

The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

Free
independent
weekly

Read all of the
**Macon County
NEWS**
Online
Free Weekly



themaconcountynews.com

March 23, 2023 • 24 Pages

Volume 40 Number 44

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

www.themaconcountynews.com



The Overlook Theatre Co. presents "Seussical The Musical - Stories and Songs of Dr. Seuss" for three shows this weekend at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, Friday, March 24, at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, March 25, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Ticket information may be found by visiting smokymountainarts.com or by calling (866)273-4615. For more on the hit Broadway show, see page 12. Submitted photo

Colin Gooder passes away unexpectedly

Colin Christian Gooder of Franklin, better known as "Zen" to his beloved AT community, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, March 17, 2023. He was born Feb. 23, 1973 in Boynton Beach, Fla.

He graduated from Franklin High School, Class of 1990. He studied Mass Communication at Western Carolina University, graduating class of 1997. He also studied Graphic Arts/Writing at Appalachian State University.

Colin was editor at *The Macon County News and Shopping Guide* from 1998 until 2012.

Colin owned/operated Gooder's Grove hiker hostel, opened in 2015, where he worked hard to provide a safe and welcoming space for hikers and other nature lovers who came there for respite and rejuvenation. He derived great joy and purpose from helping others and always looked for



Colin Gooder

See **GOODER** page 2

FRL director offers insight regarding recent meeting

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Just past *The Macon County News*' press deadline last week, Tracy Fitzmaurice, Jackson County librarian and Fontana Regional director, provided additional information regarding the March 14 Fontana Regional Library (FRL) system Board of Trustees meeting. The 4 p.m. meeting at Hudson Library in Highlands drew almost 70 attendees, who were told they would not be allowed to give public comments regarding the controversial issue of sexually explicit books available to children and teenagers in FRL libraries.

The attendees were also told by the Board that FRL had consulted an attorney, which elicited a stream of comments from attendees.

Fitzmaurice explained.

"On advice from the attorney that FRL has retained, public comment was removed from agendas for the governing board and the advisory boards. The bylaws of each board lay out the agenda and public comment is not included in those bylaws. The attorney advised that by re-



The Fontana Regional Library Board of Trustees met March 14 at Hudson Library in Highlands - initially with a packed room, but the almost 70 attendees left the meeting when they learned no public comment was allowed.

ceiving public statements in writing in advance of the meeting, the Board will be able to address concerns in a more.

See **LIBRARY** page 2

IN THIS ISSUE



Page 8

Chiropractor pursues dream of working Olympics

828.369.6767
www.themaconcountynews.com
maconcountynews@gmail.com

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

LIBRARY

Continued from page 1

focused way. Correspondence must be received by noon on the Friday before the scheduled Board meeting. Correspondence can be mailed to: Fontana Regional Library, Attn. FRL Board of Trustees, 33 Fryemont St., Bryson City, N.C. 28713 or by email to trustees@fontanalib.org.”

Citizens have been attending library board meetings in record numbers for the last two years. The public comments about books with sexually explicit content made available to children and teenagers and promoted in displays in children and teen library sections prompted the FRL Board to rewrite its Collection Development Policy, which it voted on Jan. 10, 2023. (see *Macon County News* Feb. 16 edition). However, many citizens continue to be concerned that some books deemed inappropriate for children should be labeled (as are DVDs) with information about the content or put in a section that is not easily accessible to children.

When attendees on March 14 learned that they would not be able to provide public comment, most left the meeting.

“The public who attended the meeting were not asked to leave but they were asked to stop disrupting the board meeting,” said Fitzmaurice. “Most chose to leave after they realized there wouldn’t be any public comment and they didn’t stay to hear how written correspondence could be submitted. Several attendees did leave copies of their written statements.”

(See the March 16 *Macon County News* to learn more.)

Information shared at the meeting

After the March 14 meeting’s minutes were approved, the

Director’s Report for March, written by Fitzmaurice, was read to board members. These reports cover library news and activity in all three FRL counties: Macon, Jackson, and Swain. Included in the report was the hiring of two Digital Navigators through a Digital Inclusion grant. John Modlin and Richard Broxson have been working on several projects across Jackson, Macon, and Swain county libraries and schools. The report read: The program consists of six 90-minute sessions focused on topics ranging from basic introductory Chromebook skills, cybersecurity, and email accounts to interaction with social media.”

In addition, a new Active Audio Challenge runs through May 31.

“The challenge encourages participants to move their bodies while listening to audiobooks,” offers the report. “Patrons who log 25 hours of listening to an audiobook while being active will win a reusable water bottle. All types of activity qualify including walking, running, cycling, cooking, cleaning, exercising, hiking, gardening, yard work, and more.”

Much more was shared in the report, including opportunities available at libraries in the areas of education, work and economy, affordable living, and investigation and leisure.

The report also included: “Macon County Manager Derek Roland has been asked to investigate what it would entail for Macon County to withdraw from FRL. I have provided Mr. Roland with an inventory of all items and equipment that would be considered joint property of the FRL system. I have heard no further news about this research and will update the board if I do.”

The next FRL Board meeting is Tuesday, May 9, at 4 p.m., at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library.

GOODER

Continued from page 1

the good in each person he came across.

Colin was preceded in death by his father, Gary Gooder. He is survived by his mother, Betsey Gooder; brother, Guy Gooder (Alicia); sister, Anita Safron (Perry); nieces, Sydney Gooder, Samantha Couick, Leah Safron and Phoebe Safron; and nephew, Krash Gooder. He is also survived by his partner, Brittany Anderson.

Colin enjoyed hiking, kayaking, practicing tai chi, and was happiest on the trail with his beloved dogs Josie and Willow.

He will be greatly missed by his family, those he was related to, and those whom he chose to call family in the AT community.

A private service will be held and a memorial service is being planned for April 2023.

