



Mountain View Intermediate fourth grader Gracie Parker leads local officials and members of the community on a walk from the downtown gazebo to Town Hall in a show of solidarity following a Youth Mental Health Rally on Sunday. Gracie has been advocating locally for more counseling and mental health services to help students through day-to-day stresses and traumatic situations. For the complete story, see page 12.
 Photo by Bob Scott

IN THIS ISSUE



Page 4

N.C. House passes bill to protect women's sports

Sylva official explains how social district works

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

Town of Franklin (TOF) Council members received input from some Franklin residents last month on social district alcohol permission allowances. On Monday evening, May 1, Bernadette Peters, Main Street Economic Development Director for the Town of Sylva, brought information based on Sylva's experience with starting up a similar process.

Peters provided data on Sylva's assessment with social districting, how it operates, and how one may impact Franklin. A social district is an exception to North Carolina's open container law and allows residents and visitors to partake of alcoholic beverages in specified downtown areas. Some provisions associated with social districts are

See SOCIAL page 2



Sylva's Main Street Economic Development Director Bernadette Peters spoke to the Franklin Town Council about the success of Sylva's social district experience.



Page 13

Franklin farm is first in county to win state award

828.369.6767
 www.themaconcountynews.com
 maconcountynews@gmail.com

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

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN CENTER
 FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

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



Sponsored by
**Russell Hawkins
 & Bald Head Realty**

MAY 12-13



**PUPPY
 PALS**

MAY 16

SOCIAL

Continued
from page 1

that drinks must be consumed from officially-designated containers received at drink purchase locations; visitors may stroll with their beverage within social district boundaries; people can ascertain whether retailers allow social district drinks before entering an establishment; and, a cup must be empty before entering another venue that serves alcohol. Sylva has 10 locations at which patrons may purchase drinks and 14 stores where people can shop while in possession of alcoholic beverages.

Rules and restrictions regarding the imbibing of an alcoholic beverage are in force in the Sylva district, such as: Must be consumed within designated timeframes and no outside alcohol is permitted within the district – all alcoholic beverages must be purchased and consumed within specified locations. According to the agreement in Sylva, the social district “allows for common areas where licensed establishments may sell alcoholic beverages in designated containers to be taken outside within the area for consumption.” Sylva also uses a designated logo to indicate which establishments participate within the district boundaries. Any costs associated with es-

tablishing and managing the social district are provided by the Town of Sylva. The town is also insured for management and provides sanitation services within the district, including trash removal and litter pick up.

During her address to the Council, Peters pointed out that while Sylva is still evaluating the success of the district, “the main purpose was to increase retail sales, especially in and immediately following the pandemic.” She added that getting people outside of establishments was more in keeping with mandates of the time that ordered social distancing and discouraged or disallowed people to congregate indoors.

Sylva was the second North Carolina town to implement a social district (Kannapolis being the first). With more than a year gone by to assess the change, Peters described the results as “very successful.” The state implemented the rule change to assist small businesses that were feeling ill effects from the restrictions. Towns can opt in to allow people to have open containers in town.

“We did research with other states – Alabama, Michigan – [with] some of the communities there and what they have done, and also Kannapolis to see what they had done,” she said. Sylva went through what Peters described as a “trial period” of six months, and whereas the original ordinance allowed open containers seven days a week, the town scaled that back to just weekends during the

trial period. “Although it didn’t seem like it changed retail sales tremendously, what it did do was relieve a lot of the congestion at restaurants and breweries,” added Peters.

Current rules in Sylva allow for the district implementation seven days a week, from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Sunday. Peters added that Sylva is looking at potentially extending until 10 p.m. to more closely align with some of the established operating hours of those businesses opting into the social district program. The district rules do not apply to any government-owned property.

Mayor’s Proclamations

Mayor Jack Horton presented numerous proclamations, including a “Thank You” from the American Legion to the Public Works staff, which was presented to Director Bill Deal. He also presented announcements for Firefighter Week (May 1-7), Police Week (May 9-20), and Public Works Week (May 21-27).

Public camping prohibition approved

As advertised last month, a public hearing was held on an amendment to Chapter 130 of the Town of Franklin Code of Ordinances to prohibit camping on public property. Presented by Police Chief Devin Holland and Town Attorney John Henning, the amendment required adoption by the Council. Once

approved, it is considered to be in full force and effective immediately. The main impetus for a hearing, according to Henning: “You (the Council) can extend authority out into the extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ), which is almost necessary for enforcement.” The county is also considering a similar adoption in order to protect applicable areas and both the Town and county are considering a joint effort to enforce the regulation, once passed, throughout the community. Only publicly-owned property is in play with this proposed ordinance change.

Private businesses or residents could still authorize camping for events such as festivals or other temporary gatherings. Part of the proposal states “the goal of the Town is to reduce inadequate housing, homelessness, and vagrancy within the Town of Franklin.” Council member Stacy Guffey pointed out that while he understands the need for some measure to combat a growing problem of unregulated camping or tenting by some who may have no other means of shelter or who simply choose to exist outside of established residences. However, he said, “We’re not taking care of the cause of those problems, which is homelessness.” Guffey went on to acknowledge that homelessness in the last 10 years has skyrocketed, especially in rural areas. “This is a band-aid on a problem that goes much deeper.”

The Council voted on and unanimously

CHRYSLER DODGE

Jeep RAM

Introducing

ANDEAN

Established 1948

**38 John Justice Rd.
Franklin, NC
828-369-5003**

approved the amendment.

Other business

Town Planner Justin Setser requested an additional streetlight at the corner of Ulco Drive and Wells Grove Rd. Expected increased cost per month is only about \$10 (Cost is \$9-10 dollars a month, without a new pole – closer to \$20 a month with a new pole) Setser does not anticipate needing one. This request was also unanimously approved by the Council.

As part of her fiscal year 2023-2024 Budget Overview, Town Manager Amie Owens advised that the Town revenue neutral tax rate will be 33 cents, which is a reduction of 2 cents from the previous amount. She also stated the town was able to balance its budget with no fund balance appropriations needed. A public hearing is scheduled for input to the budget June 5, at 6:10 p.m. Council Members



The Town Council was given an update on the status of the The Scott Griffin Hotel project at Monday's regular monthly meeting. The hotel operated on Main Street in Franklin in the early 1900s. An Opportunity Appalachia grant may allow the possibility of reviving the boutique hotel. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

approved fireworks at the Whitmire property on July 4, 2023. The approved contract includes a new vendor, Deep South Fireworks, who will orchestrate the Independence Day show.

The next scheduled Town of Franklin Council meeting is Monday, June 5, at 6 p.m.

Next week: Progress being made on historic downtown hotel project.

NOW LEASING!

Holly Haven

APARTMENT COMMUNITY




- Spacious 2 bedroom home, 904 sq. ft. of living area – largest 2br in the area
- Spacious 3 bedroom home, 1,235 sq. ft. of living area – largest 3br in the area
- Breakfast Bar & separate Dining Area
- Private Patio or Balcony with Additional Storage
- Washer & Dryer Connections in each unit PLUS Laundry Facilities On-site
- Playground & Basketball Court
- Picnic Area with Grills
- Car Wash Area
- Community Building for Resident Functions
- Computer Center for Residents
- Covered Mail Outlet Area
- Professional Management & 24 Hr. Emergency Maintenance

55 White Pine Circle • Franklin, NC
(828) 369-0444 Office • (828) 369-2968 Fax • HollyHaven@epmsites.com
Professionally Managed by Excel Property Management, Inc.



**MACON
FURNITURE
MART**

560 DEPOT STREET • FRANKLIN, NC
 (828) 369-8296
 MaconFurnitureMart.com

OLIN SOFA \$699

N.C. House bill defines players in women's sports

Deena B. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Bills and laws are being passed nationwide to prevent biological males from competing in female-only sports. On Wednesday, April 20, the North Carolina House passed what has been dubbed the "Fairness in Women's Sports Act," House Bill 574. This bill is specifically relevant to Macon County and Western North Carolina in that an incident occurred last September involving Hiwassee Dam High School senior and women's volleyball player Payton McNabb, who was injured due to a spike by a Highlands School volleyball athlete [unnamed] identifying as a transgender female. The YouTube posting of the volleyball play went viral and McNabb suffered extensive injuries as a result of the spike. Additionally, the incident has received ongoing national attention from such media outlets as *New York Post*, *Washington Examiner*, *Turning Point USA*, *FoxNews*, and more.

McNabb spoke recently at a press conference in Raleigh, stating that she was not able to complete her last volleyball season as a senior due to the injuries that have impacted her vision and resulted in "partial paralysis on my right side, constant headaches,



Hiwassee Dam High School senior Payton McNabb, who was injured last September due to a spike by a Highlands School volleyball player identifying as a transgender female, spoke at a recent press conference.

anxiety, depression ... I am still recovering," she said. "My ability to retain or comprehend has diminished ... I require accommodations during testing because of injuries ... I could go on and on."

On April 6, 2023, [H574-PCS30298-BE-17] the bill ... "An Act to Protect Opportunities for Women And Girls In Athletics," introduced in the General Assembly of North Carolina reads in part: "All teams participating in interscholastic or intramural athletic activities shall comply with the following: Each team shall be expressly designated by the biological sex of the team participants as one of the following: I. Males, men, or boys. II. Females, women, or girls. III. Coed or mixed. Athletic teams designated for females, women, or girls shall not be open to students of the male sex."

When McNabb spoke last week, she explained her reason for speaking out.

"I'm not here for me," she said. "My time playing has come to an end. I'm doing it for the biological female athletes coming after me – my little sister, my cousins, my teammates. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females is dangerous. My ability to compete was taken from me. Having to play against biological males is not a level playing field."

Because what is referred to as a "kill shot" resulted in significant injuries to McNabb in September, Hiwassee Dam High School chose to forfeit a follow-up Oct. 11 game to Highlands School. The Cherokee County school board also voted to forfeit all matches for its schools' women's volleyball teams against Highlands School.

McNabb was interviewed by *FoxNews*' Laura Ingram April 21, along with University of Kentucky swimmer, Riley Gaines, who

has spoken out about competing against Pennsylvania swimmer Lia Thomas, who was the first openly trans-woman champion in the NCAA to compete in the women's division. With regard to the controversial issue, Gaines told Ingram, "It's a mockery. It's not funny."

McNabb, who played volleyball for eight years, told *FoxNews*, "It [biological males competing against biological females] needs to come to an end."

Gaines, who has been traveling around the country to speak out against biological males competing in female-only sports, visited N.C. to support Bill 574, which she called a "common sense" bill. Afterwards, she Tweeted: "I was honored to stand alongside her [McNabb] in North Carolina to continue the fight to protect women's sports."

North Carolina joins more than 20 other states in efforts to ban transgender girls from playing on girls' sports teams in middle school and high school. Last week House Republicans in Washington, D.C., approved legislation — H.R. 734 (118) — that "bars transgender women from playing on teams consistent with their gender identity and amends Title IX, the federal education law that bars sex-based discrimination, to define sex as based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth," according to an April 20 *Politico* report.

The report further noted: "During debate over the bill on Wednesday, several GOP lawmakers argued the bill was necessary because of the Biden administration's new proposed Title IX rule on athletics eligibility that would allow transgender girls to play sports with some limitations. Democrats pushed back by invoking Utah Gov. Spencer Cox in their defense of transgender women and girls. ... The bill has no chance of becoming law as it is likely to stall in the Democrat-controlled Senate, and President Joe Biden has already announced that he would veto the bill if it were to reach his desk."

(Athletic directors and principals at both schools, Hiwassee Dam and Highlands, were contacted for comment; neither responded.)



FROG FAIR

**Saturday,
May 6
10am - 4pm**

There will be something for everyone!

Cards • Jewelry • Soaps
Wood Products • Tumblers
Rope Baskets & Bowls • Fabric Items
Leather Items • Adirondack Furniture
Honey Products • Hiking Staffs • Cat Toys
Paintings • Abstract Art • Folk Art Items
Self-published Books • Other Unique items

**LIVE MUSIC
and
FOOD TOO!**

Hop on over to our Pad-
573 E. Main Street
(at Town Bridge)

Gifts Galore - Think Mother's Day Shopping!!
For Information, email: frog28734@gmail.com

SPONSORS:  **H&R BLOCK** Franklin
 **Edward Jones** Serving Individual Investors Since 1871
 **Bill DeWandeler** CFP®, AAMS™

Come one, come all to
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 108's

Mother's Day Champagne Brunch

**Sunday, May 14
11am - 2pm**



Our brunch menu includes a mouth-watering array of breakfast items such as bacon, sausage, ham and our famous biscuits and gravy. If you're in the mood for something a little more extravagant, then you must try our eggs specialties like quiche, souffle, crepes and baked French toast along with other delicious items. You can choose refreshing juices, teas and coffees or raise a toast to your mom with champagne. We have a variety of desserts to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Come join us at our location
614 W. Main Street • Franklin, NC

\$12 Per Person • \$5 Children Under 10
Moms eat Free!

