

The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

*Free
independent
weekly*



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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Streets of Franklin Heritage Association merchants sponsored a "Hometown Heritage Festival" in downtown Franklin on Saturday featuring handcrafted goods, food vendors, pony rides, live music, hymn-singing and antique and classic cars. For more scenes from Saturday's event, see page 4. Photo by Betsy Gooder

IN THIS ISSUE



Franklin 8U Softball team are Division 5 champs



Buchanan's historic novel set in Macon County

Mission opens new mental health facility

A ribbon cutting was held Tuesday for new Sweeten Creek Mental Health and Wellness Center, a campus of Mission Hospital in Asheville. Elected officials in attendance included NC Dept. of Health And Human Services Secretary Kody Kinsley; Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer; Asheville City Manager Deb Campbell; Asheville City Councilwomen Maggie Ullman and Kim Roney; Sheriff Quinten Miller; Buncombe County Commissioners Jasmine Beach-Ferrara and Martin Moore; NC State Senators Jim Burgin and Julie Mayfield; NC State Rep. Eric Ager.

The center is in response to the growing need for mental healthcare and resources in Western North Carolina. The \$65 million facility has 120 beds to treat children as young as four to seniors. The center was designed intentionally for the

care and wellbeing of behavioral health patients. Behavioral health includes mental health care, but goes far beyond that. Behavioral health looks at how behaviors impact someone's health and takes into account factors involving a person's emotions and their sense of self to their ability to function in everyday life.

Behavioral health providers at Mission Health look at a host of health conditions, including mental health issues, eating habits and physical health. As a discipline, behavioral health refers to mental health, psychiatric, marriage and family counseling, and addictions treatment, and it includes services provided by social workers, counselors, psychiatrists,

See FACILITY page 2

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JULY 29

FACILITY

Continued from page 1

Telepsych programs ensure that patients get the care they need even if they live in a rural area or during a time when practices are closed. This program is available 24 hours a day to all Mission Health hospital emergency departments.

The Mission Behavioral Health telepsych program offers crisis services for any patient presenting in an emergency department with behavioral health needs. This allows each patient to be evaluated by a mental health clinician and a psychiatrist to ensure that a correct and safe treatment plan is developed.

New facility is largest of its kind
The event offered a rare opportunity for a

behind the scenes look at a mental health hospital before patients begin arriving in August. This new hospital is the largest of its kind in the area and will allow care for more patients, although it does not have an emergency room.

The Sweeten Creek facility is 82,000 Square feet and contains 120 beds for ages 4 through geriatric. This is an increase of 38 beds from previous facility. Among the features of the new facility are:

- Acute inpatient, Intensive Outpatient Program, Partial Hospitalization Program
- Separate units and outdoor space for all age groups – pediatric, adolescent, adult, geriatric
- Separate outdoor courtyards for each age group, providing play equipment in our pediatric outdoor space, a basketball court in



State and local dignitaries gathered in Asheville on Tuesday to announce the opening of a new mental health facility located on Sweeten Creek Road. A Mission Health facility, the new facility will begin taking patients in August.

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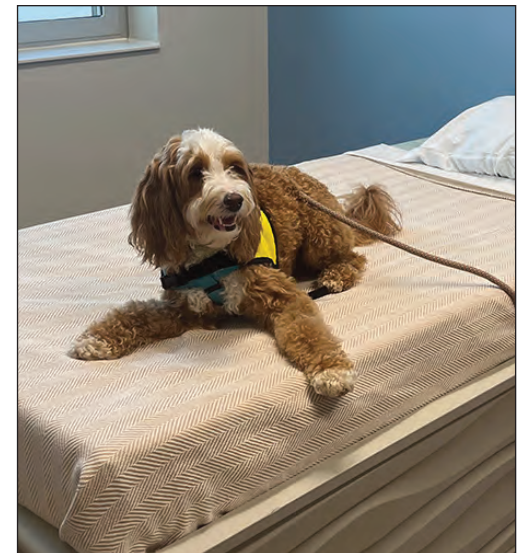
the adult space, and a walking trail in the geriatric space.

- Outdoor horticulture area
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- Open nurses' stations on each unit
- Specialized furniture and other equipment designed specifically for a behavioral health hospital and the safety of the patients

- Onsite pharmacy
 - Onsite cafeteria and chef
- The Sweeten Creek Mental Health and Wellness Center is located 2.4 miles south of Mission Hospital at 32 Apex Circle, Asheville.

About Mission Health
Mission Health operates six hospitals including Angel Medical Center in Franklin, numerous outpatient and surgery centers, post-acute care, long-term acute care provider and the region's only dedicated

Level II trauma center. With approximately 10,500-plus colleagues Mission Health is dedicated to improving the health and wellness of the people of Western North Carolina.



Pet therapy will be offered in conjunction with other behavioral treatments at the new facility.



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NCDHHS announces changes to food and nutrition programs

Access to nutritious food is foundational for overall health and well-being. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services offers several programs to support individuals' access to healthy food, including Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Changes are coming to these two programs due to the end of the federal public health emergency on May 11, 2023. Federal Pandemic Health Emergency (PHE) guidelines had allowed certain flexibilities and exceptions, which are ending in the coming weeks and months.

More than 260,000 North Carolinians are currently enrolled in WIC, and about 1.6 million North Carolinians currently receive FNS benefits. Beneficiaries in the WIC and FNS programs should take action to keep their contact information up to date with these programs and be on the lookout for official mail, emails or texts from the programs.

Changes to WIC Benefits

Families participating in WIC can use their benefits to purchase specific items at WIC authorized retailers. WIC products are limited to certain brands, sizes, types and quantity of products. During the Pandemic Health Emergency, due to supply chain disruptions, some restrictions on the types of products were loosened — particularly types of milk and yogurt and the size of some whole wheat and whole grain bread. These substitutions will no longer be allowed after Aug. 1. Families can access their WIC shopping list and/or the BNFT® app to identify which food benefits are on their eWIC card. A full list of approved brand, size and form of foods that can be purchased with WIC can be found on the NC WIC Program Shopping Guide; individual products can also be scanned at the store using the BNFT® app to check for eligibility.

For more information about the WIC program, visit www.ncdhhs.gov/ncwic.

Changes to FNS Benefits

In North Carolina, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is called Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). The following changes will impact individuals receiving FNS benefits:

Six-month recertifications. During the PHE, the state agency was able to extend FNS certification periods from recertification every six months to every 12 months for certain households. These extensions have ended and now most households will need to recertify every six months to continue receiving FNS benefits. FNS beneficiaries will receive their recertifications in the mail, and it will indicate the date by which they need to submit the recertification to their local Department of Social Services.

Suspensions of claims collections. Some

North Carolina households have received FNS overpayments. While repayments were suspended during the PHE, these overpayments are now to be repaid by the beneficiaries through a repayment plan with their local DSS. FNS beneficiaries will be notified if there are new overpayments that must be repaid and will receive instructions about how to make payment arrangements.

Three specific groups of FNS recipients will also be uniquely affected by the end of the PHE:

– College Students. During the PHE, a new exemption was provided that made some col-

lege students newly eligible for FNS. Students who had completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid with an estimated family contribution of \$0 were able to receive FNS benefits. That exemption is no longer available. The change will be reflected upon the students' benefit recertification.

– Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents. An ABAWD is a FNS applicant or recipient who is between the ages of 18-49, physically and mentally capable of employment and not responsible for or living in a household with a minor child. With the conclusion of the PHE, the ABAWD time limit on benefits goes back into effect, meaning ABAWDs can receive FNS benefits for only three months in a three-year period unless certain extra work requirements or exemptions are met.

– Individuals with class H or I felony convictions. This category relates to those individuals with felony convictions for controlled substances. During the PHE, individuals with class H or I felony convictions were not required to complete a substance abuse assessment to be eligible for FNS. Now that the PHE has ended, those assessments are again required, and individuals will be required to complete the assessment at application or their next recertification.

For more information about the FNS program, visit www.ncdhhs.gov/fns. To apply for benefits online, visit epass.nc.gov.

To learn more about additional food resources, visit www.ncdhhs.gov/foodresources.



The end of the federal public health emergency has resulted in changes to food programs in North Carolina.

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Scenes from Hometown Heritage Festival

Photos by Betsy Gooder

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Watsons celebrate 60 years

The Watsons are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Bobby Watson of Sylva and Bonnie Cheek of Franklin were married in Walhalla, S.C., on July 5, 1963. The Watsons lived in the Atlanta metro area from 1963 to 2006. The couple then retired from their jobs at Coca Cola and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, respectively, and moved to Franklin to be with family. They have a son, Michael, and a daughter, Michelle.

Appreciation Day Saturday at Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain VFR

The Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department is hosting a community appreciation day Saturday, July 22 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Scaly Mountain fire station. The department planned the event to thank the citizens, visitors, and the communities as a whole that they serve. In recent years, the department has received an outpouring of public support in addition to the already established county tax base. Because of this generosity the volunteer firefighters that supply emergency services to these communities have been able to go above-and-beyond "industry-standard" level of services. The firefighters, emergency medical responders, and support personnel are better equipped, trained, and prepared to respond due to the support of the community.

The Scaly Mountain fire station is located at 169 Hale Ridge. Events and activities that day will include a free bar-b-que dinner, a large 'bounce-house' for the kids, fire station tours, equipment and firefighting demonstrations, hands-on activities (trying on gear, spraying hoses, and more), fire prevention items, free smoke-detector installation sign-up, and other fire and EMS-related activities.

For questions or further information, call (828)526-9032.

Macon County's 56th annual Gemboree kicks off July 28

Rock Hounds from all across the United States will be in Franklin, N.C., for the 56th Annual Macon County Gemboree which opens Friday, July 28, at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building just off U.S. 23/441 South. The gem & mineral show is the second oldest event of its kind in the Southeast.

The event is a joint effort of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin.

"We've had a great partnership over the years and that has led to the success of this show," said Linda Harbuck, Executive Director of the Franklin Chamber. "Many of our long-standing vendors and some new vendors are joining us this year. These dealers will have a tremendous variety of items for sale. We'll be utilizing every available space at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building for the Gemboree."

This year the Faceter's Frolic will be held at The Factory, located at 1024 Georgia Road, just up the hill from the community building.

Those attending this year's Gemboree will find an unmatched selection of rough and cut gems & minerals, fine jewelry, lapidary equipment, fossils and will even be able to observe the fine art of faceting stones and more through demonstrations by the Gem & Mineral Society. Hourly door prizes will also be given away throughout the run of the event.

The 56th Annual Macon County Gemboree will run from Friday, July 28, through Sunday, July 30. Hours for the event are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Daily admission is \$3 for adults with those ages 12 & under admitted free. Cards good for \$1 off admission are available at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum. Watch for the gemboree ad in local papers for a \$1 off coupon.

For more information on the 56th Annual Macon County Gemboree, contact the Franklin Chamber of Commerce at (828)524-3161.



The 56th annual Gemboree will be held July 28-30 at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road.



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Girls 8U softball reach State semis; boys host State tournament

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

This summer has seen some new heights achieved in N.C. District 5 Little League baseball and softball. The 10-12-year-old N.C. Little League State Tournament is being hosted for the first time in Franklin, July 15-21, at the Parker Meadows Complex. Another first, the Franklin-based District 5, 8 and Under (8U) softball girls team won their district championship and went on to play in the state tournament.

District 5 Little League 8U Girls make history

This year's Little League 8U softball team went further in play than any team before them. The team, consisting of 12 girls, won eight out of the nine games they played through early July. They won all of their district games to win the District 5 (D5) championship, and in the state tournament they mercy-ruled every team they faced in the pool play round. The so-called mercy rule dictates that if a team is down by at least 15 runs after three innings or 12 after four, the game is called. The D5 girls entered bracket play seeded third and drew Person County (Roxboro) in the first round, winning 14-2 to reach the semi-finals. Their next opponent was Pitt County (Greenville), who beat Franklin 14-4 and then ended up beating Rowan County for the championship. The D5 Franklin team draws from a much smaller selection than the larger counties and regions, which made its run all the more impressive. The girls left South Durham (26-4), Northwest Forsyth (18-7), and Person County (twice: 28-15 and 14-2) in their wake on the way to the state semi-final game. In five games, the girls scored 90 runs with 128 total hits, 33 doubles, 5 triples, and 11 homeruns.

