



In an effort to complete a 100 County Tour that began just prior to the pandemic, North Carolina's First Lady Kristin Cooper visited sites in Franklin, including Ruby City Gem and Minerals and Smoky Mountains Center for the Performing Arts. At the Smoky Center, she was met by Scotty Corbin, (L) general manager and artistic director, as well Logan Wallace, (R) technical director, for a tour of the 1,500-seat facility. Cooper had already visited around 93 of the state's counties and pointed out that her "favorite part" of being First Lady was the opportunity to explore North Carolina and spend time with people from all walks of life and interests. "Western North Carolina's counties are our last big swing," she said. For more on Cooper's visit to WNC, see page 4.

School projects contingent on state budget

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The Macon County School Board met at Nantahala School for its monthly board meeting.

Macon County Schools superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin presented a certificate to Chase McMahan, a freshman student who attends Nantahala School, for placing in the "Voice of Democracy Speech Contest." Chase took first place in the local district contest and took fourth place in the state contest, which garnered several thousand dollars in scholarship awards.

Gracie Parker gave an update on her Health Rally that she held several weeks ago. She reported that more than 100 people attended her rally and she will meeting with Senator Chuck Edwards in the near future, to speak to him about forwarding her cause.

Macon County Schools Auxiliary Services Director Todd Gibbs gave a rundown on the building and grounds situation. He explained that the East Franklin expansion had to be placed on hold until the state budget is set. The Nantahala wastewater project was moving along and the Macon Middle School vent pipe issue appears to be quashed at the time. He explained that the vent traps were keeping any emitted smell from leaking into the air. The Highlands Middle School Project was also on

track, he said.

The board announced the transfer of Brian Moffitt, who is the current principal of Macon Early College, to principal of Union Academy.

Dr. Baldwin announced graduation dates for Macon County Schools. Franklin High School will hold its graduation on Saturday, June 3, at 9 a.m., on the FHS football field. Nantahala School will have its graduation on Friday, June 2, in the school gym, with a reception at 5 p.m. and the graduation at 6 p.m. Highlands School will watch see their seniors graduate on Saturday, May 27, at 10 a.m. in their new gym. Union Academy will host their graduates at Holly Springs Baptist Church on Friday, May 26, at 6 p.m. Finally, Macon Early College graduates will walk across the stage at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, June 4, at 2 p.m.

Friday May 26, 2023 is a half day for all students.

The School Board will hold a special called meeting on Tuesday, June 13, at 9 a.m., at the administrative building, for the purpose of swearing in Josh Lynch as the new Macon County Schools Superintendent. This meeting is open to the public.

The next regular school board meeting will be held on June 26, at the central office on Old Murphy Road.

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Kayakers row section of the Bartram Trail



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Kyle Larson has big weekend at North Wilkesboro

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Lynch named new school superintendent

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

Associate Superintendent Josh Lynch has been named as Macon County’s next School Superintendent effective July 1. Current superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin had announced his retirement several months ago. He will be officially retiring in September.

Lynch shared why he sought the position of Macon County Schools Superintendent.

“I have a strong desire to serve the Macon County School system as Superintendent for many reasons. I am a direct product of Macon County Schools,” said Lynch. “I entered this great system as a kindergarten student at Iotla Elementary School in 1986, graduated Franklin High School in 1999, conducted my student teaching at South Macon Elementary School in 2003 and began my career as a third grade teacher at Cowee School in 2004.

“The Macon County School system has developed me into a career educator and productive Macon County citizen due to the rich experiences and opportunities provided by a community of dedicated people who invested so much in the lives of the students within the Macon County school system. I want to continue to lead and serve the district as superintendent, so I can continue to grow and expand upon the opportunities and experiences that will be provided to all Macon County students both in the present and in the future.”

As to specific areas in which he plans to focus, “my goal is to continue to build upon the foundation and momentum that has been established to support:

- Mental health initiatives
- Accessible school campuses for all learners
- Increased school safety and security
- Continued academic growth.”

Lynch has a long and strong history with Macon public schools serving as an educator and/or administrator since 2004. He taught third grade at Cowee School from 2004 -2011 and was the assistant principal at East Franklin Elementary from 2011-2013.

Lynch served as principal at Cartoogechaye Elementary from 2013-2020.

In 2020, he took a position in the Macon County Schools Administrative Office as the curriculum director, and in 2021, he became the Macon County Schools Associate Superintendent.

Lynch is married to Kristen Lynch who is a life-long educator in the Macon County School System and current principal at Cartoogechaye Elementary. They are the proud parents of Kason and Eva Rose who attend Macon County Schools. The family enjoys hiking, camping, boating, traveling, and spending time together as a family.

Lynch will take the Oath of Office as Superintendent on June 13, at 9 a.m., at the central office. The meeting is open the public.



Macon County’s new superintendent Josh Lynch is a self-proclaimed “direct product of Macon County schools.” Lynch will take the Oath of Office June 13 at the administrative building on Old Murphy Road.

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N.C.'s First Lady Cooper visits select sites in Western North Carolina

Besides stopping off at Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, N.C.'s First Lady Kristin Cooper, visited the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum on Wednesday, May 17, as part of her 100 counties of North Carolina tour.

Gem museum volunteers said Cooper was particularly fascinated in the North Carolina Room finding the 47-and-a-half-pound and the two-and-a-half-pound rubies "very interesting."

Cooper and her team experienced the gems, minerals, and artifacts of the North Carolina Room, the States Room, and the Cherokee Room; and the hidden rainbows of the Fluorescent Room which reveals how rocks and minerals glow under longwave and shortwave UV (ultraviolet) light. She was intrigued by "the Slammer" and its history for both the museum and Macon County.

After her tour of the entire museum, Cooper took time to look at geodes and other items in the gift shop. She and her team were presented with specimens of Unakite, which was first discovered in the United States in the Unakas mountains of North Carolina. Cooper also received a sapphire specimen from Macon County and a geode specimen to take home to her daughter, Na-



talie, who is a teacher.

The Folk School welcomes NC's First Lady Cooper also stopped at the John C. Campbell Folk School on Wednesday.

Cooper visited the school's History Center, toured the garden and tried some fresh



Left: Kristin Cooper visits the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum. Above: Ron Bischoff, Franklin Gem & Mineral Society member and museum host shows Cooper information from "The Ruby Mining Story" publication.



Right: Cooper looks at geodes in the museum gift shop. Photographs by Kim Price, Franklin Gem & Mineral Society

snap peas before heading to a handful of studios to see the Folk School experience firsthand. The First Lady visited the Blacksmithing shop and chatted with students as they finished making fire pokers, many working at the forge for the first time. Next, she visited the Book & Paper Arts Studio to see the work being made in the "Enhanced Paper Decoration" class and watch a marbling demonstration led by world-renowned instructors Daniel and Regina St.

John.

The First Lady ended her visit with a brief roundtable discussion involving a handful of staff members before leaving for her next stop. Nanette Davidson and Barbara Swell's "Savory Pies and Summer Suppers" class sent her off with a plate of fresh-baked hand pies.

The First Lady also visited Olive's Porch during her tour with Murphy Mayor Tim Radford on Friday, May 19. Olive's Porch,

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a Folk School experience in downtown Murphy, features community workshops, a retail shop showcasing the work of Appalachian artists, and a studio space dedicated to the Artist in Residence program.


“It was a real honor to be included on the First Lady’s tour of Cherokee and Clay counties and to share the story of our almost 100-year-old folk school with her. Some of the traditions and techniques we teach go back centuries and still contribute enormously to

the economic and cultural fabric of the state,” said Bethany Chaney, the Folk School’s Interim Executive Director. “We hope she felt the magic that happens here and across our Western North Carolina communities every day.”

Cooper also visited Smoke in the Mountains Pottery while in town, meeting long-time Folk School friend and instructor potter Rob Withrow, who helped with the “At Home with the First Lady” series in 2020.