*Proceeds will go to the
Read2Me program.*

Shop Local for
Mother's Day
 SUNDAY, MAY 14



Rusted Arrow Market
 Farm House - Shabby Chic - Antiques
 828.421.0820

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

LeAnder's JEWELERS
 Estate Jewelry, Fine Diamonds,
 & Precious Gems

Open

Monday - Friday
10am-5pm

(828) 369-9440 38 E. MAIN ST. • FRANKLIN, NC

HAPPY Mother's Day



PERFECT GIFTS FOR MOM

Ruby City
 Gems & Minerals

(828)524-3967 130 E. Main St. Franklin, NC 28734 www.rubycity.com



Doodlebugs
 Home Décor • Artwork • Gifts
 828-634-0040
 52 E. Main St. • Franklin, NC Find Your Happy Place!

The Scottish Tartans Museum Gift Shop
 Happy Mother's Day!



Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
(828) 524-7472
 E. Main Street • Franklin, NC

Trail Mix

Curated gifts for all ages with a focus on handmade



31 E MAIN ST FRANKLIN
 828.421.9686
 TRAILMIXNC.COM

Shop Local for

Mother's Day

SUNDAY, MAY 14



North Carolina MOUNTAIN MADE

"WNC's Home of Authentic Handmade Arts & Crafts"

36 East Main Street • Franklin, NC
(828) 524-7766

MAY IS
mudpie
MONTH

25% OFF
Home Decor & More



MOSSY ROCK

GIFTS • HOME DECOR • ACCESSORIES

37 E Main Street • Franklin, NC
828.369.1612

Winter Break is Over, We're Back!



THE ATTIC
Antiques

Re-Imagined Vintage Finds & Ethnic Treasures

Hours: Mon.-Thur. 11-4 • Fri. & Sat. 10-4
268 Palmer Street • Franklin, NC (REAR)
(828)349-2900

20% OFF Kettles



LE CREUSET

Valid April 15 - May 15, 2023



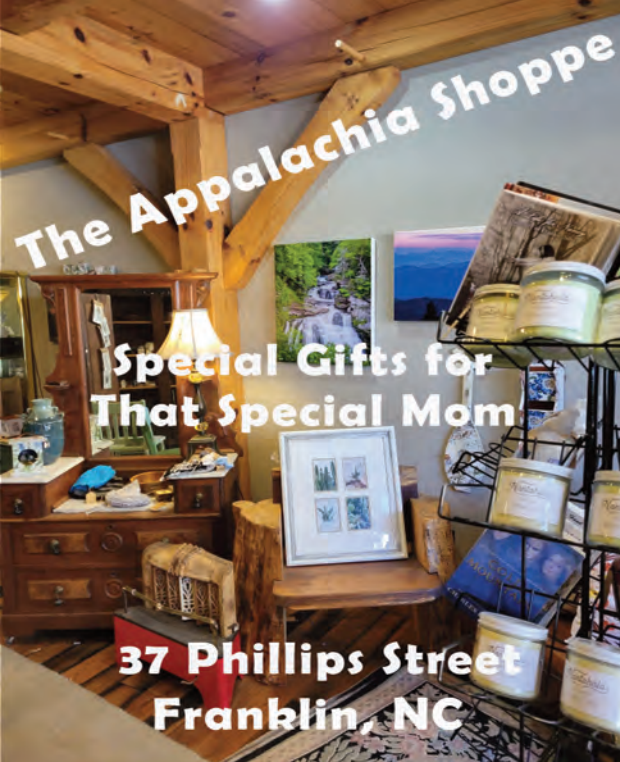
Kitchen Sink, inc.

72 E. Main St. Franklin, NC
828.524.2956
thekitchensinkinc.com

EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK

The Appalachia Shoppe

Special Gifts for That Special Mom



37 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC

Mother's Day BOGO Sale!



DIVA'S ON MAIN

BOUQUET • JEWELRY • ACCESSORIES

24 E. MAIN ST. FRANKLIN, NC
828.369.7300

the Flower Co.
Florist and Farmer of specialty cut flowers

Don't forget about ~ Mom ~
this Mother's Day

Mom deserves the freshest, longest lasting flowers available

Daily delivery service to Franklin and Highlands, NC and Clayton, GA.

Located at 11485 Georgia Road, Otto, NC
1 mile north of state line
828.524.2829
shop online: theflowercompanync.com

ATOMIC Annies

68 EAST MAIN STREET • FRANKLIN, NC

TATTOOS BY
AWARD
WINNING
PROFESSIONAL
ARTISTS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

WHISTLE STOP DEPOT
ANTIQUES, SHOPS & RV PARK

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

Shop Local for
Mother's Day
SUNDAY, MAY 14

Remember Mom this Mother's Day

STATE LINE SPIRITS

706-746-2005 • 8340 Hwy. 441 N, Dillard, GA 30537

SAVE up to \$1,200 with a New Federal Tax Credit on Energy-Efficient Hunter Douglas Shades*

HunterDouglas

- Help reduce your monthly utility costs with Hunter Douglas shades specifically designed to provide year-round insulation
- Contribute to a more sustainable environment by lowering your energy use

Contact Us to Learn More

Creative INTERIORS

278 W Palmer Street • Franklin, NC
M-F: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sat: By Appointment Sun: Closed

828-369-6275
www.creativeinteriorsnc.com

*For tax credit details and restrictions and a list of qualifying products, see the Manufacturer's Certification Statement and FAQs at www.hunterdouglas.com/tax-credit. Hunter Douglas and its dealers are not tax advisors. Consult a tax professional regarding your individual tax situation and ability to claim a tax credit related to the purchase of the qualifying Duette® Honeycomb Shades.
© 2023 Hunter Douglas. All rights reserved. All trademarks used herein are the property of Hunter Douglas.

Summer 'Blue Tape' Specials On Several In Stock Mowers Going On Now!



Mowers • Weed Eaters • Blowers • Etc.

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

MACON RENTAL CO.

SINCE 1978

537 W. Main Street • Franklin, NC

828-524-8911 • maconrentalco.com



BRYANT'S ANTIQUE MALL

Open:

MON - SAT 10AM - 5PM
SUN 11AM - 5PM

71 E. MAIN ST., FRANKLIN, NC
(828) 524-0280

SEVERAL HOMES READY FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

GEMSTONE VILLAGE

55 and over Active Adult Community

Platted Subdivision off Prentiss Bridge Road with Internet, City Water and Sewer



NOW AVAILABLE -

2 BR/2 BA homes starting at \$175,500

3 BR/2 BA homes starting at \$180,000

MANUFACTURED HOMES + LAND

CALL 828-200-4168

GemstoneVillageNC.com

Email: sales@gemstonevillagenc.com
Manufactured Home Dealer License No. 47699

FHS Diamond Notes: Softball continues stellar season

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

Franklin High School (FHS) baseball and softball teams experienced varying highs and lows the past couple of weeks on the diamond. The varsity girls extended their winning streak, while Panthers baseball had mixed results, with one shining moment being a no-hitter April 21.

Softball rolls on

The Lady Panthers have earned a very impressive 12-game winning streak and are steamrolling toward a Mountain Seven Conference (MSC) regular season championship. FHS softball continued its dominance April 28 with a 17-0 home win over the Smoky Mountain Mustangs. This game followed one in which FHS overwhelmed North Henderson, 20-3, on April 25. With only two conference games left, the Lady Panthers have a 16-3 (10-1 conference) record with their only loss coming back in mid-March at Tuscola. Their next most recent victory came Friday, April 21, when they defeated the Pisgah Black Bears in Canton by a score of 6-3.

Star players continued to shine in the win over the Mustangs. FHS pounded out 18 hits. Some stand-outs included senior Tori Ensley with a 3 for 4 night that included scoring two runs, driving two in, and also hitting two doubles. Junior Delaney Stiles had two runs batted in (RBI) of her own, including a home run (HR). Freshman Kendall Rumans had another strong night offensively going 2 for 3 with one RBI, a triple and a HR. Junior pitcher Meyaeh Tran went all five innings, allowing only two hits to go along with three strikeouts.

Remaining games on the schedule included a game at West Henderson Tuesday, May 2, and the final home game vs. TC Roberson Thursday, May 4.

Baseball heads toward conference

This month opened with the Panthers traveling to Hendersonville to again face the West Henderson Falcons on Monday, May 1. The Falcons came in undefeated in conference but suffered their first loss as FHS beat them 10-8. The hitting star of the night was senior Caleb Cloer, who went 3-4 at the plate with two doubles, and four RBI. Hayes also scored two of the 10 runs by the Panthers. Also contributing was junior Jaden Rogers, who logged two hits of his own to go with two RBI. FHS finished the regular season third in the MSC with a 7-5 record. Their next and last game before the conference tournament will be at Christ School in Arden May 4.

On Tuesday, April 25, the varsity baseball team celebrated Senior Night. Four players, J.J. Postell, Ben Waldrop, Davis Anders, and Caleb Cloer were recognized, along with their parents and families.

Mission Health Sports Program Manager Shelli Landis, Angel Medical Center Administrative Supervisor Cara Smith, FHS Head Athletic Trainer Lynnette Gibson, and Athletic Trainer Justin Byland were recognized by the Mission Health system for their support to FHS athletics.

Both the varsity and junior varsity (JV) squads lost their games that evening. In the varsity team's case, they battled a



FHS Panthers beat the Falcons on the road to end West Henderson's undefeated conference season.
Photo by Amy Vanhook Anders

Falcons team that was 8-0 in conference and 16-3 overall. The Panthers lost 4-0, managing only six hits for the entire game. The JV boys also lost their game, 11-2. Coming off a no-hitter vs. Smoky Mountain, junior pitcher Josiah Hursey got through the first two innings, again not allowing a hit.

Following a tough loss at Smoky Mountain, April 18, the baseball Panthers were eager to have another shot at the Mustangs. While both contests were originally scheduled to be played at the Western Carolina University campus, Franklin moved their home game back to Macon Middle School. With only two more conference games left, and both against first place West Henderson, FHS was eager to notch a win April 21.

And what a win it was – junior pitcher Josiah Hursey threw a five-inning no-hitter in a 10-0 win. Head Coach Jared Greenwood said about the performance, “Josiah threw the ball great. The defense was behind him all night and our bats finally showed back up. Great team win – which we needed. Most fight we have had all season and we will build off that moving into this week as we close out the conference and get ready for the playoffs.”

On the offensive side of things, the Panthers logged 11 hits, with three batters each getting two safeties. Juniors Reed Raby and Ian Knepp each had RBI as did senior Davis Anders. Sophomore Tyler Williams also had two hits – a double and a triple, along with an RBI of his own. FHS set the tone in the first with four runs scored and then scored two in each of the next two innings. They closed out the bottom of the fifth with the final two runs to reach the 10-run mercy margin and thereby secure Hursey's gem.

The FHS junior varsity team was shut out at West Henderson Monday, May 1, by a score of 13-0. They also lost their home game against the Falcons April 25, 11-2. However, the previous week, the boys won one against Smoky Mountain, 6-5. In that game, Head Coach Colin Taylor's team logged their third win in five attempts. The JV Panthers are now 3-10 on the season with just one remaining game at North Buncombe that was played Tuesday, May 2.



FHS Athletic Trainers recognized at baseball game 25 April. Pictured (L-R) are Mission Health Sports Program Manager Shelli Landis; FHS Head Athletic Trainer Lynnette Gibson; Head Baseball Coach Jared Greenwood; Athletic Trainer Justin Byland; Angel Medical Center Administrative Supervisor Cara Smith; and FHS Athletic Director Ryan Haley.



Rev-it-Up For the Vets

Cruise In & Benefit for the Macon County Veteran's Associations

Saturday May 13th
10am - 2pm

Music, Food, and Fun for the whole family!

\$10 Entry Fee Per Vehicle

Come out and have a day of fun supporting those who have done so much to serve us!