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

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



Ladies assemble ‘care’ boxes for homebound veterans

VFW Post 7339 Auxiliary along with Realtors Belinda Sanders and Carol Bates, recently assembled “care” boxes for homebound veterans and those in nursing care facilities. The VA clinic will deliver the “care” boxes the week of Easter during their home visits. Pictured are from left, Teri Ledford, Brenda Ramsey Moore, Donna Watts, Shirley Fouts (auxiliary president), Frances Crisp, Bates, Sanders and Gail Blackburn.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter



FRANKLIN
SIGNS AND BANNERS

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

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

Porcelain Pros
828-586-1429

Professional Tub
Repair &
Conversions

Randy Bertke
828-421-5204 cell
porcelainpros@yahoo.com

BAHÁ'Í FAITH
LIGHT OF UNITY

“Verily I say, this is the Day in which mankind can behold the Face, and hear the Voice, of the Promised One.”
-- Bahá'u'llah

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

'Famine' raises \$9K for the hungry



The youth groups from First United Methodist Church and other area churches participated in the annual 30 Hour Famine Saturday, March 11, in which the youth fast for 30 hours and collect non-perishable foods and money to feed the world's hungry. Donations were distributed between Macon County CareNet and World Vision, an international relief agency. The group collected more than \$9,000 in donations and 9,000 food items. Forty volunteers and nearly two dozen youth participated. Above, CareNet Director Tim Hogsted addresses the group.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter



Angel Medical Center

welcomes

Dr. Scott Westermeyer

Asheville Cardiology Associates

55 Medical Park Drive, Ste. 114

Franklin, NC 28734

828-349-6611

 MISSION HEALTH

County, REACH in partnership to eradicate human trafficking

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

At the monthly Macon County Commissioners meeting March 14, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on human trafficking was approved between the county and REACH of Macon County Inc. REACH of Macon was founded in 1990 and is a 501(c)3 non-profit service provider for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. It also serves Jackson County and offers support in six main areas: Emergency, legal and financial assistance, counseling, housing, support, children, and community education. The resources offered by the organization are critical to addressing various types of issues. Its mission statement is to “eradicate domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking crimes in Macon County through prevention, intervention, and educational services.”

The MOA acts as a formal partnership between county government and REACH that will: Identify and assist victims of human trafficking and sextortion (extorting money or sexual favors from someone by threatening to reveal evidence of their sexual activity); ensure contact to a victim service provider when victims present within local government agencies; collaborate to provide outreach for victims of human trafficking and sextortion when appropriate; collaborate to assist with development and provision of training to county employees as appropriate; and, support outreach and awareness efforts as they relate to human trafficking and sextortion.

REACH Assistant Director Jennifer Turner-Lynn spoke at the commissioners’ meeting and briefed the board regarding the facility also being a haven for victims from other states because it is one of very few that is American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and accessible, as well as one that has private restrooms. Not having that privacy complicates an already traumatic situation when one is dealing with sexual assault or trafficking. Numbers in the local area reflect the growing problem nationally. Statistically, from July 2021-June 2022, REACH dealt with 38 human traffick-

ing victims while providing 4,950 services in response to those cases. Additionally, there were 500 domestic violence and sexual assault victims, 102 of whom were provided 3,200 total nights of shelter.

For a national perspective, in 2021, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received a total of 51,073 substantive phone calls, text, Webchats, emails, or online tip reports nationwide.

In response to Commissioner Gary Shields thanking REACH for the services it provides within the county, Turner-Lynn pointed out: “If anyone is a part of civic or other organizational groups, especially working with youth, we would be glad to come and speak with them, specific to sextortion, which falls under the umbrella of human trafficking but is a really big issue with our teens.” She added, “The demand related to social media and access to youth is crazy and scary. We need to provide education for teen girls and even young boys who oftentimes can be approached and get caught up in activity through gaming systems where they are being specifically targeted. This is not an area we normally think about.”

Following the presentation, commission vice chairman Josh Young also acknowledged what Turner-Lynn and REACH means to troubled youth and adults.

“The numbers are staggering and I am guilty of being naive, myself. But I know you don’t do it for the money and thank you so much,” said Young.

Facilities update

In December 2022, the bitter cold over the Christmas holidays caused damage to a REACH shelter when frozen pipes burst and flooded an area.

“We are actively working with our insurance company and contractors to expedite repairs and are well into the process,” Turner-Lynn reported. “Our hope is that repairs will be completed around May.” In the interim, REACH continues to provide shelter for victims and survivors at an alternate location.

ALDI opening Thursday, March 30

ALDI is bringing a new way to shop for groceries to Franklin with food (and more) that the whole family will love, all at great prices. More than 1,000 new ALDI stores have opened across America over the past decade, and customers nationwide have become loyal fans of the company’s shopping experience.

The ALDI business model is intentionally different, and shoppers across the country shop for their exclusive brands and weekly lineup of limited-time ALDI finds. Franklin shoppers can experience the ALDI difference themselves when the new Franklin store opens Thursday, March 30, at 8:45 a.m. The store will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The first 100 customers will receive a gift bag filled with a sampling of ALDI Fan Favorites products and a gift card as part of the ALDI Golden Ticket gift card giveaway program. Shoppers can also enter a sweepstakes for a chance to win a \$500 ALDI gift card during the grand opening weekend from March 30 through April 2.

“Our stores are designed to make grocery shopping smarter, faster and easier, and we’ve been voted the price leader for six years running,” said Shaun O’Keefe, Jefferson regional vice president for ALDI. “We’re excited to open our first ALDI store in Franklin and introduce local customers to a new, more affordable way of shopping.”

Here are just a few things that set ALDI apart:

- The dunnhumby Retailer Preference Index Report has ranked ALDI No. 1 on price for six years running.

- Fresh, organic produce is delivered daily, and every item is backed by its Twice as Nice Guarantee. If for any reason a customer is not 100% satisfied with the quality of a product,

ALDI will replace the product AND refund it.

- ALDI sells mostly exclusive brands made by its partners. Franklin shoppers will find food for every taste and lifestyle (gluten-free, plant-based, dairy alternatives, etc.) along with an unbeatable cheese and wine selection. Shoppers will also discover weekly offerings of limited-time ALDI Finds like candles, delicious seasonal food, home goods and more.

- Shoppers participate in the savings. Depositing a quarter to unlock a shopping cart is one way ALDI saves shoppers money. ALDI doesn’t need to hire employees to corral loose



The new ALDI store is located on Siler Road near Chick-Fil-A.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

cars, and customers get their quarter back when they return the cart. ALDI also asks shoppers to bring reusable bags and has never offered single-use plastic bags — a sustainable policy that leads to savings passed on to customers.

- Nearly all ALDI locations offer grocery delivery, and Curbside Grocery Pickup is expanding rapidly nationwide. Visit shop.aldi.us to place an order.

- ALDI is an award-winning employer that is nationally acclaimed for prioritizing its employees and their well-being. Known for offering highly competitive wages and industry-leading benefits, ALDI has been recognized as one of America’s Best Large Employers by Forbes six times in the past seven years. To learn more about working at ALDI and search job openings, go to careers.aldi.us.

