to reach a 5-5 score.

"We played steadier to pull out the victory to qualify as the #3 seed from the region to advance to the 3A state playoffs in Burlington this Friday," added the coach.

FHS will send a men's doubles team to the state playoffs for the first time in recent memory.

Earlier in the week, the West Regionals Men's Tennis Duals were held at Central Davidson High School in Lexington, N.C. on May 3. The Panthers won 6-3 in very windy conditions.

"After a long bus ride, I didn't know how we would perform against the Mid-Piedmont Conference Champions with a 9-1 record," said Gunter. In singles matches, Sgro, Jacobs, Gavin Rinker, and Conner Baldwin all won their matches. In doubles, Eli Adams and Rinker won along with Sgro/Adams.

"Jack, Mica, and Gavin played through their opponents with relative ease with just a few rough bumps. Conner had a long, physical match with long rallies and momentum shifts before winning the first set. However, this took a toll on the Central Davidson player, who developed leg cramps and could not continue," the coach added.

In doubles, the top-seeded Sgro/Adams team overpowered their opponents and had better placement at the net to get their doubles win. Second-seeded Rinker/Adams played their best match of the season as they set each other up at the net and then volleyed away balls with authority to run away with the match.

"I was proud of the effort produced by our guys, but we have to keep working if we want to keep advancing in the playoffs," said Gunter.

Track & Field take first in conference meet

The Mountain Seven Conference Track Meet took place at North Henderson High School on Tuesday, May 2, where the Panthers swept the championship. The girls beat out West Henderson by a score of 209 – 183, while the boys also bested the Falcons, 228 – 201. Of the five silver "elite performances" called out on the NCRunners MileSplit NC report, three were Panthers: Charley Seagle, for the girls with her 38-1 in the shot-put finals, and both Blake Cassada and Adam Rogers in the pole vaults with 14-0 marks. FHS actually took first through third in the pole vault events for boys' and girls' events, with Cassada winning along with Boston Stringer for the girls.

Sophomore Laura Covarrubias and senior Cal Drake were both named Field Event Most Valuable Player (MVP). Girls' Head Coach Melissa Ward was named Mountain Seven Girls Coach of the Year. Some other standout performances included Covarrubias breaking the FHS school record in the 200-meter (m) dash with a 25.68 time. Drake is now seventh all-time at FHS, also in the 200m; Claire Ballard won the girls' discus (95-08); and Talon Smith won the long jump with a personal best (by almost two feet) of 20-09. Seagle had a personal record in her shot-put throw (38-01) and is now #2 all-time for FHS.

Next up for the team is the 3A West Regionals at North Lincoln this weekend.

Golf season ends

Coach Ryan Raby and his golf team participated in Regionals May 8 at the River Bend YMCA in Shelby, N.C. Their season ended there where they shot 345 as a team but failed to make the top three cut to advance on to the state round.

"The kids had a great learning experience this weekend. It wasn't our best performance, but it wasn't all bad," said Raby.

The advancing team scores ranged from 294 to 303. By comparison, FHS' best round the entire season was 333. For their final round of the year, the Panthers scored as follows individually: Tanner Jones, 80; Ashton Shope, 83; Max McClure, 88; Cameron Trubicza, 94; and, Owen Jenkins, 96.



Senior Tessa Dehart scores in the first round game of State Playoffs. The Panthers won, 11-1.



Junior Delaney Stiles bats against North Buncombe May 9 playoff game.

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Wow, it's Pickin' on the Square time again! We will start Saturday, May 13th. This year the town will be doing Pickin' twice a month. The schedule will be posted on the town website. We will be starting off the new season with the J.W. Band as we have for a long time, so if you love good country music don't miss this!

The concert start at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00p.m. at the gazebo in downtown Franklin, so come early and bring a chair and enjoy! These concerts are given to you by the town of Franklin, free, no admission. See ya there!!

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The Legislative Review

Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

Editor's note: Rep. Gillespie's daily scheduling details included in The Legislative Review were edited due to limited space.

For the legislative week of April 24-April 28, 2023, the House held a non-voting session on Monday.

On Tuesday, the House Environment Committee, of which I am a co-chair, heard three bills:

– HB 177 DEQ Omnibus.-AB
– HB 370 Responsible Firefighting Foam Management Act.

– HB 579 Amend Certain DEQ/EPA Agreements/Proceedings.

All three bills passed committee.

Just after 5 p.m., the House convened for session where we considered numerous bills, including:

– HB 139, U.S. and N.C. Flags/Made In USA, would prohibit State institutions and political subdivisions from purchasing United States and North Carolina flags with public funds that are not made in the United States. The bill passed with unanimous consent.

– HB 385, Regulation of Battery-Charged Security Fences, would prohibit counties and cities from (i) requiring permits, fees, reviews, or approvals for the installation or use of battery-charged security fences; (ii) imposing installation or operational requirements for such fences above those specified in the bill; or (iii) prohibiting the installation or use of such fence on property zoned for nonresidential use. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 111-2.

– HB 415, Stop Addiction Fraud Ethics Act of 2023, would enact new laws related to truth in marketing, and patient brokering and kickbacks, for substance use disorder treatment providers and facilities. The bill passed unanimously.

On Wednesday, the session convened and we considered several bills, including:

– HB98, Medical Freedom Act, would prohibit State agencies, local governments, and political subdivisions from discriminating against individuals based on their refusal to provide proof of, or to submit to, a COVID-19 vaccination. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 73-41.

– HB463, NC Farmland and Military Protection Act, would prohibit adversarial foreign governments from purchasing, acquiring, leasing, or holding any interest in agricultural land or land situated within a 25-mile radius of a military installation. The bill passed by unanimous vote.

On Thursday, the House held a morning voting session and we voted on various bills, including:

– HB299, Perpetual Care of Certain Cemeteries, would authorize the N.C. Cemetery Commission to promulgate rules establishing minimum standards for the care and maintenance



Rep. Karl E. Gillespie

of cemeteries licensed by the Commission. The bill would also impose civil penalties for violations and would require annual financial reports to include details of the care and maintenance performed at cemeteries. The bill passed unanimously.

– HB648, Faithful Article V Commissioner Act, would create a new Article to Chapter 120 of the General Statutes entitled "Faithful Article V Commissioner Act." The act would:

- (1) enumerate findings leading to the creation of the Act,
- (2) define terms applicable to the act,
- (3) state the purpose of the act,
- (4) detail requirements for the selection and removal of commissioners, and filling vacancies,
- (5) establish limitations on the commissioners' powers,
- (6) require each commissioner to take an oath to act within the limitations established and understand that failure to do so may subject the commission to penalties provided by law, and
- (7) create a Class I felony if a commissioner exceeds the scope of authority provided by the Act.

I voted in favor and the bill passed, 64-50.

On Friday, the N.C. Supreme Court published three separate decisions that will:

- Affirm the General Assembly's constitutional authority to draw state and congressional districts
- End unconstitutional felon voting

For the legislative week of May 13-May 5, 2023, the legislature has arguably its busiest week of the year as the crossover deadline approaches. Most bills that are introduced have to meet the crossover deadline, which means a bill must pass one of the two chambers to be considered eligible over the biennium. If not, that bill is dead until the beginning of the next long session, (January 2025) where it would have to be reintroduced.