All Proceeds go to Vietnam Veterans



**COUNTRYSIDE
CHEVROLET**
FRANKLIN, NC



PLEASE CONTACT KEVIN SINDEN FOR MORE INFO

71 CAT CREEK ROAD, FRANKLIN, NC • 828-524-0734 • WWW.COUNTRYSIDECHEVY.COM

What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Last week I attended the annual conference of the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Governor Cooper spoke at the main luncheon. I, along with other mayors and elected officials, was glad to hear the governor say that municipalities should have more autonomy in making zoning and development regulations rather than having legislators in Raleigh make those decisions.

In fact, there was a lot of discussion of proposed bills intended to curtail the ability of towns and cities to set local zoning, land use and development policies. The proposed bills on accessory dwelling units, STRs, workforce housing and water rates were being discussed.

May 4 is the crossover deadline where bills proposed by each house have to be sent to the other branch for consideration. Case in point, HB 409-Accessory Dwelling Units now has to crossover to the senate. If a bill, like HB 409, does not make the crossover, it is supposedly dead for this legislative session.

I used the word "supposedly," because as the budget moves toward finalization and legislators are ready to go home for the summer, anything can happen. For instance, the short term rental lobby attempted to attach a beneficial provision to their industry at the last moment during the previous term, but watchdogs caught the move and stopped it. In this term 1500 bills have been introduced.

I also attended several sessions on hot topics. One was promoted as a session on how towns can manage STR issues. A large number of elected officials were in the room hoping to share information and learn more about how to address STRs. Instead, we received an infomercial representing major STR providers such as Airbnb. The message was to register, permit, regulate STRs, and hold community meetings where all the issues on both sides could be resolved. In the brief Q&A that followed, I pointed out the STR regulation roadblocks facing NC municipalities, especially because of the ruling by the NC Court of Appeals concerning the Wilmington STR ordinance. One panelist proclaimed the NC Vacation Rental Act passed during the 1990s was adequate to address all STR issues that a town would face. I begged to differ on that optimistic assumption. Many of us left the presentation very disappointed.

At roundtable discussions with other elected officials I found we had many common concerns. One was recruiting and retaining qualified personnel, especially in law enforcement. Almost all towns were seeking grants for critical infrastructure projects, especially water and sewer upgrades. Everyone had also experienced supply chain problems. And we all exchanged ideas about how to promote more community involvement and facilitate better communication with our citizens.

Letters to the Editor

Highlands Pre-K project needs to move forward

I attended the April 24th Macon County School Board meeting at Highlands School and was pleased to hear the Highlands School Project remains a priority for the School Board. Specifically, behind the \$118 million new Franklin High School, Highlands School & Pre-K Project is the number one project that has a funding need which is estimated to be less than \$5 million. The School Board pointed out two emergency repair projects that have to be funded immediately but there should be more than adequate funding to cover those needs with a \$40 million fund balance.

The residents, businesses and the families that call Macon County home need the Highlands School Project to move forward as quickly as possible. The Pre-K is a key component of this project and the Highlands community currently has 53 children on a waiting list to receive childcare. Freeing up the childcare space with Pre-K space will provide more opportunities for our children and their families. I am hopeful the Franklin School Project will continue to progress and we receive a grant from the state to help pay for the new Franklin School.

Moving forward, we need the Macon County Board of Commissioners to reinstate the initial funding for the Highlands School Project. We cannot afford to wait for another budget cycle or two, because every moment that is wasted potentially places another child behind in their education progress. I urge the commissioners to put the Highlands School Project on the May agenda and give us an up or down vote, taking into consideration the School Board's priority list and the Highlands School Project placement on that list.

Jerry Moore – Highlands, N.C.

You can't strengthen the weak by weakening the strong

It should be a surprise to no one - the United States has been "outed." I tried (Oh, how I tried - for the better part of 50 years) to warn Americans this was bound to happen but it took a 21-year-old low level U.S. Airman trying to impress his fellow dweebs in an online chat room revealing classified information to humiliate and expose our nation (former leader of the free world) in outright disarray, inept, weak, off course and unreliable.

The documents revealed included vital present-day military intelligence European leaders (our allies) understandably didn't want shared. It was reported in LaRepubblica (Italy) the breach "poses a potential danger to Ukraine."

Annett Meiritz in Handelsblatt (Germany) called it a "clown show," and followed up with, "the gigantic security apparatus of the United States is apparently being protected amateurishly." Having served in the Naval Security Group

20 years, that cuts deep, but, she was actually being kind, the U.S. is awash in amateurishness and bush-league professionalism.

U.S. politicians (once hailed as "statesmen" and "trustees of the people") will likely use this grave violation of national security as a campaign dig at opposing parties and adversaries. We may rest assured; however, our real adversaries (and our allies) are assessing the damage and the breakdown for exactly what it is, gross incompetence and negligence and a crystal-clear sign the United States cannot be trusted.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong any more than you can create a lean mean fighting military machine by eliminating time-tested standards of readiness without incurring severe losses and making huge sacrifices. It has been tried time and time again - it never works. If it did it would be the coolest thing since sliced bread and we all know there's nothing cooler than sliced bread.

Of course such was not always the case. When sliced bread made its debut in 1928 (95 years ago) it received less than rave reviews. Baker and inventor Otto Frederick Rohwedder had spent 15 years perfecting his bread slicer (finally settling on one that wrapped the sliced bread to hold it together as opposed to the hat pins he'd tried earlier), but consumers weren't quick to convert.

People found sliced bread strange and senseless. It wasn't until the advent of Wonder Bread, and the collective realization that sliced bread worked better in the toaster, that Rohwedder's invention really took off. By WWII, the military was using sliced bread to serve peanut-butter and jelly sandwiches as part of soldiers' rations. Previously uncommon, PB&J gained a loyal following among servicemen, who kept making the sandwich after they came back to the home front. I served on one ship early in my career, slept in canvas hammocks, and enjoyed PB&J sandwiches frequently.

I also consider myself most fortunate to have lived and served in a time (albeit a time long past) when the Armed Services promoted high standards and we were expected to do our level best to live up to those standards, ethical values and principles. It was a time when truth mattered and when lies and questionable behavior resulted in sometimes dire consequences.

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

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

The Macon County
NEWS
& Shopping Guide

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

www.themaconcountynews.com

Email: maconcountynews@gmail.com

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

Betsey Gooder
Publisher /Advertising Director

Teresa S. Tabor, Editor

Jay Baird
Advertising Representative

Shana Bilbrey **Emily Hughes**
Graphic Designer Graphic Designer

Vickie Carpenter, Classifieds/Photographer

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Dan Finnerty **Diane Peltz**
Contributing Writer Contributing Writer

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

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

Kids know what information they need to learn

I am wondering whether Mr. McGaha has been around teens of the 14-17 ages or has parented teenage boys. From the quotes he cited in one of the books in the young adult section of the library, I wonder if he realizes most teenage boys would find that dialogue hilarious. If the book he quoted was in the young adult section (14-14) then I would say our librarians knew exactly what teen boys would like and the book was in the right place.

At what point do we stop “protecting” our kids – when they are 18? Do we just throw them into the sea of adults and say “swim?” I hope not. We need to gradually relax the reins and let them make their own choices about their reading material. They know what information they need to learn, and they will be more prepared to enter the adult world if they have that information to make their own choices.

Barbara Bonsack – Franklin, N.C.

Church strangely silent over some cultural issues

As a young boy growing up I never realized just what racism was, I was too busy doing boy things and never knew much of anything outside my world of innocence. Although I knew there were concerns of many in questioning what was about to take place, even within my church there was a uneasiness of the unknown.

But the church had no stand or shared with me what to make of all this, and my life was confused and uncertain. Later, in understanding, I've grown a great admiration of Dr. M.L. King and what he stood for seeking peaceful efforts toward equality and freedom for all people. Then years later finding young people in rebellion of most all authority and the use of drugs becoming popular in seeking awareness of the inner self, and any reference of God was belittled and man was evolving towards the ultimate self. Again, the church was uneasy and never explained to me how to reason and make sense within a world of uneasiness and confusion.

Our current world is no different and ever more in turmoil and our most innocent are forced into a world which many

have no one there to defend them. And sadly I personally have found the church again seems somewhat absent in being in the forefront of speaking out for the innocence of children. I'm not painting all this with a broad brush. But often the church as well as society in general seems caught off guard of current events which makes them become silent, and just as myself as a young man with nothing to support my faith, all the while believing in God but not able to support just what I believed. In my thinking “what good is my faith if I can't make sense of it myself and explain it to others?”

Because when I was in college my professor said if you believe in God it's all foolishness and wishful thinking, and scriptures are all fairy tales. So silence seemed the best way to survive my confused world. But in all thankfulness, all has changed and my faith is true and founded. All this being said, what I have come to see and this is my personal view, is many of us want to share, be, and display a love and find acceptance of others. Just as Christ would want us, but this does not mean becoming timid or remaining silent. Some that I have talked with see no reason to be involved with our current library issue of having sexually explicit books and materials within the reach of our most innocent, the comment was, “it's all going to happen anyway, and if you highlight the issue children will actually draw interest to it.” And if this is the view of some in leadership you really need to preach that god is dead and belief is just a figment of your imagination. So then young people might seek the opposite and then find a belief in God? If you can't explain these issues with our young, it's because you yourself can't explain within your heart what these life changing differences are. So once again, society and sadly, churches raise a white flag not being able to give a reason and a hope for the faith they truly should have. Believe me I take no pride in this letter that I write. But I see a terrible human fault within faith in Christ, that I rest my life upon. I'm glad Christ never said, “why give my life,” humanity is just going be sinful anyway. Or, evil is good for you, so hopefully you might believe the opposite. All this is nonsense to me and our young see no example of any value in a faith you can't defend. If you like further discussion, love to meet over coffee.

Deni Shepard – deni.shepard828@gmail.com

Pros and cons of ADUs

Jeanne S. Chambers – Highlands Realtor

“I Do” or “Adieu” for ADU? What is an ADU? ADU stands for Accessory Dwelling Unit and can mean an attached or detached residential structure that is used primarily for a single-family dwelling/residence. If you think ADUs are new, think again. They've been around forever, just under a different name. Names like: Carriage house, mother-in-law suite, garage apartment, etc. ADU is a new-ish term, but call yours whatever you want.

Here's the thing. Do you want to embrace and marry an ADU revision to our zoning ordinance? Do you take this ADU to be your lawfully joined residence on your property? If so, say “I DO.” Do you think an ADU revision would be an abhorrent idea in our town? If so, say, Adieu!

Our town [Highlands] had a community plan done in 2021. Of the survey sent out to all the business owners, 62 businesses responded representing 1203 employees.

- 61% agree more hotels or rentals downtown would help their business.
- 51% agree more residential housing would be helpful to their business.
- 0% agree that employee housing is readily available.

Now let's look at the pros and cons. ALWAYS the optimist, I'll start with the Pros, the positive aspects of ADUS.

1. BOOM! ADUs could help alleviate the problem of employee/workforce housing. According to a recent AARP article, “Unlike tiny homes, ADUs are compact but not teeny, so they're a more practical option for individuals, couples and families seeking small, affordable housing.” And “ADUs are often hidden from view because they're positioned behind or indistinct from the main house.

2. ADUs offer young people/ adult children entry-level housing choices. Whether it's your own 20-something wanting to strike out on their own, or your 40-50 something who needs to move back home. Either of these scenarios means someone needs a place to stay until they can get on their feet, which can be anywhere from three months to three years. An ADU would be the most affordable way to go.

3. ADUs have less impact on the community. These are a way to increase density of residential neighborhoods without necessarily having cluster homes or huge developments.

4. ADUs can help homeowners stay in their homes longer. Whether older homeowners need a little income to help pay their taxes and other expenses, or they want to downsize by moving themselves into their ADU while renting their main house to a local family, either helps the neighborhood stay a neighborhood.

Here are the Cons, some of the possible negative reactions.

1. ADUs will turn into STRs. Some have already voiced the possibility of an ADU turning into a short-term rental. Under the current zoning, that wouldn't be possible. Since an ADU is rather close to or is a part of a main dwelling, the possibility of a STR (less than 30 nights) isn't as likely.

2. Allowing ADUs will be like the wild, wild west. A new frontier. Everybody and their brother will have ADUs. Although I can't guarantee anything, my bet is that not everybody on your street or in your neighborhood would not want renters in their backyard.

Our office currently manages five long-term rentals (LTRs). If we had 10 additional LTRs, they would probably have no trouble staying filled. We get calls and drop-ins all the time about long-term rentals (year-round and for the season). Incidentally, if we don't have anything for them, we usually ask them to put an ad in this paper, so if you know of a home for rent, have them check the paper and/or put in their own ad.

We need to support HB-409. I do NOT agree with those who say that STRs have taken away all the affordable housing for local workers and their families. We've had the same problem in at least the past 31 years that I've been helping people find housing.