EAGLE TAX BREAKS PLUS



\$25 OFF
Tax Preparation
Additional \$25 credit
on your bill for NEW CLIENTS

Please present coupon upon arrival

Across from Food Lion

Serving WNC for 24 Years
Not Your Ordinary Tax Service!

**VETERAN OWNED
& OPERATED!**

We print 1099 and W2 forms for small businesses and provide bookkeeping and payroll services year round.

U.S. CORPORATIONS • ESTATES, LLCs, TRUSTS

AT EAGLE TAX BREAKS, we believe in

Accuracy. Integrity. Personal Service.

1090 HIGHLANDS ROAD • FRANKLIN, NC 28734 • 828-524-1140

CALL FOR DROP OFF OPTIONS • CURBSIDE PICKUP AVAILABLE

**WE ARE READY TO
E-FILE FOR YOU!**

When you’re
ready to file,
we are ready
for you!



Choose trained repair professionals.
Because safety matters.

828-524-8080
121 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC

TDA hears support requests, marketing report

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

The Franklin Tourism Development Authority (TDA) held its monthly meeting March 13 where two new requests for support were presented. The TDA also received and approved an audit contract and financial report. A marketing overview for the year was also delivered.

Town Manager and TDA member Amie Owens delivered the latest financial report that covers month-to-month figures covering the past 12 years. Through January 2023, there have been six consecutive months of “highest on record” totals for occupancy tax collections, with the overall total after seven months being \$119,110.91. With the budget tabulated at \$265,000 for this fiscal year (FY), Owens reported expenditures at \$123,387.65

with encumbrances coming in at \$121,067.35. Encumbrances reflect outstanding commitments taken on by an organization. In the TDA’s case, it represents contracts with LOCALiQ, a marketing platform. As of the report, the existing fund balance is \$155,596.12. The financial report was approved unanimously.

As a component of the Town of Franklin, the TDA is audited annually and as such, requires an approved contract. The Town Council approved a contract with Martin Starnes and Associates at its March 6 meeting, which the TDA similarly approved. The cost of the annual audit increased to \$3,200 this year, up \$200 from 2022.

The Taste of Scotland Society submitted an application of support for their 25th annual event scheduled for June 16-18. The festival draws local, regional, and Western North Carolina visitors to Franklin. This year’s request increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 and was only provided for TDA consideration at this month’s meeting. It will be reviewed for approval in April. Total event cost was \$23,000 last year when it was held at the Macon County Fairgrounds for the first time. Presenter James Gordon explained that doing so provided a more limited access, ticketed event and allowed for a more accurate account of success in terms of total visitors. He also advised, “The Cherokee will be with us on Saturday (June 17) during the festival and we are also trying to get them to have some kind of presence with us on Friday evening as well. Our goal is to get more community involvement to make our festival a more inclusive event.” A fiddling contest will also be added to events this year.

The other support request was from TribalVibe Promotions and Altered Frequencies for \$1,000. A new event, Springtopia-Feeding the Future, will be held April 22, running from 12 noon until midnight. According to the application, the goal is to receive canned goods donations through reduced ticket prices: \$5 off the full ticket price of \$25. Goods received will then be distributed throughout small pantries in Franklin. Seven bands have committed to performing and event promoters are currently negotiating arrangements for food trucks and a bounce house. Presenter Mary Guerico also hopes to hold a follow-on similar event if the April event goes well.

The year-in-review marketing report was delivered by Carly Moser of Drake Enterprises and served as a fiscal year 2022/2023 recap of LOCALiQ advertising.

The report window covered September-May and included a recommendation of \$222,415 for various advertising options. LOCALiQ-collected analytics provided input to the report that, in addition to its various statistics, reiterated Owens’ assertion that Franklin continues to break records with occupancy tax collection, making the town a tourism destination

that people want to visit. For “cross media optimization,” the report showed that for designated market areas, 10% of people viewing ads on Discover Franklin (<https://discoverfranklinnc.com/>), when searching for “North Carolina family vacation,” are accessing the website. Similarly, 9.3% of those who see the ad when conducting internet searches for “weekend getaways North Carolina” are also going to the website.

Moser pointed out that while TikTok ads have actually been among the more productive advertising options, a gradual withdrawal of usage is underway due to increasingly negative connotations associated with the video-sharing application. She also emphasized the continually increasing effectiveness of YouTube (YT) exposure, especially via television access. The average view rate for YT is 27.7%, with actual Discover Franklin ads on YT receiving a 53.35% view rate average. Not surprisingly, the regions most frequently interested in visiting Franklin include (in declining order), Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida. The major metropolitan locales most often cited are Atlanta, Charlotte, and Nashville.

The next scheduled TDA meeting is Monday, April 10, at 5:30 p.m.



Repeats
Upscale Consignment

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

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

Rusted Arrow
Market

Farm House - Shabby Chic - Antiques
828.421.0820

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

SWEET OPHELIA'S
Antiques, Furniture, Plants, Gifts & More

50% OFF EVERYTHING!

(828)524-2419 304 Depot St. • Franklin, NC
(located next door to Sophisticut)

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

ALUMINUM PRODUCTS INC. *Install yourself, or professional installation available*

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

BRYANT'S
ANTIQUÉ MALL

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

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

SEVERAL HOMES READY FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

GEMSTONE VILLAGE

55 and over Active Adult Community

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

NOW AVAILABLE - Starting at \$180,000:
MANUFACTURED HOMES + LAND

AVAILABLE IN 2023 - Starting at \$275,000:
DUPLEX TOWN HOMES + LAND

CALL 828-200-4168

GemstoneVillageNC.com
Manufactured Home Dealer License No. 47699

Familiar faces in the Panther Pit for alumni basketball game

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

Back in early March, Franklin High School (FHS) varsity basketball coach Doug Plemmons shared that he wanted to bring back some former players and have an alumni basketball game. One reason for doing so was fundraising in support of the boys' basketball program, but the main reason was getting former players together with an added benefit of them giving back in the process. Plemmons, who became FHS' winningest basketball coach back in 2018, stated at the meeting, "We haven't had one of these get-togethers since the first time I coached here [16 years ago] and I think it's time we do another one."

On March 18, the event was held in the Panther Pit, where all of the participating former players once experienced the highs and lows of winning and losing basketball games. Players represented FHS graduating classes from 1994 to 2022.

"The main purpose of this event and fundraiser was to bring former FHS basketball players from the past, and the not-so-distant past, together to reminisce and enjoy each other's company, playing a game they love in a gym that holds so many wonderful memories for them," said Plemmons.

After all expenses were paid, the remaining proceeds went directly to the current FHS basketball program to benefit future Panthers.