N.C. First Lady Kristin Cooper visited the garden at John C. Campbell Folk School on Wednesday. Photo courtesy of Robert Grand / John C. Campbell Folk School




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ATTENTION CHRISTIANS!***A Bible study self-check on some sins you may be committing that affect your churches and our community and what we can do about it*****Judgment**

Jesus says in Luke 6:37 (KJV), "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive and ye shall be forgiven." Romans 14:10-12 (DARBY) states, "But thou, why judgest thou thy brother? Or again, thou, why dost thou make little of thy brother? For we shall all be placed before the judgment-seat of God. For it is written, I live, saith the Lord, that to me shall bow every knee, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then each of us shall give an account concerning himself to God." Have you made people feel little by your judgment that you have spoken by choice or even just carelessly? The broken hearted, the lost, the addicted, and the poor all need compassion and our help, not judgment. What makes people live in divided families, anger, bitterness, hopelessness, addiction, and even thoughts of suicide? Many reasons. But even one judgmental word from a person surely weighs heavy on those people's heart. As Christians, should we be another person adding to their sense of feeling unloved, unworthy, and ashamed, even if they are sinning? Jesus says in John 8:7 that "he who has not sinned may cast the first stone." So then, if we have ever sinned, we don't have the right to cast stones. James 2:13 (DARBY) states very clearly, "for judgment [will be] without mercy to him that has shewn no mercy. Mercy glories over judgment." Some translations say, "Mercy triumphs over judgment." As Christians we should remember I Peter 4:17 (KJV) which states that "judgment must begin in the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" By judging others, are we responsible for scattering people (from Matthew 12:30), and thus causing them not to obey the gospel of God? We are supposed to pull people from the fire (from Jude 1:22-23), not push them to it. If a person has sinned in the past but has since been born again, should we hold those sins against them after Jesus has fully forgiven them and their sins are "blotted out" (from Acts 3:19)?

If you don't judge others, don't be offended. If you do, repent. 2 Peter 3:9 (DARBY) – "[The] Lord does not delay his promise, as some account of delay, but is longsuffering towards you, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." I thank God for His Son Jesus that I could repent and be forgiven for the many things I thought were no big deal but were sins. Jesus says in Matthew 5:23-24 (DARBY), "If therefore thou shouldest offer thy gift at the altar, and there shouldest remember that thy brother has something against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and first go, be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." If you are judging someone who has hurt you in a way the Bible describes as sin (not just that you are offended – see Matthew 18:7), Jesus has the solution to fix that situation too. In Matthew 18:15-17 (KJV), Jesus says, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." Hopefully you know your Scriptures on forgiveness and bitterness should they not hear you.

If you catch yourself judging someone, instead start praying for them. Better yet, pray with them. Share with them that the heart of Jesus is different from the hearts of men and if men have hurt them, or they have hurt men or are hurting themselves through addiction or self-harm, Jesus is the one who can fix their hearts. Get involved in the world as the salt of the earth and the light of the world any chance you get (Matthew 5:13-16). Also, maybe now is a good time to get to know your community and where to direct them for help depending on their situation. There is a section below for us to consider to address as a Christian community the best way to lead people to getting help for their specific situation. Here are more Scriptures on judging others to look up for more self-checking: Matthew 7:1-5, John 8:1-12, James 4:11-12, Romans 2:1-3, Romans 12:16 and Romans 14:1-13.

Gossip

You can self-check if you are gossiping very simply. If you would not say what you are saying in front of the person you are talking about with someone else, even if it is true, you're most likely gossiping about that person. If you are saying something that you don't know for sure is true, you're gossiping or maybe worse, false witnessing. Also, if you are repeating something told to you that the person who confided in you asked you not to repeat, you're gossiping. What about those you are talking about in a conversation they are not included in? Most likely gossiping. If you do that, and they see you glancing their way, will they think you are gossiping about them? If they see you glancing their way, chances are they will feel hurt, ostracized, and their thoughts may fall more to you talking about them instead of on the message of the church leader, or finishing their tasks at work, or shopping in peace, etc. If they are a newcomer to your church, your workplace, your club, etc., you may have just turned them away from Jesus because as a Christian you represent Jesus to them. If people even think you are gossiping about them, chances are they won't trust you enough to ask for your help in a trying situation even if you are a Christian.

There is a chance they won't trust Jesus either. Jesus says in Matthew 12:36-37 (KJV), "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." I don't think Jesus was kidding when He said that. 2 Thessalonians 3:11 (KJV) says "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies." I Peter 4:15 (KJV) states, "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters." Did you catch that? Being a busybody is in the same category as a murderer from the perspective of Peter who was taught by Jesus. Have you met any loving, comforting busybodies? Maybe they do have love for others, but it would be hard to see that they have it for the person they are gossiping about. Use those minutes to pray instead. One other suggestion, if you have a church or work clique, please break it up now and again and go talk or sit with others sometimes. If you make others feel invisible to your group, are you making them feel invisible to Jesus too? If you can't step out of your own clique at church, where all the members are supposed to be in fellowship with each other, will you be able to go out into all the world for Jesus to bring more to your church for salvation? (Read Mark 16:15-16).

Slander/False Witness (aka lying)

Per dictionary.com, slander is "a malicious, false, and defamatory statement or report." The Greek translation in the Keyword Study Bible, NKJV version for false witness is "diabolos," meaning "accuser." Who does that sound like? Per Revelation 12:10, Satan is the accuser of the brethren. I don't think any Christian wants to sound anything like him! Remember, just because we think something is true, that doesn't mean it is. Just because someone else told us something is true, that doesn't mean it is. In 2 Corinthians 13:1 (KJV) it states, "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." Is what you are thinking or saying established by two or three witnesses? Did you ask the person in question if these accusations are true or not, or did you repeat accusations that are unverified? If you are speaking about someone or something, you should probably check that what you are saying is correct because bearing false witness is in the Top 10 of all of God's Thou Shalt Nots (See Exodus 20:16). It's number 9 in case you didn't remember. Jesus says in Matthew 15:19-20 (DARBY), "For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnessings, blasphemies; these are the things which defile a man: but the eating with unwashen hands does not defile man." Per Jesus, false witnessing is also in the same category as murder. And per that Scripture, while you are trying to defile someone with a lie, you are defiling yourself. Did you catch that? Jesus forgave and healed people and then told them to sin no more. Here is one example - John 5:14. Worse things can come upon you when you sin according to Jesus. In Matthew 15:8 (DARBY), Jesus quotes Isaiah when He says "This people honour me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me." If you want to fix any relationships, or church, work, or family atmospheres that may have broken due to this type of sinning, Matthew 5:23-24 and Matthew 18:15-17 mentioned earlier are the way to fix it per Jesus. Do you know the seven things God hates? If not, look up Proverbs 6:16-19. This Scripture passage applies to the next sin as well.

Discord/Strife

Jesus states in Matthew 12:25 (KJV), "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand." James 3:14-16 (KJV) states, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." Is there evil work coming out of your heart and then out of your mouth in your home, your church, or your workplace? The Apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 5:14-21 (DARBY) "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, see that ye are not consumed one of another. But I say, Walk in [the] Spirit, and ye shall no way fulfill flesh's lust. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are opposed one to the other, that ye should not do those things which ye desire; but if ye are led by the Spirit, ye are not under law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strifes, jealousies, angers, contentions, disputes, schools of opinion, envyings, murders, drunkennesses, revels, and things like these; as to which I tell you beforehand, even as I have said before, that they who do such things shall not inherit God's kingdom."

I don't know about you, but I want to inherit the kingdom of God. And there is strife listed right up there with murder. Did you see the part where it says you can't do the things you should be doing if you are doing some of those things in the flesh? Because of strife are you affecting your spouse, your family, your church, or your workplace? Here is a quick

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Scripture on sorcery (witchcraft) and idolatry. 1 Samuel 15:23 says "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king." Are you rebelling or being stubborn against your spouse, your parents, your pastor, your boss? Are you your own idol? If you are causing discord, you might want to read Romans 1:28-32 soon. In Matthew 5:37 (YLT) Jesus teaches us how to refrain from this type of strife and it such a simple yet profound teaching. He says, "But let your word be Yes, Yes; No, No, and that which is more than these is from the evil." Don't engage other than a sincere yes or no, and you won't be pulled into sin. In Matthew 5:9 (ASV) Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of God." Paul finishes up with an answer to Galatians 5:15-21 listed above with Galatians 5:22-23, by listing the Fruit of the Spirit. Got Fruit? Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV) states "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." This is where we are supposed to be operating from out of our hearts. It may also help to look up Scriptures on walking in the spirit instead of in the flesh.

Walking in Love

Here are more Scriptures for you, "to study to shew yourself approved unto God" (From II Timothy 2:15 KJV). The Epistle of 1 John is a short book but so full of what Jesus taught about how we know when we are walking in the light and love of Jesus and truly represent Him. 1 John 3 (whole chapter) is a complete detail of why we love or don't love. To understand more how Jesus sees love, His to us, and ours to Him, read John 13:34-35 and Matthew 5:43-48. Take note, they are commandments from Jesus. Jesus says in John 14:15 (KJV), "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:21-26 offers even more understanding of Jesus' teachings on following His commandments if we love Him, or not loving Him if we don't follow them, and how we can follow the commandments with the help of the Holy Spirit. Please do a thorough self-check to make sure you are not a "clanging cymbal" (1 Corinthians 13:1). There are Scriptures on His mercy, pity, and compassion too that will help you grow in love.