The team was led by Head Coach Ethan Garrett and assistants Michael Lambert, Shawn Bowles, Justin Setser, and Derik Shuler. Garrett thanked the “wonderful community support” from start to finish. “I honestly feel like these girls need some recognition for all their hard work ... they have only been [playing] together for over a month; for them to be one of the top four teams in the whole state of N.C. is mind blowing,” said Garrett.

Baseball tournament history

The Little League baseball state tournament matched the six Little League districts throughout N.C. in a double elimination contest. This year's tournament included South Durham (D6), Franklin (D5), (Greenville) Tar Heel (D4), Myers Park (D3), Winston-Salem National (D2), and McDowell (D1). Only one D5 team has ever won the state tournament, which has been held since 1950, and that was 50 years ago in 1974 when West Asheville accomplished the feat. D3 has won the most championships overall with 18. As for this year's competition, three of the teams (Franklin, McDowell, and South Durham) are in their first championship tournament. Myers Park has won once, while Winston-Salem has six championships and Greenville, 11.

Franklin opened up the tournament Saturday, July 15, at 4



The Franklin-based 8U softball team won the District 5 Champions going on to play in the state tournament. The team is led by Head Coach Ethan Garrett, Michael Lambert, Shawn Bowles, Justin Setser and Derik Shuler.

p.m. The team consisted of 11 players: Paxton Green, Nolan Estes, Graham Cantrell, Cooper Jones, Cam English, Sam Moore, Jude Morgan, Easton Holbrooks, Max Cable, Lawson Gibson, and Corbin Chastain. The team was managed by Josh Cantrell, who was assisted by coaches Nick Morgan and Chad Stockton.

The tournament's first game pitted Franklin against the D3 Myers Park team, which lost to Bull City (Durham/D6) in last year's championship. In what turned out to be a mismatch, Myers Park won 15-1 in four innings. The lone Franklin run came off the bat and legs of Moore. He hit a triple in the bottom of the fourth inning and then stole home. (Graham) Cantrell started on the mound but left in the second inning after throwing 51 pitches and down 0-4. Green started the third inning but could not finish it after numerous walks issued and a couple of wild pitches that plated additional runs. He was subsequently relieved by English, who was saddled with a 0-9 deficit. English did strike out the final batter of the inning and pitched the fourth, but the damage was done with the game ended via the mercy rule. Franklin seemed to suffer a case of the nerves, as it was a big moment for the team and the week-plus leading up to the start was undoubtedly stressful.



Sam Moore hits a triple for the lone run Franklin scored in game one of the 10-12 year-olds LL State Tournament.

Interviewed after the first game, manager Cantrell admitted the importance and atmosphere of the tournament may have affected his team.

“You worry about that at this age group; they never adjusted and when it starts going downhill, it's hard to stop it ... I don't think they were mentally prepared to play.” He even admitted, “I've been worried about that game since we got together as a

team.”

As for this part of the summer baseball season, playing Little League games at this stage is really a compilation of various area teams' “all-stars,” which means Cantrell and his fellow coaches only had the tournament team together for a short while. Looking forward to the second game, Cantrell observed the relatively small difference between all the teams.

“I like our chances – I've seen everybody play now and there's not a ton of difference between any of these teams. It's who's coming ready to play and who can handle six innings of pressure.”

Franklin played in the elimination bracket Monday, July 17, at 6 p.m., against Greenville, with the losing team done for the year. On Sunday evening, the South Durham team beat the Tar Heels in 10 innings setting up the win-or-go-home scenario with Franklin. Unfortunately, the game was almost a carbon copy of Saturday's contest. While the local boys did not lose by quite as many runs, they still lasted only four innings, going down 13-3. Easton Holbrooks started the game and the team actually was down more in the first inning than on Saturday. Entering the bottom of the frame, Franklin already trailed 0-7. However, they fought back, getting a single and triple for two runs and then scoring another on a wild pitch. That would essentially be the last offense they could muster.

In addition to suffering through another tough game, Greenville's manager, Todd Boyd, caused a 15-plus minute delay in the game while protesting Franklin manager Cantrell going to the mound during a timeout that he (Boyd) called.



The Franklin team takes the field for their second game in the State Tournament.

After plate umpire Rex Baker alerted game officials, they pored through the rulebook and made phone calls. Cantrell's visit was deemed legal and the game continued.

Although Franklin is now eliminated, the championship game will be played as early as Thursday, July 20, or possibly Friday, at the latest. As of July 19, South Durham and Myers Park were still undefeated, and whichever of those two teams won Tuesday evening would determine who is in the best position. Regardless of the outcome, the champion will be playing in the Southeast Regional Tournament in Warner Robins (Georgia) against the Florida State Champion beginning Thursday, Aug. 3, at 10 a.m. The winner of that tournament will head to the Little League World Series, in Williamsport, Pa. This year's series will take place Aug. 16-27 and pits teams from around the world. The championship will consist of the U.S. winner vs. another country's champion.

Catching Up: ADs Matt Bradley & Zach Tallent

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

Although school is out for the summer, many coaches and teachers are still working – some, with second modes of employment and some with tidbits of school year planning and organization ongoing through the summer months.

As Athletic Director (AD) for Franklin High School (FHS) and Macon Middle School (MMS), respectively, Matt Bradley and Zach Tallent take somewhat different approaches to the summer months.

Bradley has two boys who enjoy sports and being outdoors probably as much as their dad. Whether it is golfing, mowing grass while listening to hunting podcasts, or visiting his deer camp, Bradley is all about spending time with his kids outdoors.

Similarly, Tallent is an avid fisherman, recently coming close to winning prize money at a tournament on an area lake. He and his wife Bailey recently had their first child and he cherishes the extra time in the summer to spend time with them both that “you don’t get back.”

Bradley has lived in the Franklin area his whole life and over the years has been involved in many sporting activities at the middle and high school levels. He coached football at the middle school, junior varsity (JV), and varsity levels. Coaching softball, JV and varsity baseball, and outdoor track at MMS and FHS are also on his resumé. In addition to athletic director responsibilities, Bradley teaches in Career and Technical Education (CTE) as well as Physical Education departments.

In somewhat mirroring aspects, Tallent, also a Franklin native, started out coaching various sports, including football (five years) and track coach (two years) at MMS. He also spent one year as FHS indoor track coach. After being selected for the AD position, he quickly realized juggling it and coaching was burdensome so he dropped the middle school track coach position after the second year. He also teaches in the CTE realm – Agricultural Education and Exploring Environment and Natural Resources. Just prior to joining MMS, Tallent taught science for a semester at Union Academy.

Bradley spent 11 years at MMS as athletic director before achieving the same position at the high school. When he moved up, Tallent stepped in and replaced him in 2020. Graduating from FHS in 2015, Tallent graduated from Western Carolina University in 2019. As with so many, both men experienced the trials and tribulations of all that transpired between 2020-2021.

“Every kid and coach who went through the sports process of moving seasons [around] went above and beyond to make the best of some really crazy circumstances,” said Bradley.

Tallent had just gotten married and was beginning his time at MMS when the pandemic commenced, and with it came challenges on the work and home front. Regardless of the obstacles, both men expressed appreciation for living in Macon County. And, they both pointed out that they value the camaraderie that comes with sports teams and contests.

While winning always seems to make



Franklin High School Athletic Director Matt Bradley congratulates Male Athlete of the Year Blake Cassada at the Athletic Awards Ceremony last month.

sports more fun, what goes into the process is much more important. Bradley added that what he has liked most about his time as AD is seeing the athletes improve and being able to support them.

“We’ve been blessed with a group of kids that have a sense of determination, a sense of work ethic that I haven’t really seen before in kids this age,” Tallent observed. “I think that has led to a lot of their success.”

While most coaches can be more heavily involved in one or two teams, they generally have no interaction with or impact on other sports. However, athletic directors are involved with all the sports in a school’s overall program.

While Bradley has almost 15 years of experience in some level of administration, Tallent is the youngest coach in the Blue Ridge

Athletic Conference (BRAC).

“When a certain situation arises that I haven’t dealt with before, that can be tough,” said Tallent. At the same time, he quickly gave credit to others for his development. “I’ve got a network of a lot of people here who have gone out of their way to help me. Coach Bradley was my middle school and JV football coach. He, Ryan Hadley (FHS Assistant AD), and Coach Jay (Brooks) as well, being a former AD for so long. I have a great relationship with all those guys and anytime something new comes along, they always have some advice to give.”

Tallent has overseen a remarkable run of success at MMS over the past two years. In 2022 alone, teams won the conference tournament in football, volleyball, girls’ and boys’ basketball, baseball, and softball. The girls’ soccer team was upset as the #1 seed in the first round of their tournament. That equates to an aggregate 113-7 record, 103-4 in the BRAC.

“A lot of kids were very determined to get better and our coaches do a great job of preparing them to do well – at this level and also preparing them to compete when they get to high school, said Tallent. “All of our middle school coaches try to have relationship with high school coaches of the same sport.

While we want to compete and win at our level, we want to see sustained success at the high school level.” At the same time, Tallent pointed out that coaches are careful to not push kids too hard where they could end up making youngsters sour on the experience, the competition, and the life lessons.

Keeping things in perspective is as important within the school system, academically or athletically, as finishing first. And often, it is much more important. As with other teachers and coaches interviewed over the past couple of months for this “Catching Up” series, Bradley and Tallent are yet two more examples of the attitudes and accountability that make FHS and MMS stand out among their peers in Western North Carolina.



Zach Tallent at 2022 BRAC Football Conference Tournament Championship.

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Gemstone Village joins Franklin chamber

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting celebration for the Gemstone Village located at 150 N. Gemstone Avenue just off Prentiss Bridge Road, ¼ mile east of US 441 South.

Gemstone Village is a new 55 and over retirement community just a few miles south of Franklin. Gemstone Village and Gemstone Village South have something for everyone, two-bedroom two-bath and three-bedroom two-bath manufactured homes, as well as, one level two-bedroom two-bath townhomes offering beautiful mountain views. Amenities include town water and sewer, high speed internet service, and straight-line moving as part of monthly services.

The sales office is open six days per week, Monday through Saturday from 10 am. to 5 p.m. Associates are available on Sunday by appointment only. Call 828-200-4168 for more information or stop by the sales office for a



Offices for Gemstone Village are located at 150 N. Gemstone Ave, just off Prentiss Bridge Road.

tour. Several homes are ready for immediate occupancy or optional homes can be ordered with the buyer's choice of upgrades. Gemstone has licensed associates to answer questions.

NC streamlines process for vendors and buyers

The NC Department of Administration's Division of Purchase & Contract Division launched a newly enhanced electronic Vendor Portal (eVP) for its eProcurement system on July 10, making it easier both for vendors and procurement agents to sell or buy goods and services for state agencies. The new eVP consolidates the functionality of state government's three procurement applications into a single, cloud-based system, allowing for greater efficiency among North Carolina businesses and state procurement professionals.

For vendors, the new eVP improves and simplifies access by allowing them to perform multiple functions in one platform. In the new streamlined system, vendors can: Register to do business with the state; view and submit bid opportunities to state entities; register for NC Small Business Enterprise or Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) certifications; and view bid tabulations, and awards. This upgrade eliminates the need to toggle between multiple systems and it saves vendors and buyers time, money and resources by fully transitioning to a paperless system. Both vendors and purchasers will appreciate the improved transparency and ability to search public records for tabulations and awards indefinitely. The previous system only held the records for a month after the contract was awarded.

Vendors who are interested in doing business with state government agencies can log into their existing eVP account or visit <https://evp.nc.gov/>.

HBF elects new officers

The Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) announces a transition in its leadership with the election of new trustees and officers.

Jennie Stowers successfully completed a two-year term as the president of the Board of Directors on Wednesday, June 28. Her hands-on leadership and dedication have been invaluable to the organization's growth and success. Stowers will remain on the board as Past-President.

Stepping into the role of president is John Mitchener, another long-time HBF supporter. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and a deep understanding of the Foundation's mission and goals, ensuring a seamless transition and continued progress.

Accompanying Mitchener in the Board's leadership is the newly elected slate of officers. Amy Patterson has been re-elected as treasurer; Bill Clarkson assumes the role of vice president; and David Martin has been appointed secretary.

Four new trustees were also elected at the annual membership meeting: Linda Barlow, Lisa Dailey, Lindy Harrison, and Jim Landon.

With the collective expertise and passion of the new officers and trustees, the Foundation is poised to continue its vital work supporting environmental education and scientific research. For more information about HBF, its programs, and how to support its mission, visit www.highlandsbiological.org/foundation.