Contact your local representatives to voice your concerns.

Congressman Chuck Edwards 200 N. Grove St., Ste. 121, Hendersonville, NC 28792 828-425-7310

Representative Karl Gillespie 300 N. Salisbury St. Rm. Raleigh, NC 27603 530 919-733-5859

Senator Kevin Corbin 300 N. Salisbury St., Rm. 623, Raleigh, NC 27603 919-733-5875

And call your mother, she'll steer you the right way.

Nantahala Bank News

Jim VanderWoude Retires as Chairman of the Board

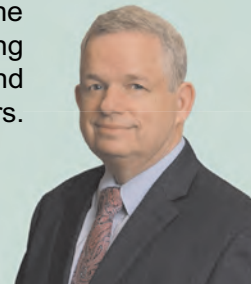
Jim VanderWoude, was one of the founders and organizers of the bank and Chairman of the Board of Directors since its inception. Jim brought the idea of a local bank o life in the early 2000's. Nantahala Bank became a state-chartered bank in Franklin, NC in 2004, and has grown to include branches in Hayesville and Murphy, NC. In the last few years, the bank has seen strong loan and deposit growth as well as profitability. Jim

decided this was a good time for him to retire from the board, but is very interested in the bank's continued success. We wish Jim the best in all of his future endeavors and thank him for his contributions to the bank.



Tim Hubbs Elected Chairman

Nantahala Bank is pleased to announce Tim Hubbs has accepted the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors of Nantahala Bank. Tim retired as CEO of the bank in October, and continued in his role as a board member. Tim was instrumental in the organization of the bank in 2003 and has a vested interest in the bank succeeding. In his new position, he will work with the board and senior managers to move the bank forward into a new chapter of growth, utilizing the latest technology and offering the best products and services for our customers.



First Youth Mental Health-Help Rally held in Franklin Sunday

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

Fourth grader Gracie Parker who went to Washington to speak about youth mental health, helped organize a Mental Health Pep Rally this past Sunday. The town of Franklin came together along with several politicians and other prominent members of the community. Ronda Drake, of Sonny's Music Lounge, was approached by Gracie to help emcee the event. Sound technician Dallas Boyce provided and monitored the equipment. Gracie and her family met Drake when they attended worship gatherings there on Thursdays and on Fridays they would go listen to bands and musicians. As soon as Drake heard Gracie's story she was willing to help support the cause.

Gracie knows all too well about issues surrounding mental health. Her message is clear: "Speak up and stand with me." Incarceration, bullying, deployment, loss of a parent, domestic violence, sexual assault, foster families, suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, and health issues all plague today's youth.

State Senator Kevin Corbin, county commissioners Danny Antoine, Josh Young and Gary Shields, Franklin Mayor Jack Horton, Franklin Chief of Police Devin Holland, School board member Diedre Breeden, and Union Academy Principal Diane Cotton, were all there to show their support.

A former principal speaks

Gary Shields was the principal at Franklin High School (FHS) for 21 years. He retired from the school system in 2010. He explained to the crowd that when he was principal, the FHS handbook spoke about breaking the rules.

"Today, the handbook speaks about breaking the law. ... When I was in fourth grade I didn't know about mental health issues, I didn't know about suicidal thoughts, I didn't even know what the word 'suicide' meant. Deployment was not something you had to worry about, I am a Viet Nam Vet but we didn't worry about that in fourth grade. Foster families was an unfamiliar term. Domestic violence may have existed but in fourth grade I did not have to worry about it. Incarceration of a parent was not on the minds of a fourth grader when I was 10. Today, the majority of these kids live it and deal with it on a daily basis. That's just not right."

School Board member encourages

Diedre Breeden spoke about the issues children are facing today. She said that aside from being a school board member, she has three children and owns a local private counseling practice, and one of her focus areas is trauma.

"I often tell new clients who are nervously sitting in front of me for the first appointment, wondering how their reality will be perceived, sometimes worrying about being judged, that we all have 'stuff' and none of us are alone in life ... because I've been through my own 'stuff,' and I get it," she explained. "Several years ago I spoke at an event to increase suicide awareness ... the stats showed that students as young as 10 years old were experiencing suicidal thought or even contemplating attempts. The stats aren't any better today, with suicide being the 12th leading cause of death in the

U.S., according to the National Institute of Mental Health. And more disturbing numbers ... suicide is the second leading cause of death for those ages 10-14."

Breeden explained that some of the more recent research from the CDC reports 1 in 5 youth witness violence in their community, 30% of students report increasing mental health issues since the pandemic. Only about half of those actually experiencing mental health issues seek and receive treatment.



"There is a significant increase in anxiety and depression in our youth, which has only been exacerbated by the pandemic, and yes, we are still seeing effects of this, as well as a connection to social media use," said Breeden. "For the parents and guardians out there, I want to encourage you to be involved in your child or teens online activity. Monitor, pursue, don't let your child drift away. Our children are truly our future. They are growing up in a world where they are surrounded by influences that can break them down and destroy them. We can be influences that lift them up and teach them how valuable they are."

"I'm here to tell you, we are not defined by traumas we have experienced or the situation we're dealing with. ... Gracie, you're not letting your circumstances determine your future ... you are taking what has happened and breaking the patterns of those before you. That's what I believe growth truly is. Breaking patterns, creating goals for the future and creating new patterns that move you closer to those goals. As you do this, and you live life together, your ripple effect grows too. I'm so happy to know you. I'm encouraged by you. Good job, sweet girl," Breeden concluded.

A principal understands

Union Academy principal Diane Cotton shared her experience at the alternative school. "When Gracie came to me several weeks ago to pitch her ideas and ask me to speak, I was very proud of her determination and self advocacy skills," said Cotton. "I am equally proud of Kennedy and Manny for being brave and

speaking from their hearts. In my position, we spend the majority of the day listening to students and trying to find resources. I am also proud of my teachers for being attuned to students. We can tell when they step off the bus how they are mentally."

Cotton relayed how she began asking her students, "what do you want the adults in the community and in your personal life to know about mental health?" The most overwhelming response, and actually the one thing every child said was, "Listen to me."

She says, "tune in and listen, teach them how to overcome negative events in their life."

"We need to create a new normalcy in how wellness feels. Engage in conversation in safe places," she explained. "Offer opportunities to be able to support them with appropriate resources. We need to teach them to be introspective and also be introspective in how we respond. Be proactive because mental health is the same as physical health. Trauma is a cycle. When we heal ourselves we heal past and future generations."

"On Friday, the 2022 National Child Wellness Survey results were released. 50% of children between 12-18 have contemplated suicide. Listen to understand, allowing them to have a voice to speak, affirming their thoughts. We must allow non-judgmental listening. Pay attention to words you use, put away your phone. Validate their experience. Be transparent and let them know you don't have all answers, then reach out to a professional. Have conversations, talk at the family table, turn off the TV and put away those phones and have meaningful conversations. Write letters to each other, chat and play, talk over art activities, take hikes and talk, we live in the most beautiful area with trails, waterfalls and natural beauty."

"This rally today is a good start to being



proactive rather than reactive to this crisis affecting our children today. Let's not allow this momentum to die. We must keep our children's mental health in the forefront of our community. Just listen," she concluded.

A student pleads for a call to action

Emanuel Perez is an 11th grade student at UA. He spoke of his own struggles with mental health.

"When my mom died," he began, "I was 9 years old. My dad raised me along with my sisters. I definitely feel that my mom's death was the beginning to my mental health issues. I was depressed and didn't know how to act. It was so hard to talk about her because no one wanted to listen. I just wish that adults in my life, back then, would've taken the time to help and lis-

ten."

He continued, "I want the community to know that mental health is a real thing and kids are dealing with situations that kids shouldn't be going through. Like bullying and problems going on at home, it's too much for kids and I think they need someone professional who they can talk to."

Drug abuse symptomatic of mental health issues

Franklin Police Chief Devin Holland addressed the crowd at the rally.

"As a law enforcement agency, we constantly deal with adults with mental health issues and substance abuse problems," Holland explained. "The majority of our calls for service and crimes are related to mental health and substance abuse which typically are hinged onto one another. For many years WNC has lacked the resources and facilities to treat mental illness. I'm proud to say I am a part of a newly formed mental health task force that is comprised of many organizations and agencies in our region that has some facet in the mental health arena. We have been brainstorming ideas and strategies to bring more resources to this area to improve treatment for mental illness and substance abuse. One of our biggest problems now is the drug use in our community. People are overdosing and dying too often. These people are your family and friends. Just a few weeks ago during the week of Easter the Franklin area had four overdose deaths. Three of those were within a 24-hour period. Law enforcement in Macon County responds to overdoses many times each week. Most are saved, but that's not always the case. The drugs being used today are unforgiving to mortality. Narcan, the drug reversal medication, is not as effective on the new cocktail drugs we are seeing today. A user's body also develops a tolerance to the Narcan reversal effects."

"The mental health system will never be perfect but if we can provide more help to more people then we can make a huge difference. Remember mental illness and substance abuse does

not discriminate families or social status. We all have a part in the successful development of mental health and well-being. The Franklin Police Department will do our part and be involved however we can to improve mental health resources," Holland concluded.

A town comes together

When the rally was over the town came together and walked from the gazebo to Town Hall to show their solidarity. This town has likely not heard the last from Gracie Parker. Although her latest words are "I'm a freak without a circus" she is determined to change how mental health is dealt with in Franklin and possibly the country. Gracie is one 10 year old fourth grade student who has taken her challenges and is confronting them head on.

H&H Farms wins state conservation award

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

Adam and Katy Huscusson were both born and raised in Macon County. Back in the early 2000s, Adam found himself looking for something more to do. He already worked a firefighter job in Gwinnett County, Ga., which involved him driving a few hours, round-trip, from his home at least two days each week. However, his schedule afforded him more days off compared to a routine Monday-Friday schedule. So, one day he decided to plant some corn.

Fast forward to January 2023, when it was announced that his H&H Farms was the North Carolina 2022 Outstanding Conservation Farm Family Award winner – the first such Macon County business to garner the state-level recognition in its nearly 50 years of existence. As reported in Macon County News back in February, a celebration of the state level recognition will be held Tuesday, May 9, at the Moss Valley Venue in Franklin. State and local officials have been invited to the event.

“I know what is out there (in terms of competition for the award) ... it’s been a humbling experience and it holds your feet to the fire now,” said Huscusson. “Before you wanted to do good and now, you’re expected to do good.” He also emphasized that Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District nominated H&H. “We didn’t put our name in, and I would never put my name in. They asked if they could (nominate us).”

Huscusson said he became a farmer because he needed something useful to do. Growing and selling feed corn was a way to serve other farmers and satisfies his need to produce something. Initially, the project consisted of 10 acres for growing only corn. The acreage has grown to roughly 500 acres, 370 acres of which is still used for field corn. Some land is owned, some leased, and all is located within the Cartoogechaye community. The H&H farming area now includes cow pastures, strawberries, and seasonal produce such as potatoes, pumpkins, and sweet corn, in addition to the feed corn. The sweet corn, in particular, has proven to be a strong selling product locally.

H&H Farmstand is located on Highway 64, just past Parker Meadows. The spot serves practical purposes for storage and more, but it is also a place where the public can purchase Huscusson’s produce, walk a corn maze in the fall, enjoy some soft serve ice cream, and pick up local jams, jellies, locally raised beef, and more. During most of the growing season, one can find Katy Huscusson or another family member assisting with information or processing a purchase within their single-story farmstand building. In fact, the H&H effort is very much a family affair. Katy’s father, Jackie Mashburn, and both Adam’s parents, Harold and Carolyn Huscusson, as well as Carolyn’s twin sister, Marilyn Jones, all help out with either farm work in the field or business sales in the farm stand building.

During school hours September through May, Katy teaches advanced mathematics to fifth and sixth graders at Mountain View Intermediate School in Franklin. Between working two jobs, raising two children, and farming hundreds of acres, one might wonder how the Huscussons can manage it all. To hear them tell the story, they wouldn’t have it any other way.

A visit in early March found a few men working on clearing some of the land around the farmstand property. The excava-

tion is in preparation for a chemicals’ storage facility, where fertilizer and other crop management supplies can be stored safely and a proper distance from the farmstand building. A crew was also smoothing out freshly poured cement for the floor of two new loading docks and an eventual cooling area to store produce. Plans are for a new well to be drilled in the near future as the need for an additional water source has surfaced, due to increased farming on the 40 acres adjacent to the stand itself. According to their website, H&H Farms generates roughly \$87,000 a year in revenue, primarily from their harvesting and selling of feed corn. The farm-to-table produce sales play a much smaller role currently, but this segment of the farming business is also increasing.