Monday's session was non-voting.

On Tuesday, I attended the House Rules Committee where my bill, HB736, Joel H. Crisp SUDEP Awareness Law was heard. The bill passed committee.

The House convened for a voting session, where we considered 35 bills, including:

– HB55, Fire Investigation Law Revisions, would permit the Commissioner of Insurance, through the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), to investigate fires under Article 79 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes. The bill passed with unanimous consent.

– HB576, Health Care Practitioner Transparency Act, would require a health care practitioner's licensure, certification, or registration to be displayed on advertisements and required identification and would prohibit any deceptive or misleading representations about a health care practitioner's license, certification, or registration. I voted in favor; the bill passed, 111-5.

– HB608, Safety Requirements for Elevators, would change elevator safety requirements for certain rental accommodations and require the Building Code Council to amend the State Building Code accordingly. The bill passed by unanimous vote.

– HB736, Joel H. Crisp SUDEP Awareness Law, would direct UNC of Medicine's Area Health Education Center (NC

AHEC) to make available information on Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy to healthcare practitioners. I am the lead sponsor of this bill and it passed 116-0.

On Wednesday, the House voted on several bills, including:

– HB295, Promote North Carolina Sawmills, would promote local sawmills by allowing the use of ungraded lumber in certain circumstances. I am the primary sponsor of this bill and it passed, 115-2.

– HB426, Revise Aquaculture General Permit, would direct the Environmental Management Commission to withdraw the 2021 NPDES general permit for aquaculture and revise it to the previous general permit. Currently, NCDEQ requires trout farmers to submit quarterly water tests, whereas previously the requirement was for annual testing only. The new quarterly requirement costs trout farmers over \$7,000 a year. This bill would revert the permit back to the original annual requirement. I am the primary sponsor of this legislation and it passed with a vote of 81-36.

– HB593, Restrict Truck Length Through Cullasaja Gorge, would increase the penalty for exceeding tandem trailer and semitrailer length limitations on US64 between Franklin and Highlands. It is already prohibited for trucks of a certain size to travel this road. This bill would increase the fine. The penalties apply to the amount by which the vehicle combination exceeds 20,000 pounds. I am the primary sponsor of the bill and it passed 118-0.

– HB808, Surgical Gender Trans./Minors, would prohibit healthcare practitioners from providing or referring out surgical gender transitions procedures to minors. I voted in favor and it passed, 74-44.

– SB20, Care for Women, Children, and Families Act, would amend the current ban on abortion from after 20 weeks to after 12 weeks. The bill provides significant funding for programs to help improve access to child care and maternal healthcare, and encourages families to adopt foster children. SB20 also provides funds to cover eight weeks of paid leave for state employees and teachers after giving birth. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 71-46.

On Friday, the House concluded its business for the week with a morning session, where we voted on seven bills, including:

– HR894, Recognizing Israel's 75th Anniversary, recognizes the 75th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, reaffirming bonds of friendship and cooperation between the State of North Carolina and Israel, and urging Congress to support the relationships between the state, the U.S., and Israel. I supported the bill and it passed, 109-1.

– HR688, Increase Access for Small Employers/Insurance, would increase access to stop loss, catastrophic, and reinsurance coverage. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 111-2.

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.

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2023 FHS Junior/Senior Prom 'Luau Under the Stars'



Photos by Vickie Carpenter



Highlands School prom staged at OEI Farm



Highlands School Prom was held Friday, April 28, at the Farm at Old Edwards Inn. Nathan Keener and Bella Wilson were crowned king and queen at the end of the dance.



\$200 REWARD



Black Manx (no tail), missing her left eye. Friendly, medium size, short hair. Lost in the area of Hwy.28 North and Queen Branch rd, North of Cowee.

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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 May 1 - 7. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

May 1

Nikelus Orion Lee Hughes, 22, was charged with assault on a female, possession of methamphetamine and resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Jacob Lee Norris, 31, was charged with offense committed in jurisdiction. Sergeant Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

May 2

Celina Diaz, 28, was charged with public health violation. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

May 3

Benjamin Charles Fitch, 30, was charged with offense committed in jurisdiction. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

Kelby Stacey Mashburn, 33, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Deputy Jacob P. Ledford made the arrest.

Christina Rena Odom, 39, was charged with trespass and injury to real property. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Luis Angel Meja-Garcia, 27, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

May 4

Kelsey Anne Potter, 31, was charged with offense com-

mitted in jurisdiction. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

James Allen Gibson, 45, was charged with failure to appear. Deputy Jacob P. Ledford made the arrest.

Justin Johnson Stanfield, 26, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver counterfeit controlled substance, drug narcotic violations and possession of drug paraphernalia. Deputy Jacobs P. Ledford made the arrest.

May 5

Joshua Adam Rider, 38, was charged with offense committed in jurisdiction. Sergeant Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

Anthony Shamal Bryson, 30, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Holly Michelle Breedlove, 39, was charged with offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Heidi Johanna Dremel, 51, was charged with offense committed in jurisdiction. Sargeant Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

Jeanette Lehtinen, 52, was charged with trespass. Jay Wright made the arrest.

May 7

Isaac Richard Jay, 25, was charged with driving while impaired. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

Ashley Westbrook, 34, was charged with simple assault. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

Brian Lee Mashburn, 35, was charged with burglary/breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. David Blanton made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

May 7

Michael Quitman Beck, 25, was charged with driving while impaired. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

May 1

Hannah Brooke Starnes, 33, of Kingsport, Tenn., was charged with possession of a controlled substance on jail premises, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of cocaine. No bond was set.

Samuel Lee Adams, 33, of Sylva, was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine and resist a public officer. A secured bond of \$10,500 was set.

Mickey Terry Underwood, 64, of Sylva, was charged with trespass of real property. No bond was set.

May 2

Mark Allen Winstead, 36, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, maintain a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession with intent to sell/deliver fentanyl and trafficking opium or heroin. A secured bond of \$400,000 was set.

Kristan Lea Blackfox, 30, of Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Shelby Christine Linderman, 30, of Sylva, was charged with possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia, child abuse, maintain a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession of heroin, and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Reginald Johnathan Jones, 23, of Sylva, was charged with second degree trespass. No bond was set.

May 3

Patrick Joseph Bayles, 36, of Sylva, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation for out of county. A secured bond of \$45,000 was set.

Torri Lynn Stillwell, 50, of Sylva, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

May 4

Anthony Keith Welch, 37, of Cherokee, was charged with trafficking opium or heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, conspire to traffic opium/heroin and trafficking opium or heroin. A secured bond of \$200,000 was set.

Justin Gregory Dorsey, 34, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for extradition/fugitive from other state. A secured bond of \$35,000 was set. A secured bond of \$35,000 was set.

Daniel Tepepa Cuatlayotl, 30, of Glenville, was charged with injury to personal property. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

May 5

Christopher Jordan Mattox, 35, of Waynesville, was charged with child support order for arrest. A bond of \$3,393.94 was set.