Share this with your fellow Christians, and especially your children, exhorting one another as Hebrews 3:13 tells us to do. For the Christian ladies, take special note: 2 Timothy 3:1-7 (AMP) is a good way to self-check yourself to see if you are "morally weak and spiritually-dwarfed" and "ever learning but not able to come to the knowledge of truth." It's good to check your friends to see if they are leading you to commit these sins as well (2 Corinthians 6:14). Keep in mind, God says in Hosea 4:6 (KJV), "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; for thou hast rejected knowledge, and I will reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me; seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I also will forget thy children." Rejecting knowledge from His Word even hurts our children. Also, if we as Christians are called to be priests (1 Peter 2:1-10) and we don't seek for His knowledge, then shall we be able to be a priest to God? Hebrews 10:9-39 tells us that we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all. But verse 25 tells us to "assemble together" and again to "exhort one another," so that says that there is room to sin even after we have been sanctified. And remember Hebrews 10:26 (KJV), "For if we willfully continue to sin after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins."

As a Christian, I give no judgment in this letter, only love. Paul described himself as "Chief Sinner" in 1 Timothy 1:15. We are all chief sinners and if we say we aren't we are liars. (From 1 John 1:9-10). But Jesus tells us all that our sins, after receiving Him as our Lord and Savior, can still be forgiven if we repent. In Revelation 3:14-22, where Jesus addresses the lukewarm church (which hopefully every Christian knows these verses), He cautions us of the seriousness of sin, and yet He shares how He loves us and how we can be restored by Him and to Him if we do sin. He starts out sounding quite harsh, as He says if you are lukewarm He will spit you out of His mouth, and we would all do well to receive His counseling in these verses. But in Revelation 3:19-21 (KJV), the heart of Jesus is revealed when He says, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." How much love that is for us! He disciplines us out of His love because He not only wants to dine with us, but He says He will come into us to do it. He wants us to sit with Him on His throne that He earned but we didn't and couldn't on any level. So you can see that He loves us so much that He wants to be in us and share His very throne with us! But first He wants us to repent and overcome the world, and our fleshly nature that we have because we are in this world, and He gives us The Bible to know how to do it.

I don't know about you, but the love He has for us all makes me want to repent every time I forget to crucify my flesh and fall into sin (Galatians 5:16-26), especially the sin of not being loving enough to others, so that I may have the joy of making Him proud of me for

overcoming, all for the joy of having Him be in me. I recommend reading Revelation 3:1-22 to self-check where you are as a Christian and where your church is as a member of the Body of Christ. The New Testament states that there is only one unforgivable sin, and it is blaspheming the Holy Spirit, as Jesus lays it out clearly twice in a row in Matthew 12:31-32, so keep repenting for sins you know you have committed, as individuals and as church bodies. As a side note, since I mentioned the one unforgivable sin per Holy Scripture, Holy Spirit is an equal part of the Godhead, and per Scripture you can speak against Jesus but not against the Holy Spirit. Please don't disregard or disrespect the churches or people where the gifts of the Holy Spirit are active. Jesus is very clear about the role of the Holy Spirit in John 14, 15 and 16. Please check out churches where the Holy Spirit is moving in gifts before you decide He is or is not operating because eternity is a long time. Remember, in Acts 2:17-18 God says He "will pour out His Spirit on all flesh" in the last days and what that pouring out looks like. I Thessalonians 5:19-20 (KJV), "Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings." But back to the subject at hand.

If you want to know what Jesus says on how to really make it right in the church and in the community for the lost people He wants to see in Heaven with Him since He died for them too, while also assuring your place in Heaven, refer to Matthew 25:31-46 and heed well His teaching of how He wants us to treat others while you are reading. (He again tells us how to love Him by loving others). The world is in discord. 2 Peter 2 explains a lot of why that is. Isn't it time to armor up (Ephesians 6:10-18) and fully follow the Word of the Lord, not only with Fear of the Lord but also in awe of His love for us and for all those He wants saved? It starts with Scripture, then with you and me in our homes and workplaces, and in our places of worship, being loving to one another and not sinning against each other, and then sending that love of Jesus outward.

After reading Matthew 25:31-46, is it time for you to know your community ministries and programs if you aren't already involved in helping the people of your community? Matthew 16:15 (KJV) is worth mentioning again because it is a command from Jesus, "and he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Consider getting your church involved in fellowship with other churches by working together, your service ministry with their service ministries, for the ability to reach more lost together for Jesus. Jesus and His disciples carried money for the poor everywhere they went. If you don't have time to get involved, consider making offerings to these ministries and programs. There is one Jesus, and He has a desire for us to be one Body of Christ per the Bible (1 Corinthians 1:10, 1 Corinthians 12:13-27, Ephesians 4:1-16, Colossians 3:12-15). We all share the same Bible even if in multiple translations, and we all have the same community members who need Jesus. Since the Bible is God-breathed (II Timothy 3:16-17), there is a Scripture to unify us in love over every single difference of tradition we may have. To God goes all the glory, not the pastors and not the churches (1 Corinthians 3:5-15). Regardless of denomination, we all love Him, and we can all get past our differences and traditions to serve Him in our mutual love for His lost children that He wants with Him, and not Satan, for eternity. And please share this with the Christian children in your life so that they don't commit these sins in our community. Read Romans Chapter 12 to them so they do not conform to the world. Teach them to be Ambassadors for Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:20) so that instead of being a part of the worldly crowd who often hurts others, they can be a comfort to lost or hurting children around them who have suffered from others who commit sins against them. We have seen the repercussions from that in our schools for far too long now. It's up to us as Christians to be on the meat and not the milk to make a difference now (1 Corinthians 3:1-5).

Opportunity for Community Repentance and Connection

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV) is from God Himself and He says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." Not other people, but *His* people who are called by His name. Our land needs healing. Shouldn't we as Christian community members be praying and repenting with one accord for the healing of our town and the people in it, all of whom Jesus wants saved? Who will call us all together as a community of one Body of Christ for a day of repentance and healing? Who will call us together to share our ministry programs with each other and determine if new ones need to be established for Christ's Body to lead the needy to so they can see the Gospel in action? Those are not rhetorical questions. If you have the means, please gather the churches to make it happen. Let's make us a literal city on a hill that lights up the world! (Matthew 5:14).

If you are offended by anything here, especially which version of the Bible is quoted, or that not all the Scriptures were written out for you, or Scriptures you don't think are pertinent anymore, please read Matthew 15:1-14, Mark 7:8-9, and Colossians 2:16-23.

Submitted by Amber Golebiewski

***May the love, grace and mercy of Jesus Christ be with you and in you always
as you share His love and mercy to all the souls He died for***

FHS Track and Field take first and third in State Championship meet

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

The Franklin High School (FHS) Track and Field team continued its impressive run under the leadership of coaches Matt Harlfinger and Melissa Ward. Competing at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) meet at Greensboro Friday, May 19, the Panther men took first place for the 3A State Championship while the women brought home third place. The Lady Panthers (35 points) finished behind Dudley (70) and Statesville (49). The men took the championship with 59.5 points, ahead of Dudley (54) and Croatan (51) high schools. This is the first time FHS has won a men's outdoor championship since back-to-back titles in 1994 and 1995.

"We had a total effort on both sides. Athletes, coaches, parents, [school] administration, and more all came together to make a championship possible," Harlfinger commented on the feat.

Individually at the state meet, senior Blake Cassada was the sole Panther who brought home an individual championship. He won the pole vault event with a 13-06, besting North Lincoln's Logan Jones by 6 inches. Of note, FHS sophomore Adam Rogers took fifth place (12-06) and junior Aaron Jennings placed seventh with the same height in the pole vault. On the girls' side, the 4x200 meter (m) team of Michelle Ortega, Isabelle Duchemin, Laura Covarrubias, and Hope Smith broke the FHS school record with a



Franklin High School Men's Track & Field team became the 2023 3A Men's Track & Field State Champions this past Friday, beating out all competitors for the first time since 1995.

fifth-place finish of 1:46.52.

Elsewhere, senior Cal Drake took second in the high jump with a 6-06 and senior Isaiah Roots took third in the men's 400m dash with a 49.45; FHS placed third in the men's 4x800m with an 8:14.69 time.

On the women's side, sophomore Covarrubias finished second in the 300m hurdles with a 44.65, barely losing first to West Henderson's Emma Hall (44.42). The girls' 4x100m

relay team took third with a 49.81 time. In the pole vault event, sophomore Boston Stringer also came in third with a 10-06 vault.