Macon County Middle School teacher/FHS coach Cindy Christie helped coordinate the event and was also working throughout the game, assisting with various tasks to ensure the event was as successful and entertaining as possible. The two squads competing were each comprised of players of all ages. One team sported red jerseys and was coached by Skip Sanders, who was a FHS All-Conference athlete in three sports. The other team, sporting black jerseys, was



Former players gathered for an alumni basketball game at FHS Panther Pit organized by Coach Doug Plemmons.

coached by FHS multi-sport legend Shawn Bryson, who played collegiately at the University of Tennessee, where he won a national championship. Bryson also went on to play football professionally with the Buffalo Bills and Detroit Lions.

Sanders currently coaches boys' community league basketball in Franklin and is an assistant varsity football coach at FHS. Bryson recently led his Asheville High School football team to its first North Carolina Division II state championship.

The athleticism and skill demonstrated by the alumni players brought cheers from the crowd. While the game was competitive throughout, players showed respect for each other and clearly were enjoying the opportunity to play with different generations of

Panther players.

In all, approximately 28 former players participated and they ranged in age from the class of 1994 (Joe Allen and Gabe Jonas) to players who graduated in 2022 (Trey Penland, Kellen Stiles, and Griffin Green). Green is one of the Panthers' past players who scored more than 1,000 (1,081) points in his high school career.

The game was well attended. Some former players also joined in on the fun, even though they could not actually participate in the game. Alton Sutton (class of 1966) and Mickey Stockton (class of 1967) were both in attendance. Sutton's son, Mark (class of 1996), and current Macon County Middle School Principal, played in the game for Team Black.

Others who participated included the Gibbs brothers, Daniel, Hunter, and Chase. Their father Todd, a former football coach and current auxiliary director at Macon County Schools, was also on hand watching the game along with FHS Principal Mickey Noe.

Zach DeLaCruz (class of 2018), who once hit five three-point baskets against Swain County in January 2017, also played in the game. He shared about the night in 2018 when he hit a 3-point shot at the buzzer to defeat the Pisgah Bears.

Twins Chase and Chad Simons (class of

2004) also suited up and participated in the alumni celebration.

County Commissioner Gary Shields, principal at FHS for 21 years, was in the stands at the alumni game and he met with players ahead of the game to encourage them. "Many were my former students. I tried to



Current county commissioner and former FHS principal Gary Shields was always a fixture at the high school games while he was principal. Shields met with the players before the alumni game.

attend most of the games when I was principal and I have attended sports events since retiring whenever I can."

While the Red squad "won" the game, the contest primarily brought former players and visibly appreciative Franklin citizens together. Regardless of monies raised, Coach Plemmons put on an enjoyable and entertaining event.



Former player and current MMS principal Mark Sutton (black t-shirt) displays his basketball moves.

Franklin High School Panther Spring Sports well underway

Dan Finnerty – Sports Writer

While February looked and felt like spring, March has been mostly cold and rainy – yet athletes participating in spring sports still have to get out of doors and give it their all.

The Franklin High School (FHS) golf team now has five matches under its belt after finishing second out of three teams at Mountain Harbor March 16. The Panthers (358) came in ahead of Smoky Mountain (377) and behind Pisgah, who shot a group low 337. Team scores are tabulated by taking the golfers with the four lowest scores and then adding them together. Max McClure led FHS with an 83, followed closely by Tanner Jones who shot an 86.

The Panthers began their spring 2023 season with two wins, both against Smoky Mountain, before settling for third place at Springdale Country Club in Canton as part of a four-school match that included Pisgah, Smoky Mountain, and Enka. On March 9, they played another match, this time at Laurel Ridge Country Club (against Pisgah, Smoky Mountain, Tuscola, and East Henderson), before heading back to Springdale in Canton. On March 13, FHS, Tuscola, Pisgah, and Smoky Mountain battled once again - this time the elements as much as each other. The day was as cold as the winter had been warm, complete with snow flurries and windy conditions.

“For the most part, the kids did pretty well,” expressed Head Coach Ryan Raby. “It was brutally cold, but they persevered and turned in some respectable scores for the conditions. Springdale is not an easy course to walk and mixing those conditions in made it really tough.”

The top three spots finished with scores of 83, 84, and 85. As a team, FHS finished third, behind Pisgah and Tuscola, just one shot out of second. Pisgah was first with a team score of 316, Tuscola came in at 349, the Panthers were third at 350, and Smoky was fourth with a 367.

“We are still a relatively young team with a freshman, a sophomore, two juniors, and a senior, but we are gaining some valuable experience. Like I told them, it’s not how you start, it’s how you finish,” Raby pointed out.

The first three matches of the season were only nine holes each but beginning with the Springdale round March 14, with daylight saving time in effect, matches will be a full 18 holes for the remainder of the season.

Men’s Tennis plays through inclement weather

The Panthers men’s tennis team is now 4-1, with all the wins in conference, against Tuscola, North Henderson, and Pisgah; the Panthers lone loss happened at Rabun County High School. Head Coach Sammy Gunter headed into the regular season with seven returning sophomores – Jack Sgro, Mica Jacobs, Gavin Rinker, Orrin Mynes, Eli Adams, Will

Sinclair, and Jack Hyatt. A total of nine players is on the roster; one additional player is also a sophomore (Brennan Cable) and the other a freshman (Connor Baldwin). Every returning player either started or had significant playing time last season.

“Sgro was co-player of the year in the Mountain Seven conference and was half of the #1 doubles team in our conference tournament, along with senior Caleb Pevia,” said Gunter. “Our goal is to finish as one of the top teams in our conference, which avoiding unforeseen injuries or slip ups, is a good possibility.”

On March 20, the Panthers won 6-3 over the Smoky Mountain Mustangs. In individual play, while the #1 FHS player Sgro suffered a loss, #2 Jacobs, #3 Rinker, and #4 Rynes all won. Number 5 Sinclair lost, but #6 (freshman) Baldwin won. In doubles, #1 Sgro/Jacobs experienced a loss, but #2 Mynes/Sinclair defeated their Mustang counterparts, as did #3 Rinker/Adams.

“This was a close match against an improved Smoky Mountain team,” said Gunter. “Gavin (Rinker) and Orrin (Mynes) dominated their opponents, mixing up their shots ... the tightest match was when Jacobs got blown out in the first set but changed tactics to win the second. The tiebreak was back and forth until 8-8, where he pulled off a huge service winner and pressured the Smoky Mountain player into an error for the victory. We spent our last practice on tiebreakers, which paid dividends for us today. I was glad to see our guys prevail but we still have a lot of work to do.”