Reagan Elizabeth Parton, 30, of Cherokee, was charged with probation violation and failure to appear for felony probation violation, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting a public officer and felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond of \$45,000 was set.

Charles Richard Osborne, 41, of Bryson City, was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, possession of drug paraphernalia and simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Dwight Lee Allen, 23, of Bryson City, was charged with child support purge. A \$400 bond was set.

Reagan Elizabeth Parton, 30, of Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting a public officer and felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance.

May 6

Carlton Quentiz Bowman, 35, of Atlanta, Ga., was charged with possession of stolen firearm, possession of a firearm by a felon, conspire to sell/deliver marijuana, conspire to sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, felony possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver MDMA, possession with intent to sell/deliver cocaine, driving while impaired, possession of marijuana paraphernalia and possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$260,000 was set.

Jessica Marie Cruz, 32, of Tucker, Ga., possession of an open container of alcohol in the passenger area of a motor vehicle, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, possession of a schedule I controlled substance, conspire to sell/deliver marijuana, conspire to sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

May 7

Alex Emgidio Ambrosio, 21, of Cullowhee, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay and simple assault. A secured bond of \$1,000 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.

Thursday Painters meet every thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Uptown Gallery located at 30 East Main in Franklin. All skill levels are welcome. Free to the public. Bring your project, supplies and a bag lunch. For more information call (828)349-4607 or 28734pm@gmail.com

Historic Rickman Store is open Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 259 Cowee Creek Rd. Built in 1895 the store is full of historical information, displays. Music jams begin at noon. Limited parking with additional parking available at Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center a short walking distance.

Murphy Art Center Make and Take Free Event Welcome Spring - Tulip door hanger Class will be held on Saturday, May 13, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. This plaque is layered for easy painting. Just paint and glue. All supplies included. Call The MAC for more information. Register at The MAC by stopping by or calling us at (828)360-3038.

Franklin Writer's Club will meet on Tuesday, May 16, 1 p.m., at the Fontana Library on Siler Rd. Bring your stories and share helpful hints and tips. For more information, contact Jim Steeley at jsteeley@dnet.net.

M.S. Support Group of Macon County will meet on Thursday, May 18, 2 to 4 p.m., at the Macon County Senior Center. Family members and caregivers are welcome to attend. For more information go to facebook MS Support Group of Macon County.

Prentiss Church Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2 to 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane. For more information, call (828)369-3885.

Heartland Band Old Time Gospel Singing will be held on Friday, May 19, 6 to 8 p.m., at West Franklin Church, located on Sloan Rd., next to the Forest Service office. All are welcome.

Drive through Hot Lunch Food Pantry items and prayer as requested will be held on Saturday, May 20, 11am-? Franklin Covenant Church. 265 Belleview Park Rd.

"Medicare 101" an introduction to Medicare health insurance, what it is and how it works will be offered at the Crawford Senior Center on Tuesday, May 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. Presentation is provided by the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program. The center is located at 108 Wayah Street Franklin. For more information, call (828)349-2058.

Aglow International Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, at the First Pentecost Church, 164 Iotla Church Rd., Franklin. For more information call, Marybeth at (407)951-4286.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, May 24, 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.

Donate blood on May 25, 10 am. to 3 pm. at Southwestern Community College, Burrell Building. To make an appointment or to learn more, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit Red-CrossBlood.org, call (800)733-2767 or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

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.

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.

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.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center Sunday, May 14, at 11 a.m., Bill Groves will present a special Mother's Day Message. 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 Sunday worship service in the sanctuary begins at 10:30 a.m., and streamed online on the Prentiss Church of God Facebook page. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:30 with coffee and donuts at 9 a.m. Prayer and Worship service is the first Wednesday; Bible Study, Youth Gathering and Cross Coffee Connection subsequent Wednesdays at 7 p.m. 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.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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Blue Ridge Honor Flight carries N.C. veterans to Washington, D.C.

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

Jack Joseph Dendy finally got to say good-bye to his best friend – more than five decades later.

Dendy, who is 74 years old, grew up in the Goldmine area of Macon County in the 1960s. Graduating from Franklin High School in 1967, like so many other young men in this country, he stared the Vietnam War in the face. In 1968, Dendy, along with his best friend from youth, Lawton (Arvil) Keener, enlisted in the Army and subsequently were sent overseas in October 1968, one week apart. While both were there in the jungles of Asia, Private First Class (PFC) Keener was killed in combat Jan. 12, 1969, and received a Purple Heart. Like many of the 58,219 others who died during the eight-year conflict, PFC Keener was flown home and buried, but Dendy was not able to come home for the funeral and never saw his friend again.



Jack Dendy finds his best friend's name on the Vietnam Memorial Wall. PFC Lawton Keener was killed in combat Jan. 12, 1969.

In December 1969, Dendy's tour ended and he returned to Western North Carolina, attended school in Kentucky, and then began working in the funeral home business. He married his wife, Carolyn, who hailed from Hayesville, and spent many years working at the Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Franklin before semi-retiring in 2012.

It was primarily because he wanted to see his best friend's name on the Vietnam War Memorial wall in Washington DC that Dendy agreed to apply for a Blue Ridge Honor Flight. In October 2022, after becoming aware of the program and a

prompting from his first cousin, Myrtice Trent of Hendersonville, he applied for a flight.

In 2004, an Ohio-based physician's assistant, Earl Morse, started Honor Air, as it was then known, as a way to help aging veterans visit war memorials at the nation's capital. In 2005, Jeff Miller, a Hendersonville, N.C.-based dry cleaning company owner, learned of Morse's efforts and was inspired. Miller took Morse's idea and grew it – with the help of U.S. Airways and American Airlines. In February 2007, Morse and Miller merged their organizations to create the Honor Flight Network (HFN) and the North Carolina piece of it became the Blue Ridge Honor Flight (BRHF) program.

What began as a primarily World War II-focused project has since evolved to include Korean and Vietnam War veterans. In the ensuing years, Miller has overseen thousands of

veterans sign on for the opportunity to be honored for their service and to have the privilege of being flown to and from the mall in D.C. which houses many memorials, including those honoring the nation's wartime defenders. Since 2005, the nation-wide HFN has transported 273,543 veterans to and from Washington, DC: 856 WWII, 2,960 Korean War, 16,903 Vietnam War, and 1,081 from other conflicts. In 2022 alone, 21,800 veterans participated in the program.

While Dendy was initially denied last October, a resubmission resulted in a seat on the April 30 flight. Trent was also Dendy's guardian for the event and viewed the opportunity to participate as special.

"I got to be his [Jack's] guardian and it was a thrill and an honor."

She also said that because the guardians were with veterans, they were able to go through the TSA security lines at the airports in expedited fashion, which she found "fascinating."

Once Dendy found his childhood friend's name on the wall, Trent was able to get a picture of him pointing to Keener's name.

"He didn't talk much during that time, and I was crying so I didn't help anything," she said. "We saw another man who found someone he knew [on the wall] and who just stood and saluted for a long time."

"I am going to volunteer to be much more active in the [Honor Flight] program," she added. "Now that I've actually gone on a trip, I realize they have an organization with 133 hubs that support the Honor Flight program across the country."