Reflecting on both the winter indoor season and the just completed track and field season, it has been quite a run for FHS. In addition to the state meet May 19, the boys were Indoor State champions, Regional 3A West champions, and Mountain Seven Conference (MSC) champions. The girls were also MSC champi-

ons, and Regional 3A West champions. The Lady Panther 4x200m team was also the State 3A Indoor champion.

Individually, Drake won FHS Athlete of the Month for May; Covarrubias won the same award in December. Drake, Covarrubias, and Jennings all won the NCHSAA Sportsmanship Award. Cassada was both Indoor and Outdoor State pole vault men's champion and Stringer was Indoor State pole vault women's champion. Stringer and Cassada were also named Western North Carolina (WNC) Athletes of the Year while the FHS boys were named WNC Team of the Year. MSC field event Most Valuable Player awards went to Drake and Covarrubias.

Women's Coach Ward and Robbie Tompa, team sprint coach, were named Mountain Seven Coaches of the Year.

"We brought the girls up from 22nd place last year outdoor season, to a tie for third place. We had some injuries happen about mid-season ... we were very pleased with how they [girls] were able to perform at regionals and states." On

the men's side, the championship came down to the last race, the 4x400m relay. She added, "We needed to beat Dudley in order to win the meet. Dudley ran a 3:26 time - we were ranked coming in with a 3:24 and I believe that's what we ran ... being the final race of the day, we secured the championship," said Ward.

The FHS Sports Awards Banquet is tonight, Thursday, May 25, at 6 p.m., at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts.

FHS student athletes honored at 61st Annual WNC Sports Awards

On Sunday, May 14, several Franklin High student-athletes were invited to the 61st Annual WNC Sports Awards at the Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville. FHS had a very strong representation at the event and took home several outstanding awards.

Award winners

First Citizens Bank Division I Female Athlete Olympic Sport - Boston Stringer

Massasoit of North Carolina, Inc. Division I Male Athlete Olympic Sport - Blake Cassada

Rodeway Inn & Suites Division I Male Olympic Sport - Franklin Men's Indoor Track and Field

Keith Jarrett Memorial Scholarship Winner - Israel Jackson

FHS student-athletes invited as finalists

Ann Brandis Division I Female Athlete Major Sport - Tori Ensley

First Citizens Bank Division I Female Athlete Olympic Sport - Hope Smith and Boston Stringer

Nat & Carolyn Arthur Division I Female Olympic Sport - Franklin Indoor Track and Field

Massasoit of North Carolina, Inc. Division I Male Athlete Olympic Sport - Blake Cassada

Rodeway Inn & Suites Division I Male Olympic Sport - Franklin Indoor Track and Field

Blue Ridge Imaging Technologies Division I Female Academic Award - Alyssa Smith

Beverly-Hanks Realty Division I Male Academic Award - Davis Anders

Henry Logan Division I Male Athlete of the Year - Blake Cassada

Keith Jarrett Memorial Scholarship Finalist - Israel Jackson



Pictured (L-R) are student athletes from Franklin High School who brought home awards at the 61st Annual WNC Sports Awards, Boston Stringer, Israel Jackson, Blake Cassada, and Isaiah Roots representing the Men's Indoor Track & Field team.

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Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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The Legislative Review

N.C. Rep. Karl Gillespie



Karl Gillespie

In this week's edition of The Legislative Review, the legislature returns after crossover week, considers a veto override, and the Senate unveils its version of the State budget.

For the legislative week of May 8-12, 2023, the House held no committee meetings or voting sessions.

For the week of May 15-19, 2023, the Senate started the week off by introducing their version of the State budget. That bill can be reviewed on the ncleg.gov website.

The House will likely vote to not concur on the Senate budget. Once this happens, a conference committee of various House and Senate members will be appointed to reach a compromise solution on the State budget.

Several House committees met on Tuesday, including House Local Government, House Health, and House Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform. The Senate convened and successfully overrode the Governor's veto of SB20, Care for Women, Children, and Families Act.

Late Tuesday afternoon I met with my colleagues for a caucus prior to the start of session. That evening, the House convened for a voting session, where, by the requisite three-fifths votes, we successfully overrode the Governor's veto of SB20. In addition to this vote, we considered the following legislation:

– HB267, Town of Holly Springs Deannexation, would remove a tract of land from the corporate limits of the Town of Holly Springs. The bill passed with unanimous consent.

– HB462, City of Washington/Deannexation of Airport, would remove a parcel of land from the corporate limits of the City of Washington. This parcel is part of the Washington-Warren Airport. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 73-40.

Wednesday morning, I visited the College of Veterinary Medicine at NC State University with many of my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee. This is one of the top veterinarian colleges and hospitals in the United States and it was great to see firsthand the amazing work these folks are doing.

At 1 p.m., House session convened and we considered various bills, including:

– HB436, Permanent Plates for Water and Sewer Authority, would make vehicles owned by water and sewer authorities eligible for permanent registration plates.

See GILLESPIE on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Supreme Court credibility severely eroded

The numerous instances of unethical conduct by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas are appalling.

A brief recounting of Thomas's improprieties is in order. Thomas and his wife have been the beneficiaries of Harlan Crow's largess over many years, to wit:

- 1 - Luxury trips on Crow's yacht;
- 2 - Vacations at Crow's private resort in the Adirondacks;
- 3 - Crow's payment of tuition for Thomas's grand nephew, a boarding school student;
- 4 - Crow's purchase of the Georgia real estate in which Thomas's mother lives;
- 5 - Extensive renovations to the aforesaid Georgia property;
- 6 - Thomas's mother lives rent free on the Georgia property.

From several media reports, none of the above gifts has been reported on required disclosure statements, with the possible exception of the tuition payments.

Thomas has said that he "received reporting guidance from colleagues."

With the credibility of the U.S. Supreme Court severely eroded, two issues regarding Thomas should be pursued:

- 1 - Who were the colleagues from whom Thomas received reporting guidance? and,
- 2 - Impeachment of Thomas.

The second issue arises because there is no evidence of contrition on Thomas's part nor any expectation that Thomas will offer his resignation from the U.S. Supreme Court.

Milo R. Beran – Franklin, N.C.

Why ignore a part of the Second Amendment?

Is it possible to keep assault weapons away from would-be killers? Is it possible to keep would-be killers away from assault weapons? Why have assault weapons been made retail items anyway? Why does the National Rifle Association refuse/fail to print the entire Second Amendment in its literature. The Amendment reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed." Why would someone who wants to ban/control assault weapons vote for a candidate who says he/she supports gun rights? Why are we not asking candidates if they support a well regulated Militia? Why ignore that part of the amendment?

Please give all victims of violence by assault weapons your considered answer. Imagine yourself in their place today.

The Eagles sang, "Things in this life change very slowly if they ever change at all."

Unbelievably, these needless deaths are the rapid changes we see. Victims are gone in the blink of an eye. Yet, some retain their "right to keep and bear Arms." Surely this is not what the constitutional framers had in mind.

Have you considered voting for candidates who will vote to ban/control assault weapons?

Dave Waldrop – Webster, 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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GILLESPIE

Continued from page 10

issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 111-1.

– HB823, Choose your School, Choose Your Future, would make all NC K-12 students eligible for opportunity scholarships, with grant amounts based on household income, beginning in 2024-2025. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 65-45.

Following the adjournment of Wednesday's session, The House concluded its legislative business for the week.



Did You Know?

NC visitor spending soared 15% in 2022

The North Carolina tourism economy reached its highest level ever with travelers spending more than \$33.3 billion on trips to and within the state.

The previous record of \$29.22 billion was set in pre-pandemic 2019.

North Carolina has invested hundreds of millions of dollars from the American Rescue Plan into helping the tourism industry to recover and thrive following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The state's tourism-supported workforce increased 9.8 percent to 216,900 jobs in 2022. Tourism payroll increased 13.5 percent to \$8.7 billion. Also, as a result of visitor spending, state and local governments saw rebounds in tax revenues to nearly \$2.5 billion.

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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Kayakers row section of Bartram Trail down the Little Tennessee River

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

One hundred and ten miles exist as part of the Blue Ridge section of the Bartram Trail, extending from Russell Bridge near the Georgia/South Carolina line to Cheoah Bald, past Lake Nantahala. Naturalist and explorer William Bartram hiked already established Cherokee paths in the 1700s to document the native flora, fauna and wildlife – as well as a way of life and culture he expected would be lost to future development.