Earlier in the month, at Pisgah on March 13, the conditions were less than ideal for most any outdoor activity. As the coach relayed it, “On a ridiculously cold and windy day, our guys dominated as we were able to sweep in singles.” Due to just four courts being available, coaches lowered the game scoring for both singles and doubles. FHS won 7-2, with Sgro taking first in singles, followed by Jacobs and Rinker. Mynes and Jacobs won doubles, with Rinker and Adams taking second.

Gunter also changed some of the doubles lineup to allow some of the lower ranked players to get game experience.

“Overall, I thought that our guys adjusted to the adverse weather conditions and played smart tennis as it is extremely hard to get your timing right in a strong crosswind.”

Women’s Soccer off to a challenging start

Varsity Panthers soccer lost at Tuscola Monday, March 20, by a score of 0-3 to bring their overall record to 2-3-1, 1-1 in conference play. FHS also lost a tough 1-2 contest to Highlands at home last week (March 15) and then had their March 17 contest at Cherokee postponed due to weather.

See SPRING page 8

The 4th Annual UNIFY March Madness Basketball event will be hosted by Franklin High School Thursday, March 30, in the Panther Den with opening ceremonies beginning at 6:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided between quarters and during halftime and concessions will be sponsored by The Franklin High School Booster Club. The Unify March Madness game is free admission and is open to the public. “Continuing the movement of building community.”

SPRING

Continued
from page 7

The soccer season began with two games at home. The first was a 0-0 tie with Swain County on March 6, followed by a 3-2 win over Murphy, March 7. In the Murphy contest, forward Jasmin Valencia was named Player of the Game, the third time she has won the award in the past two seasons. She also won the award in March and April 2022.

Next, came a loss to the Blue Devils at Brevard, 0-6, on March 10. The team got back on the winning track in their conference game, March 13 at East Henderson. In commenting on the 1-0 win, Head Coach Dwight Long said, "We put up a good win against East Henderson. We held high pressure and controlled the ball well throughout the match."

From her wing position, sophomore Lily Holt had an assist that resulted in senior forward Cynthia Rios-Ruiz getting the score. Senior defender Madelynn Brannon was named Player of the Game against the Eagles. On March 6, the junior varsity girls won their only game played so far this season. They triumphed in their home opener, with a 6-0 shutout win over the Cherokee Lady Braves. However, on Monday night, March 20, the JV team lost against Tuscola, 0-3.

Track & Field - two meets completed; two FHS records broken

FHS, Smoky Mountain, Swain County, and Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School competed at Rabun Gap March 18 in a meet that represented the Panthers second competition of the spring track and field season. Of the 33 overall events, eight of which were team/relay races, FHS placed first in 24 of them. In particular, Wofford-bound Isabelle Duchemin (senior) and junior Hope Smith posted the #1 and #2 times respectively, recorded the fastest 100-meter (m) dash in FHS history. The feat places the duo 4th and 5th currently in the 3A Conference.

"I have predicted that we can break 11 school records during the outdoor season and this was one I didn't think we would get," said Coach Matt Harlfinger. "Off to a great start!"

Elsewhere at the meet, junior Elijah Cochran and senior Isaiah Roots finished 1-2 in the boys 100m dash, junior Braxton Deal and sophomore Jason Mesa came in first and second for the 200m dash; Roots and Cochran topped the list at 1-2, respectively, in the 400m dash.

FHS took the top three spots in the 1600m finals with junior Barret Stork and sophomores Dan Hooper and Cooper Tyler finishing 1-2-3; Stork and Hooper also took 1st and 2nd in the 3200m run. Senior Blake Cassada and sophomore Talon Smith each won the 110m and 300m runs, respectively.

In team events, the Panthers took first in the boys 4x100 and 4x400 races, with Rabun Gap winning the 4x200 and 4x800 events. Cal Drake and Cochran took the two top spots in the high jump, an event Drake excels in. Senior Seth Brewer topped the shot-put competition.

For the girls, freshman Michelle Ortega and junior Rylee Cassada placed 1-2 in the 200m dash while Smith, sophomore Laura Covarrubias, and Cassada took the top three spots in the 400m. In the girls 800m, FHS took six of the eight places in the race, with three freshmen runners (Mindi Holbrooks, Amy Mendoza Lopez, and Montana Boatwright) finishing 1-3. In the 3200m, junior Claire Hovis and senior Mykayla McClure took the top two spots. For the 100m and 300m hurdles, Duchemin won both, with sophomores Addison Coker and Madison Breeden finishing behind her in each race, respectively. FHS took first in both the 4X100 and 4X400 relay races. Breeden won the high jump competition; Covarrubias the long jump, and junior Claire Ballard the discus, with sophomore Charley Seagle finishing second. Seagle also won the shot-put event, ahead of senior Renae Younce and Ballard.

The Panthers first meet was held at Cherokee March 8 with many of the same Panthers competing and many placing first as well. At that event, Cal Drake won the high jump at 6 feet 4 inches, which tied him for second best, all-time at FHS. Their next meet will be against Swain County and will be hosted on campus at Western Carolina University on Friday, March 24.

Chiropractor working toward Olympic dream

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Franklin chiropractor for 25 years, Karina Gurney, is getting closer to her career goal: To be selected as a certified sports physician for an Olympic Games. In July 2021, she went back to school to obtain the additional 200 classwork hours needed to achieve "Diplomate" status with the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians. Part of the Board's criteria is 250 field experience hours, and Gurney had an opportunity to attain some of those hours Feb. 12-26 at the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Center in Lake Placid, N.Y.

"By volunteering at the training center, I was able to get more of the hours I need to possibly get invited to work at the 2024 or 2026 games," said Gurney, who explained that she worked in Lake Placid's sports medicine clinic with athletes involved in such sports as bobsled, skeleton, biathlon, ice hockey, speed skating, figure skating, snowboarding, and more.

"I worked with athletes that were going through rehabilitation from injuries ... treated muscular/skeletal complaints," she said. "It's a multi-medical disciplinary approach at the clinic – body and mind. In fact, it's really amazing how [the Center] is able to treat all parts of the athletes."

Gurney, who has been American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians certified since 1998, has focused her practice on the discipline of sports chiropractic medicine, even though she has treated patients with all sorts of chiropractic related issues. In private practice in Franklin, she treats patients referred to her by orthopedists as well as by athletic trainers/coaches from area schools, including Western Carolina University.

However, she is seeking to step away from her practice at least for a few weeks in the future to make her dream come true.