Each hub also has its own logo design that veterans wear on their flight to help



Jack Dendy had always wanted to visit the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC to pay his respects to a childhood friend who was killed in combat. Blue Ridge Honor Flight made it possible last month.

differentiate the various areas of the country from which they originate.

Dendy expressed his amazement in all that he saw and experienced.

"There were on-ground volunteers everywhere. The magnitude of the work that the organization put into the flight is unbelievable," he said.

Each participating veteran can bring at least one "guardian" to assist with transport to and from the flight and around the mall memorial area in D.C. In 2022, 18,709 guardians were also transported, and since 2005 that number has reached more than 200,000.

Veterans organizations from Macon County, Hayesville, Murphy, and Asheville assisted with the event on April 30. Patriot Guard Riders, who are made up of various veterans' groups within the area, and a group known as Western Carolina Veteran Jeepers,

provided many of the flags for the "welcome back" reception at Asheville Airport. Franklin residents David and Starlett Henderson, Rick Litchford, and Sheri and Wayne Chandler made up part of the Riders group that included 11 vehicles, which left the Carpenter Community Building that Thursday evening, and picked up 10 more vehicles along the route and about 45 volunteers. The convoy drove to Asheville and were on hand when the BRHF returned to the airport with its 90-plus veterans and around 150 support personnel that made up the guardian contingent. The flight assistance also included paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMT) along with the flight crew.

Dendy expressed appreciation for the veterans who flew with him on the Honor Flight.

"One more thing that made the trip special was being able to go with all these other veterans," he said. All the men on the flight were from North Carolina.



Members of Patriot Guard Riders greet Jack at Asheville Airport. From left is Rick Litchford, Sheri Chandler, Dendy, and Wayne Chandler.

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CARS

| YEAR | MAKE | MODEL | MILES |
|------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| 2023 | Toyota | Camry TRD | 6,718 |
| 2021 | Cadillac | XT6 AWD | 18,875 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Corvette | 5,792 |
| 2020 | Chevrolet | Bolt | 17,845 |
| 2020 | Chevrolet | Equinox AWD | 47,233 |
| 2019 | GMC | Acadia | 17,045 |
| 2019 | Dodge | Journey | 80,887 |
| 2019 | Volkswagen | Beetle | 42,676 |
| 2018 | Hyundia | Elantra | 51,067 |
| 2017 | GMC | Acadia | 80,692 |
| 2016 | Ford | Focus | 68,653 |
| 2016 | Mini Cooper | | 57,659 |

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 | Ford | Explorer XLT | 26,999 |
| 2022 | Jeep | Cherokee Trailhawk | 882 |
| 2022 | Jeep | Wrangler Sahara Unlimited | 10,539 |

| | | | |
|------|-----------|----------------------------|--------|
| 2022 | Kia | EV6 GT | 3,251 |
| 2021 | Dodge | Durango Hellcat | 5,008 |
| 2021 | Ford | Bronco Badlands AWD | 1,237 |
| 2021 | Cadillac | XT6 AWD | 23,121 |
| 2021 | GMC | Yukon XL | 53,356 |
| 2021 | Jeep | Cherokee Trailhawk | 29,056 |
| 2021 | Jeep | Wrangler Sport | 8,094 |
| 2021 | Subaru | Ascent AWD | 28,045 |
| 2020 | Acura | MDX AWD | 46,606 |
| 2020 | Chevrolet | Trax | 7,250 |
| 2020 | Ford | Explorer | 31,399 |
| 2020 | Jeep | Wrangler Rubicon Unlimited | 24,249 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Trax LT AWD | 18,211 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Trax AWD | 16,288 |
| 2019 | Chrysler | Pacifica Touring L | 91,992 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Equinox LT | 23,569 |
| 2018 | Jeep | Compass 4x4 | 61,613 |
| 2017 | Ford | Escape AWD | 35,601 |
| 2017 | Jeep | Cherokee | 61,870 |
| 2016 | Jeep | Renegade 4x4 | 98,259 |
| 2014 | Kia | Sorento SX-L | 93,532 |

TRUCKS

| YEAR | MAKE | MODEL | MILES |
|------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| 2022 | Chevrolet | 1500 Custom 4x4 | 289 |
| 2022 | Chevrolet | 2500 LTZ | 4,635 |

| | | | |
|------|-----------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 2022 | Chevrolet | 2500 HD | 5,114 |
| 2022 | Colorado | ZR-2 | 6,526 |
| 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 SuperCrew Cab | 32,251 |
| 2021 | Ram | 2500 Tradesman | 3,647 |
| 2020 | Chevrolet | 1500 RST | 90,498 |
| 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 |
| 2017 | Ram | 1500 Laramie | 49,614 |
| 2017 | Ram | 2500 Reg Cab | 47,650 |



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Franklin observes National Day of Prayer

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

While downtown Franklin bustled with noonday activity on May 4, dozens stopped to allow local pastors to lead them in prayer in recognition of the National Day of Prayer. From the Main and Phillips Street intersection-located gazebo, Executive Director Mike Barres, Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center, led individuals gathered in an opening prayer and the song, "I Need You" before turning the microphone over to 10 different pastors.

National Day of Prayer has been observed annually on the first Thursday in May since 1952. It was that year that evangelist Billy Graham led services for approximately 20,000 on the steps of the Capitol. Later that year, Congress proclaimed a joint resolution for a National Day of Prayer under President Harry S. Truman. Before an official National Day of Prayer was set aside, other presidents had specified days of prayer and fasting pertaining to national events or crises.

In downtown Franklin, pastors prayed to God for revival, governments, educators, families, addicts, law enforcement officers, medical personnel, veterans, active-duty military,



As part of the National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 4, dozens of people gathered at noon around Main Street's gazebo to participate in pastor-led prayers for teachers, law enforcement, the military, and more.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter

and much more. Toby Pope, of Grace Presbyterian Church, implored, "Renew, restore, refresh people in Christ," adding, "Meet us where we're weary and frustrated."

First Alliance's Bradley Bennett referred to scripture: "The Bible teaches, 'woe to nations that call evil good and good evil.'"

Burningtown Baptist's Manny Hernandez offered that people should be praying that "Classrooms would be places of delighting in learning ... sparks of light in this dark world." He also prayed for wisdom for teachers and school staff.

Barres focused his delivery on "the local and national huge problem of addiction," noting that "it's one thing to talk about a problem, but another to reach out to those who are in the middle of a struggle."

That evening, about 30 individuals – from ages 12 to 96 – assembled at the Friends of the Greenway (FROG) facility on Main Street to

pray for children and families. The prayer time was hosted by FROG members Marsha and Jerry Denney.

Present at the FROG facility, known as FROG Quarters, was 96-year-old World War II veteran, Paul Luke Shepard, who prayed that "our lives would be a lighthouse to this world." He added, "Sometimes we have to walk through muddy water to get to a clear creek."

Reading Psalm 27 and leading the initial prayer was Dylan Castle. "We've seen people wake up and stand up, and I'm so thankful. And we still live in a country where we can come together to pray."