According to Katy Huscusson, “Adam is just sort of brilliant in building exactly what he wants; he created a corn dryer pit and an auger drying system. We harvest it (corn), we dry it, and we truck it throughout the winter.”

In the interim, a corn bin is used to store any corn supply that overtakes the ability to deliver it to customers immediately and an additional one may soon be needed. They have recently ex-

panded to selling “home grown” beef from cows housed on the nearby Killian farm-leased property as well.

“We now have 150 chickens and then we’re getting into pork this year.” H&H currently has 22 steers for meat sales and “mommamas for more beef.”

The family business is also working closely with North Carolina-based AgroBusiness (AB) to do feed corn test plots; AB provides the seed, but H&H does the growing - from planting to tending to harvesting, and then AB runs the numbers on productivity at the end of the year.

“In 2020 we won a state contest - we had the highest corn yield in the state of North Carolina,” said Huscusson.

“When we started this produce stand, we didn’t grow a ton and I went to the Asheville Farmers Market two to three times a week. Our ultimate goal is to only sell what we grow,” Katy emphasized. “The award was mostly based on conservation efforts. We’ve built a new feed lot; Adam dug a well to water the cows; he did a lot of fencing to keep them up away from our waterways so that we’re preserving the waters in our county.”

H&H also sponsors school field trips for other teachers and homeschool groups; if they want, they get lessons.

“We worked in the N.C. Farm-to-School program last year and worked with the Macon County Nutrition and went into two second grade classes, told them how we farmed, what we grow, and we learned about seeds and plants. Then they got to come for a field trip here and pick strawberries, etc. We always bundle in an ice cream cone. Another goal is to keep things reasonably priced and affordable for our community.”

Adam emphatically stated that if he had known all the attention winning the award would garner, he probably would not have agreed to be nominated.

“I like to be as far away from the spotlight as possible,” explaining that being a farmer at heart, the fuss is a bit overwhelming.

Between drought, flooding, and wild animal issues, the Huscussons have endured many farming challenges, but he is also quick to point out, “We’ve been blessed with rain, being in a temperate rainforest.”



Adam and Katy Huscusson at their farmstand on Hwy. 64 in Franklin.

Sophisticut
HAIR SALON
& DAY SPA

308 Depot St.
Franklin, NC
(828) 524-2419 or
(828) 524-3395

**1 Hour Hydromassage
Visit & Facial**
\$99.95

YOUR NEXT CHAPTER AWAITS

NOVEL ESCAPE

Reserve your spot now for
the Spring Tea on May 13th!

across from Wells Fargo
828-369-9059

NEW/USED BOOKS & MORE Tues - Sat 10am to 5pm

Established 1960

FRANKLIN BODY SHOP

Longest Operating Body Shop
in Franklin and Macon County

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

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

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

FRUSTRATED WITH LOW INTEREST RATES
AND STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY?

5.45%* interest rate
GUARANTEED FOR FIVE YEARS

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

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

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

WAYAH INSURANCE GROUP
Trust our Experience, Strength, and Service

Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests April 24 to 29. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

April 24

Joshua Edly Gregory, 33, was charged with break/enter a place of worship. Deputy Jacob P. Ledford made the arrest.

Damian Quin Dutton, 27, was charged with probation violation, violate domestic violence protective order and communicating threats. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Brandon Lex Penland, 34, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property, conspiracy, aid and abet, breaking and entering, larceny and obtaining property by false pretenses. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Patrick Joseph Bayles, 36, was charged with larceny. Caleb G. McConnell made the arrest.

Amando Thomas Virata, 43, was charged with offense committed in jurisdiction. Caleb G. McConnell made the arrest.

April 25

Michael Anthony Roland, 21, was charged with flee/elude arrest. Lieutenant Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Tiegha Shay Franklin, 39, was charged with offense committed in jurisdiction. Lieutenant Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Ian Sloan Nixon, 37, was charged with failure to appear. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Derald Frederick Queen, 43, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

William Stephen Shepherd, 47, was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Amanda Jayne Russell, 45, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Sarah Marie Sanford, 32, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance felony and possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Anthony Blake Sanders, 26, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Sergeant James E. Crawford made the arrest.

Caleb Vincent Hunter, 33, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property, breaking and/or entering and larceny after break/enter. Sergeant James E. Crawford made the arrest.

April 26

Jacob Lee Norris, 31, was charged with burglary/breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods and injury to personal property. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Brent Wood, 32, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Sergeant Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

April 27

Luis Angel Sanchez-Chavez, 26, was charged with driv-

ing while impaired, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer and driving while license revoked for impaired revocation. Sergeant Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

April 28

Roman Ramirez-Hernandez, 39, was charged with driving while impaired. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

April 29

Hayden Patrick Volk, 26, was charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell/deliver, driving while impaired, open container after consuming alcohol first, carrying a concealed gun, maintaining a place for controlled substances and driving while license revoked. Caleb G. McConnell made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

April 24

Teresa Marie Petersen, 27, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver a controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and light bar lighting device violation. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Nicholas Sean Swicher, 49, was charged with felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

April 25

Manjustice Sirece Uzzell, 24, was charged with larceny of a firearm, possession of stolen goods, possession of a firearm and injury to personal property. Kaitlyn L. Harper made the arrest.

April 26

Frank Benjamin Hayes, 33, was charged with assault on an individual with disability. Jonathan M. Lauffer made the arrest.

April 28

Chelsea Briana Heaton, 32, was charged with warrant. Kelly J. Fosler made the arrest.

David Allen Kennedy, 54, was charged with assault on a female. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

April 29

Sheri Rae Barber, 31, was charged with trafficking methamphetamine by possession, trafficking methamphetamine by transportation, possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, maintaining a vehicle for use/sale/keeping of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance on jail premises, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia and probation violation. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Steven James Brendle, 24, was charged with trafficking methamphetamine by possession, trafficking methamphetamine by transportation, possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

April 24

Eric Daniel Vaughn, 40, of Cherokee, was charged with driving under the influence. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

John Edward Lewis, 44, of Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for cyberstalking. No bond was set.

Jonathan David Taylor, 36, of Whittier, was charged with

failure to appear for fictitious/altered title/registration card/tag and driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

April 25

Justin Scott Comeaux, 33, of Waynesville, was charged with failure to appear for reckless driving with wanton disregard, driving while license revoked for impaired revocation and driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Terry Lee Wolfe, 37, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for drive/allow motor vehicle with no registration, driving while license revoked, injury to personal property and larceny of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$5,100 bond was set.

April 26

Jack Elton Dalton, 68, of Whittier, was charged with fictitious/altered title/registration card/tag, operate a vehicle with no insurance, failure to appear for driving while license revoked, reckless driving to endanger and speeding. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Joshua Jaheim Ham, 20, of Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Cory Clyde Keith Case, 34, of Glenville, was charged with battery of an unborn child and assault on a female. No bond was set.

Daylon Rhone Braxton, 51, Bryson City, was charged with driving while impaired. No bond was set.

Donald Keith Forbis, 39, of Whittier, was charged with second degree kidnapping, assault by pointing a gun, discharge weapon on occupied property, assault with a deadly weapon and go armed to the terror of the people. A secured bond of \$250,000 was set.

James Alan Buchanan, 46, of Cullowhee, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

April 28

Carl Logan Luker, 42, of Tuckasegee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, driving while license revoked, flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle, possession of methamphetamine and trafficking methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$500,000 was set.

Tony Dustin Gregory, 32, of Waynesville, was charged with domestic criminal trespass and assault on a female. No bond was set.

Jake Michael Radford, 24, of Cherokee was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

Shamiq Lamarte Powell, 26, of Newton, was charged with family offenses nonviolent. No bond was set.

Devin Rashaw Stewart, 28, of Cullowhee, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

April 29

Robert Lee Talley, 35, of Sylva, was charged with fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$40,000 was set.

Todd Jay Parrish, 48, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for probation violation, simple possession of a schedule III controlled substance, possession of heroin, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Elane Katherine Reinert, 23, Franklin, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine.

Shakespeare dance production features local talent

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

First-rate costumes and skilled dancing combine to bring the public William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" for the May 11-13 performances at The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. The comedy will be interpreted by The Dance Arts Co-op's ballet.

Executive Director Kelly Penland helped found the nonprofit in 2021 to provide dance instruction options, with about 10% of students provided a scholarship to assist with instruction costs. "As we grow and raise more funds, we're hoping to be able to offer even more scholarships," she said.

Cedar Lannon and Jada Bryson had been assisting Penland in the formation of The Dance Arts Co-Op, located at Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center. The three dancers/dance instructors began offering



Members of the Dance Arts Co-Op production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" are (L-R) Sammie Hanners, Mackenzie Rodewald, Emma Hawkins, Emma Breeden, Emily Hanners, Maddie Breeden and Lilyana Lipan.

barres and seven mirrors, plus we installed a new durable dance floor in the library at the Cowee School this past summer."

Added Penland, "We have collaborated with former Franklin resident Angela Montgomery, who has made seven exquisite custom handmade costumes for the lead characters. Angela taught ballet [in Macon County] for many years before moving to Greenville, where she is apprenticing under Maxine Moehlenbrock, costume designer for Ballet Spartanburg, along with training with Elizabeth Robinson, assistant production manager for the Governor's School. She was the dance director at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School from 2003-2005. She and Cedar and I went to the performing arts high school together in Florida,



classes for ages 3-18 in ballet, contemporary, jazz, tap, creative movement, and African dance plus a few adult sessions.

"Our goal is to further dance exposure in Macon County through classes, workshops, scholarships, mentorship, and community performances," explained Penland, who studied dance at The Pinellas County Center for the Arts, a magnet school in St. Petersburg, Fla. Her specialty is teaching intermediate ballet technique.

Lannon owned Hallomai Classical Dance Ministry in downtown Franklin from 1994-1999 and then taught ballet at Betsy's School of Dance from 2000-2020. She has directed 20 versions of "The Nutcracker" locally and teaches advanced ballet technique. Bryson is a Macon County local who grew up studying at Betsy's School of Dance. She graduated from UNC-Asheville with a bachelor of arts degree in theater design and production and a minor in dance.

"She teaches our younger students, along with teaching African dance, and she spent two months in Rwanda studying African dance," said Penland, adding, "Our other teachers are Carly Moser, Brooke Banks, and Diedre Breeden."

Last season The Dance Arts Co-op produced "A Cowee Nutcracker," presented at Cowee School. This season's performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" required upwards of six months of practice and choreography. Approximately 60 dancers are in the production, and the choreography was primarily choreographed by Lannon, with assistance from Penland.

"It's our fundraiser for the year that pays for the stage and room rental fees, supplies such as barres and mirrors, sets and some of the costumes, paying teachers for their in-class time (although much of it ends up being volunteer after-hours)," informed Penland. Funds also have enabled The Dance Arts Co-op to install necessary items. "We now have five ballet



Former Franklin resident Angela Montgomery, made seven exquisite custom handmade costumes for the lead characters. She taught ballet in Macon County for many years before moving to Greenville, where she is apprenticing under Maxine Moehlenbrock, costume designer for Ballet Spartanburg.

EATING OUT



YOUR GUIDE TO AREA DINING

PAPA'S PIZZA TO GO
FRESH BAKED

**THE WAIT IS OVER!
WE ARE NOW OPEN**

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

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

Delivery **828.369.9999**

but they both moved up here to Franklin their senior years of high school. The Dance Arts Co-Op has sponsored Angela for two sessions at the renowned Tutu School in Charlotte, N.C., and will be using some of the funds raised with this production to send her to another class in July."

Also assisting with ballet classes at The Dance Arts Co-op, pointed out Penland, is Patience Clements.

"She has been playing for many famous dance schools for over three decades, and we're incredibly lucky to have her as a part-time resident in the Oak Grove community."

For the upcoming summer season, The Dance Arts Co-op will be offering at Cowee School ballet technique classes on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in June and July, along with a summer dance intensive August 15-24.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" public school and home-school show is Thursday, May 11, at 10 a.m., while public performances are Friday, May 12, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 13, at 2:30 p.m.

For more information about the show and to purchase tickets, visit www.info@smokymountainarts.com or call (828) 524-1598. For more information about The Dance Arts Co-op, visit www.coweeschool.org.



Deaths & Funerals

William Edward Nichols

William Edward Nichols, 66, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, April 28, 2023.