"I feel blessed in that – after this long in my career – that this goal may be completed. I put my mind to it, finished necessary classes, reached out to [the U.S. Olympic Committee], and met the required credentials and background checks. The next step is to finish Diplomate certification by



Franklin chiropractor Karina Gurney was selected to volunteer at the Olympic center in Lake Placid, N.Y., working with athletes. Her dream is to be chosen to work at the actual Olympic Games.

passing exams and writing a paper. Once finished I will be a serious candidate for consideration."

In the near future, Gurney may be invited back to Lake Placid to achieve additional field experience hours. Working

there in February was "exciting, new – such a different type of environment," she said. "Working with athletes of that caliber was interesting, and all the doctors and staff were so very nice. Plus, the athletes were thankful for getting care."

One aspect of her time at Lake Placid "was being able to go to the bobsled track and observe them in their training element. It was fast and

loud and fascinating."

An anniversary focus on what became known as "Miracle on Ice" at the 1980 Winter Olympics was also happening in Lake Placid while Gurney was there. "Miracle on Ice" refers to an ice hockey game played between the hosting United States and the Soviet Union on Feb. 22, 1980; although the Soviet Union was a four-time defending gold medalist, the United States ended up winning 4-3.

"The focus on that event summed up my journey: 'Never let your memories be bigger than your dreams,'" said Gurney. "My dream of being a chiropractor at the Olympic Games is a personal goal of mine, so I could identify with 'Miracle on Ice.'"



Brand new shelter welcomes Appalachian Trail hikers at Rock Gap

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

On the blustery, rainy, muddy morning of March 17, representatives from Nantahala Ranger District Office/Nantahala National Forest, Nantahala Hiking Club, Franklin Appalachian Trail Community Council, Oconaluftee Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, and Outdoor 76 braved the weather to celebrate the completion of a new hiker shelter at Rock Gap on the Appalachian Trail. The new shelter is opening just in time for through- and section-hikers on the famous trail that runs from Springer Mountain, Ga., to Mt. Katahdin, Maine.

According to Nantahala Hiking Club (NHC) President Victor Treutel, the former shelter had been at the site



Despite cold and rain, many people turned out for the dedication of the new Rock Gap shelter for hikers traversing the Appalachian Trail.

Numerous volunteers representing various entities dedicated hundreds of hours to building a new hiker shelter at Rock Gap, near Standing Indian, on the AT.

in his community in Pennsylvania and decided he would attempt the 2,000-plus mile hike.

The open shelter provides an opportunity for hikers to overnight in sleeping bags while protected from rain. Makeshift hangers are provided to keep backpacks off the ground and away from mice.

Treutel, along with Rory Cassidy and

Forestry Instructor Alan Chapman. “Having interactions with trail work, swinging tools, and moving dirt is more important than classroom work. Hands-on is vital.”

“I loved the physical work,” said Martin, “and seeing the end result of the labor.”

After the ribbon cutting, Treutel explained the shelter project’s funding.

“The Appalachian Trail Conservancy was the middleman; \$18,600 came from the National Park Service,” said Treutel. “This project has been in the works for five years. That’s when the original capital budget was created, based on 2017 costs. With the price of building products skyrocketing in the past two years, the funding allocated didn’t cover the total actual costs. We didn’t know this until the project was almost finished. I made the decision to complete the project using (NHC) club funds. More than \$2,000 was not covered. We have had many donations from individuals and companies, local and afar, to ensure the funding was not all from the club’s budget. Outdoor76 contributed \$800. And, online donations have been over \$700. We also had a commitment from the N.C. Tag Grant office to subsidize us as needed.

“It has been a great project and with amazing community support. We are very appreciative,” he added.



Hygie Starr of the NHC, initially addressed the crowd, offering that planning for the shelter began five years ago.

“It takes that long to budget and plan,” said Treutel. The shelter cost \$21,000, with the cost primarily allocated for materials since most of the labor was provided by NHC volunteers, including NHC project lead Phillip Rogers, along with Ed Sams, as well as students in the forestry program at Oconaluftee Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center in Cherokee.

“To build it took about 6,000 pounds of concrete, 3,000 pounds of block, 4,000 pounds of lumber, and three tons of gravel,” said Treutel.

All the materials had to be hauled down a narrow path from the Rock Gap parking lot in the Standing Indian Campground – a distance of about a quarter of a mile.

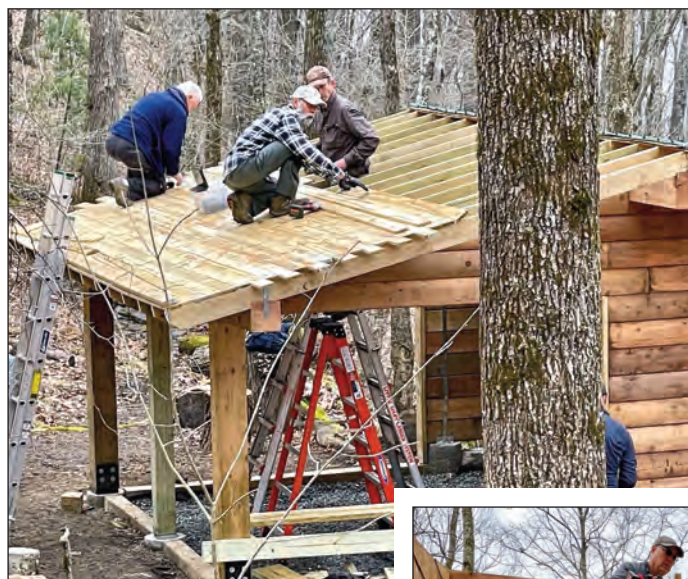
“The NHC logged over 900 work hours,” said Starr, “not including planning time. Job Corps had about 200 or more hours into it, and another 100-plus hours were provided by the Forest Service.”

Also representing the Nantahala Ranger District Office/Nantahala National Forest was Viviana Ruiz and District Ranger Troy Waskey.

“I’m pretty sure this shelter is so well built it will outlast all of us,” noted Treutel.

Job Corps Forestry students who attended the shelter ribbon cutting included Alexander Merer of Ohio, Austin Pendleton of North Carolina, and William Martin of North Carolina. All three students said that the hands-on experience of helping to build the shelter solidified their career goals.

“It’s very important for these students to have real world experience,” said Job Corps



since in 1965. With Kelsey Mortensen of the Nantahala Ranger District Office holding the ribbon, Treutel “cut” it while at least 25 looked on, including Appalachian Trail (A.T.) hikers, one of whom had stayed in the shelter the night before.