People who attended the evening gathering prayed for protection on the Macon County community, for healing on the United States, and for leaders in the community and in the nation. Macon County commissioner Danny Antoine prayed, "We need your [God's] wisdom to see through your [God's] eyes. We have more freedom than other countries and we are grateful," and "that Macon County would be solidly together in the effort to protect children."



Paul Luke Shepard
World War II veteran



Deaths & Funerals

William 'Pops' Arthur Shaheen Sr.

William "Pops" Arthur Shaheen Sr., 90, went home to be with Jesus on April 27, 2023. He was born in Craven County, North Carolina, to the late Uriah Grant and Elizabeth Phillips. He was later adopted by his stepfather, Bob Shaheen. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Marie Grant Hill and brothers, Ben Grant and John Shaheen.



William Arthur Shaheen Sr.

He was a hardworking man with a great heart and sense of humor. He worked as the service station manager at the Jacksonville Florida Navy Exchange, from where he retired. He enjoyed sports, fishing and hunting. After retiring he moved to the mountains where he volunteered at Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Fire Department, and worked at Sky Valley Golf and Ski Resort. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend to all of those who knew him.

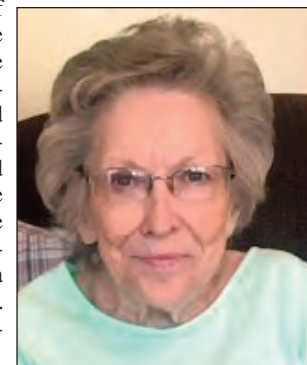
He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ruby Gaskins Shaheen; three sons, William "Billy" Arthur Shaheen Jr. (Peggy), Timothy Earl Shaheen (PJ) both of Florida, and Jonathan Hayes Shaheen (Gibby) of Highlands, N.C.; grandchildren, Elizabeth Rachel Willis Shaheen, Savannah Shaheen and John Hayes Shaheen.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later time. Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneral-home.com.

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

Nancy Bishop Duke

Nancy Bishop Duke, 75 of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord, April 28, 2023. She was born Nov. 16, 1947, in Sylacauga, Ala., to the late Arnold and Alva Bishop. She was a homemaker who loved the Lord and made a great prayer partner. She worked for Christmas Around the World, a secretary for the Messenger of Life Missions and was a leader member to a Bible group. She was a member of First Alliance Church.



Nancy Bishop Duke

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Rev. Tom Duke; a daughter, Jill Duke and her fiancé Emory Connelly of Easley, S.C.; a son, Ted Duke and his wife, Mary of Franklin; grandchildren, Hannah Huffstickler and her fiancé Curt McDonnell, Terry Huffstickler, Ashley Huffstickler, Allen Duke, Jacob Duke, Elijah Duke, Anabelle Brinkley, Stephanie Brinkley, and Miracle Brinkley; and a sister, Edith Martin.

A Celebration of Life service was held Monday, May 1, at Sugar Fork Baptist Church with the Rev. Tom Duke officiating. Burial followed at the Sugar Fork Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that donations be made to Messenger of Life Missions, 26 Dry Ridge Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneral-home.com.

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Deaths & Funerals

Sanford Erastus 'Sam' Peek Sr.

Sanford Erastus "Sam" Peek Sr., 87, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, April 30, 2023, in Summerville, S.C. He enjoyed a long and happy life full of adventure, joy, family and love.

He was born to Carl and Delphia Peek on May 17, 1935, in Franklin, N.C. He was raised in the Great Smoky Mountains alongside six siblings: Martha Louise Southards, Hallie Lenor Southards, Helen Irene Southards, Bertha Southards, Annie Christine "Teen" Southards, and Billy Lee Peek.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in September 1952, becoming a Signalman First Class and serving 20 years of active duty and 10 years in the Reserves. While on leave in 1956, he met Vickie Anne Wilson, and the two married on July 16 of that year. The couple traveled the United States, making a home wherever the Navy sent them. They added four children to their fold and ultimately settled down in Summerville. There, the Peek family continued to grow via the additions of sons- and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, and finally a great-grandchild.

He was a loving, generous, humble, and heroic man who loved to share a story with anyone who would listen. Each and every story was a treasure to hear.

He was an honored, respected, and decorated sailor, serving in the Korean and Vietnam Wars among other conflicts. On May 1, 1967, while on board the Haven-class hospital ship USS Sanctuary, he performed a distinct feat of heroism when he saved the lives of two injured men. Just off the shores of Vietnam, a MEDIVAC helicopter carrying 13 patients and four crewmen crashed into the snake-infested waters. Seeing two injured men struggling to stay afloat, he voluntarily dove into the dangerous "brown water" to rescue them, keeping both men afloat until he could bring them to safety. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism. The citation for his award reads: "By his prompt action in the face of grave personal risk, he undoubtedly saved two men from drowning. His heroic efforts were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

He loved spending time with his family, watching old Western films and TV shows, and Atlanta Braves baseball. He also loved nature and the outdoors, enjoying such interests and hobbies as gardening, fishing, boating, golfing, taking nature walks, etc. Until the time of his death, he was a standing member of the Junaluskee Masonic Lodge and the Oasis Shriners. To each person he met, he was a fast and loyal friend. To his family, he was a true hero and an icon of love and affection. He will be greatly missed by the many people who loved him.

He is survived by his children, Sanford Peek Jr. (Valerie), Melisa Clemmons (Raymond, d.), Sharon Mooring (Michael), and Michael Peek (Debbie); many beloved grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and numerous extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Vickie; his siblings; and his son-in-law, Raymond Clemmons, among other cherished friends and family.

Funeral services will be held at Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church in Franklin (16 Little Ellijay Road), on Saturday, May 13, beginning with military honors at 2 p.m. Arrangements have been made with assistance from Macon Funeral Home in Franklin. Military honors will be presented by VFW Post #7339 and American Legion Post #108. All are welcome to attend and honor Sam.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Shriners' Children's Hospital (2900 Rocky Point Dr. Tampa, FL 33607), Wounded Warriors (P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516), or Intrepid Hospice Group (201 Sigma Dr. Ste. 130 A & B, Summerville, SC 29486).



Sanford Erastus Peek Sr.

John William Peters III

John William Peters III, 61, passed away Monday, May 1, 2023.

He was the son of the late John William Peters II and Hazel Palmter Peters. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Corina Peters. He was of the Catholic faith. He loved camping, hiking, collecting baseball cards, watching sunsets and spending time with his dogs. But, most of all spending time with his daughter and her family.

He is survived by his companion, Janet Bushart; two daughters, Cathleen Couturier (Joseph) of Newark, N.Y., Kristina Peters, New York, N.Y.; son, John Peters (Danielle), of Sodus, N.Y., eight grandchildren, Emily, Abigail and Silas Couturier, Hailey, Kylie, Dylan Tyler, and Avery Peters; and one brother.

Graveside service will be held Saturday, June 10, at 2 p.m., at Elmwood Cemetery, Lyons, N.Y. A gathering will be held afterwards.

In lieu of flowers, memorial can be made to the American Cancer Society.



John William Peters III

Alton 'Al' Curtis Thompson

Alton "Al" Curtis Thompson, passed away Friday, May 5, 2023.