He was born in Butler County, Ohio, on Nov. 30, 1956. He was the son of the late Carl Adrian and Margaret Louise Brown Nichols. He was an excellent mechanic who could repair anything. He proudly served his country in the United States Army and received the National Defense Service Metal. He had many hobbies which included, walking, nature, and animals. He loved motorcycles and watching NASCAR races. Bristol was his favorite track. He enjoyed playing cards, shooting pool, watching boxing and politics. He also enjoyed going to the Lazy Hiker and having a few beers. He had a love of music and playing the guitar. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and family.



William Edward Nichols

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother whom he loved dearly, Carl Nichols.

He is survived by a daughter, Theresa Bush (Jonathan) of Franklin; stepson, Neville Dunn, of Franklin; two granddaughters, Sierra Kreis, Jaden Talley of Franklin; six grandsons, Harley Kreis, William Kreis, Richard Kreis, Titus Kreis, Ace Bush, Ian Bush, all of Franklin; one sister, Patricia Nichols; one brother, Charles Nichols, and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at Theresa's home, 2346 Jack Cabe Rd, Franklin, on Saturday, May 20, at 4 p.m.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Sue McCall

Sue McCall, 92, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, April 23, 2023, on what would have been her loving husband's 93rd birthday.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Ira Ledford and Mattie Nell Shope Ledford. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two daughters, Judy Sleight and Cathy Leopard; one sister, Kathryn Dean; and one brother, Spence Ledford.

She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints. She enjoyed sewing, shopping, going for rides, and cooking. But most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family. She was a teacher's assistant in the Macon County School system for many years.

She is survived by one son, Jimmy McCall of Franklin; six grandchildren, Amanda Jones, Jason Sleight, Chuck Brown, Josh Sleight, Sarah McCall, and James McCall IV; six great grandchildren, Tara Owens, Kayla Daves, Brent Sleight, Oscar Brown, Annabelle Brown, and Denise Cauble; three great great grandchildren, Noah Owens, Avalee Cauble, and Isaac Owens; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, April 26, at Woodlawn Cemetery with Ken Anderson and Eric Burch officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Shriners Children Hospital.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Sue McCall

George Salman Schmitt

George Salman Schmitt passed away peacefully on April 22, 2023, in the presence of his beloved wife in Highlands, N.C.

He was born on Sept. 25, 1930, in New York, N.Y., the son of Anna Schmitt and George F. Salman. He spent his early childhood with his maternal grandparents in Germany.

In 1951, he married Mary C. Procida in New York. In 1965, he moved to Highlands, where he and Marie would raise their family, begin the family business of Schmitt Building Contractors, and become a huge part of the mountain community.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his stepmother, May L. Salman.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Marie; stepbrothers, Ricky Salman and Ronald Salman and children Gary William (May), Paul Bernard (Andrea), George Frederick (Gabrielle), Anita Marie Lupoli (John) and Eric Alexander (Denise); 20 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

He will be remembered for his service to the community and to others. He served with the U.S. Navy from 1948 to 1952. He was a volunteer fireman in New York and North Carolina, served time in Bolivia building a children's home, and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

Upon moving to Highlands, he became an active member of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church Highlands and served there in several positions for many years - most notably as an organist for many years. He had a passion for the arts community and served with the Highlands Playhouse for many years. With a love for education, he was one of the visionaries and creators of the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. He was a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Highlands. He was also active with the American Legion Post 370 and enjoyed serving alongside fellow veterans.

He was an endless volunteer, serviceman, musician, and master carpenter and will be remembered by family and friends for the legacy he leaves in the Highlands area and for his wit and humor.

He was a strong, independent, talented, intelligent, and fierce supporter of those he loved. He loved working with his hands, playing the organ, golfing, tennis, and his German heritage, but his greatest joy was spending time with his family. He loved and was greatly loved by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, extended family and church family and will be dearly missed.

A celebration of George's life was held Saturday, April 29, at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Highlands.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Four Seasons Hospice Care at their website, or the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 460, attn: Rebecca Shuler.

Moffitt Funeral Care is handling the arrangements.



George Salman Schmitt

Marc Elliott Menichello

Marc Elliott Menichello, 67, of Brasstown, N.C., entered into rest on Thursday, April 27, 2023. He left Earth and entered Heaven as a hero to both his family and those saved by the donation of his organs.

He was born to the late Albert and Helen (Sabetta) Menichello in Olyphant, Pa., and raised in Old Forge, Pa. A tempter of fate and a friend of luck, he was born to test fuses and live on the edge, filling his youth with all kinds of mischief and rebellion. He met Colette while at his parents' summer cabin in Moosic Lakes, where they swam, hiked, and rode dirt bikes together; going on to become best friends, lovers, spouses, and soulmates for life. In later years, they moved to a large, beautiful estate in Brasstown. They loved starting their mornings with coffee on their deck while admiring the peace and tranquility of the wildlife, mountains, and lack of visible neighbors. He would end his evenings eating pistachios or ice cream, watching TV, or playing word games, while sitting side-by-side, hand-in-hand, with his wife.

A devoted and loving husband, father, brother, son, son-in-law, relative, and friend, he was a talented carpenter and mechanic who could build houses from scratch and fix anything that was broken. He was a self-taught drummer able to pick up beats in seconds and he loved classic rock, Harleys, cars, and trucks, as well as mowing lawns on his tractor. He worked as a carpenter and maintenance mechanic for Volusia County Schools in Daytona Beach, Fla., for 24 years, where he installed and maintained HVAC systems while enjoying other perks of the job: drinking diabetic-inducing sweet tea, unclogging sinks the kids filled with sand, hanging up the phone when put on desk duty, and snagging cans of WD-40.

He took pride in his vast tool collection, dream garage, favorite truck, and bursting key ring; but the thing that surpassed all else was his love for his wife, children, and dogs. He was a tender, emotional, hardworking man, who lived for his family. He will always be remembered for his beautiful smile, contagious laugh, and quick-witted remarks, along with the ability to recite lyrics and lines from any song or movie.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Helen (Sabetta) Menichello; father- and mother-in-law John and Helen (Talyain) Churi; brother, Paul Menichello; brother-in-law, John Smarkusky; and countless furry friends.

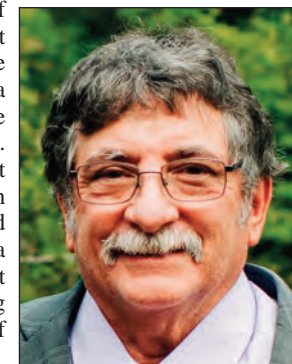
He is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 48 years, Colette Menichello of Brasstown; his son, Shane Menichello of Franklin, N.C.; his daughters, Amanda ("Mandy") Filanowski (Kevin) of Franklin, and Maria Menichello of Hayesville, N.C.; brothers and sisters, Andrea McFarland (Joe Mike) of Old Forge, Pa.; Marianne Bell (Roger) of Lake Ariel, Pa.; Gina Walters (George) of Jacksonville, Fla.; Judy Deakin (Tracey) of San Luis Obispo, Calif.; John Menichello of Jefferson Township, Pa.; and Carole Kovalchik (Mike) of Jefferson Township, Pa.; brother- and sisters-in-law: Marilyn Smarkusky of Ormond Beach, Fla., Carol McAndrew of Bethlehem, Pa., and John and Marianne Churi of Franklin; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; and furry (grand)children, Daisy, Lucky, Petunia, Reese, Shamu, Uno, Whiskey, and Yona.

A celebration of life will be held at the Macon Funeral Home on Thursday, May 4, with a viewing for friends and family from 2 to 3 p.m., with the service to follow from 3 to 4 p.m., with family friend Jodi Thomas officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Kessler Foundation (for traumatic brain injuries (TBIs)), Bob Woodruff Foundation (for TBIs), or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Marc Elliott Menichello

Life insurance made simple

Providing peace of mind for you and your family

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

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



Provide yourself with peace of mind today!




BOSTON MUTUAL
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
-1891-

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

Bill Moody
Licensed Insurance Agent

904.254.1467
bill@greatatlanticsales.com

134-589 3/23



View obituaries at
themaconcountynews.com



Deaths & Funerals

Jason 'Jake' Adam Sargent

Jason "Jake" Adam Sargent, 57, passed away Wednesday, April 26, 2023. He was born April 14, 1966, in Palm Beach County, Florida, to the late James Sargent and Loxcile Dailey Armstrong. He worked for Seay Farm and Garden for 23 years. He was a simple man that loved fishing, digging for roots with his daddy, singing, playing the guitar, and being in the mountains.

Survivors include his three daughters, Charity Clay, Megan DiPaola, and Tamela Sargent; five grandchildren; two sisters, Carol Crisp (Tony) and Patty Park (Mark); and two brothers, Gilbert Williams (Michelle) and Jimmy Williams; and a good friend, Todd Marriott.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Cheryl Ann Rizel.

A Celebration of Life service was held Saturday, April 29, in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers the family ask donations to be made to the American Cancer Society, 1901 Brunswick Ave.#100, Charlotte, NC 28207.

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

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

Margaret 'Tootsie' Stamey Ledford

Margaret "Tootsie" Stamey Ledford, 87, of Franklin, N.C., went to be with the Lord on April 21, 2023.

She was born in Macon County on May 5, 1935, to the late Bob and Florence Stamey. She was of the Baptist Faith and a member of Black Mountain Church. She was a faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ and served many positions in the church throughout her lifetime. She worked as a seamstress for 30 years; she was very family oriented and a wonderful Grandmother to her six grand children and seven great grandchildren.

She is survived by two sons, Tim Ledford (Patricia) and Mike Ledford (Angela); one brother, Wayne (Bud) Stamey; five sisters, Glenda Robinson, Doris Stamey, Lois Stamey, Wanda Stamey, and Kathy (Floss) Stamey; six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, as well as several special nieces and nephews. She is also survived by a very special friend Geraldine Wakenshaw.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, John Ledford and one sister, Joyce Holbrooks.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, April 26, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Revs. Don Moffitt and Terry Moffitt officiated. Burial followed at Rush Cemetery. Matthew Ledford, Luke Ledford, Levi Ledford, Noah Ledford, Chad Ledford, and Keith Stamey served as pallbearers.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Jason Adam Sargent



Margaret Stamey Ledford

Ricky Brian Cunningham

Ricky Brian Cunningham, 57, of Otto, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

He was born in Rabun County, Ga, on Nov. 3, 1965. He was the son of Martha Jean Norton Cunningham and the late Max Cunningham. He loved old cars, working hard driving a tanker truck, and his family. He attended Newman Chapel Baptist Church in Otto.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his daughter, Sarah Brianna Norris (Matthew) of Otto; sister, Denise Stewart (Robbie) of Franklin; four grandchildren, Levi Norris, Lucas Norris, Lauryn Norris, and Lexi Norris; and two nieces, Brooke Stewart and Alysia Stewart.

Funeral service was held on Monday, April 24, at Newman Chapel Baptist Church with Rev. Carl Carpenter, Rev. Eddie Brewer, and Rev. Donald Bates officiating. Burial was in the Newman Chapel Baptist Church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Greg Talley, Bill Welch, Bo Welch, Kevin Fountain, Randy Roper, Rodney Dickerson, and Barry Williams. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations to be made to the Newman Chapel cemetery fund.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Ricky Cunningham

Joyce Buchanan Todd

Joyce Buchanan Todd, 70, of Hendersonville, N.C., passed away on Saturday, April 29, 2023, after a period of declining health.

She was born on Sept. 22, 1952, in Jackson County, North Carolina. She was the daughter of the late Robert "Perry" and Myrtle Leopard Buchanan. She worked in the automobile repair business for many years at several dealerships in Sylva, N.C. She enjoyed hiking, being outdoors and just taking in the beauty of the beautiful mountains and lakes. One thing that she was most proud of was that she completed the Kona, Hawaii Marathon in August 2000.

Her only daughter, Lana Jo Lambert, preceded her in death; along with one sister, Linda Jane Woodard; and three brothers, Arnold Buchanan, Randall "Willie" Buchanan, and Wayne Buchanan.

She is survived by one sister, Rachel Capps (Tommy) of Hendersonville; one brother, Kenneth Buchanan (Shannon) of Harrisburg, Pa.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

No services are planned.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Joyce Buchanan Todd

Carol Roper Townsend Bates

Carol Roper Townsend Bates, 94, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, April 16, 2023.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Leland Barnard and Mary Welch Roper. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands, MB Townsend and William Bates; two brothers, James and Jack Roper; and her beloved sisters-in-law, Jewel and Wilma.