“It’s one of the best shelters I’ve seen so far,” said Gary Lawrence, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. He was one of 28 hikers who spent the night in and around the shelter on the evening of March 16, the day before the dedication. The shelter will comfortably hold up to eight adults.

Lawrence shared that he had heard stories about the A.T. from someone

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

WHISTLE STOP DEPOT

ANTIQUES, SHOPS & RV PARK

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

FRUSTRATED WITH LOW INTEREST RATES AND STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY?

5.6%* interest rate GUARANTEED FOR THREE YEARS

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

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

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

WAYAH INSURANCE GROUP
Trust our Experience, Strength, and Service

What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

At last Thursday's meeting, the Highlands Town Board approved a number of items that will now move forward. Let me review several major decisions that were made.

First, the board approved the new leases for the HAM Radio and WHLC antenna located on the town's Big Bear Pen Tower. These leases will now be published in the newspaper during a 30-day period before the final lease can be signed.

Second, the board approved the placement of the Highlands Greenway new way-finding signage throughout town. The greenway directions will be placed on 5" x 5" posts at the height of four feet. These signposts, a long-awaited improvement, will help folks better find and navigate the greenway.

After signage was approved, I encouraged the greenway board to ask the county to provide funding for future improvements. The county commission has on several occasions provided funding for the greenway in Franklin, but never have they provided funding for the Highlands Greenway. There needs to be equitable support for our greenway since Highlanders represent a major portion of the county tax base.

The board also approved \$5,500 to survey the portion of the proposed NC 106 sidewalk that would be located on the Shelby Place Homeowners' property. The homeowners are requesting a specific location for the walkway in order to make a final decision. The survey is an important step in the town securing an easement and building the sidewalk.

Final approval was given to the ABC Board to begin the conversion of the old fire station to a new ABC Store facility. The ABC Store is a state-controlled operation owned by the Town of Highlands. In accordance with state statutes, the town board appoints a five-member ABC Board that is in charge of the total store operations. In North Carolina, ABC stores sell all spirited alcohol (liquor) in a designated service area, i.e., The Highlands Township. Bars and restaurants have to purchase liquor from the Highlands ABC Store. Both these components will be enhanced at this new facility.

The ABC Board has retained substantial funds to make the conversion and begin operations at the new location

See TAYLOR on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Support for Trump will spread hate across America

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Those are wise words from Romans 12:19, King James Version of the Bible. Do you take the Bible literally or figuratively? Either way, ponder the wisdom of the words.

And then! Consider the latest rant of Donald Trump labeling himself as the "retribution candidate" for President in 2024. If you want his anger spread across America, support him! If you want any semblance of law and order along with adherence to the Constitution of the United States then you must pick a candidate who is not filled with hate.

Legendary singer/songwriter John Prine wrote, "For a heart stained in anger grows weak and grows bitter. You become your own prisoner as you watch yourself sit there wrapped up in a trap of your very own sorrow."

You can believe the Bible. You can believe John Prine. You can believe both. You can believe neither.

Still, it is easy to see that Donald Trump is filled with a dangerous level of rage. Our Constitution must contain him.

Trump is not a victim of our democracy. Our democracy has been victimized by Trump.

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

Library board promoting radical social agenda

In an appalling move, the Fontana Regional Library (FRL) Board censored concerned patrons by banning public comment at their March 14, 2023, meeting in Highlands, further proving that the FRL desires to silence the ever growing number of community members who desire to protect children. I have been to and spoken at numerous FRL meetings in the past year. At meeting after meeting, we were listened to silently, but nothing we spoke about was ever discussed openly, only deliberated upon in secret. After months of inaction, the board moved against patrons in January 2023 with the new Collection Development Policy and a restrictive public comment policy. I thank Ed Trask, the lone FRL Board member who had the courage to vote against the Collection Development Policy and stand up for children and taxpayers.

This board has decided they will not protect children, will not represent WNC values, and will proceed with a leftist agenda that is promoted by the corrupt American Library Association (ALA). It is hypocritical of the FRL to say obscene children's books are protected by free speech while at the same time refusing free speech to the very people who pay for the library to function.

Essentially, the board's elimination of public comment and the new collection development policy are all about circling the wagons, strengthening the board's bureaucracy against any attempts at reform, and telling concerned parents to

pound sand. This shameful stunt shows the silent contempt most of the board must have felt toward the public's attempts at cordial and respectful dialogue over the last year. It tells this community they do not want to hear from the public. No one likes to hear criticisms of themselves or their institutions, but it's part of serving the public. Maybe some of them should resign as board members if they have so little regard for this community.

The Fontana Regional Library Board is functioning as a rubber-stamp for a radical social agenda through the ALA. Libraries do not hold memberships with the ALA; however, the former director, current director, and other administrators are members of the ALA. Did you know the ALA maintains a database on community members who challenge books or library policies for any reason or request protections for children? What do they do with their public enemies list? Are you aware The ALA partners directly with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and other LGBTQ advocacy groups and media organizations in order to coordinate media hit pieces against citizens like me who challenge library policies, materials, or agendas?

The Fontana Collection Development Policy plainly states that library staff have a responsibility to "engage in open, continuous two-way communication with library patrons and recognize that individuals have different ways of expressing their needs." We expect no less from Fontana Board members. Clearly, after their shenanigans, it's more obvious than ever that Macon County should pull out of the Fontana System and become an independent county library that respects the local community.

Leah Gaston – Franklin, N.C.

Email Letters to the Editor to
maconcountynews@gmail.com



The Macon County
NEWS
& Shopping Guide

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

www.themaconcountynews.com

Email: maconcountynews@gmail.com

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

Betsey Gooder
Publisher /Advertising Director

Teresa S. Tabor, Editor

Jay Baird
Advertising Representative

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

Vickie Carpenter, Classifieds/Photographer

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

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

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

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

LETTERS

Continued from page 10

Be a part of an amazing volunteer experience

This letter is in praise of the amazing volunteers and staff at the Macon County Animal Shelter. I have walked shelter dogs since 2004 and this is my favorite volunteer experience by far. These faithful folks walk dogs, play with kitties, clean kennels and litter boxes, wash dishes and clothes and numerous other tasks. We also sit with and love these animals and help them to regain their trust in the human race.

These outstanding people also reach deep into their own pockets and along with generous donors supplement the animal's diet, provide yummy treats and help with medical care. I stand in awe of these wonderful people and their willingness to give so much to these innocent creatures who only want to love us and be part of our family.