Bartram was correct, and he was able to preserve the area in his world-famous book, “Bartram’s Travels.” Thousands of people have read the book and walked the trail that bears his name, but one Blue Ridge section is not walkable due to the modern invention of the highway. However, it can be kayaked. Earlier this month, a group of 14 paddlers, led by Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy’s (BRBTC) director, Brent Martin, slid kayaks into the Little Tennessee River, just beyond where it is met by Tessentee Creek.

The environment and scenery enabled par-



Before a group of kayakers took to the Little Tennessee River for a 10-mile paddling trip, Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy Director Brent Martin read from Bartram's Travels, the book that explorer William Bartram wrote in the 1700s after hiking and paddling through Macon County.



ticipants to imagine what it might have been like for Bartram to travel by Cherokee hand-carved canoe along parts of the Macon County waterway. Firepink flowers, Eastern towhees, Canadian geese, fragrant black locust tree blooms, and animal tracks along banks were some of the sensory experiences for kayakers. Farmland extended on either side of the Little Tennessee – with cows staying cool along the banks. The trip was both serene and adventurous for paddlers.

Blow downs – trees uprooted or broken along riverbanks – were cleared by Martin and a few Conservancy volunteers weeks before the May 5 kayaking trip, but subsequent high winds and hard rains resulted in more trees and debris that

kayakers had to maneuver around and under. One spot was particularly uncertain and required Martin to use a chainsaw to cut branches for clearing a wider path in the river.

Although all the kayakers managed to navigate the tight spot, Chris Tranchina, an area photographer and videographer who is on the board of the Conservancy, quipped, “The only difference between an adventure and an ordeal is perspective.”

The kayakers started their journey at the Hickory Knoll Road trailhead of the Bartram Trail and ended at the Tasse Shelter area on the Little Tennessee River Greenway in Franklin – about 10 miles total, when paddled.

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CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	VW	Taos AWD	29,618
2021	Cadillac	XT6 AWD	18,875
2021	Chevrolet	Corvette	5,792
2020	Chevrolet	Bolt	17,845
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox AWD	47,233
2019	Chevrolet	Equinox LS AWD	64,233
2019	GMC	Acadia	17,045
2019	Dodge	Journey	80,887
2018	Hyundia	Elantra	51,067
2018	Toyota	Camry XSE	71,178
2017	GMC	Acadia	80,692
2016	Mini Cooper		57,659

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2023	Chevrolet	Tahoe	257
2023	Chevrolet	Tahoe Z71	14,662
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	Wrangler Sahara Unlimited	10,539

2022	Kia	EV6 GT	3,251
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	Cadillac	XT6 AWD	23,121
2021	GMC	Yukon XL	53,356
2021	Hyudia	Palisade AWD	64,073
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	Ford	Explorer	31,399
2020	Jeep	Wrangler Rubicon Unlimited	24,249
2020	Kia	Telluride	19,480
2019	Chevrolet	Trax LT AWD	18,211
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica Touring L	91,992
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox LT	23,569
2018	Jeep	Compass 4x4	61,613
2017	Jeep	Cherokee	61,870
2017	Subaru	Crosstek	99,022
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	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
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	GMC	Sierra SLT	21,064
2020	Toyota	Tacoma Predator	42,773
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
2014	Ford	F-150 XLT	130,742



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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 15 - 21. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

May 15

Robert Newman Baty II, was charged with flee/elude arrest, Kidnapping and assault with a deadly weapon. Tristan Howard made the arrest.

Henry Stacey Phillips, 52, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Captain Tim Holland made the arrest.

Krystin Lynn Zinkand, 30, was charged with failure to appear and resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Sergeant Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Ronaldo Uriel Garcia-Diaz, 23, was charged with flee/elude arrest/misdemeanor child abuse. David Blanton made the arrest.

Matthew Tyler Cartwright, 30, was charged with domestic physical. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

May 16

Travis James Gregg, 46, was charged with possession of fentanyl, possession of drug paraphernalia and fugitive from out of state. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Teresa Gaye Ledford, 59, was charged with fugitive from out of state felony. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Keith Andrew Basty, 34, was charged with failure to appear for resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Sheriff Brent Holbrooks made the arrest.

David Wright Sarvis, 55, was charged with failure to appear. Deputy Jacob P. Ledford made the arrest.

Robert Newman Baty II, 35, was charged with larceny, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jiglaun made the arrest.

Cody Lynn Lindberg, 37, was charged with assault on a fe-

male and possession of drug paraphernalia. Jay Wright made the arrest.

May 17

Jeremy A. Thibideau, 44, was charged with second degree burglary. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Jessica Chantel Harrison, 45, was charged with second degree burglary. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

May 18

Heriberto Garita, 43, was charged with violate domestic violence protective order. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Rebecca Susan Harper, 44, was charged with failure to appear. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

May 19

Heather Nichole Wren, 34, was charged with driving while impaired. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

May 20

Juanita Marie Cleveland, 47, was charged with failure to appear. Sergeant Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Wilburn Wesley Holt, 63, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Deputy Jacob P. Ledford made the arrest.

Kenneth Edward Franks, 55, was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon and driving under the influence. David Blanton made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

May 18

Jason Christian Watson, 44, was charged with first degree trespass. Jonathan M. Lauffer made the arrest.

May 19

Rita Taylor Likah, 64, was charged with driving while impaired. Jonathan M. Lauffer made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

May 12

Martin Gary Noone, 60, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear, drive a motor vehicle with no registration and driving while license revoked no impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Dion Rodriguez Munerlyn, 49, of Lithonia, Ga., was charged with extradition/fugitive for other state. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

May 13

Robert Gene Cole, 52, of Sylva, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Jessica Aubrey Johnson, 24, of Franklin, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia and possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Catlin Nathaniel Davis, 35, of Franklin, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

Jeremy James Morgan, 41, of Cullowhee, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense. No bond was set.

May 14

Randall Eugene Fowler, 57, of Glenville, was charged with damage to property and breaking and entering. No bond was set.

Dennis James Cope, 52, of Sylva, was charged with expired no inspection and driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

May 16

Casey Leanna Mark, 36, of Sylva, was charged with injury to personal property, possession of drug paraphernalia, first degree trespassing/squatting, breaking and entering forcible and violation of court order. A secured bond of \$10,000 was

set.

Cora Rose Willis, 21, of Sylva, was charged with resisting a public officer and assault on a government official/employee. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Erin miranda White, 40, of Sylva, was charged with resisting a public officer and assault on a government official/employee. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Justin Johnson Stanfield, 29, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession with intent to sell/deliver a counterfeit controlled substance and probation violation. A secured bond of \$55,000 was set.

May 17

Brett Edward Jarrell, 34, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for exceeding the posted speed, failure to maintain lane and driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Erin Miranda White, 40, of Sylva, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

William Bryan Maney, 33, of Sylva, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a schedule III controlled substance and possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Michele Nicole Bird, 28, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

May 18

Julia Nicole Schmalz, 39, of Franklin, was charged with flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle, resist a public officer, trespass, reckless driving with wanton disregard and speeding. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Daniel Edward Nashua, 51, of Whittier, was charged with communicating threats and simple assault. No bond was set.

Marcus Thad Deville, 28, of Sylva, was charged with resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Stephanie Renee Watson, 44, of Sylva, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

May 19

James Alan Buchanan, 43, of Cullowhee, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Chelsea Rae Vaughn, 26, of Whittier, was charged with simple assault. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

James Algar Dean Taylor, 33, of Cherokee, was charged with drug/narcotic violations. No bond was set.

Thomas Paul Trantham, 28, of Sylva, was charged with driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, possession of methamphetamine, second degree burglary and breaking and/or entering. A secured bond of \$60,000 was set.

Michael Jerome Drakeford, 41, of Whittier, was charged with child support purge. A \$515.38 bond was set.

May 20

Bryan Dean Hartline, 43, of Sylva, was charged with child support purge, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$2,740 was set.

Brittany Jade Moose, 35, of Sylva, was charged with child support purge. A bond of \$1,186 was set.

May 21

Brian Lee Carr, 51, of Clyde, was charged with driving while impaired. No bond was set.

Dennis James Cope, 52, of Sylva, was charged with driving while license revoked, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Ashley Ann Hernandez, 41, of Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for traffic citations. A secured bond of \$500 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.

An American Red Cross Blood Drive 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 RedCrossBlood.org, call (800)733-2767 or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Visually Impaired Support Group will not meet on Thursday, May 25, because they will be on a field trip to Asheville to visit a company that produces items for the visually impaired and blind. Meetings will resume in June.

Upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drives in Franklin will be held on Tuesday, May 30, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Lowe's 0717, 161 Franklin Plaza, Georgia Highway; and Thursday, June 15, 12:30 to 5 p.m., First Baptist Church, 69 Iotla Street. Type O blood donors are especially needed. All who come to give through May 31 will receive a Red Cross beach towel, while supplies last. Download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call (800)733-2767 to schedule a time to give.

Styrofoam Recycling Event will be held on Sunday, June 25, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Mark Watson Park, 86 Mark Watson Park. Save and bring all of your clean styrofoam to be condensed. Styrofoam is a type of plastic that cannot be broken down. When taken to a landfill it can remain there for 500 years or more. For more information or interested in participating, call (828)476-0334.

Murphy Art Center Acrylic Floral Painting - April showers bring May flowers will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn a variety of applications with acrylic paints; thin like watercolor, thick and opaque, application with brush vs. palette knife. This class teaches composition, design, color theory, technique and application. All levels are welcome to attend. Call The MAC for more information. Register at The MAC by stopping by or calling us at (828)360-3038.

Heartland Band Old Time Gospel Singing will be held on Friday, June 2 and 16, 6 to 8 p.m., at West Franklin Church, located on Sloan Rd., next to the Forest Service Office. All are welcome.

Memorial United Methodist Church Drive thru Dinner, will be held on Saturday, June 3, 5 to 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 4668 Old Murphy Rd.

Nantahala Hiking Club Meeting will be held on June 8, 6 p.m., Macon County Library. Jen Seymour is an avid international hiker and will share one of her eight children's publications guaranteed to inspire and excite. She's a gear expert, blogger and nutrition advocate. Take a review of their information online. For more information <https://chicaandsunsets.com/about/>

'Growing Dahlias' presentation by Allen Haas will be held on Friday, June 9, 11 a.m., at the Environmental Resource Center, 1624 Lakeside Drive (next to the Landfill) in Franklin. Presented by the Macon County Master Gardeners Association. Public is welcome.

Death Cafe Sunday, June 11, 2 to 4 p.m., at Wayfarers Chapel, 182 Wayfarer Lane, Dillard, Ga. Death Cafe is a group directed discussion facilitated by Jan Brewer, M.A., CMT, with no agenda, objective or themes, and no intent to lead participants to any conclusion, product or course of action. The public is invited to tea and cake and talk openly and confidentially about all things death related. For more information, call Jan at (510)684-5555 or www.deathcafe.com.

International Cultural Exchange Services (ICES) seeks host families for the 2023/24 School Year. Students are 15-18 years old and from Europe, Asia and South America. Students have their own health insurance and money to pay for their expenses. Family application process includes completing online application, reference checks, background checks and a home visit interview. Families can host for a full school year or semester program and do not need to have children or teens in their homes. Ongoing Support is provided to the family and student throughout the student's stay. For more information, call Donna Bell (828)421-8843; or email dbell@icesusa.org; or www.icesusa.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Prentiss Church Zoomerang Vacation Bible School for kids of all ages Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June 7-9, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. nightly. The church is located at 59 Church Hill off Addington Bridge. For registration information, call (828)369-3885.

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, May 28, at 11 a.m., Ashley Peterson will speak about chanting as meditation and as a way to connect to Source. 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.

Calvary Baptist Church holds services as follows, Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship Service 11 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m.

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>

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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Lloyd performs Sunday concert

The Arts Council of Macon County sponsored a concert on Sunday with musician David Lloyd. Lloyd performed a front-porch style program of original songs laced with lively conversation in the chapel of Franklin's First Presbyterian Church to an appreciative crowd. For more information on Arts Council events, phone (828-5240ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

Photo by Betsey Gooder

Concerts on the Creek begins May 26 in Sylva

The 14th annual season of Concerts on the Creek kicks off Friday, May 26, with The Foreign Landers. These concerts are from 7-9 p.m. at the Bridge Park in Sylva.

The Foreign Landers are a Transatlantic folk duo. Mandolinist David Benedict grew up in South Carolina while Tabitha Agnew Benedict started playing five-string banjo at a young age in her homeland of Northern Ireland. Tabitha and David are carving their own path in the acoustic music world together, drawing on their unique international heritage to create something new. With the 2022 release of their album "Travelers Rest," they share their own story in a way that is beautifully honest and moving.

Individually these two are no foreigners to music. Before forming their duo, Tabitha performed with BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award finalists Cup O'Joe from Northern Ireland, and Island Records signed British bluegrass band Midnight Skyracer. While in Nashville, David toured with Grammy-nominated, 10-time International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Bass Player of the Year Award recipient Missy Raines, and later, in Boston, with 2020 IBMA New Artist of the Year Award recipient Mile Twelve. These opportunities led to both Tabitha and David receiving Instrumentalists of Year Momentum Awards from the IBMA as well.

Concerts on the Creek are free with donations encouraged. Bring a chair or blanket. There will usually be food trucks on site. No smoking, vaping, coolers or tents allowed. All dogs must be on a leash and be well-behaved.



The Foreign Landers

This music series features 15 events on Fridays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. These events are organized and funded by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, The Town of Sylva and the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, visit our website at <https://www.mountainlovers.com/concerts-on-the-creek/> or call us at 828-586-2155 or visit our Facebook page.

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Read 2 Me Program




Saturday May 27th

11:00am - 2pm

Hosted by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 108

Books	Refreshments
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Exhibits & More	Hot Dogs
	Mac-n-Cheese



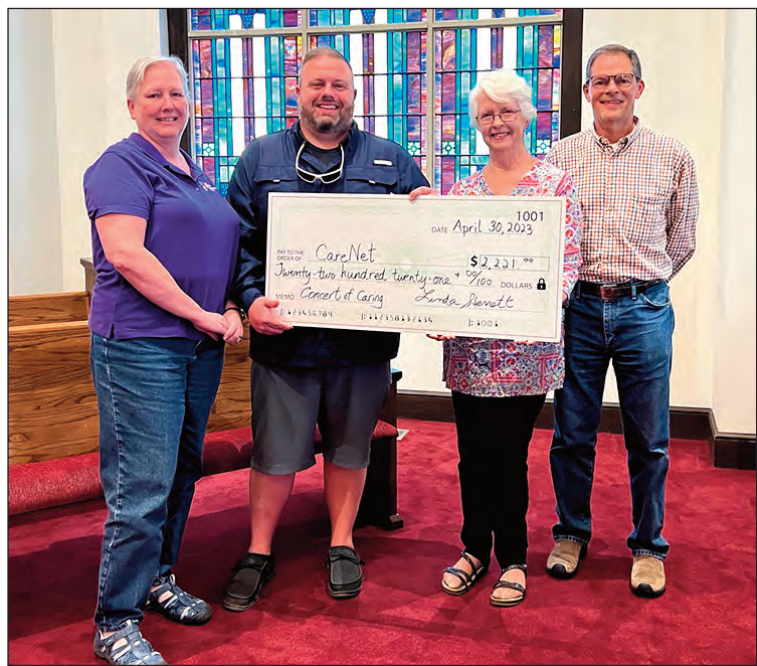
American Legion Bldg 614 West Main St.

Concerts of Caring benefit local nonprofits

Brasstown Ringers spring concert season kicked off on April 29 in Clayton, Ga., and April 30 in Franklin. This year, the ringers wanted to show appreciation for support throughout the years, so instead of their traditional bell concerts, they teamed up with Mountain Voices Chorus and Pinnacle Brass to perform benefit concerts and give back to the community to help provide relief to those in crisis. All three groups (which involved around 70 volunteers contributing countless hours to prepare for the Concerts of Caring) were committed to help raise funds and awareness for these two nonprofit organizations:



Linda Sterrett presents a check for \$1,200 raised for F.A.I.T.H. (Fight Abuse in the Home) at the concert in Clayton on April 29. Pictured are George James, Clayton First United Methodist Church; Sterrett, Brasstown Ringers director; Sarah Charity, F.A.I.T.H. Director; Beverly Barnett, Mountain Voices director; and Graham Bethel, Pinnacle Brass director.



Linda Sterrett presents a check to CareNet for \$2,221 from donations at the concert on April 30, 2023, at First United Methodist Church, Franklin. Picture are Sterrett, Brasstown Ringers director; Tim Hogsed, CareNet director; Beverly Barnett, Mountain Voices director; and Vic Greene, CareNet board member and First UMC Franklin Pastoral Care.

FAITH (Fight Abuse in the Home) in Clayton and CareNet in Franklin. Generous support from concert attendees and donors made these first two Concerts of Caring successful events.