She was a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, who loved her family, friends, flowers, animals, and traveling. She worked with motor vehicles most of her life; working in the tag office and later with her son at Longview Cycles. She enjoyed sewing and planting flower gardens. The last decade of her life was spent in Alaska as a caregiver for her dear friend, G.M. Miller, who is now deceased. She attended Olive Hill Church and was a past member of the VFW Women's Auxiliary.

She is survived by a son, Michael Douglas Townsend of Franklin; daughter, Constance Elaine Townsend of Arden, N.C.; eight grandchildren; several great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at Olive Hill Church in Franklin at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Teen Challenge of the Smokies, PO Box 2157, Franklin, N.C. 28744.

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



Carol Bates

Kenneth James Genawese

Kenneth James Genawese, 56, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, April 30, 2023, after a period of declining health.

Born in Gloucester, Mass., he was the son of Donna Woodworth Barrett and the late Salvatore James Genawese. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a sister, Glynnis Barrett Crane. He was of the Catholic faith, loved to cook and fish. He worked as a chef for many years.

In addition to his mother, Donna Woodworth Barrett of Englewood, Fla., he is survived by his wife of 21 years, Patricia Nowak Lee; brother, Charles Genawese of San Diego, Calif.; sister, Renee Marie Lazlo of Franklin; two special nieces, Donna English and Cassie Reilly; and numerous other nieces, nephews, and family members.

A celebration of life will be a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744 ;or the animal shelter of one's choice.

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



Kenneth Genawese



Moffitt Family
FUNERAL CARE

David Moffitt
OWNER/FUNERAL DIRECTOR

**Because Funeral Care
Shouldn't Cost So Much**

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

CORNERSTONE MEMORIALS

DOYLE YORK, Owner
Located at Rabun Flea Market

(706) 746-2548
(706) 746-9977

Please Call For Appointment

(706) 746-2837
134 Market Circle • Rabun Gap, GA 30568





Deaths & Funerals

Lillie Mae Calloway Rhodes

Lillie Mae Calloway Rhodes, 86, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus, on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

She was born in Macon County, North Carolina, on May 23, 1936. She was the daughter of the late Ira Tillman and Hazel Speed Calloway. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Billy Rhodes; daughter, Vickie Lee Rhodes; two sisters, Lillian Davis and Ophelia Barnes; and a brother, Bob Calloway.

She was a member of the First Assembly of God in Franklin and helped with the Helping Hands ministry for many years. She loved doing crafts and specialized in making original handcrafted collectable Santas.

She is survived by two sons, Billy Richard Rhodes and wife Shelby Jean of Highlands, N.C., and Ted Rhodes and wife Vickie of Franklin; five grandchildren, Melissa Rhodes, Bill Richard Rhodes III, Mitchell Rhodes, Abigail Rhodes, and Casey Wahl; four great grandchildren, Blake Billingsley, Gracie Billingsley, Adaline Wahl, and Western Rhodes; one sister, Lois Bolick of Franklin; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Friday, May 5, at 4 p.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Mike Barres will officiate. The family will receive friends from 3 to 4 p.m., prior to the service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies, PO Box 2157, Franklin, NC 28734.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Rhonda Jo Mann

Rhonda Jo Mann, 83, of Franklin, N.C., went to be with the Lord on Sunday, April 23, 2023. She is now eternally healed.

She was born in Dillsboro, N.C., on Aug. 15, 1939, to the late Frank and Rachel Patterson. She was a devoted Christ-follower and a faithful member of Franklin First Assembly for more than 40 years. She was a beautician and owned and operated "Jo's Beauty Shop" for many years. She loved spending time with family and friends and lit up any room she entered.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Marshall Mann (1999); her daughter, Jill Henry (2022); her two brothers, Tommy and Billy; and her two sisters, Jackie and Myrtle.

She is survived by her grandson, Evan Henry and wife Andrea of Chattanooga, Tenn.; and her son-in-law, Chris Henry of Easley, S.C.; as well as a few very special friends.

A visitation was held at Macon Funeral Home on Sunday, April 30, with a service following.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies, P.O. Box 2157, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Lillie Mae Rhodes



Rhonda Jo Mann

Lydia 'Onzell' Moore

Lydia "Onzell" Moore, 79, of Franklin, N.C., went to be with the Lord on Friday, April 28, 2023.

She was born to the late Verlin and Ina Williams Everett, in Habersham, Ga. She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, and two sisters.

She was a member of Bryson City Church of God. Sister Onzell helped in the ministry alongside her husband at the numerous churches he pastored. She loved flower gardening, arranging flowers, cooking, and most of all spending time with grandkids.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. Eugene Moore; three children, David Moore (Vickie) of Bryson City, Zeldia Phillips (Rev. Randall Phillips) of Burnsville, N.C., Angela Pressley (Rev. Marty Pressley) of Bryson City; granddaughters, Kristen Sherrill (Bobby) of Hickory, N.C., Hannah Pressley of Bryson City; grandson, Michael Phillips (Christina) of Lincolnton, N.C.; great grandchildren, Sara Sherrill, Cody Sherrill, and Allie Mae Phillips; and a number of nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, May 2, at Franklin Church of God. Revs. Randall Phillips, Marty Pressley, Ray Davis, and Michael Stephens officiated. Burial was in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Darrell Everett, Jason Wade, Brent Wade, Michael Phillips, Bobby Sherrill, and Cody Sherrill.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements



Lydia 'Onzell' Moore

Stormy Swann Cabe

Stormy Swann Cabe, 65, of Franklin, N.C., passed away April 27, 2023. She was born May 7, 1957, in Wiesbaden, Germany, to the late James and Helen Swann. She worked as a nurse at Angel Medical Center for 18 years. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and reading.

She is survived by her husband, Donald Cabe; two daughters, Kimberly Jo Barber of Johnson City, Tenn., and Kristy Cabe of Franklin; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, May 2, at the Chapel of Bryant Grant Funeral Home. Burial followed at the Cowee Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC, 272 Maple St. Franklin, NC 28734.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home is serving the Swann family.

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



Stormy Swann Cabe

Mary Ellen 'Dood' Stamey

Mary Ellen "Dood" Stamey, 85, went home to be with Jesus on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

She was born in Jackson County to Algie and Pauline Holland Ammons on Nov. 14, 1937. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, John Howard Stamey; her grandson, James Coleman Stamey; siblings, Maxine Ammons, Betty Jean Ammons, Harley Ammons, Debbie Maners, Geneva Riley, Terry Ammons, and Jake Ammons.

She loved to have fun. She enjoyed spending time with her friends and her crafts. She dabbled in lots of different crafts over the years, and even finished a few projects. The dolls and other gifts she made were treasured by many. She learned to sew to make her own clothes, and her love of sewing continued for many years.

She loved spending time with her grandchildren and made all of them feel like the most special person. She would scratch backs for hours on end, and spoil them in ways you couldn't imagine. Mamaw Dood would cook anything you wanted and make a day at home seem like the best possible way to spend time. When she got a new granddaughter-in-law she loved the time she could spend with her, especially in the kitchen. Her family was truly her favorite, and her laugh and jokes will be so missed.

As much as her kids and grandkids loved spending time with her, they were all slightly traumatized by trips to the fabric store. Dood wasn't known for caring about what was happening in the outside world, and she would get lost in there. Hours could pass and she was happy as a lark shopping for new fabric that may or may not be used. At least after hours in the fabric store, one thing was for certain- she would find somewhere to eat an excellent meal while you were out. She was a lady that loved to eat, and a buffet with her was an experience like no other.

She also loved time spent with her friends. It may have taken a little work to convince her to leave the house. However, once they got her on board she was the last person that chose to head home. She had a wonderful group of ladies that were so important to her, and she truly cherished every meal out and shopping trip with them. It is such a special thing to have a friend group that lasts a lifetime, and Dood knew these ladies were a blessing in her life.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Sherrill Stamey; one son, Scott (Lynn) Stamey, daughter-in-law, Jane Stamey; brother, Randy (Cathy) Ammons; grandchildren, Jessica (Jeremy) Stamey McConnell, Tyler (Alison) Stamey, Emily (Chris) Stamey Evans; great grandsons, Milo, Huck, and Amos McConnell.

Services were held Friday, April 28, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Don Moffitt officiating. Burial was in the Shepherd Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Scott Stamey, Tyler Stamey, Jeremy McConnell, Chris Evans, Jeff Tallent, and Jamie Stamey, Honorary pallbearers will be Milo McConnell, Amos McConnell, and Huck McConnell.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements



Mary Ellen Stamey

Repeats
Upscale Consignment

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

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

BAHÁ'Í FAITH
LIGHT OF UNITY

"The well-being of mankind, its peace and security are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established."
-- Bahá'u'llah

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

Truex brothers sweep series races at Dover

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

You could say NASCAR's stop at Dover (De.) Motor Speedway was "All in the Family," a kin-to-win kind of weekend. Martin Truex Jr. answered his younger brother Ryan's NASCAR Xfinity Series victory on Saturday with a win in Monday's rain-delayed Würth 400 NASCAR Cup Series race – the fourth win of his career at the one-mile oval he considers his "home track."

Truex, who started 17th in the 36-car field after qualifying was cancelled due to weather, methodically worked his way forward in the No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota. The 42-year-old New Jersey native finally took the lead for the first time with 69 laps remaining and led all but one of those final laps to claim his first points-paying victory of the season, ending a 54-race winless streak.

He and his JGR pit crew ultimately had to earn the win with pit strategy and pit execution. On a pit stop during the race's final caution period, Truex's team opted to put only right-side tires on his Toyota. With the quick stop, he was able to beat the field back out to the track and then on the ensuing re-start - with seven laps to go - hold off a hard-charging Ross Chastain, whose No. 1 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet had taken four fresh tires on the stop.

"It feels incredible," Truex said. "I feel like we've been close a bunch of times, that's for sure. Felt today, with that caution, what's going to happen here and then good call by [crew chief] James [Small] to take two (tires) and then I was able to get a pretty good re-start."

"Just thanks to everybody that stuck with me. ... we knew we could do this. We've shown we can lead laps and have dominated races and it just never all came together. I've said we just had to keep doing what we were doing and not overthink it."

Chastain, who took his fourth stage win of the season, finished a slight .505-seconds behind Truex but was unable to make up any real ground on the leader in the closing laps after passing Ryan Blaney, who also took only two tires on that final stop.

"Gosh, so close again," said Chastain, who led 98 laps. "It's surreal to continue to race against my all-time heroes."

Penske Racing's Blaney finished third – his sixth Top-10 of the season and second Top-3 in the last two races. Hendrick Motorsports driver William Byron led a race best 193 laps and won a series best sixth stage, to finish fourth. It marks the second time he's led the most laps in a race this year but not claimed the victory.

Truex's JGR teammates Denny Hamlin and Christopher Bell finished fifth and sixth.



Martin Truex Jr., driver of the #19 Bass Pro Shops Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Würth 400 at Dover International Speedway on May 1, 2023, in Dover, Del. Photos by James Gilbert/Getty Images



cial place. Good day for my family and to see Ryan win Saturday he's worked so hard for so long to get good opportunities and it's awesome.

"And then for us, we've given away a few here over the years so it's nice to see it come around our way. Just excited and had a hot rod. Just needed to get it out front."

The NASCAR Cup Series returns to competition Sunday at Kansas Speedway in the AdventHealth 400 (3:30 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Kurt Busch won this Spring race in 2022.

Ryan Truex wins first career Xfinity race at Dover

DOVER, Delaware – Of all the places for Ryan Truex to absolutely turn in a career day, the 31-year-old led a dominating 124 of the 200 laps at his hometown Dover (Del.) Motor Speedway. He swept both stage wins and ultimately took the checkered flag an impressive 4.8-seconds ahead of the field to claim his first career NASCAR Xfinity Series victory in Saturday's A-GAME 200.

It was such a big day for the 31-year-old who has raced in NASCAR's Xfinity Series – primarily part-time – for nine seasons and is scheduled to only make a handful of starts in 2023. Yet he parlayed this part-time opportunity driving the No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota into a hugely sentimental victory at a special place – one the Mayetta, N.J. native has always claimed as his "home track."

Just before steering his Toyota into Dover's Victory Lane,

Tyler Reddick, Brad Keselowski, Chris Buescher and Josh Berry rounded out the Top-10. Berry was driving the No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet for Alex Bowman, who suffered a back injury racing sprint cars last Tuesday.

It marks the 2017 NASCAR Cup Series champion Truex's 32nd career win and first since a victory at Richmond, Va. on Sept. 11, 2021. Snapping the streak and sharing Dover's Victory Circle with his younger brother, Ryan, truly made the week for the veteran.