Jennie Stowers & John Mitchener

Rose Creek Gem Mine under new ownership

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce joined with the new owner of Rose Creek Gem Mine recently at a ribbon cutting celebration. Rose Creek Gem Mine is located at 240 Terrace Ridge Drive in Franklin.

The new owner, Sean Price, is a local geologist with an extensive knowledge of rocks and minerals. He will be continuing the tradition of exceptional customer service at the mine as well as adding new experiences including special events and gem mining tours.

Rose Creek Mine has been a staple in the Franklin community since 1952, and is proud to be a part of so many families' vacation traditions. Rose Creek is a real, working, gem mine set right next to the Rose Creek Campground. A fully covered 130-foot flume is open rain or shine. The Rose Creek Mine motto has always been "Good-Clean-Dirty-Fun."

Rose Creek Mine offers a native "dig-your-own" option for the rockhounds interested in our local gemstones, as well as, premium buckets where you can find emeralds, rubies, sapphires, garnets, amethyst, citrine, tigers eye, and so much more. The mine's friendly and knowledgeable staff take the time to identify and label the gems. An onsite rock and gift



Rose Creek Gem Mine offers a 130-foot flume that is open rain or shine. The mine is located at 240 Terrace Ridge Drive in Franklin.

shop offers many other amazing treasures.

Other amenities include a handicap accessible flume, clean restrooms, and picnic areas.

Rose Creek Mine is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 1 through Oct. 3 including all major holidays. No reservations are needed. Give them a call at (828)349-3774 and visit their website at rosecreekmine.com. Specialty events and local gem mining tours are available upon request.

PICKIN' ON THE SQUARE



Free Entertainment Every Other Saturday!

Pickin' on the Square is fun, free entertainment most Saturday nights throughout the summer. Main entertainment starts at approximately 6:00 p.m.

For more information call 828-524-2516 Donnie Clay - Coordinator



We will be having the band Paradise 56 playing this weekend Saturday July 22nd. They are a great band that plays a super variety of music such as Oldies, Motown, Buffett, Country, plus some of their own great original music.

The concert starts at 6:00 p.m and goes 'till 8:00 p.m. at the gazebo in downtown Franklin. These concerts are given to you by the town of Franklin free of admission. So bring a chair, leave your cares, and see you there!!

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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The Legislative Review

N.C. Rep. Karl Gillespie

In this week's edition of The Legislative Review, the House returns to Raleigh after the July 4th recess, and state budget negotiations continue between the two chambers.

Members returned to Raleigh beginning Monday, July 10. State budget negotiations between the House and Senate are ongoing.

On Tuesday, the House convened for an administrative session and no votes were held. On Wednesday, the House Judiciary 3 Committee met. At 1 p.m., I attended a caucus with my colleagues prior to the 2 p.m. voting session. During session we voted on various legislation, including:

– HB125, NC Health and Human Services Workforce Act, would make various changes, including:

- Authorize the North Carolina Medical Board to issue a military relocation license and an internationally-trained physician employee license, subject to an application fee of \$400.

- Make modifications to the State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board related to over-the-counter hearing aids.

- Add the Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis Credentialing Board as a certifying entity for behavior analysts.

The House voted unanimously not to concur with the Senate changes. The bill now goes to conference committee where House and Senate conferees will attempt to reach an agreement.

– HB219, Charter School Omnibus, would make various changes to laws affecting charter schools, including:

- Preventing LEA impacts from consideration in charter approvals and renewals, and requiring consideration of student subgroup performance in some renewals.

- Removing restrictions of growth for charters that are not low-performing, and allowing SBE consideration of growth greater than 20% for charter schools that are low-performing.

- Allow charter schools to admit out-of-state students and foreign exchange students.

I voted in favor, and the bill passed, 61-41.

– HB600, Regulatory Reform Act of 2023, would amend State laws related to State and local government, agriculture, energy, environment, natural resources, and other various regulations.

The vote was 102-0 not to concur with the Senate changes. The bill now heads to conference committee.

Upon adjournment, the House concluded its legislative



Karl Gillespie

See GILLESPIE on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Damage done to the library bothersome

Jim Gaston was writing about me in his long, rambling, letter to the editor. "WNC Republicans can no longer be distracted by media hacks, disingenuous ex-mayors, or anyone else with an axe to grind." That would be me. I am a news hack. I am the ex-mayor. I have ground many axes in my life.

Since Mr. Gaston led the attempt to overthrow and denigrate our local library, I would remind him... "Don't join the book burners. Don't think you're going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed. Don't be afraid to go in your library and read every book..." Dwight D. Eisenhower, a great soldier and president, said that. I hope Gaston will pay attention to Ike. (A Republican)

And while we are at it, I remind Gaston that in more than 65 years of careers in many fields, some suspect, I have been called far worse. That does not bother me. What does bother me is the damage Gaston and his followers have done to our library, which he had no part in helping bring to reality.

Gaston is largely responsible for tearing down moderate and conservative Republicans who have worked for this county decades more than he has. Many of them are close friends although we may and usually do disagree. Neither party can take credit for all the good that makes Macon County the place it is. Our goodness came about by people who love this county and have loved it for generations. From all parties and political persuasions. Working together.

Gaston described me accurately. Now, we wait in the coming weeks, to marvel at the next crusade he establishes to squabble about.

Bob Scott – Franklin, N.C.

Questions asked have gone unanswered

Mr. Snell, you attack me on letter length and no facts. Really, Mr. Snell. You have written several long-winded scathing diatribes/rants yourself - so look in the mirror before going off the deep end.

I do not flaunt my 20 years of service as you do in every single rant you write. I personally don't care what service you served in, what group, or when. It has nothing to do with any of the letters like you and others write that is purely drivel and never supported by facts. So, as you state, it's all opinion.

I asked Mr. Waldrop several questions he has refused to answer and moves on to J6, a typical deflection tactic by liberals when they have nothing to defend their misstatements. Same here, Mr. Snell.

Another person who thinks the [Second Amendment] is outdated. No, it isn't Mr. Snell and by the way, states do have many laws and requirements for legal gun purchases / ownership. If you've not purchased a firearm lately, you

have no clue, which is very obvious in your rants (opinions). There are age requirements and more for purchasing both handguns and rifles - even in N.C. (and yes D. Kowal - even at gun shows). The left like you and others can't seem to understand the Second Amendment and what it meant then and now. Like you state - it's your opinion on the subject.

Basic facts - guns do not kill anyone on their own. If they did, Mr. Waldrop who owns several along with D. Kowal would not be writing letters (rants) to the editor. Like a car, knife, baseball bat, 2x4, and other instruments used to kill / harm people - they are all inanimate objects. They only do something when in the hands of a human being.

As I asked with no answer - is when are Democrats going to confiscate guns from criminals? Most gun related homicides in cities like Chicago (weekly), Detroit, Baltimore, NYC, and Philadelphia are committed by criminals, gangs, and felons. What political party do these cities operate under?

You're reaching beyond extremes on the "slaughter of our children." Want facts Mr. Snell? Columbine started the "mass shootings" in the U.S. (which by the way was changed under Obama from 4 to 3 people dying). Neither Harris or Klebold were old enough to purchase weapons legally. So, where did they get those weapons? Why did it get to the point of creating Columbine that also contributed to Sandy Hook and Parkland? These two young men were severely bullied at Columbine and seems nothing happened to fix the bullying issue. That led these two to hatch a plan of revenge, which they carried out. Heinous is not even good word to express what they did. Cowards more aptly applies. Yet, their mental health comes in to question, as do the rest of the mass shootings that have happened since. Most of the other school shootings happened because of bullying and other issues which the schools did little to nothing about. As well as fellow students, family, and friends. After Columbine - most of the school shootings were more or less copycat shootings and these young people seeking their 15 minutes of fame in the media - like Harris and Klebold got. But to you on the left - the gun is the issue. Balderdash. It's the person operating the gun - just like when they use knives, cars, and other household items to kill with. Till the left gets a grip on mental health issues that cause these shootings - we'll keep having them - along with weeks worth of media attention which also drives these unstable people to commit these crimes. Also, another fact is that most of these mass shooters are liberals - like the gunman shooting up a Congressional ball game or the transgender person at a Christian School recently in Nashville.

Maybe Mr. Snell needs a history lesson since he seems to have forgotten. What happened when guns (any weapon really all thru history) were banned in Germany under Hitler. Seems a few million people (mostly Jews) were slaughtered. Yes, men, women, and children. Do we want history to repeat itself? Seems the leftist agenda is in fact attempting to

See LETTERS on page 11

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LETTERS

Continued from
page 10

do just that. When the people have no way to protect themselves from criminals and a rogue government (POTUS, FBI, ATF, IRS) - then those people no longer have freedom, which you so easily dismiss. They become slaves to dictators and a totalitarian set of elites. Check out Cuba and Venezuela.

I own guns that have not killed or hurt anyone. I got them per all the legal (laws) hoops I had to jump thru to purchase them. Again, how many criminals buy firearms legally? When is the left going to confiscate all those "illegal" weapons to stop 75-plus percent of current murders/shootings in America? Please answer, if you can.

Terry Swift – Franklin, N.C.

Two miraculous births in Bethlehem

Sometime around 1200 BC, there was a famine in the land of Moab. Three widows decided to return to Naomi's hometown of Bethlehem, because Naomi had heard that God was providing food for His people in the land of Judah. Naomi, whose name means "pleasant one," had lost her husband 10 years earlier, and Orpha and Ruth recently lost theirs. Naomi tried to persuade her daughters-in-law to go back home. Orpha did. But Ruth would have none of it. She loved her mother-in-law, and was determined that she would go with her wherever she went. She said, "Don't urge me to leave you, or to return from following you. Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but

death parts me from you."

So the two women continued on to Bethlehem and got there as the barley harvest was beginning. Ruth asked Naomi if she could go out and glean behind the harvesters. She ended up in the field belonging to Boaz, who was a close relative of Naomi's. Boaz noticed Ruth right away, and asked his work supervisor about her. He had heard all about how she looked after her mother-in-law after her husband's death. And how she left her parents and her native land and came to a people she did not know before. Boaz blesses her, saying, "The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"

Naomi advises Ruth to dress in her best clothes and slip quietly onto the threshing floor after Boaz has eaten and gone to sleep. She does so, and in the middle of night, Boaz is startled, and discovers a woman lying at his feet. When he learns that it is Ruth, he blesses her again saying, "May you be blessed by the Lord. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether rich or poor." He promises to redeem her, but tells her there is a nearer relative who must be given first opportunity. To redeem meant the man would buy the land of the deceased relative, and marry the widow. The other man refuses because it might interfere with his own estate. So Boaz marries Ruth and they have a son, who becomes the grandfather of David-- the greatest king of Israel. Then about a thousand years later, Jesus is born in Bethlehem, heir to the eternal throne of his forefather David. It is significant that Ruth and Rahab are the only women mentioned in Jesus' lineage. They are both gentiles. Jesus came to save all people, Jews and Gentiles, from sin. It is the most beautiful story ever told!

Ed Hill – Franklin, N.C.

GILLESPIE

Continued from
page 10

business for the week.

During the week of July 4th, Governor Cooper vetoed the following five bills:

- HB618, Charter School Review Board
- HB488, Code Council Reorg. And Var. Code Amend.
- HB808, Gender Transition/Minors
- HB574, Fairness in Women's Sports Act
- SB49, Parents' Bill of Rights

On Monday, July 10, Governor Cooper signed the following bills into law:

- SB722, Child Care Flexibilities.
- HB203, DST Technical Corrections.-AB
- HB181, Unclaimed Property Division Changes.-AB
- HB628, Amend On-Site Wastewater/Environment Statutes
- HB782, Movie Sets/Radon/Licensee Experience
- HB814, Emergency Management Mods
- HB173, Treasury Administrative Changes Act.-AB
- HB387, Medal of Valor Award for First Responders
- HB484, Mental Health Confidential Info. Disclosure
- HB674, Child Advocacy Centers/Share Information
- SB91, Amend Rule 4/Acceptance of Service

Did You Know?

High speed internet grants awarded to House District 120

More high-speed internet is being deployed to the district. North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) has announced that over \$8 million has been awarded to Macon, Clay, Graham and Cherokee Counties. Approximately 3,342 households and businesses will receive access to high-speed internet, highlighting the NC General Assembly's continued commitment to connecting our rural and underserved areas of the state. Below is the district breakdown.