He was born in Raleigh, N.C., on June 18, 1950, to his mother, Alice Elizabeth Weaver, and his late father, Curtis Root Thompson.

He was a great husband, father, and friend. He was a veteran of Vietnam and received three Purple Hearts. He was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corp in March of 1974. After his military service, he attended Lake Sumter Community College and earned an associate degree in landscaping and welding. He owned his own landscaping company in central Florida for 30 years. He worked for Publix Supermarkets for eight years, and he was employed by New Creations Landscaping over the last 10 years in North Carolina. Through the years, she demonstrated a strong work ethic and mentored many young men in his lifetime.

She first and foremost enjoyed being with his family. He loved animals, especially dogs. He was an avid gardener with a green thumb and grew beautiful tomatoes and roses. He liked being outdoors and working.

He is survived by his wife, Julie Thompson, and their son, Justin Thompson; his mother, Alice Weaver; his sister, Beth Twiss and husband Otis Twiss; his brother, Michael Weaver and wife Bobby Weaver, and his brother, Tim Weaver; sisters-in-law, Tamara Hayman and husband John Hayman, and Lynette Fields, and boyfriend, Doug Scott; many nieces and nephews, friends, and co-workers.

A service will be held Monday, May 15, at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Leesburg, Fla.

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



Alton Curtis Thompson

Thelmalene Parker Waters

Thelmalene Parker Waters, 95, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, May 5, 2023.

She was the daughter of the late Luther and Ollie Painter Parker. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Lewis Waters; daughter, Nancy Williams; grandchildren, Jeff Massingale, Chris Waters; brothers, Robert Parker, and William "Bud" Parker; stepchildren, Michael Waters and Audrey Massingale.

She was a member of Lovedale Baptist Church of Sylva, N.C. She attended Sardis United Methodist Church in Asheville, N.C. She loved the Lord and played the piano for numerous churches and gospel quartets over the years. She started playing at nine years old at Lovedale Baptist Church. She was a lifelong resident of Sylva and charter member of New Hope Baptist Church in Sylva. She attended Southwestern Tech for cosmetology. She volunteered at the VA in Asheville, having 8,750 volunteer hours, and received volunteer of the year in 2010. She owned Ensley Upholstery shop and World of Hair in Sylva. She was an avid Atlanta Braves fan.

She is survived by her stepsons, Dan Waters (Doris) of Connecticut and Robert L. Waters II (Barbara) of North Carolina; two grandchildren, Thel Jackson (Mike) and Mikal Denny (David); special nephews, Keith Parker (Denise) of Franklin, and Kevin Parker of Bryson City; step grandchildren, Crystal Elliott (Donald), Jennifer Campbell, and Robert Waters III (Laura), Aprille McCall (Ryan), Allison Bass-Riccio (Doug); 12 great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, June 9, at 2 p.m., on at Lovedale Baptist Church. Rev. Earl Holden, Rev. Avery Brown, and Rev. David Powell will officiate. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., one hour prior to the service.

Burial will be in the Lovedale Baptist Church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Asheville VA Medical Center, 1100 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC 28805.


The family would like to express their sincere appreciation to the staff at Macon Valley Nursing and Rehab Center in Franklin and the staff of Morning Star Assisted living in Sylva, for all the love shown to Mrs. Waters and her family.

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


Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.




Thelmalene Waters



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Denny Hamlin breaks drought with last-lap tap-and-pass at Kansas

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

KANSAS CITY, Kan. - Denny Hamlin didn't tap-dance around the tap that helped him to a much-needed victory at Kyle Larson's expense in Sunday's AdventHealth 400 NASCAR Cup Series race at Kansas Speedway.

On the final lap, after an intense chase that began with a restart on Lap 221 of 267, Hamlin closed in on Larson's Chevrolet and further loosened an already loose race car. Slight contact from the right front of Hamlin's Toyota turned Larson into the outside wall as Hamlin streaked past and took the checkered flag.

Larson recovered to finish second, 1.307 seconds behind the winner, who ended a 33-race drought with his fourth victory at Kansas and exited his car at the finish line to a chorus of boos from fans who didn't like the way he had won the race.

"Yeah, I got position on him there, tried to side-draft him and clipped his left rear," said Hamlin, who collected his 49th career victory, tying him with Tony Stewart for 15th most all-time. "But I'm glad he was able to at least finish. Credit to my FedEx team, though. Four hundred wins for Joe Gibbs Racing (203 in the NASCAR Cup Series, 197 in the Xfinity Series)—it's such a great accomplishment."

Hamlin's last-lap pass for the win was the first at Kansas. The race featured 37 lead changes among 12 drivers, the most lead changes in NASCAR history in a 400-mile race on a 1.5-mile intermediate speedway.

Larson led seven times for a race-high 85 laps that included a stretch of 46 straight before Hamlin grabbed the win on Lap 267.

"I haven't seen a replay," Larson said, "but obviously, he was side-drafting really aggressively, like he would. He was touching me, it felt like, and it had me really out of control. I, we wish we could..."

As Larson uttered those words, his attention turned to a confrontation between fifth-place finisher Ross Chastain and Noah Gragson, who swapped sheet metal at least twice during the race. The drivers took a couple of swings at each other before being restrained.

"I got tight off of (Turn) 4, for sure," said Chastain, who ran Gragson up toward the wall during the final stage. "Noah and I have a very similar attitude on the racetrack. We train together, we prepare together, and we know every little thing about each other."

"Yeah, I definitely crowded him up off of 4, and he took a swipe at us in 3, and came down and grabbed ahold of me (after the race). A very big man once told me we have a no-push policy here at Trackhouse (Racing)."

Pole winner William Byron ran third, after recovering from a speeding penalty that put him two laps down. Bubba Wallace passed Chastain with 15 laps left to secure the fourth position. Joey Logano, Chase Elliott, Martin Truex Jr., Tyler



Denny Hamlin, driver of the #11 FedEx Express Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Advent Health 400 at Kansas Speedway on May 7, 2023, in Kansas City, Kan.

Photo by Jonathan Bachman/Getty Images



Reddick and Austin Dillon completed the top 10.

The fact that Larson was able to contend for the win at all was a reflection of his talent, given thorny circumstances that set him back in the early going. In a three-way battle for the lead before the race was five laps old, Reddick tried to shoe-horn his No. 45 Toyota between Larson, the leader, and Ross Chastain, then running third.

But Reddick tapped the rear of Larson's Chevrolet and sent the No. 5 spinning toward the apron. Larson avoided contact with the wall and recovered to reassume the lead during the second stage.

As Hamlin's crew chief Chris Gabehart noted after the race, "Denny Hamlin just beat the most talented race car driver in the world. What does that say?"

Consecutive wrecks late in Stage 2 scrambled the running order and handed the stage win to Logano, who had stayed out

under the sixth caution for Christopher Bell's wreck on the backstretch on Lap 159.

As Chastain slowed slightly on the backstretch, Bell steered his No. 20 Toyota to the inside, then moved up the track and clipped Chastain's Chevrolet. Bell spun into the wall and damaged his car beyond repair.