Brasstown Ringers continued their spring schedule with two more concerts collaborating with Epworth Brass Ensemble on May 6, at Robert Foster Auditorium in Epworth, Ga., to benefit Appalachian Mountain Regional Campus and their final concert was held on May 7 at First UMC of Union County in Blairsville, Ga., to benefit Healing Hands Community Clinic.

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Girl Scouts make cards for 'birthday bags'

Memorial United Methodist Church Women's Fellowship and sewing group, created 14 "Birthday in a Bag" bags for CareNet, to give out to parents that have a child having a birthday. The bags included cake mix, frosting, birthday candles, party plates and napkins, party favors and small gift items. Girl Scout Troop 2996 created birthday cards to put into the bags. Each girl made several cards and decorated them with drawings, stickers and cute sayings. The cards were appropriate for both girls and boys who were having a birthday next month.



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June 2
9AM - 3PM

Saturday,
June 3
9AM - 2PM

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DMV adds online services, increases direct communication with drivers

In a continuing effort to provide more services online, the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles will now allow residents with a State ID card to renew online and teen drivers with a Level 3 Full Provisional License to upgrade to a regular Class C license up to one year after expiration.

Previously, once these credentials had expired, these renewals and upgrades had to be done in-person at a driver license office. Regular Class C driver licenses can already be renewed up to two years after expiration.

"Allowing these services to be completed online should help shorten lines and wait times at our offices by getting folks that would previously have to come to the office out of the line altogether," DMV Commissioner Wayne Goodwin said. "As long as it has not been expired for more than one year and they didn't renew online last time, residents can now skip the trip to the DMV and order these credentials online."

DMV rolls out walk-in wait time tool

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles has announced a new technology available on its website to help its customers avoid a prolonged wait in line.

A new feature is now available on the NCDMV office locations page to show the public the current average wait time at its 115 driver license offices across the state. Customers can now hover over the icon marking each driver license office and a box will pop up with the current walk-in wait time.

"I'm very excited about this new tool that will show customers the walk-in wait time at driver license offices so they can make an informed decision on which office to go to, or whether to try again another day," said Goodwin. "This tool will be most useful in the afternoon when our 115 driver license offices are serving walk-ins only."

As of May 1, driver license offices take walk-in customers only after noon. Appointments are now only available in the mornings and can be scheduled up to 90 days in advance at skiptheline.ncdot.gov.

DMV to begin emailing customers about service changes

NCDMV plans to begin communicating directly with customers that have provided their email addresses and checked a box indicating their interest in receiving updates from DMV while utilizing an online service.

"We've had a lot of changes this year, from changes to our office schedule to teen driver law changes. Being able to communicate directly with our customers will be advantageous for everyone. And these folks have already signed up to receive news from us, we just want to let them know we will be emailing them, so they know it's legitimate," said Goodwin.

The email messages will contain general information about DMV services including changes to in-person office hours, new locations opening, new services available online and legislative changes, and are in addition to postcards and other mailings that are specific to a person's credential and vehicle registration notices that customers receive electronically.

For the most up-to-date information, customers are encouraged to visit MyNCDMV.gov.



Deaths & Funerals

David Lawson Cabe

David Lawson Cabe, 85, of Otto, N.C., passed away on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Hershel and Eula G. Burrell Cabe. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Brenda Cabe; a son, Michael Perkey; great grandson, Charlie Perkey; and a brother, Jim Cabe.

He was a Navy veteran and was of the Protestant faith.

He is survived by his wife, Katie Franks Cabe; children, Richard Cabe, Susan Cabe, and Tracy Cabe, all of Washington; Charles Perkey and Donnal Shearl, both of Anderson, Ind.; and a sister, Myrtis Dillard of Dillard, Ga.; 15 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren with another on the way; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations can be made to the charity of one's choice.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



David Lawson Cabe

Tanya Blair Bohlender

Tanya Blair Bohlender, 79, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, May 14, 2023.

Born in Savannah, Ga., she was the daughter of the late Oris Sylvester Blair Sr. and Florastine Hendrix Blair. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ronald Dean Bohlender; sister, Dara Fossitt; and brother, Oris Sylvester Blair Jr.

She was a member of Iotla Baptist Church, and the JOY group at the church. She will be dearly missed by her precious dog, Samson.

She is survived by two daughters, Dara Perelez (Ernesto) of Ozark, Ala., and Vanya Parker (Lance) of Franklin; one sister, Annette Bergman of Venice, Fla.; nine grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

No local services are currently planned.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Iotla Baptist Church in memory of Tanya Bohlender.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Tanya Blair Bohlender

Edna Norton Crisp

Edna Norton Crisp (Sis), 93, passed away on Sunday, May 21, 2023, at home surrounded by family.

Born to Ray Elias Norton and Agnes Baty Norton, she was a Highlands native. Growing up on a farm with eight brothers and sisters, she learned an appreciation for time spent with family and the simple things in life. She enjoyed nature and the outdoors, with wild strawberries, hummingbirds, and creek fishing being a few of her favorite things. She was an avid reader and an expert at needlework and puzzles. She finished Brevard College with a degree in economics, and worked for 30-plus years at First Union Bank.

She was married to Guy Henderson Crisp for 58 years and had three sons: Jack, Mike and Charles "Chuck." She was a devoted mother and cherished her family. Above all, she had a remarkable love for Jesus. She was a dedicated member of Shortoff Baptist Church and served her church family and community with unmatched passion and care. Her life was a paradigm of faith; she moved through each day with a singular and unwavering focus on love. She was a testament to the power of example for sowing faith in others, and she showered grace and joy on everyone she met. Although her humility would cause her to disagree, those of us who knew her make no exaggeration in saying that we know our lives have been touched by a saint.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by a son, Michael Aaron Crisp; siblings, Herman Norton, Marion Higdon, Leona "Toni" Dupree, Edwin "Bud" Norton, Charlie Ray "Bo" Norton, Robert "Bob" Norton, and John Evan Norton; and daughter-in-law, Leesa Scott Crisp.

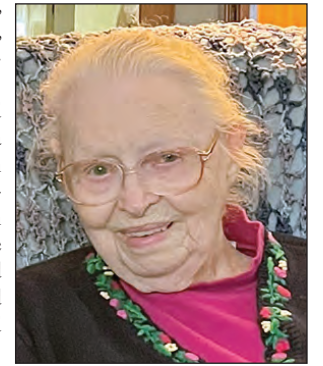
She is survived by a sister, Nancy McClain; sons, Jack Henderson Crisp and Charles Stanley Crisp; daughter-in-law, Judith Elizabeth Crisp; grandchildren, Michele Martin (Josh), Krista Chapman (Justin), David Crisp and wife Alyson, and Clara Beth Crisp; great grandchildren, Karson Martin, Emory Martin, Rachel Chapman, Zachary Chapman; and several nieces and nephews.

Family will receive friends Saturday, May 27, from 10 to 11 a.m., at Shortoff Baptist Church, with the funeral following.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Shortoff Baptist Church, PO Box 1417, Highlands, NC 28741; or the Highlands Historical Society, PO Box 670, Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Edna Norton Crisp



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Kyle Larson dominates in NASCAR All-Star Race at North Wilkesboro

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. – Kyle Larson’s third victory in the Sunday’s NASCAR All-Star Race was a case of absolute dominance.

It was also a case study in strategy at revitalized North Wilkesboro Speedway, with the eventual winning move made on Lap 18 of 200. That’s when Larson’s crew chief, Cliff Daniels called his driver to the pits under caution for a fresh set of tires. Even though Larson incurred a speeding penalty exiting pit road and restarted from the rear, he charged through the field on new rubber and took the lead from Daniel Suarez on Lap 55. From that point on, it was game over.

Having won previous All-Star Races at Charlotte and Texas, Larson is the only driver to win the \$1-million top prize at three different venues. Larson is tied with Dale Earnhardt and Jeff Gordon for second most victories in the exhibition event, one behind Jimmie Johnson’s four triumphs. Not only that, the win gave Larson a sweep of NASCAR events at the reborn .625-mile short track. On Saturday he won the CRAFTSMAN Truck Series race in NASCAR’s return to North Wilkesboro for the first time since 1996.

“I can’t even tell you what it means,” Larson said. “This is my third All-Star win and my third different track. In a historical place like that, you guys and the crowd made this weekend so awesome.”

Once Larson grabbed the top spot, he held it the rest of the way, except for one lap under the competition caution led by Suarez. In a race that saw three lead changes among two drivers, Larson led 145 laps to Suarez’s 55.