Macon County: Balsam West (Balsam West) has been selected for funding under the GREAT Grant program in the amount of \$992,403.90. These funds are contingently awarded for the project entitled "Macon County Broadband Expansion Project" to deploy broadband services to approximately 263 households and businesses in Macon County.

Clay County: Blue Ridge Mountain EMC (Blue Ridge Mountain EMC) has been selected for funding under the GREAT Grant program in the amount of \$3,842,233.68. These funds are contingently awarded for the project entitled "BRMEMC-Clay County Application B" to deploy broadband services to approximately 1457 households and businesses in Clay County.

Graham County: Zito West Holding, LLC (Zito Media) has been selected for funding under the GREAT Grant program in the amount of \$619,916.65. These funds are contingently awarded for the project entitled "Graham County Broadband Expansion 2022" to deploy broadband services to approximately 217 households and businesses in Graham County.

Cherokee County: CND Acquisition Corporation (The Cable Company) has been selected for funding under the GREAT Grant program in the amount of \$2,855,970.32. These funds are contingently awarded for the project entitled "Cherokee County Broadband Expansion 2022" to deploy broadband services to approximately 1405 households and businesses in Cherokee County.

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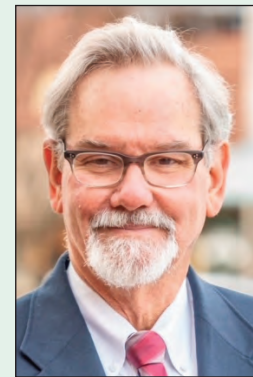
For the second year in a row, North Carolina has been ranked by CNBC as America's #1 State for Business, a testament to the General Assembly's pro-growth formula of less taxes, balanced budgets and fewer regulations.

Let us know what you think

Contact us and we will assist you in any way we can. E-mail: Andrew.Bailey@ncleg.gov or phone: 919-733-5859.

What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Before July, I was optimistic that the North Carolina Legislature would pass a budget and adjourn sometime in July; however, when the legislators reassembled on July 11, things went south very fast. Out of the blue, SB 90 was introduced. If passed, this bill will make major changes to public education in the state. Also, funding issues like pay increases for state workers and teachers emerged.

Now, I am hearing that the legislature could remain in session through August and even into September. The state budget may not get final approval until the end of the session, so there are a lot of unknowns in Raleigh as we go into late summer. State funds for Mirror Lake and the water plant will not be confirmed until a final budget is passed, and it seems the entire budget process is very fluid until the session ends. Also, during this time, other pieces of legislation, such as limiting towns to regulate STRs [short term rentals], could re-emerge or be attached to a budget bill.

I suspect a number of now weary legislators wish there were a state statute similar to the one requiring towns and counties to pass a balanced budget by July 1. Such a statute would also help state agencies and schools plan for the coming year.

The July meeting for our town board is Thursday at 7 a.m. at the Highlands Community Center. It can also be accessed on YouTube at a link on the town website.

A major item will be a review of the easement request of the Shelby Place Homeowners Property Association for the sidewalk on NC 106. The town presented the association with a memorandum of understanding (MOU) concerning the required easement. I anticipate several possible adjustments to the MOU before both parties enter a formal legal agreement.

The town needs to move forward with this easement process in order to secure possible grant funding that would help make the sidewalk project a reality. The Town staff and the Southwestern Regional Planning Commission staff have identified grant funds for the project, and it is incumbent that the board commits to move forward with the project in order to qualify for these funds. The total cost for the sidewalk will be somewhere between \$1 to \$1.3 million. Funds will come from private resources, the town, and hopefully, this state grant.

Our town attorney has drafted a new lease for the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center building on the corner of 1st Street and Main. The board will review the latest draft lease before sending it to the chamber for their review. I anticipate final action on this lease at the August meeting.

At the town board meeting this Thursday, our town attorney will present a report on his assessment of our town board committee structure. For many years the board has had work committees to address specific issues such as public safety, land use, recreation, and finance. These committees meet and then make recommendations to the full board. Mr. Hagemann will identify options and modifications for the board to review and consider.

I hope to see you at the Town meeting this Thursday night

Last chance to see 'Bye Bye Birdie'

This weekend is the last chance to see the Overlook Theater Company's production of "Bye Bye Birdie." The classic musical comedy will stage July 21 and 22, at 7:30 p.m. nightly at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. For ticket information, visit smokymountainarts.com or call 866-273-4615.









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Arrest Report

--Franklin Police Department and Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests July 3-14. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Franklin Police Department

July 11

Robert Ryan Oteri, 34, was charged with resisting a public officer. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

July 14

Krystn Lyn Zinkand, 30, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay. E.D. Kirkland made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

July 3

Cody Wesley Loyd, 31, was charged with breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Thomas Frank Anderson, 33, was charged with resisting a public officer, shoplifting and shoplifting more than \$2,000. A secured bond of \$21,000 was set.

Shira Lynn Littlejohn, 33, was charged with failure to appear for break or enter a motor vehicle, felony conspiracy, larceny of a motor vehicle, cut/injury to property to obtain nonferrous metal, chop shop activity, injury to personal property, obtain property by false pretense and larceny after break/enter. A secured bond of \$40,000 was set.

Earland Rebel McKay, 44, was charged with manufacture/sell/deliver marijuana. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

July 4

Bobby Joe Connor, 54, was charged with fail to register sex offender. A secured bond of \$150 was set.

Joshua Gage Davis, 26, was charged with child support purge, possession of stolen goods/property, misdemeanor larceny, obtain property by false pretense, uttering a forged instrument and forgery of an instrument. No bond was set.

William Miles Matter, 31, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Jaydon David Parris, 21, was charged with indecent liberties with a child, statutory rape of a child less than or equal to 15 and statutory sex offense with a child less than or equal to 15. A secured bond of \$950,000 was set.

July 5

James Robert Logan, 37, was charged with habitual felon. No bond was set.

Casey Leanna Mark, 36, was charged with damage to real property, possession of stolen goods, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering, drug equipment violations, second degree trespass, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises, possession of methamphetamine, larceny after break/enter, breaking and/or entering and possession of stolen goods. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Kelly Elizabeth Wise-Mason, 46, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

Claude Gregroy Coggins, 60, was charged with driving under the influence. No bond was set.

July 6

Robert Joseph Beasley, 33, was charged with failure to appear for breaking and/or entering, possession of methamphetamine and possession of heroin. A secured bond of \$45,000 was set.

Michael Sean Lewis, 55, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession with intent to sell or deliver methamphetamine, deliver methamphetamine, sell methamphetamine, trafficking in methamphetamine by delivering, trafficking in methamphetamine by selling and habitual felon. A secured bond of \$250,000 was set.

Torri Lynn Stillwell, 51, was charged with larceny, harboring a fugitive, reconnect utility second offense, possession of stolen property maintaining a dwelling for a controlled substances. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Gene Allen Leopard, 64, was charged with communicating threats. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Lacy Alexis Normand, 27, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Michael Sean Lewis, 55, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

July 7

Kelly Elizabeth Wise-Mason, 46, was charged with possession of a controlled substance on jail premises, possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond was set.

Vernon Tracy Henson, 60, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Diquan Dunlap, 29, was charged with second degree trespass and communicating threats. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

July 7

James Tanner Barron, 26, was charged with fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

July 8

Avery Snow Gunter, 19, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Cody Solis Reynosa, 22, was charged with damage to real property and breaking and entering forcible. No bond was set.

Karen Grace Dussault, 38, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses and larceny. No bond was set.

Zachary Storm Grant, 26, was charged with child abuse, as-

FPD offers info to stave off scams targeting older adults

The Franklin Police Department has a limited number of booklets entitled "Money Smart for Older Adults," a resource guide to help educate older citizens about elder financial exploitation. This comprehensive guide addresses such issues as computer and internet fraud, Identity theft, contractor fraud and home improvement scams, and tax and debt collection fraud.



The free booklets are available on a first-come-first-served basis. FPD also has literature regarding gift card scams and other popular scams that target the elderly, or those who may not be computer savvy.

Remember, if someone on the phone is telling you to pay them with a gift card to:

- Pay an IRS debt
 - Keep your utilities on
 - Pay for a family member in trouble
 - Pay a member of the military needing money
 - Pay bail or ransom
 - Pay for missing jury duty
 - Avoid arrest or deportation
- Hang up the phone, it's a scam.

The Franklin Police Department is located at 218 West Palmer Street, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Copies of the guide and other free materials dealing with fraud and scams can be found on the Government's Consumer Financial Protection Bureau website at <https://pueblo.gpo.gov/CFPBPubs/CFPBPubs.php?PubID=13039>.

sault on a female and communicating threats. No bond was set.

July 9

William Fred Killilay, 49, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. A secured bond of \$60,000 was set.

Lewis Ray Shalako Cochran, 29, was charged with communicating threats. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

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 - Real Estate • Rentals
 - Services • Wanted

(Numbers, abbreviations and initials count as words)

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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
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			24
			\$9.00

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Free Summer Meals offered for Macon County School Students. Breakfast is served from 7:30 to 8 a.m.; Lunch is served from 11:30 to 12 noon. For the month of July, meals will be served at the following sites: Cartoogechaye Elementary through July 21; East Franklin through July 21; Franklin High School July 20, 24-27; Iotla Valley through July 21; Mountain View through July 21; Nantahala School through July 27, 31; Nantahala Learning Center, Lunch only 12:30 - 1p.m., Tuesday-Friday, through Aug. 18; New Vision Gymnastics 12:30 - 1 p.m., through Aug. 25; and the Macon County Library Lunch 11 to 11:30 a.m. through July 31.

Manna Food Bank is now at Bethel United Methodist Church. To reserve a food box, call (828)634-1116 and leave a message with the following information: your first name and last initial; phone number to confirm pick-up time; number of people in your family; allergies in the family; and any specialty items needed, like diapers, etc. Pick up is at Bethel UMC, 81 Bethel Church Road, off Highlands Road.

Prettiss Church Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, July 20, 2 to 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane. For more information, call (828)369-3885.

Heartland Band Old Time Gospel Singing will be held on Friday, July 21, 6 to 8 p.m., at West Franklin Church, located on Sloan Rd., next to the Forest Service Office. All are welcome.

MidDay Music at Frog Quarters with Jim Austin Trio will be held on Saturday, July 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Friends of the Greenway, 573 E Main St., Franklin down by the river bridges in town. Music events at Frog Quarters are free.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, July 26, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the signs. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, July 26, from 4 to 6 p.m. The church is located at 86 E. Hickory Knoll Rd. For more information, call the church at(828)369-9300 or Jannie at (813)305-9433.

Franklin Covenant Church Drive Through Hot Lunch, Food Pantry Items and Prayer as Requested will be held on Saturday, July 29, starting at 11a.m. The church is located at 265 Belleview Park Rd.

Extension Agent Kim Terrell will present a Beginner Water Bath class on Canning Pickles will be held on Thursday, Aug. 3, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn the basics of canning dill pickles and take home a jar at the end of the class. The class will be held at the Macon County Co-operative Extension Office at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin. For more information, cost or to pre-register, call (828)349-2046.

Memorial United Methodist Church Drive Thru Dinner will be held on Saturday, Aug. 5, from 5-7.

Hyatt Family Reunion will be held on Saturday, Aug. 5, gathering at 11 a.m.; lunch begins at noon, Qualla Community Center, 128 Shoal Creek Church Loop Rd., Whittier, next to Shoal Creek Baptist Church, off Highway 441 near Cherokee. Bring a covered dish to share. Bring photographs, letters, memorabilia, and other items that represent the Hyatt family. Bring copies of past to present photos of your family for a project that will be created the day of the reunion.

The Franklin High School Graduating Class of 1968 will hold its 55th reunion at the Holly Springs Community Center, Sept. 23, from 2 to 6 p.m. RSVP to Conley Shope (828)371-7558 or (828)349-9759.

Open Mind Discussion Group for those interested in the writings of Zacharia Stichen, Graham Hancock, Paul Wallace and other authors. For more information contact openmindfranklin@gmail.com

Nantahala Hiking Club Silver Striders Walks/Hikes are held on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. The hikes are led by two NHC members, Kathy Ratcliff and Beverly Upson. The walks/hikes are three miles

long and are usually local. Examples: Winding Stair FS Road, Coweeta Lab, Greenway, Wallace Branch, Tessentee Bottomland. For more information, call Jack Blake at (828)421-5661. Leave a message and he will get back to you.

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

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

In Home COVID-19 and Flu Vaccinations available for adults ages 65 and older. Drive through clinics will be offered in the fall. For information or to schedule an in-home vaccine, call (828)349-2058, ext. 2280.