"Just tried to get a little too aggressive on the side-draft, got into the 1 (Chastain) and spun out," Bell said succinctly after leaving the infield care

center.

At least he didn't blame Chastain.

Grant Enfinger wins the 23rd running of the Heart of America 200 at Kansas Speedway

Grant Enfinger stayed ahead of trouble in a race that produced seven cautions for 40 of 134 laps and forged a decisive victory in Saturday night's Heart of America 200 NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series race at Kansas Speedway.

Enfinger crossed the finish line 4.358 seconds ahead of Corey Heim to post his first victory of the season.

Enfinger's eighth career win was his first at Kansas and his first since winning at Lucas Oil Raceway in Indianapolis in the 17th race of 2022.

"It was a huge night for us," said Enfinger, who led a race-high 65 laps. "From the drop of the green flag, we had a really



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really good Chevy Silverado. Just started out really tight. Once (crew chief) Jeff (Hensley) made one adjustment on it, I felt like from that point forward, we were potentially the best truck out there.”

Heim won a close battle for second over Zane Smith. Stewart Friesen was fourth, followed by Ross Chastain. Nick Sanchez, Kyle Busch, Jake Garcia, Taylor Gray and Tyler Ankrum completed the top 10.

The final caution dimmed Heim’s chances.

“I think that last caution (for Wright’s second spin) put a hole in our strategy a little bit,” Heim said. “If we had that last run go green and we had the same tires as the 23 (Enfinger), I thought we could beat him straight up.”

“As soon as we got that last caution and we were on uneven tires, I knew it was going to be all track position. I got hung up trying to block the 38 (Smith) and kind of took a step back from there and lost track position.”

Two of the fastest trucks in the race saw their winning chances end in a shunt on Lap 72, when Rajah Caruth spun across the bumper of Ty Majeski’s No. 98 Toyota into the outside wall on the frontstretch.

Caruth’s truck was too heavily damaged to continue, and Majeski’s too heavily damaged to contend.

“It was really close, and we had a long way to go,” Caruth said after exiting the infield care center. “I was trying to cover the top, and he just kind of hooked me there. Good to know.”

“I didn’t double-move or anything. I picked the top there, and he just took me.”

From appearances, though, Caruth was late in an attempt to block Majeski’s progress, to the detriment of both trucks. Ma-

jeski finished 25th.

Pole winner Christian Eckes likewise was involved in a terminal wreck after the subsequent restart on Lap 79. Agresion got the best of drivers at the front of the field, and the trucks of Eckes, Matt DiBenedetto, Carson Hovevar and Chase Purdy all were KO’d in Turn 1.

Busch won the first stage before tangling with Ben Rhodes after the Stage 2 restart. Enfinger powered past Busch into the lead on Lap 40 but came to pit road under the third caution for Kris Wright’s spin through the infield grass.

Enfinger gave up the lead with the stop but charged back to second by the end of the stage, which Majeski won.



Grant Enfinger, driver of the #23 Chevy Military Appreciation Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Heart of America 200 at Kansas Speedway on May 6, 2023, in Kansas City, Kan. Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

Above, Enfinger and Stewart Friesen, driver of the #52 Halmar International Toyota drive during practice for the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Heart of America 200 at Kansas Speedway.

Photo by Jonathan Bachman/Getty Images

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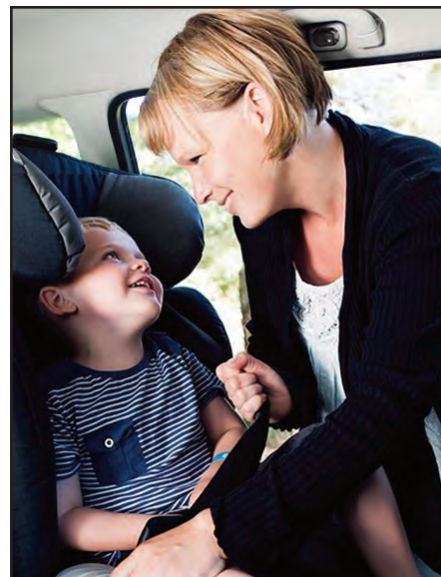
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| 77°/52° | 79°/55° | 82°/58° | 85°/59° | 80°/55° |
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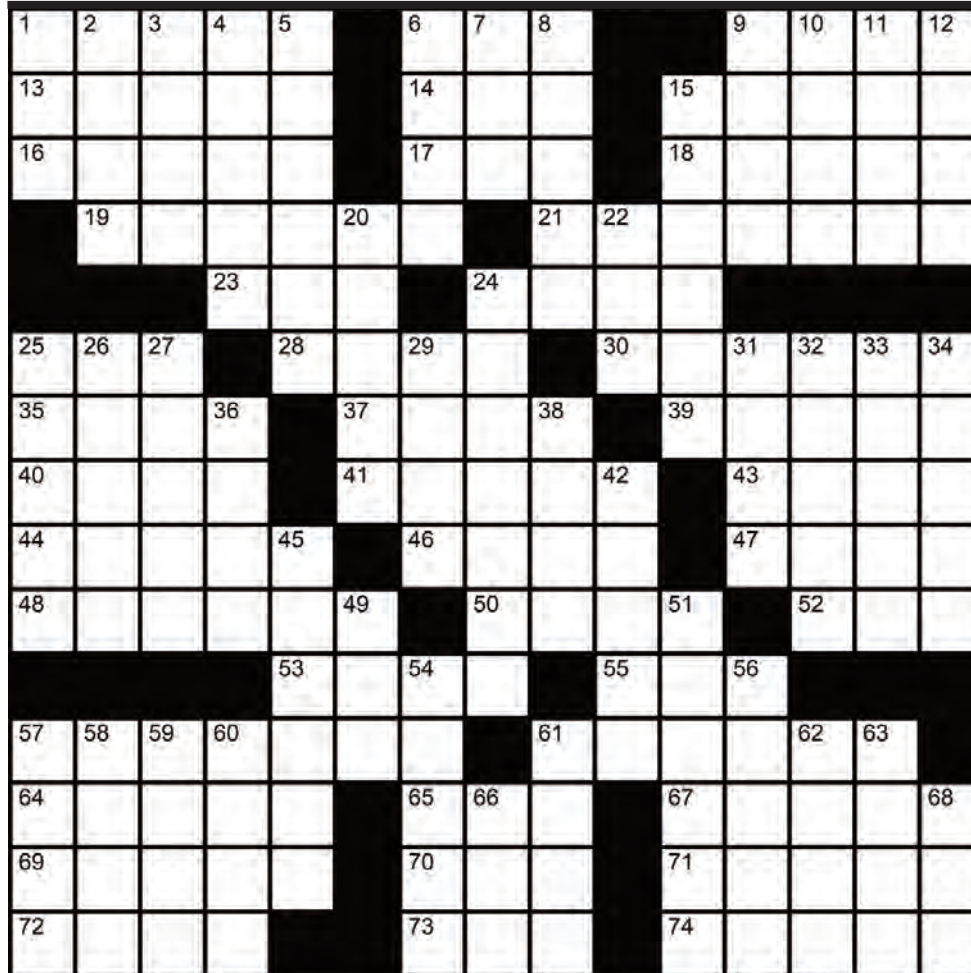
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD

THEME: TV MOMS

ACROSS

- 1. Rodeo garb
- 6. Roman numeral 7
- 9. Spring occurrence
- 13. Like Corgi
- 14. Get a sum
- 15. Garlic mayo
- 16. Poet's concern
- 17. Mail-back request, acr.
- 18. Handrail post
- 19. *Lionel Jefferson's mom
- 21. *Keith and Laurie Partridge's mom
- 23. Watson's, Crick's and Franklin's concern, acr.
- 24. Big-ticket ____
- 25. #38 Down follower
- 28. Potter's oven
- 30. Get by
- 35. Wyatt Earp's card game
- 37. Wooden pegs
- 39. Measuring tool with a bubble
- 40. Copycat
- 41. All-season ____
- 43. Like certain people's glasses
- 44. The Great ____, Muppet
- 46. 1 year older than frosh
- 47. Treat without respect
- 48. *Samantha Stephens' mom
- 50. Four Corners state
- 52. Unidentified Jane
- 53. Summit location
- 55. Like tuna tartare
- 57. *Rory Gilmore's mom
- 61. *Hilary and Carlton Banks' mom
- 64. Motionless
- 65. Actress Thompson
- 67. Island off Manhattan



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- 69. Skeleton, archaic
 - 70. Lt.'s subordinate
 - 71. Yemeni's neighbor
 - 72. Marines' toy recipients
 - 73. Banned insecticide, acr.
 - 74. Nostrils
- DOWN**
- 1. Basin, without vowels
 - 2. Last piece of a loaf
 - 3. Lowest female singing voice
 - 4. Elvis's blue shoes
 - 5. Harrison Ford or Jason Segel in "Shrinking"
 - 6. Bud holder
 - 7. *Rhoda Morgenstern's mom
 - 8. "That is" in Latin
 - 9. Wedding cake layer
 - 10. Famous Allen Ginsberg poem
 - 11. Away from wind
 - 12. Skilled in deception
 - 15. G. Orwell's "____ Farm"
 - 20. Valentine, e.g.
 - 22. Bottom line?
 - 24. Inner circle
 - 25. Old enough (2 words)
 - 26. Neutered rooster
 - 27. Influencer's creation
 - 29. *Meg, Chris and Stewie Griffin's mom
 - 31. Egghead
 - 32. "____ like the plague"
 - 33. Canvas primer
 - 34. *Alex and Mallory Keaton's mom
 - 36. Pasta option
 - 38. Virgo and Libra mo.
 - 42. ____ Lewis, Lamb Chop puppeteer
 - 45. By word of mouth
 - 49. What catastrophe and ratatouille have in common
 - 51. Wear (2 words)
 - 54. Treated with EVOO
 - 56. *Pebbles Flintstone's mom
 - 57. Law school entry requirement, acr.
 - 58. First name palindrome
 - 59. Civil disorder
 - 60. They're on Freddy's street
 - 61. Widespread
 - 62. Relating to armpit
 - 63. 3 squared
 - 66. Tight one in football
 - 68. Bro's counterpart

HAULING

- DIRT
- GRAVEL
- MULCH



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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



Pepper is a black lab mix and she is about 7 months old. She gets along with other dogs and she loves to play.

Boots is a spayed female tuxedo cat and is about 1 year old. She does well with other cats and loves treats.



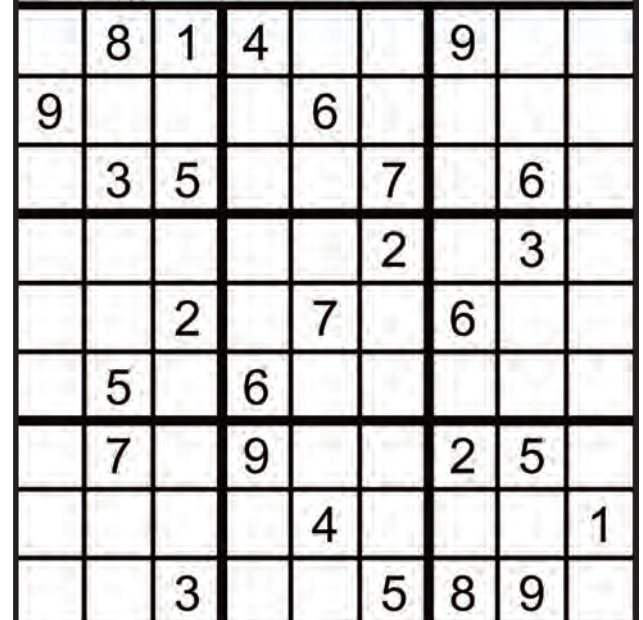
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

The Classifieds

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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!

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

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

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.

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.

HANDYMAN SERVICES Do you need Spring Cleanup? Small Home Repairs, 18 Years Experience. Call (828)421-8847.

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HAUL-4-U & Minor Home Repairs, Removal of Garbage, Trash, Rubbish, Appliances, Residential/Commercial Cleanouts. Free Estimates. No Job too Small. (828)332-7175.

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

CLEANING PACKING ORGANIZING & Other Household Services. Pet Sitting, Great References. Mountain Area Property Services (828)550-4585.

ASHE PAINT, STAIN, Pressure Washing, Gutter Cleaning, Quality Guaranteed, Affordable, Dependable Service, Residential/Commercial, Exterior/Interior, Log Homes & Decks. (828)506-1641.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

YOUR AD could be here. Advertise your service for as little as \$8 per week in print and online. Call (828)369-6767 for details or email to maconcountynews@gmail.com

Help Wanted

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

GROUNDSKEEPER WANTED 1-2 sessions a month for various chores at residence. Must be reliable, Have excellent weedeater and own transportation. Fair Pay. (828)369-0048.

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

POSITION AT WOMEN'S boutique on Main Street in Highlands available. Experience a plus. Call (828)371-2582 Fun fast paced environment.

Community Fundraisers

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

CHURCH INDOOR Yard Sale. Saturday from 8 to noon, 80 Heritage Hollow Drive, Franklin, behind the Gazebo Restaurant. Bargains galore!

TRIVIA NIGHT Otto Community Development, 65 Firehouse RD., Monday, May 15, 6 p.m. light meal will be provided. \$5.00 donation goes toward building maintenance fund.

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.

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

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

Rentals

COZY LAKEFRONT Cottages, 2 Separate Units, 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, Courthouse Plaza Building. Rent includes power, heat and air. \$790/month. Call (828)524-7799.

Misc. For Sale

GOLF CART 48 VOLTS New Batteries, Seats 4, Silver and Black, Very Fast \$3,600. (407)921-2578.

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

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.

Garage & Yard Sales

SATURDAY 9AM-4PM New in Carton Mirrored Bifolds. 1950's Dining Table, Oak Dining Chairs Plus Lots More. 110 Buddy Gap Rd., Otto. Rain or Shine.

CHURCH INDOOR Yard Sale. Saturday from 8 to noon, 80 Heritage Hollow Drive, Franklin, behind the Gazebo Restaurant. Bargains galore!

Boats & Campers

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.

Animals

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

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/macconanimal

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