"It's just special, you know," Truex said. "This is a spe-

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

Franklin, NC - Five Day Forecast

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
69°/42° 5%	66°/49° 70%	69°/50° 45%	74°/52° 25%	72°/54° 60%

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

Bill's ALUMINUM PRODUCTS INC. Install yourself, or professional installation available

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

FRANKLIN
SIGNS AND BANNERS

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

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



he stopped and was greeted by his older brother, NASCAR Cup Series driver Martin Truex Jr. – the 2017 NASCAR Cup Series champion, who similarly earned his first victory in that series at Dover back in 2007.

“I’m just so thankful, all these fans, my team, they really stuck behind me,” said a smiling and emotional Truex, who becomes the 13th different NASCAR Xfinity Series driver to claim his first win at Dover.

“Most people didn’t believe in me, and I still did - my girlfriend, my family, my parents, my brother did. I’m just so thankful to be here.

“I felt like with 20 to go, I was just waiting for something to happen,” he continued, ‘just praying, please God keep everything straight and let’s get to the end of this. What a car, what an amazing Toyota Supra. I’m speechless.

“I thought I’d be more emotional right now, but when I crossed the flag, I couldn’t even talk on the radio and I’m not an emotional guy. This is for everyone that doubted

Ryan Truex, driver of the #19 Toyota Genuine Accessories Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series A-GAME 200 at Dover International Speedway April 29, in Dover, Del.

me.”
JR Motorsports driver and defending race winner Josh Berry finished second to Truex, securing an impressive record at Dover as well. He’s finished either first or second in all three of his Xfinity Series starts at The Monster Mile.

“We made some good adjustments in the second half of the race, the pit crew executed well the last couple stops and had a good green flag cycle and got up to second but the 19 (Truex) was just too far out and it seemed like he was the best car all day,” Berry said, adding, “It’s a fun day, I love this racetrack. Hate we didn’t get the win, but it was a great rebound and great day for us.”

Berry’s JRM teammate, Justin Allgaier, was third followed by Richard Childress Racing’s Austin Hill and Truex’s Joe Gibbs Racing teammates John Hunter Nemechek and Sammy Smith. The third place showing for Hill, who led 18 laps, keeps the 2023 three-race winner atop the championship standings by four-points over Nemechek.

Stewart-Haas Racing’s Cole Custer finished sixth – good enough to earn the \$100,000 Dash 4 Cash incentive award for the second straight week: the final installment of the bonus for 2023. He also got the big money from series sponsor Xfinity at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway last week.

JR Motorsports drivers Brandon Jones and Sam Mayer were eighth and ninth with 2021 series champion Daniel Hemric rounding out the Top-10 on Saturday.

Richard Childress Racing driver Sheldon Creed, whose 41 laps out front were second only to Truex, finished 11th; an impressive outcome considering he spun and brought out a caution flag earlier in the race.

The afternoon, however, unquestionable belonged to Truex, who made his Xfinity Series debut as an 18-year-old driving for Michael Waltrip in 2010 and has since made 73 assorted starts in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series as well.

And now he is a bona fide winner in one of NASCAR’s headline series.

“I belong here, and I just proved that,” said Truex, whose 124 laps out front Saturday were more than his previous career total (67) in 88 starts.

“I’ve known it for a while and people around me have known it for a while. And now everyone in this garage area knows it. My goal is to drive a race car fulltime next year and hopefully we can make it happen.”

The Xfinity Series returns to action on May 13 in the Shriners’ Children 200 at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway (1:30 p.m. ET, FOX, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).



Choose trained repair professionals.
Because safety matters.

828-524-8080
121 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC



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






**Paving & Resurfacing • Excavating
Grading & Road Repair
Sewer & Water • Retaining Walls
Equipment Rental • Sealcoating
Specializing in Seal Coating**



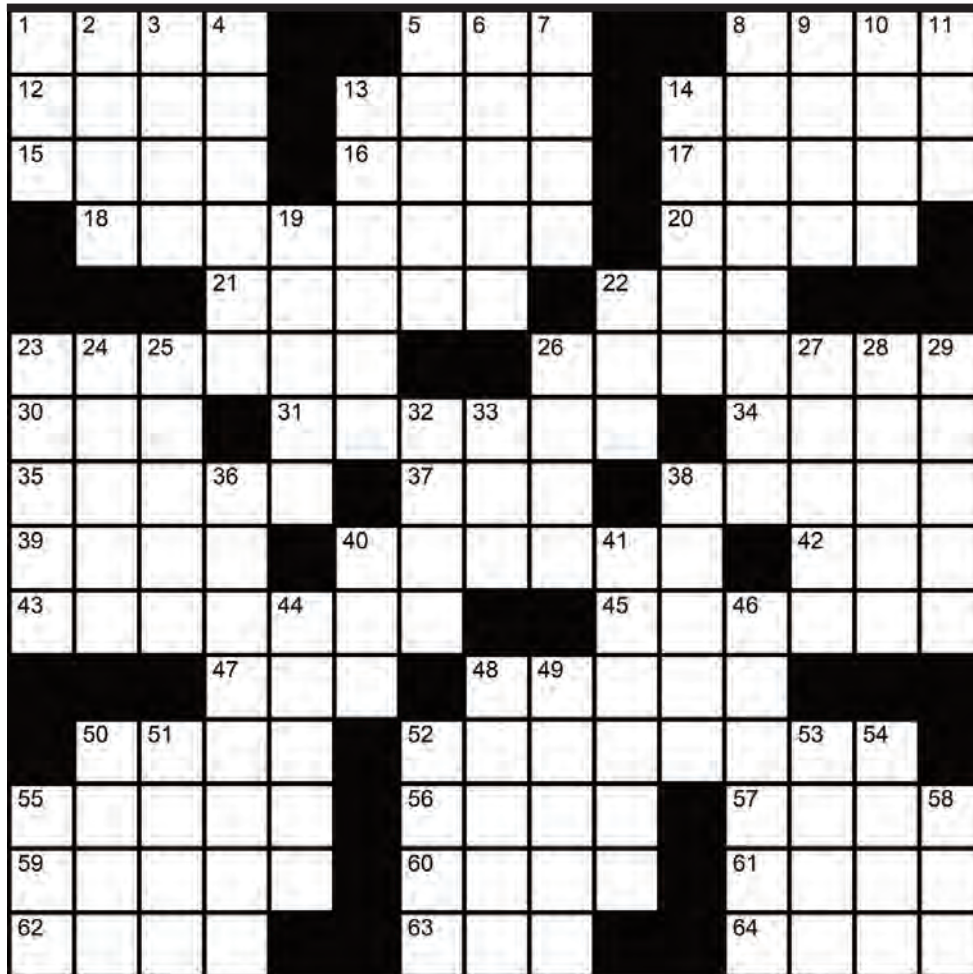

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD

THEME:
U.S. STATES

ACROSS

1. Attired
5. *Alabama, for short
8. Type of pit, at a concert
12. *Nevada's "biggest little city in the world"
13. October birthstone
14. Don't do this to words?
15. Elusive Himalayan
16. Poet Sandburg
17. Come to pass
18. *Home of the Bourbon Trail
20. Not us
21. Winds to a ship captain
22. *Dish popular in the 50th state
23. *Largest state, by area
26. Dick ____ of "Bewitched"
30. Tombstone acronym
31. Spews
34. Succulent medicinal plant
35. Cast member
37. Greek "t"
38. Gibson gamish
39. Evade payment
40. Like certain pentameter
42. Lenon's wife
43. Fashionable
45. Barely audible words
47. Casino's pull
48. Bear down under
50. Sound bounce-back
52. *a.k.a. Commonwealth
55. Sing like Sinatra
56. Not working
57. Lymphatic swelling
59. Flourishing
60. Commotions
61. Type of pitcher



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

\$25

SWITCH & GET

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR **888-804-0913**

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

© StatePoint Media

62. Not in port
63. Chop off
64. What the phone did

DOWN

1. Have a bawl
2. Potato's soup partner
3. Initial stake
4. Happenings
5. Lickety-split
6. Shenanigans
7. Friend in war
8. *State with longest freshwater shoreline
9. It's enough?
10. Pond gunk

11. Joaquin Phoenix 2013 movie
13. Relating to eye
14. *Michigan's "____ City"
19. Selfish one
22. Pavlova's step
23. Middle East natives
24. Permissible
25. In a fitting way
26. Half a ticket
27. Sober Ness
28. Not a soul (2 words)
29. Operatic voice
32. *Home to Arches National Park
33. Tucker of "Modem Family"

36. *State with panhandle
38. Round openings
40. School of thought suffix
41. Google search category
44. Often-missed humor
46. Hide craftsman
48. Little one
49. Lowest deck on a ship
50. Timeline divisions
51. His was a merry old soul
52. Tiny bottle
53. **"Field of Dreams" movie setting
54. Port in Yemen
55. Tax pro
58. Bit of work

HAULING

- DIRT
- GRAVEL
- MULCH

Otto • Dillard
Franklin

(828) 371-2432

www.TheMaconCountyNews.com

AWARDS & ENGRAVING
IMPRINTED APPAREL
SIGNS

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

Decks & Additions
Tractor Service

Home Remodeling
Driveway Repair

Flooring
Grading

KZ CONSTRUCTION

828-283-0659

BuildwithKZ@gmail.com

The Macon County
NEWS
& Shopping Guide

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

SUBSCRIBE
FOR ONLY

\$29.00

PER YEAR • Includes Tax

SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE
PLUS \$1600 OFF

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

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 N5CB 0082999 0083445

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

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

SALE OR RENT \$800/ or buy \$157,000. OBO. 3BR/2BA. Living room, dining room, eat-in kitchen, bonus room. New windows. 3BR/2.5BA with 2 Fireplaces and 3 BEDROOM PLUS ROOM decks. Storage, fully furnished, many... DOUBLEWIDE 4BR/3.5BA, 3000sf. Need room? This home has plenty! \$259,900. On the web... MUST SELL M... 3BR/2BA/2000sqft. factured Home, Ho... \$129,900. For mor... please contact. Ow...

The Classifieds

Services

NEW CREATIONS Landscaping LLC. Landscaping Projects, Cleanup, Annual Color, Mulch, Pine Straw, Aerating, Fertilizing, Hard-scapes, Steps, Retaining Walls, Grading, Gravel, Design, Grounds Maintenance, Firewood and Much More! Licensed & Insured, Free Estimates (828)524-6959.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rentals

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

Commercial Rentals

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

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

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

GRADING, FINISH Grading, Hydroseed, Driveways, Roads, Hauling, Land Clearing, Chipper. Install Septic Systems, Retaining Walls, Rock Work, Boulders, Patio, Perez. (828)524-8650, (828)347-6793 Excellent References.

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

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

MELTON'S ROOFING Gutter Cleaning and Chimney Sweeping. Give Us a Call at cell# (828)421-6712 With All Your Roof and Gutter Needs.

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

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.

Garage & Yard Sales

MULTI-FAMILY Friday, Saturday, 9-4, Coon Club, off Wide Horizon Dr. Too Much to List.

IINDOOR MULIT-FAMILY Yard Sale, Saturday, May 6, 8-1. Meeting Room at Macon County Public Library.

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

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/maconanimal

Help Wanted

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

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

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

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

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@the-mountainrlc.org

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

Misc. For Sale

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

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

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

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

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

Community Fundraisers

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

RV READY FOR CAMPING?
Let Us Check It Out!

ANY REPAIR • ANY PART • ANY SERVICE

Anglin RV • TRUCK & TRAILER
In Otto since 1998

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

Felix's Tree Expert, LLC

For All Your Tree Needs!

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

Accepting All Major Credit Cards

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

TreeServiceFranklinNC.com

FAMILY AUTO CARE

Since 1997

Complete Auto Repair Shop

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

GOOD YEAR ASE

Mon. – Fri. 8-5
(828) 369-2155
976 E. Main St. Franklin, NC

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

NO CREDIT CARD FEES!

Classifieds

The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

\$8.00
20 words or less

26 W. Main Street • Franklin, NC 28734
maconcountynews@gmail.com
(828) 369-6767



SMOKY MOUNTAIN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



EASTON CORBIN

MAY 6



Sponsored by
**Russell Hawkins
& Bald Head Realty**

the Ballet

MAY 12-13



PUPPY PALS

MAY 16



MARTINA McBRIDE

MAY 19



JAY ALLEN

MAY 20



MICHAEL W. SMITH LIVE IN CONCERT

MAY 24

And so much more! Find out at
SmokyMountainArts.com

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