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

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

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

Macon Chips, Franklin's Wood Carving Club meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Macon County Public Library and on Thursdays, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Franklin High School Wood Shop just off McCollum Drive. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (828)349-6109.

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Burningtown Church of God will celebrate its 50th Anniversary Saturday, July 22, 12 p.m., with lunch and activities for adults and children.

Burningtown Baptist Church 184 Homecoming will be held on Sunday, July 23, at 11 a.m. Supper will be held on the grounds. Special music by the White Sisters.

Newman Chapel Baptist Church Homecoming will be held on, July 23, beginning at 10:30 a.m., 60 Mulberry Rd., Otto. Melodyaires of Westminster, S.C. will sing and Rev. Madison McCracken of Clayton, Ga., will bring the message. A meal will be served afterwards. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday July 23, 11 a.m., music with Tara Saryiah. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

Resurrection Lutheran Church (LCMS) invites you to worship with them in the Sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship with light refreshments in the fellowship hall. Adult Bible class begins at 9:15 a.m. The church is located at 38 Wayah Street, Franklin.

East Franklin Baptist Church holds Sunday School at 10 a.m., Worship service 11 a.m. Prayer meeting is Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Son Rise International Ministries Christian Fellowship Services are held on Friday evenings at 7 p.m.; Wednesday ladies prayer and Bible Study from 1 to 3 p.m. Mens Bible Study Thursday at 7 p.m. The church is located at 462 Depot St. For more information, call (828)369-2465.

First Pentecost Church Sunday Services are Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Bible study Thursday, 7 p.m., 164 Iotla Church Rd., Pastor Luke Bateman.

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

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

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

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

O	D	E	S							
T	I	T	L	E						
A	S	A	I	R						
L	U	S	A	D	O					
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C	P	I	C							
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B	A	H	T							
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C	A	R	P	O	L					
O	R	E	O	S						
L	I	S	T	E						
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Author Don Buchanan's historic novel set in Macon County

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Many people aspire to write a novel upon retirement, but few individuals achieve such a lofty goal. However, Donald (Don) Buchanan retired in 2016 from a 31-year career with IBM and set about writing his novel the very next day. "Counting Souls" has essentially been percolating since he was a child growing up visiting grandparents in Cherokee County. The book was completed in 2020 and published in 2021. And, although the author is a lifelong native of Cobb County, Georgia, his first novel is set primarily in 19th century Macon County with characters and circumstances that are either entirely factual or based on historical information.

"Counting Souls" focuses on a lawyer/farmer who is hired as a federal census taker for Macon County. While census-taking in modernity requires a few minutes to fill in a mailable card, census-taking in 1830 involved information accumulated by visiting each individual and family. The book's main character must leave his wife and two children and travel for several months to find all the living "souls" in the wilds of Macon County, venturing into "hollers" and valleys and making arduous climbs to remote peaks and pinnacles.

The story revolves around legislation implemented during the Andrew Jackson administration to remove Cherokee people from their homelands as well as the pre-Civil War dynamics associated with slavery.

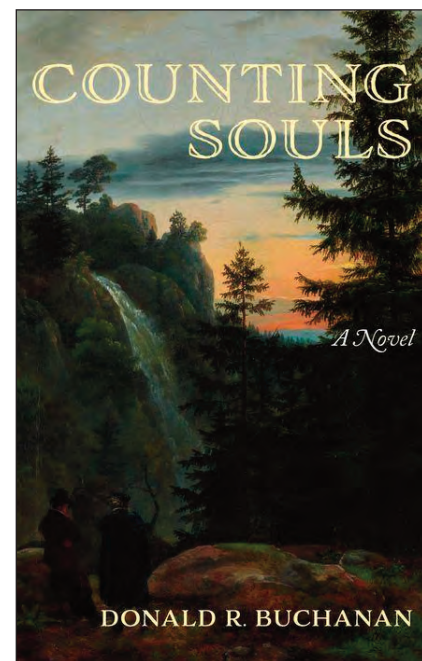
Buchanan offers a synopsis of the central storyline.

"This is a story about family: what you would do to be reunited with them, what you would do to protect them, and how you live when you lose them. It's a story about cultural conflict, what divides us and what unites us. And it's a paean to the glory of the southern Appalachians and a way of life, intertwined with nature, which is slipping from our memory."

Although Buchanan regularly visits Western North Carolina, he shared from his Georgia home the impetus for his novel.

"My father passed when I was 10 years old. My grandfather,

Will Davis, was born in Cherokee County and his family had been in North Carolina since the Revolution. He was my hero. He was a farmer who was born in the mountains and never drove a car or saw the ocean, but he could grow anything and build anything. I spent summers with him and my grandmother and he taught me so much and told me stories of our family. He was especially



Although a native of Georgia, Donald Buchanan has had a lifelong fascination with his ancestors' Macon County history writing his first novel, "Counting Souls," based on what he learned from an 1830 census and research about America's Jacksonian [Andrew Jackson] era.

who were raised at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello estate, but who ended up on Love's small Western North Carolina farm after Jefferson died.

"I always loved reading," explained Buchanan. "And, the old adage is 'write about what you know.' I love history. I knew much about antebellum history. I decided to explore Tom's mission as a census taker and his situation with owning two human beings. That became the story's focus, and I branched out from there. I had also been reading biographies on Thomas Jefferson. Here was the author of the Declaration who owned hundreds of slaves. I could only imagine the anger and frustration that occurred when he passed away and the slaves thought they might be freed. I did a lot of research on what happened at Monticello. Jefferson kept meticulous records on who was born, what they did, etc. So, Isaiah was a real person who was about the age of the character in the book, as were his wife and daughter. I thought the character of Isaiah being formerly owned by Jefferson activated tension in the novel."

proud of the fact that both of his grandfathers had fought for the Union during the Civil War. They were opposed to slavery.

"To honor him, I had for years been doing genealogy," Buchanan continued. "And, strangely enough, the 1830s census had my family members in it who lived in Macon County. My ancestors lived in what was a very large county at that time, before it was split up. It began to occur to me that whoever the census taker was at that time would have met every one of my ancestors. So, I wondered who that guy was."

Through extensive research, Buchanan learned that the 1830 census taker was a man named Thomas Love Jr., whose family had fought in the Revolution and had been given land grants in North Carolina and Tennessee.

"When I zeroed in on him, something struck me as interesting – that he owned two human beings," said Buchanan. "I'm from the South and have studied the Civil War and Southern history. I could understand a large plantation that forced people to work, but when it's just a man and a woman who owned another man and a woman, I began to wonder why that happened or how that worked."

Thus, intertwined with Love's trek through the Appalachian Mountains to fulfill his census duties is the story of two slaves

Besides the characters of Thomas Love and Isaiah, many other characters in "Counting Souls" are named for real people that Buchanan gleaned through his research. Yet, the novel is anything but a staid history book. Buchanan's writing style is "sense of place," a term coined by 19th century writer Henry David Thoreau. In essence, the writing describes the setting in such a way that readers can imagine being there – a sensory experience in prose.

"I'm a huge lover of nature and the natural, so throughout the novel, even when terrible things were happening, I tried to temper that with the idyllic surroundings of the beautiful North Carolina mountains," noted Buchanan.

He appreciates that he has been able to accomplish his goal of writing a novel, and he is currently at work writing a sequel to "Counting Souls," with the working title of "Persimmon Creek." He considers the process, like many writers, a labor of love and hopes that the books will enjoy longevity – perhaps even to be read by ancestors.

"With genealogy, you realize so many people lived these lives and may have thought no one would ever think of them in the future, but a book like this brings some people's lives back to life ... maybe one of my descendants will read it and get something from it," said Buchanan.

'Tarheels in the Pacific Northwest' topic of genealogical meeting

Rob Ferguson will present "Tarheels in the Pacific Northwest" at the Aug. 3 meeting of the Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society.

In the early and mid-20th century, Western North Carolinians migrated to Washington State in such significant numbers that they came to numerically dominate some of the communities along the Sauk and Skagit river valleys in the shadow of the North Cascade mountains. Following logging work, familial connections, and their hearts, Tarheels sometimes moved out for a few seasons, but most eventually stayed. In the process, these southern mountain migrants brought with them the cultural practices of the Appalachian Mountains such as music and foodways. This presentation tracks that movement from Western North Carolina to the snow-capped mountains of the Pacific Northwest.

Robert Hunt Ferguson is an Associate Professor of History at Western Carolina University. He received his M.A. from Western Carolina Univer-

sity and his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His book, "Race and the Remaking of the Rural South: Interracialism, Christian Socialism, and Cooperative Farming in Jim Crow Mississippi" was published with the University of Georgia Press in January 2018. Dr. Ferguson's work has appeared in the *Journal of Southern History*, the *North Carolina Historical Review*, *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, and *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. His research has been funded by the Center for the Study of the American South and the North Carolinian Society. He lives in Sylva.

This presentation is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 3, at 6:30 p.m. at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center, 45 East Ridge Drive, Bryson City. East Ridge Dr. is a right turn off Buckner Branch Road which is west of Ingles. Conversation and refreshments will follow the presentation. The presentation is free and open to the public.

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Dashboard Blue set to sing the classics at Concerts on the Creek July 21

The 14th annual season of Concerts on the Creek continues on Friday, July 21, with a performance by Dashboard Blue from 7-9 p.m. at Bridge Park stage in Sylva.

Dashboard Blue is a five-piece band based in Asheville, N.C., with 25-plus years of professional experience of performing classic hits.

Concerts on the Creek are held every Friday night from 7-9 p.m. at the Bridge Park in Sylva, from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. These events are free but donations are encouraged. Dogs must be on a leash. No smoking, vaping, coolers or tents are allowed. Food trucks will be on site for this event.

These concerts are organized and produced by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Sylva and the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, call the chamber at (828)586-2155, visit <https://www.mountainlovers.com/concerts-on-the-creek/> or Concerts on the Creek's Facebook page.



Dashboard Blue

'Bird's Eye View' event at HBS

This summer, the Highlands Nature Center is offering a front-row seat to the avian world through its "A Bird's Eye View" program. Led by Blue Ridge Bird Observatory and funded by the Highlands Biological Foundation, researchers are working hard to better understand bird demographics. Every summer, from May to August, scientists band birds at HBS and collect essential biological data to gain insights into population trends, migration patterns, and overall bird health.



Through "A Bird's Eye View," participants will engage with scientists, learn about bird ecology and conservation, and be immersed in the wonders of nature. Against the backdrop of the Highlands Botanical Garden, observe the banding process and discover the intricate lives of these winged creatures.

HBS's remaining bird banding dates are July 25, and Aug. 2, and are subject to change due to weather. "A Bird's Eye View" will be held from 8 to 9:30 a.m., on these dates. To learn more about MAPS bird banding and to register for "A Bird's Eye View," visit www.highlandsbiological.org.

Appalachian music, story to fill Peacock stage

Back by popular demand, the second edition of "An Evening of Appalachian Tales" hits the stage Saturday, July 29, at 7:30 p.m., at the Peacock Playhouse in Hayesville just off the historic courthouse square.

This addition of the Scribes on Stage series, once again features the talents of local performers. The show delivers a fun evening of music and story inspired by local history, tradition and adventure with spirit-lifting tunes and tales born of settling and living in a lovely mountain home. Performers present a joyful time of instrumental tones of Appalachia; the spirit-filled sounds of the flute, harmonica, harp, mandolin and guitar.

From the foothills of the Blue Ridge to the top of Tusquittee Bald, from Hanging Dog to Shooting Creek, 12 local and regional performers bring mountain traditions



Tom Edwards and Pat List



Mike and Denise Mount

to life with acting, singing, storytelling, music-making and dance. Host Kanute Rarey announces the line up that includes two duet performances; Gnarly Fingers band founders Tom Edwards and Pat List playing the toe-taping, knee-slapping tunes they are best known to play; and husband and wife storytellers Mike and Denise Mount telling home spun family stories of misadventure. Additionally, on stage will be Cherokee flutist Dan Hollifield, Highlands favorite story spinner Lee Lyons, African American historian Ann Miller Woodford, guitarist Jonathan Hensley, folk teller and harpist Anne Wheeler, poet Mary Ricketson, story wrangler and harmonica player Richard Cary and spiritual singer-soloist David Cady.

Tickets may be purchased at the box office at 301 Church Street, Hayesville; by calling (828)389-2787 or on the web at www.thepeacocknc.org.