Comfortably in front after a restart on Lap 111, Larson crossed the finish line 4.537 seconds ahead of runner-up Bubba Wallace, who duplicated Larson’s Lap 18 pit stop strategy but couldn’t match the speed of the No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet.

“No, just his capability throughout the whole run, he could attack hard and then have something there at the end,” Wallace said of Larson’s superior performance. “If this was any other race, I’d be excited, but for a million dollars to come up short and walk home with nothing...

“Tail tucked between our legs, but all in all, just continuing to ride the momentum train... Just have to keep it going. Now we show back up to home turf (for next Sunday’s Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway) and really got to keep the momentum going there and get ourselves deeper into the Playoffs.”

Tyler Reddick finished third, followed by Chase Briscoe and Chase Elliott. Ryan Blaney, Suarez, Erik Jones, Ty Gibbs and Joey Logano completed the top 10.

In an emotionally charged NASCAR All-Star Open, Josh Berry and Ty Gibbs transferred into the main event, but in



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, celebrates with the one million dollar check in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series All-Star Race at North Wilkesboro Speedway on May 21, 2023 in North Wilkesboro, N.C. Photos by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

the No. 54 Toyota into the inside wall.

The contact broke Gibbs’ momentum and allowed Berry to pass for the lead, which the driver of the No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet held the rest of the way.

“I kind of understand (McDowell’s) frustration,” Gibbs said, “but at Martinsville, we were running 18th, and they clobbered us and wrecked us, so I think it’s honestly fair game.”

McDowell believes Gibbs has some lessons to learn.

“It’s short-track racing to try to get into the All-Star Race, so somebody’s going to leave with hurt feelings—I guess it’s me,” McDowell said. “I got a great restart there, kind of worked the outside, got a couple of guys and was able to get down, and Ty just plowed into me, just knocked me into the 31 (Haley) and spun us both out...”

“All that stuff comes around, man. You can get away with it a few times, but it comes around. I don’t have the budget for the fine. Otherwise, I would not be standing here. I’d be standing down there (confronting Gibbs on pit road).”

Unable to get to Gibbs’ bumper in the closing laps, Aric Almirola finished third in the Open. Ryan Preece was fourth, followed by AJ Allmendinger, J.J. Yeley and Gragson.

Gibbs’ case, not without bruising Michael McDowell’s feelings.

Subbing for injured Alex Bowman, Berry beat Gibbs to the finish line in the 100-lap event by .571 seconds, as the top two drivers advanced (along with Fan Vote winner Noah Gragson). But Berry likely would not have held the lead were it not for McDowell.

On Lap 50, contact from Gibbs’ Toyota turned McDowell’s Ford into the Chevrolet of Justin Haley after McDowell had gained positions on the restart following a competition caution. On Lap 78 McDowell got even. As Gibbs attempted to lap the Front Row Motorsports driver, McDowell squeezed



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Super sub Kyle Larson nails Truck race at North Wilkesboro
NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. – Kyle Larson proved an admirable substitute on Saturday at North Wilkesboro Speedway.

Subbing for injured Alex Bowman, who had been scheduled to race the No. 7 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet, Larson led 138 of 252 laps in winning the Tyson 250 in overtime.

Larson is the first driver to win a NASCAR-sanctioned race at revitalized North Wilkesboro in 27 years. As of Saturday, the victory was Larson's third in 15 NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series starts.

At the end of the two-lap overtime, Larson beat ThorSport Racing's Ty Majeski to the finish line by .974 seconds. Matt DiBenedetto ran third, followed by Carson Hocevar, Bubba Wallace and pole winner Corey Heim.

"It was a really fun track there, especially in the truck where you can use the apron and such at both ends," said Larson, who was making his first Truck Series start of the season. "I had a good time. That was a lot of fun on the long runs.

"I wasn't supposed to run. Unfortunately, Alex got hurt (in a sprint car accident), and I got the opportunity to run this."

Larson made the most of his opportunity, dominating the action and charging from sixth after a Lap 228 restart on which the first three cars in the running order stayed on the track during the 11th caution, and fourth place Majeski gained track position with a two-tire pit stop.

On Lap 238, Larson passed Wallace for the lead and held it through one more caution and the overtime.

Thanks to the pit strategy, Majeski salvaged the runner-up finish.

"Yeah, we just missed it today," Majeski said.

"Sometimes when you're in the back with nothing to lose, you make gutsy calls, jumping on two tires there, and we were just able to hold off guys who put four tires on. So, a subpar day for us turned into a good finish."

The race was the first in the series at North Wilkesboro since 1996, when the CRAFTSMAN Trucks ran at the .625-mile short track for the second time. Saturday's renewal produced a record 12 cautions for 81 laps.

The severest of the on-track incidents came on Lap 201, when the truck of Tyler Ankrum was forced into the outside backstretch wall. As Ankrum slowed, the Chevrolet of Rajah Caruth and the Fords of reigning series champion Zane Smith and Ben Rhodes suffered a chain-reaction collision that eliminated the three trailing trucks.

Before the wreck, Smith had suffered a pit road speeding penalty that sent him to the back of the field.

"Just a product of what happens when you get put back there," said Smith, who started the race in the rear of the field because of three failed inspections and had worked his way into the top five before the speeding penalty.



Kyle Larson, driver of the #7 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Tyson 250 on May 20, 2023, in North Wilkesboro, N.C.

Photos by Chris Graythen/Getty Image

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Kyle Larson, driver of the #7 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, takes the checkered flag to win the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Tyson 250 at North Wilkesboro Speedway on May 20, 2023 in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina.
 Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

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- 1. Deep cavity
- 6. Weasel-related onomatopoeia
- 9. Supernatural life force
- 13. French treat
- 14. Snake-like fish
- 15. Major Italian city
- 16. Ring around the sun, pl.
- 17. Pitcher's stat
- 18. Donated part
- 19. *Russian President
- 21. *"Nevermind" band
- 23. *"Walkin' on the ____" by Smash Mouth
- 24. Google search tool
- 25. Took the bait
- 28. Between larva and adult
- 30. Data input device
- 35. U in I.C.U.
- 37. Dems' opponents
- 39. One of Florida Keys
- 40. Be furious
- 41. *Canada/Mexico/U.S. trade agreement acronym
- 43. Agitate
- 44. Between free and freest
- 46. Molokai party
- 47. *Telephone Tammy or Sky Dancer
- 48. Unquestioning ones
- 50. Greek muse's strings
- 52. Slightly insane
- 53. Messy substances
- 55. Santa ____ winds, CA
- 57. *TV show with Central Perk
- 61. *Popular Disney movie with a genie
- 65. Caterpillar precursor
- 66. Accompanies wisdom?
- 68. *Pinky or The Brain

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- 69. Architectural projection
 - 70. CrÈme de cassis plus wine
 - 71. Un-written exams
 - 72. ____pool or ____pit
 - 73. One or some or all
 - 74. Find new tenant
- DOWN
- 1. *"____ Breaky Heart" by Billy Ray Cyrus
 - 2. Highlands hillside
 - 3. Raise the roof
 - 4. Leopard marks
 - 5. Bungle (2 words)
 - 6. Part of a hammer
 - 7. "____ the land of the free..."
 - 8. Heathrow craft
 - 9. Type of missile, accr.
 - 10. Aquarium organism
 - 11. Indian bread
 - 12. "____ Kerenina" by Tolstoy
 - 15. Breadcrumb, e.g.
 - 20. Contain the ashes
 - 22. Pen juice
 - 24. Amount in one's lap, pl.
 - 25. *The Vampire Slayer
 - 26. Accustom
 - 27. *"A ____ to Kill" and "Nick of ____"
 - 29. Bell sound
 - 31. Front or back one
 - 32. Factual evidence
 - 33. Quick and nimble
 - 34. *First cloned mammal's name
 - 36. Swarm like bees
 - 38. Don't go
 - 42. Pertaining to the ear
 - 45. Pertaining to reign
 - 49. Motion of ascent
 - 51. Bewitch
 - 54. Port city in Japan
 - 56. *Christian Dior's "J" ____
 - 57. Mass of particles
 - 58. Of low density
 - 59. Pupil controller
 - 60. December 24 and 31
 - 61. Bald eagle's nest
 - 62. Two-fold
 - 63. Same as island
 - 64. *TV show "Empty ____"
 - 67. *"____ and Juice" by Snoop Dogg

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SENIOR GAMES FLEA Market, Sat., June 3, 8am-1pm, Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Ga. Rd.. Call for booth \$20. Cody (828)349-2093.

CHURCH INDOOR Yard Sale. Saturday from 8-noon, 80 Heritage Hollow Drive, Franklin, behind the Gazebo Restaurant. Everything Half Price!

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