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Deaths & Funerals

Patricia Ann (Raymond) Mancuso

Patricia Ann (Raymond) Mancuso, 84, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at Solace Hospice in Asheville on Thursday, July 13, 2023. She was born in Smethport, Pa., on Sept. 3, 1938, to Ella and Ken Raymond. She attended Amherst Central High School, Class of 1956. She received a Teaching Award from Amherst Teachers Association.

She married Delmon Louis Mancuso on May 4, 1963, at First United Methodist Church in North Hollywood. They were married for over 60 years. Together they had two children, Sherri Ann, and Mark Louis. The couple lived in California, Nevada, and Florida before retiring to Franklin 20 years ago.

She was a stay-at-home mom, involved in both her children's school lives, including activities with the Girl Scouts and Elementary School events. She sewed many matching family outfits, baked the best cookies, brownies, and special cakes.

She is survived by her daughter, Sherri Ann Mancuso of Florida; grandsons, Kevin Michael Barker of Florida and Nicholas Clark Barker of Virginia; sisters, Peg Dayfert of New York, and Jeanne McMahan and husband Ken of South Carolina; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by her husband on July 2, Delmon Louis Mancuso; parents, Ella and Ken Raymond; brother, Ken Raymond Jr.; and son, Mark Louis Mancuso.

Memorial services were held on Tuesday, July 18, at Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, Black Mountain.

Memorial donations may be made to any nonprofit benefiting Alzheimer's Disease research.

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

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

JoAnn Webb Goslin

JoAnn Webb Goslin, 78, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, July 9, 2023.

She was born in Salem County, New Jersey on July 29, 1944. She was the daughter of the late Barney Webb and the late Grace Cossaboon Martin. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her stepfather, Richard E. Martin; husband, Wilbert H. Goslin; daughter, RoxAnn Goslin-Headley; and sister, Barbara Jean Baese.

She spent many years working in the food service industry, and later managed Mountain Springs RV Park and Shady Cove Campground. Her family said, "she will always be remembered for having a loving and giving heart."

She is survived by a daughter, Denise L. Shimp and husband, Allen of Franklin; two sons, William "Rick" Goslin of Franklin, and Kurtis L. Goslin of Salem, N.J.; 11 grandchildren; and numerous great grandchildren.

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

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

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Patricia Ann Mancuso

Charles Woodrow Justice Jr.

Charles Woodrow Justice Jr., 74, passed away on Tuesday, July 11, 2023.

Born in Bartow, Fla., he was the son of the late Charles Woodrow Justice Sr., and the late Jean Baggett Justice McKee. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Justice.

He proudly served on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower in the United States Navy. After leaving the Navy, he worked as a maintenance engineer at the Vogtle Nuclear Power plant for 32 years.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Melanie Birdsong Justice; two sons, Brad and wife DeNeal of Gatlinburg, Tenn., and Steven of South Fla.; one brother, David of Tampa, Fla.; and two grandchildren, Zachary and Madison.

A Celebration of Life will be held at later date, near his home on the Little Tennessee River.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC, PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Charles Woodrow Justice Jr.

Helen Christy Wells

Helen Christy Wells, 80, long-time resident of Highlands, N.C., passed away suddenly on Friday, July 7, 2023. She was born to Eleanor Virginia (Sellers) Wells and John D. Wells Jr. in Buffalo, N.Y., on Feb. 19, 1943. She attended North High School in Springfield, Ohio, before matriculating at Urbana College, where she earned an associate degree. In 1967, she married Victor Frederiksen, with whom she was happily married for almost 40 years, and had two children, Jon Paulding Frederiksen (Atlanta, Ga.) and David William Frederiksen (Wilmington, N.C.).

A bon vivant from start to finish, "Christy," as she was known to friends and family, loved good food, socializing and beautiful surroundings. At just over five feet tall with red hair and a spring in her step, she was well-known around Highlands and neighboring towns, having worked during her 18 years in Highlands at various shops and stores, most recently Mountain Paws.

Among her many wonderful traits were love, compassion, humor and inclusivity. She loved everyone she met, accepting them wherever they were in life. On several occasions she opened her home to complete strangers. Weekdays around three o'clock she could be found at Highlands Mountain Fresh holding court with a gathering of dear friends.

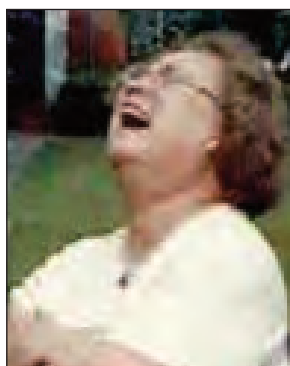
She was also a doting grandmother to three grandchildren, Olivia, 20, Zoe, 15, and Evie, 10, of Wilmington. Of the things they recall most about their grandmother, whom they affectionately called "Kiki," they would undoubtedly say her cackling laughter and her daily mantra: "Clear my path, Clear my way, Let me see the magic of this day!"

She is survived by her two sons; daughter-in-law, Julie (Lane) Frederiksen; former husband, Rev. Canon Victor Frederiksen III; sister-in-law, Sharon (Schneider) Wells; and nieces, Heather Gaskins and Shannon Tuggle and families. She was predeceased by her brother, John Dennis Wells III.

A memorial service will be hosted at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

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

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



Helen Christy Wells

Delmon Louis Mancuso

Delmon Louis Mancuso, 85, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at Angel Medical Center in Franklin on Sunday, July 2, 2023. He was born in Los Angeles, Calif., on Nov. 18, 1937, to Anne and Louis Mancuso. He attended Van Nuys High School, Class of 55. He was a Navy veteran, serving 1955-1958 on the Destroyer USS Hamner DD-718.

He married Patricia Ann Raymond on May 4, 1963, at First United Methodist Church in North Hollywood. They were married for over 60 years. Together they had two children, Sherri Ann and Mark Louis. The couple lived in California, Nevada, and Florida before retiring to Franklin 20 years ago. He was proud of his service in the Navy and shared his memories from his time on the USS Hamner DD-718 with everyone he met. In 2006, he became an active member of the USS Hamner DD-718 Association, and his enthusiastic support of the association will be missed by all. Pat followed Del home on Thursday, July 13.

He is survived by his daughter, Sherri Ann Mancuso of Florida; grandsons, Kevin Michael Barker of Florida and Nicholas Clark Barker of Virginia; and sister, Elaine Louise Mancuso of Tennessee; and various nieces, nephews, and cousins from California to New York. He was predeceased by parents, Anne and Louis Mancuso; and son Mark Louis Mancuso.

Memorial services were held on Tuesday, July 18, at Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain.

Memorial donations may be made to any nonprofit benefiting veterans, or fighting Parkinson's Disease or prostate cancer.

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

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



Delmon Mancuso

Victoria 'Tori' Ann Watson

Victoria "Tori" Ann Watson, 33, of Hendersonville, N.C., passed away on Friday, July 14, 2023.

Born in Jackson County, she was the daughter of Ethel Elaine Hopkins Wilkie and Charles Homer Watson. She was the granddaughter of the late Margie and Howard Hopkins, and the late Frank Watson. In addition to her grandparents, she was preceded in death by four aunts, and five uncles.

She loved being outside, hiking and listening to music, but most of all she loved spending time with her family.

She is survived by her mother Elaine Wilkie and step dad, Alan of Fletcher, N.C.; dad, Charles Watson of Franklin, N.C.; her fiancé and love of her life, Kayla Carpenter of Franklin; grandmother, Lela Watson of Franklin; children, Saydie, Kylee, and Anaya; sisters, Heather Watson of Hendersonville, Charo Watson of Franklin, and Teresa Henry of Franklin; and two nephews, Blake and Reece; aunts, Edith Sullivan of Hendersonville, Terri McFee of Fletcher, Carolyn Dotson of Fairview, N.C., and Phyllis Powell of Rosman, N.C.; and uncles, Billy Hopkins, Randy Hopkins, Jimmy Watson, and Victor Watson, all of Franklin.

The funeral service will be Thursday, July 20, at 2 p.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Bobby Cloer and Rev. Andy Cloer will officiate. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. at Macon Funeral Home prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Four Seasons Hospice or Appalachian Animal Rescue.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Victoria Ann Watson



Deaths & Funerals

Billy Claude Arvey

Billy Claude Arvey, 76, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, July 16, 2023. He was born Nov. 12, 1946, to the late Claude Vincent Arvey and Ada Mae Houston Arvey. He was a member of Mt. Sinai Assembly of God Church. He worked in road construction and he loved hunting and fishing.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Arvey.

He is survived by a daughter, Lynn Arvey of Franklin; three sons, Tony Arvey, Terry Arvey and D. J. Arvey (Elizabeth) all of Franklin; three grandchildren, Jonathon Collier, Alicia Fuentes and Noah Lionheart all of Franklin.

A funeral service will be held Tuesday, July 25, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, with Rev. John Raby and Rev. Barry Bowman officiating. Burial will follow in the Tippet Cemetery. The family will receive friends Monday, July 24, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home. Pallbearers will be Kevin Swafford, Ricky Starnes, Matthew Dixon, Terry Dyer, Justin Parrish and Charles Dyer. Honorary pallbearer will be Rick Sheppard.

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

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

Martha Ray Wright King

Martha Ray Wright King, 86, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, July 11, 2023. She was born Aug. 21, 1936 in Haywood County, NC, to the late James and Mary Putman Wright. She was a Baptist by faith and attended West Franklin Baptist Church when she was able. She loved her daughters and her grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Charles King; a son, Troy King; two daughters, Jackie Blanton and Karen Carpenter; grandchildren, Terry Conard, Cathy Wood, and Charlotte Carpenter; great-grandchild, Katie Wood; and brothers, Cecil Wright and Robert Wright.

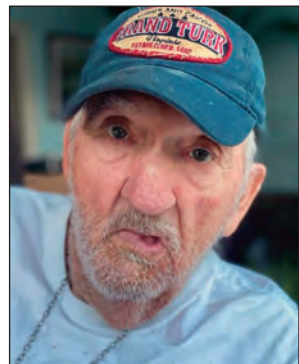
She is survived by three daughters, Peggy Conard (Richard), Mary Moore (Robert) and Linda Tallent (Grayson) all of Franklin; nine surviving grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; 19 great-great-grandchildren; a sister, Rose Rodrigues of Haywood County, North Carolina; and a brother, Charles Wright of Haywood County.

A funeral service was held Friday, July 14, at Grace Baptist Church, with Rev. Frank Rodriguez and Brandon Conard officiating. Burial was at Windy Gap Baptist Church Cemetery.

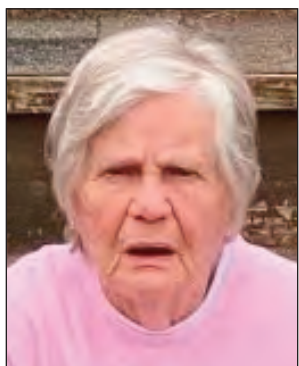
Pallbearers were Melvin Wood, Ray Wood, Michael Conard, Curtis Conard, Chuck Tallent, and David Blanton. Great-grandsons were honorary pallbearers.

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

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



Billy Claude Arvey



Martha Ray Wright King

Lawrence 'Larry' Stenger

Lawrence "Larry" Stenger, 82, of Franklin, N.C., passed away July 16, 2023.

He was born on Sept. 3, 1940, in Cold Spring, N.Y., to the late John Stenger and Alice Ruppel. He was a member of the Air Force during the Vietnam War. He enjoyed hiking and was a nature preserve enthusiast. He enjoyed wood-working, gardening, boating, scuba diving, and coaching the swim team for the F.A.S.T. program. He worked as the CEO and founder of Water Equipment Technologies. He served as a member in several organizations in his community including: Rotary for 10-plus years, the Macon County Planning Board (member) for 10 years, the Rathbun House Board of Directors in Asheville, and director of the Franklin Mystery Dinner Theatre for the Macon County Community Foundation for five years. He received the State of N.C. Volunteer of the Year award issued by the governor for his service to the community.

He was the fount of strength and pride for his family. He was blessed with a mastery of business; taking a startup company, with his wife by his side, and growing it into a highly successful international business. He retired in 1998 and moved to North Carolina full time, where he spent his retirement years. Living his life's motto of "always find a positive way to give back." He was a prolific advocate for community initiatives and a true servant to the betterment of the local society. He was a consumer of knowledge; always wanting to know how things worked. This drive led him to attend Timberframe School so that he could build his barn. He engineered the first 85-plus panel solar array farm in Macon County and countless other projects. His passion to over-achieve for his community, his hobbies and his family never waned; even as he courageously fought advanced stage melanoma for three years, then four years of pancreatic cancer.

He is survived by his wife, Theresa "Terri" Stenger, to whom he was married 51 years; children, Lawrence "Larry" Michael Stenger of Conifer, Colo., Christopher "Chris" Andrew Stenger and spouse Lynn Kathryn Stenger of Wytheville, Va., and Lauren Alicia Stenger of Asheville, N.C.; siblings, John Stenger and spouse Dawn Stenger, of Palm City, Fla., and Alice Stenger Bentivegna (predeceased spouse, Michael Bentivegna) of Hendersonville, N.C.; and grandson, Christopher Jared Stenger of Denver, Colo.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to Mainspring Conservation Trust; 557 East Mainstream, Franklin, NC 28734.

Asheville Mortuary Services is serving the family.



Lawrence Stenger

Hazel Edna McWherter

Hazel Edna McWherter, 102, went to her Heavenly Home July 15, 2023, to join our Lord and former family members. She was born on Aug. 12, 1920, in Macon County, North Carolina.

After graduating from Franklin High School, she worked for a year in Highlands, N.C., and then joined other family members in Detroit, Mich., where many other people from Macon County had moved to work just prior to the beginning of World War II. She found early work as a waitress in a restaurant just across the street from The United States Rubber Company. A major supervisor from this company eating breakfast in the restaurant noticed how hard a worker she was and suggested she apply for employment at the company. He handed her a card with his name and instructed Hazel to give this card to the Human Resources Office. She applied and was hired immediately. She worked there for the next 35 years, which included all of World War II.

She has told stories of working with many other women seven days a week. During the war, the company made jeep and truck tires as well as ball bearings for tanks. The girls would write notes to the GIs and enclose them in the ball bearing packaging. It was during this time that her love for baseball began. After work, she and her friends would go across the street to watch baseball games. She saw all the old players including Micky Mantle, Dizzy Dean, Lou Gehrig, and Ty Cobb.

After the war, men returned to work at US Rubber Company. She met Ernest (Buck) McWherter and sometime later they married. They retired in the mid-70s, and returned to Macon County to begin their retirement years. Buck passed in 1982.

She leaves behind two nephews, Lamar Houston (Jane), Bruce Houston (Amanda), plus many generations of cousins, nephews, and close friends.

Funeral service was held July 18 in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Pastor Jason Smith officiated. Internment was in the Iotla Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Kolton Houston, Kollin Houston, Konner Houston, and Jake Houston.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Iotla Baptist Church Cemetery fund.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



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Martin Truex Jr. scores third win of 2023 in New Hampshire

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

LOUDON, N.H. – Martin Truex Jr. had led more than 900 laps at New Hampshire Motor Speedway without claiming any victory hardware in 29 previous starts at the 1.058-mile oval. However, the driver of the No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota left absolutely no doubt about securing that career first win in Monday's rain-delayed Crayon 301 at the track, leading a dominating 254 of the 301 laps.

The impressive work was the 2017 NASCAR Cup Series champion's third victory of the season – and second in a rain-delayed Monday race (also Dover, Del.). He survived three restarts in the final 24 laps and ultimately held off one of the local favorites, Connecticut driver Joey Logano across the finish line by a slight .394-seconds – although for most of the day Truex held the field at bay by more than a second in the first Monday afternoon race in the track's 30-year history with the series.

The 42-year-old New Jersey native clearly had the car to beat – and no one could. His work not only earned the famed live lobster trophy, but also propelled him into the NASCAR Cup Series champion lead by 17 points ahead of Hendrick Motorsports' William Byron.

Asked if there was a track on the schedule where he wanted to win more than New Hampshire, Truex smiled, "I don't think so." His previous best finish was third place – three times. Five times he'd led more than 100 laps, including last year when he led a race high 172 laps, only to finish fourth.

"What we've been able to do here over the years was pretty remarkable and to not win was really getting frustrating," Truex said. "[Crew chief] James [Small] and I have talked about it many times and talked with [teammate] Christopher [Bell] before the race and he said, 'you've led more laps here than I've even run here in the Cup Series.'"

"Just really awesome job by everybody. What a race car we had here today. Just proud of the whole team. Pit stops were flawless. The car was unbelievable. We had some challenges throughout the race and the car was a handful at times, but we put our heads down and just kept digging."

Truex led 163 of the opening 185 laps taking both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 wins to triple his total on the season. In the opening stage, NASCAR Cup Series championship leader, and four-race winner Byron was in hot pursuit. Later in the race Truex had to fend off Ryan Blaney, Kyle Larson and Logano.

"When you're at your home race track, second hurts more than anywhere else," said Penske Racing's Logano. "There's no place I want to win more than here and came up one spot short. That one stings but overall, still have to say it's a good day. Just mad right now."

Hendrick Motorsports' Larson, four-time New Hampshire Motor Speedway race winner, Stewart-Haas Racing driver, soon-to-retire Kevin Harvick was fourth in his final start at the track. Brad Keselowski, owner-driver of the No. 6 Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing team, rounded out the Top-5.

"We were fortunate we had fresher tires than most and were able to stay out and get most of that back," Harvick said. "We've just got to be able to do what we need to do when it counts."

23XI Racing's Tyler Reddick finished sixth, followed by Truex's JGR teammate Denny Hamlin. 23XI Racing's Bubba Wallace, Richard Childress Racing's Austin Dillon and SHR driver Chase Briscoe rounded out the Top-10.

Byron, who led nine laps, finished 24th.

His Hendrick Motorsports' teammate Chase Elliott, who is still trying to claim a 2023 NASCAR Cup Series Playoff position after missing six races this season, struggled much of the



Martin Truex Jr., driver of the #19 Reser's Fine Foods Toyota, is presented Loudon the Lobster in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Crayon 301 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on July 17, 2023 in Loudon, N.H.

Photos by Meg Oliphant/Getty Images

Pocono."

The NASCAR Cup Series returns to action Sunday at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway in the High-Point.com 400 (2:30 p.m. ET, USA Network, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

John Hunter Nemechek grabs first back-to-back victory in Xfinity Series

LOUDON, N.H. – John Hunter Nemechek completed the first back-to-back victory effort of his career convincingly winning Saturday's Am-

better Health 200 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway to answer a big victory last week at Atlanta Motor Speedway too.

Nemechek held off rookie Chandler Smith by .424-second on an overtime restart, leading a race best 137 laps in the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota and becoming the winningest driver in the series this season with four victories – upping his career total to six. The 26-year old second-generation NASCAR star Nemechek now leads the championship run by 33-points over Richard Childress Racing driver Austin Hill, a three-time race winner in 2023 and the third place finisher on Saturday.

"They've had dominant JGR Supras the last couple years and I had to hold up my end of the bargain," said a smiling Nemechek, who at one point led the field by more than 4-seconds.

"It's nerve-wracking for sure [the final restart], so I'm so proud of this No. 20 team and everybody at Joe Gibbs Racing," Nemechek added, "I think our first clean race of the year and hats off to all our guys."

"I love coming up here and shout out to a driver who is one of the masters up here," he said with a smile, conceding "The Master" was tomorrow's NASCAR Cup Series polesitter and JGR teammate Christopher Bell.

"I was a little worried there with the last restarts. We kept getting really good launches and were able to clear them but I didn't know who was saving what. I was trying to save for Cole

day. Elliott conceded after qualifying that he was not particularly optimistic about his No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet this weekend.

Still, he rallied to a 12th place finish in the No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet and remains ranked 23rd – now only 60 points out of 16th place in the standings with the Top-16 drivers transferring to the 10-race Championship round that starts in September.

Kyle Busch, who was second in the championship standings entering Sunday's race, had a short day on an overall disappointing visit to New Hampshire. He spun the No. 8 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet in qualifying and had to start at the rear of the field after repairs post-qualifying. Then he made contact with the wall as the field came to the caution flag for Stage 1 on Sunday.

The RCR team looked at the car on pit road but decided it was too damaged for repair, leaving him last in the 36-car field and dropping him to fifth place in the championship standings, 74 points behind new leader Truex.

"I've been lacking right-rear grip the whole time we've been here," said Busch, a three-time NASCAR Cup Series winner at New Hampshire. "Just couldn't get the right-rear feel in the race track. You're just going along trying to keep it under you as much as you can"

"Hate it for our No. 8 team. Our Chevy stuff was a little off this week, at least for us anyway. We'll get back to it at

[Custer], he really pushed us there.”

The runner-up finisher Smith, who earned his first career NASCAR Xfinity Series pole position on Friday for this race, led only the first lap but stayed in contention and kept the front pack honest throughout the day. Unfortunately for the 21-year old Kaulig Racing driver, there was a malfunction with his cool suit on the steamy summer New England afternoon and he was treated with IVs at the care center following the race, but reported in good shape overall.

The race on the 1.058-mile oval included 10 caution periods – the last forcing an overtime finish. Nemechek had just rolled under the white flag – signaling the last lap – when a pair of his closest challengers on the day – Cole Custer and Sheldon Creed – crashed behind him dueling for third place. The incident ended the race.

Stewart-Haas Racing’s Custer – the youngest winner in NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series history when he won at New Hampshire in 2014 at the age of 16 – collided with RCR driver Creed while vying for third place. Custer, a two-time winner this season, had run among the Top-3 for much of the race. Creed is still racing for his first victory of the season.

Behind Nemechek, Smith and Hill, Kaulig Racing’s Daniel Hemric and JGR rookie driver Sammy Smith rounded out the Top-5. Smith earned his first career Stage win, taking the Stage 2 flag and leading 18 laps on the day.

JR Motorsports’ Justin Allgaier finished sixth after leading 27 laps early in the race and winning Stage 1; tying him with Nemechek for most stage wins (five) on the season.

Jeb Burton, who won earlier in the season at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway finished seventh, followed by Josh Williams, the owner-driver collecting the 11th Top-10 finish of his career and the first back-to-back Top-10s of the season. Brett Moffitt and Mason Massey rounded out the New Hampshire Top-10. It marked Massey’s first Top-10 of 2023 as well.

Parker Kligerman, a New Englander and fan favorite, was collected in a 12-car accident during a restart only 71 laps into the event and had to settle for a 31st place finish. He came into the race ranked 13th, only six points out of 12th with the Top-12 ranked drivers becoming Playoff eligible. And despite being in the multi-car accident, the race claimed enough caution casualties that Kligerman leaves his “hometown” track now ranked 12th – 16 points up on 13th place Burton.

As for Nemechek, he is currently riding a massive streak of career accomplishment.

“Now it’s time to keep clicking off these victories,” Nemechek said.

The NASCAR Xfinity Series returns to action next Saturday with the Pocono 225 at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway (5:30 p.m., USA Network). Noah Gragson – now a rookie in the NASCAR Cup Series – is the defending Xfinity Series race winner.

NASCAR racing in New England centered around New Hampshire Motor Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - New Hampshire Motor Speedway is fittingly both an important part of NASCAR history and a unique treasure in modern day sports venues. Its idiosyncrasies are exactly what make “The Magic Mile” a must-stop on the NASCAR calendar, popular among competitors and fans alike. Plus, like many of the tracks on the schedule it has played a significant role in the sport.

The NASCAR Cup Series made its only stop of the season at New Hampshire last weekend for Sunday’s NASCAR Cup Series’ Crayon 301.

It’s quite the journey from the track’s origins – a 1.6-mile road course opened in 1964 called Bryar Motorsports Park to the current 1.058-mile oval featuring progressive banking. But



John Hunter Nemechek, driver of the #20 Persil Toyota, takes the checkered flag under caution to win the NASCAR Xfinity Series Ambetter Health 200 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on July 15, 2023 in Loudon, N.H.

when New England’s own Bob Bahre purchased the facility and converted the track into the oval – big time racing had a home and an immediate supportive audience. And in 1990, Bahre’s track hosted its first NASCAR race – a Xfinity Series event won by driver Tommy Ellis.

NASCAR had found a home and New Hampshire Motor Speedway was – and still is – considered THE NASCAR track for the Northeastern fan base - some of racing’s most passionate supporters as the stock car circuit is reminded upon each summer visit there.

“I remember watching it sort of sprout from the ground and take shape,” said former NASCAR star Ricky Craven, a native of Maine. “The speedway was exciting in terms of fans and became New England’s largest sport’s facility, but for the drivers, it was also incredible and for me personally, it was monumental in terms of timing because I was creating some inertia in my career and needed people to be able to see me, so I was just so enthusiastic about it.

“I won the Chevy Dealer’s 250 in ’91 and it propelled my career – a battle with Harry Gant and Chuck Bown in the closing laps and got me a lot of attention,” he added. “It was a televised race and there were no races in New England televised nationally.

“And it had that same effect on so many people, really. If you think about all the talent that has come from New England since the track was built – and I’m talking Tommy Baldwin, Steve Park, hundreds, if not thousands of crew members that eventually made it to the big time. The timing of that speedway was so valuable to us young competitors in particular.

“We had a platform to perform on. All of a sudden we had a home court.”

And as it quickly proved, valuable to the sport in general.

After a successful three-year run with the NASCAR Xfinity Series from 1990-92, New Hampshire Motor Speedway earned a NASCAR Cup Series race becoming a must-see venue for both New Englanders and nearby Canadians - and both country’s national anthems are featured in pre-race festivities.

NASCAR Hall of Famer Rusty Wallace won the first NASCAR Cup Series race there in 1993 – an event that was also sadly significant as the last race series superstar Davey

Allison competed in before perishing in a helicopter accident one week later.

The track has contributed several significant chapters to the sport. In 1996 – Bahre’s last year as sole proprietor of the facility – Ernie Irvan won the annual summer race at New Hampshire; an emotional outing to claim his first trophy since being critically injured in an accident at Michigan International Speedway nearly two years earlier.

As was the case during a time of multiple speedway openings – the NASCAR Cup Series experienced a certain shuffle of venues and dates. In late 1996, the Bruton Smith-led Speedway Motorsports became ownership partners with Bahre at New Hampshire and secured a highly coveted second race date for the facility. From 2004-11, that second New Hampshire race held a prestigious place on the schedule – serving as the opening event for the 10-race NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs.

Although its order in the 10-race Playoff schedule changed, it still hosted a Playoff race until 2017.

During those years, New Hampshire was noted for a couple of major racing milestones. In 2000, Jeff Burton – now an analyst for NBC Sports – led every lap in a race with no lead changes to hoist one of a record four New Hampshire winner’s lobsters. Stewart-Haas Racing’s Kevin Harvick, who is retiring at the end of this season, is tied with Burton atop the victory chart with four wins himself.

Interestingly, only eight current NASCAR Cup Series drivers have won at New Hampshire. The 2014 NASCAR Cup Series champion Kevin Harvick will try to claim the all-time win record this weekend with a fifth trophy. He’s won three of the last eight races at the track.

Three other series champions are multi-winners at New Hampshire. Richard Childress Racing’s Kyle Busch and Rick Ware Racing’s Ryan Newman each have three wins. Team Penske’s Joey Logano and RFK Racing’s Brad Keselowski have a pair of victories. Logano’s trophy hoist in 2009 was the first of his career.

A pair of drivers earned their first New Hampshire race wins in the last two visits to the track – Aric Almirola (2021) and Christopher Bell (2022).



New Hampshire Motor Speedway has become the track of choice for the Northeastern NASCAR fan base of New England.

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ACROSS

- 1. More down in the dumps
- 6. Will Ferrell's 2003 Christmas character
- 9. Century Gothic, e.g.
- 13. Twisted cotton thread
- 14. Greek "t"
- 15. Biblical mount
- 16. Dessert sandwiches
- 17. Barley bristle
- 18. Pungent edible bulb
- 19. *Shared ride
- 21. *Yellow Brick Road traveller
- 23. Member of the Benevolent Order
- 24. Sword handle
- 25. The little one "stops to tie his shoe"
- 28. AI "fodder"
- 30. *Gas station option
- 35. Thailand money
- 37. Phone cam images
- 39. Fill with happy spirit
- 40. Bora _____
- 41. Vexed
- 43. Uncontrolled swerve
- 44. Middle Eastern V.I.P.s
- 46. Genesis twin
- 47. "The Odyssey," e.g.
- 48. Hooray!
- 50. Speaking platform
- 52. Campfire residue
- 53. What sailors are to captain
- 55. Lawyers' org.
- 57. *Jack of "On the Road" fame

- 61. *Refreshment break
- 65. Live sign for radio, 2 words
- 66. Shakespearean "fuss"
- 68. Bar order, with "the"
- 69. Ownership document

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- 70. Mitt Romney's title, abbr.
- 71. Christmas Eve visitor
- 72. Keats' works, e.g.
- 73. *Major road, abbr.
- 74. *Certain number of cylinders

DOWN

- 1. Cold War's Warsaw Pact, e.g.
- 2. Turkish money
- 3. One on drugs
- 4. Run off to Vegas?
- 5. Sold on eBay, usually
- 6. Short for "and elsewhere"
- 7. Hammurabi's code, e.g.
- 8. Plural of fundus
- 9. Porto____, Italy
- 10. Got this!
- 11. Sodium hydroxide

- 12. Like Tim of "A Christmas Carol"
- 15. Foray
- 20. Giraffe's striped-legged cousin
- 22. Like one of the Testaments
- 24. Fine-toothed metal cutter
- 25. *Famous road from Beatles crossing
- 26. Actress Watts
- 27. Minute parasite
- 29. *Spare one
- 31. "If all ____ fails"
- 32. Sarpa _____, coral reef fish
- 33. Tiny purses
- 34. Olden day phlebotomy instrument
- 36. Waterproof canvas

- 38. Clothing line
- 42. UAE's most populous city
- 45. Close the fastener, e.g.
- 49. Epoch
- 51. Between 90 and 180 degrees
- 54. E-wallet's content
- 56. Very, in music
- 57. Japanese zither
- 58. Author Bagnold
- 59. Goes with interest
- 60. Great masters' medium, pl.
- 61. *Hoofed "express" traveler
- 62. "The Summer I Turned Pretty" actress Lola _____
- 63. Solemn promise
- 64. Surveyor's map
- 67. Morning drops

PETS OF THE WEEK

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

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



Daisy is a 2 year old, spayed Brindled hound mix. She gets along well with most dogs. She is scared of men, but will come around if given some time.



Punkin is a 1 and a half year old tortoiseshell cat. She is spayed and very friendly.

SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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

HAULING

- DIRT
- GRAVEL
- MULCH



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The Classifieds

Services

IN HOME AID Run Errands, Dr. Appointments, Grocery Store/Pharmacy. References. CNA Trained Caregiver, Over 16 Years Experience. (828)342-3750.

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.

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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLEANING ORGANIZING Property Checks, Watering & Other Household Services. Great References. Mountain Area Property Services (828)550-4585.

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

Help Wanted

CUSTOMER SERVICE position available, must be knowledgeable of the 7 western counties of NC. in order to give out visitor information. Sales experience needed as well. Fun job! Contact: martha@visitsmokies.org (828)369-9606.

PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER Officer Organizer Needed, 2 Days a week, Local Franklin Business. Call Sarah at Diva's (770)757-7500.

Garage & Yard Sales

CANNING JARS half pints, pints and quarts, Saturday, July 22, 8:30 to 10:30, Penland Insurance Building, 372 West Main St.

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE Everything \$5 or Less! Friday 8am-7pm, Saturday 8am-1pm, 620 Ned Hill Rd., Cowee Valley, Shuler's Barn, Follow Signs. Rain or Shine.

Misc. For Sale

\$1 DVD's, DVD Box Sets, Golf Clubs, Bags, Balls & More. Uncle Bill's Flea Market Booth 44B.

B & M MILITARY SURPLUS GI Boot, OCP Scorpion Multi-Cam Marpat Camo, Nets, Ammo Can's, Uniforms, Vests, Packs Field Gear, GI Wool Blankets. 3 Day Assault Pack, W/C Poncho Liner/Woobie. We Buy, Trade All Types Military Clothing, Field Gear. Open Mon.-Fri., 9-6 Sat 9-5, 329 Bennett Ridge Rd., Franklin, NC, (828)349-3140.

Real Estate

RV/TINY HOME LOTS for sale. \$40k-\$50k/ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and septic run to each lot. Located in Franklin, NC. (828)200-0161. Go to our web site for directions and more info. www.TinyMountainEstates.com

Commercial Rentals

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

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT Depot St., \$350 monthly, Includes Water & Electric, (828)421-7332. Leave a message.

Rentals

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

Boats & Campers

15' FISHING BOAT Rinkerbuilt, New Battery, Fair Condition, 85hp Mercury. \$1,500. (828)349-0061.

REDUCED! 2005 FLEETWOOD Terra 32S, 42K miles, new tires, new Seatcraft recliners, 50-inch TV in living room, 24-inch in bedroom, new floors, lots of updates. \$25,500, call for more info. (828)371-7284.

Motor Vehicles

2018 DODGE RAM Big Horn, Crew Cab, Like New, Fully Loaded, Automatic, New Bed Cover and Bed Mat. (828)371-0811.

Community Fundraisers

BINGO American Legion Hall, 614 W. Main St., Every Wednesday. New Hours Early Bird 4:30 to 5:30, Regular Session 5:30, Snack Bar Available.

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

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.

Animals

POM/CHIHUAHUA MIX Puppies. Adorable faces and personality. 3 females, 1 male. All shots current. \$200. (828)200-5101.

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

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THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
89°/68°	86°/64°	83°/60°	81°/61°	84°/62°
45%	40%	35%	35%	40%

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2023 TRAILBLAZERS

FROM **\$42,995**

FROM **\$28,995**

FROM **\$47,995**

FROM **\$24,995**

CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	VW	Taos AWD	29,618
2021	Cadillac	XT6 AWD	18,875
2021	Chevrolet	Corvette	5,792
2021	Kia	K-5	44,615
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox AWD	47,233
2019	Camry		54,834
2019	Chevrolet	Equinox LS AWD	64,233
2019	GMC	Acadia	17,045
2019	Dodge	Journey	80,887
2019	Toyota	Camry LE	54,312
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse High Country AWD	54,555
2018	Hyundia	Elantra	51,067
2018	Toyota	Camry XSE	71,178
2017	GMC	Acadia	80,692

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2024	BMW	X4	293
2023	Chevrolet	Tahoe	257
2023	Chevrolet	Tahoe Z71	14,662
2023	Hyundia	Sante Fe	14,470
2023	Mazda	CX-50 AWD Premier	9,506
2023	Traverse	High Country AWD	831

2022	Chevrolet	Tahoe 4x4	16,410
2022	Ford	Bronco	1,315
2022	Ford	Explorer XLT	26,999
2022	Jeep	Wrangler Sahara Unlimited	10,539
2022	Kia	EV6 GT	3,251
2022	Tahoe	RST 4x4	24,134
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	Cadillac	XT6 AWD	23,121
2021	GMC	Yukon XL	53,356
2021	Hyudia	Palisade AWD	64,073
2021	Jeep	Cherokee Trailhawk	29,056
2021	Jeep	Wrangler Sport	8,094
2021	Subaru	Ascent AWD	28,045
2020	Acura	MDX AWD	46,606
2020	Ford	Explorer	31,399
2020	Jeep	Wrangler Rubicon Unlimited	24,249
2020	Kia	Telluride	19,480
2019	Chevrolet	Trax LT AWD	18,211
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica Touring L	91,992
2019	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited	52,247
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox LT	23,569
2017	Jeep	Cherokee	61,870

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2023	Chevrolet	2500 LT Z-71	1,131

2022	Chevrolet	1500 Custom 4x4	289
2022	Chevrolet	2500 LTZ	4,635
2022	Chevrolet	2500 HD	5,114
2022	Hyundia	Sante Cruz Ltd	2,682
2022	Nissan	Titan Pro 4x	1,729
2022	Toyota	Tacoma TRD	12,056
2021	Chevrolet	1500 4x4	10,243
2021	Chevrolet	1500 RST	34,026
2021	Chevrolet	LT Trailboss	34,069
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	5,822
2021	Ford	F-150 SuperCrew Cab	32,251
2020	Chevrolet	1500 RST	90,498
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado ZR-2	36,463
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	GMC	Sierra SLT	21,064
2020	Toyota	Tacoma Predator	42,773
2020	Toyota	Tacoma SR	12,448
2019	Chevrolet	Trailboss LT	44,594
2017	Chevrolet	Colorado Z-71	34,912
2017	Ram	2500 Reg Cab	47,650
2015	Ford	F-150 XLT	95,163
2013	Chevrolet	1500 Z-71	136,161
2013	Toyota	Tacoma 4x4	128,972



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