To those who feel they can't volunteer because they "would want to take them all home," I am pretty sure that every volunteer and staff feel the exact same way but we know we can't. My heartstrings are tugged every time I walk dogs, but it is so rewarding to know that I am making a difference in these animals' lives. I promise your heart will be at peace much more than it is in pieces, if you choose to volunteer. If you would like to have the most awesome volunteer "job," please contact Debbie, volunteer coordinator extraordinaire, at the shelter (828)349-2106.

And finally, please spay and neuter the pups and kitties in your care. Thank you.

Pauleah Tomlinson – Franklin, N.C.

Government entities fighting what is being encouraged

During a short trip to Arlington, Texas, I had a chance to stop and talk to one of the librarians. It was stated that libraries broad demographics take into account the young and old and materials of both local and world involvement, but in doing so is to respect this broad range of interaction and the placement of these materials.

The discussion was of the American Library Association (ALA) and other library associations that libraries can be involved in. She said that they all have a role into the direction and function of how they operate. This is also in conjunction with local governments and citizen boards. In other words, it's a reflection of the community at large. It has become obvious that the forces or powers of the ALA or that of our local library board seem to pay little attention with what our community's concerns are. I see absolutely no reason why any government system be involved in any sexual identity education or open display; and why they themselves have given themselves the sole right to do so, and take that right away from what should only involve the parent or guardian of the child. What boundaries do you have that protects the most innocent among us? Does everything become allowed? Is bestiality, incest, anything the human mind can invent acceptable? If the display of LGBTQ materials are OK and of easy access, what within your ethical standards is something not allowed, where is there a line drawn that says "We cannot go down this road?" Or we must respect and honor the ethics of our community and their concerns.

If the display of sexual explicit materials or lifestyles is openly allowed you will find yourselves as a government entity in conflict with another part of government. I have had several conversations with our local law enforcement. They have several officers that their sole responsibility is within sexual communications and this involvement with minors and/or adults with minors. They get information from federal, state, and local, of internet connections, phone conversations or materials that place our young at risk of being exploited. So while talking to the officer it was quickly

identified that there's a war of sorts that on one hand our governing system allows or encourages, as in our schools or library; then on the other hand, as in our law enforcement, we fight the very thing that seems it encourages, so if you say you have an ethical standard, where is it you derive this meandering type of standard, and how is it we can follow and make sense of these standards?

I have nothing against the LGBTQ community, they can do as they please with themselves. But the forcing or display of their lifestyle upon our children and those who oppose such a lifestyle, just because you feel they have a right to do so, then I see no need of any library board, for everything becomes acceptable because you have anything as fair-game-type ethical standards, so the board renders itself of little value because there's no value within the ethics the board says it has.

Deni Shepard – Franklin, N.C.

Meeting illustrates need for independent library

The vile and harmful propaganda meant to indoctrinate young children into the depraved world of sexually ambiguous morality has finally come to our region. Librarians and library boards have historically been terrified that any restriction of content, no matter how far from community standards the material strays, will turn into a book burning mob storming the doors of the local library with flashlights blazing.

They need not fear. The Fontana Regional board meeting illustrates clearly the necessity for better funded and independent local libraries that do not have to allow the filth and degeneracy evident in the flood of books (I refuse to call such garbage "literature") that are so shocking and twisted that it is not allowed to be quoted in public!

No wonder public comments were not allowed. It is beyond question that the vast majority of local residents object strongly to such inappropriate and immoral advertising for the far left anti-religious enemies of decency and truth. Unless measures are taken to put a fast halt to this dangerous and improper influence on our children, we should take measures to ensure that no children be exposed to such degeneracy, such as checking out the offending books, destroying them and paying for the loss. At least that would interrupt the onslaught of lies and immoral influence for a while. I would contribute to a fund for removing the sewage from our children's path. Accepting these pornographic books is not an option.

Richard Moore – Sylva, N.C.

Monitoring children's reading is parents' responsibility

As a Macon county resident, I am troubled by the movement to remove the library from the Fontana system over concerns about its collection. A library is a valuable public resource, and the broader and more diverse its collection, the more valuable it is to all its patrons.

Responsibility to monitor what children and teens read lies with the parents, not with the library. If a parent objects to a specific book, they are welcome to not allow their child to read it. They can bring it to the librarian's attention if it has genuinely been miscategorized, or bring up their grievances to the publisher. (After all, the librarians aren't deciding what categories books fit in on their own, they are shelving books in the category the publisher designates). Parents have the right to decide what is and isn't appropriate for their individual children.

What they do not have, however, is the right to decide that their opinion overrules other parents' opinions on what may or may not be considered appropriate for others. LGBTQ+ books exist for children and teens because those children and teens also exist, and deserve to be shown they aren't

TAYLOR

Continued from page 10

in a short period of time. This new facility will generate several hundred thousand dollars yearly in additional town revenue.

The board also approved several budget amendments. Fifty thousand dollars was approved for an extensive study of our electrical grid. A similar study of over \$200,000 was approved to evaluate the condition of critical points in our main sewer lines. Given the recent sewer line failure, this study hopes to identify any additional problems.

Finally, the town staff and the fire chief were given the go-ahead to begin staffing the fire department with full-time personnel. This staffing can be accomplished without raising the fire tax at this time or in the near future.

Also approved was the immediate hiring of additional seasoned electrical linemen. The new linemen will replace a number of veteran linemen who will be retiring.

alone by authors who can share their experiences with honesty. And yes, some young adult books deal with sexuality because many teens are dealing with sexuality, both consensually and in abusive situations, and they also deserve books that help them navigate that. Not wanting a thing to be true doesn't make it any less true. Not finding value in something doesn't mean it doesn't have value to someone else.

To paraphrase literary researcher Rudine Sims Bishop, books are mirrors and windows.

While parents can make decisions for their own families, by objecting to the very existence of such books in the library, they are creating barriers to resources from those who need to see their experiences mirrored, and removing the choice from other parents who may want their families to have access to diverse reading material and compassionate windows into other experiences.

I hope the community comes together to support our library, and that those who object to materials in the collection will accept their individual responsibility to monitor their children's reading, while allowing the library to fulfil their responsibility to the community by providing a diverse and timely collection that allows patrons to choose what they wish to read.

Kate Havas – Franklin, N.C.

REWARD



BLACK/TAN LONG HAired
CHIHUAHUA

McCALL CIRCLE OFF OF IOTLA
CHURCH ROAD

* INJURED *

828-347-6132

Seussical The Musical!

Dr. Seuss' best-loved characters collide and cavort in an unforgettable musical caper! Seussical is a fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza which lovingly brings to life all of literature's favorite Dr. Seuss characters. The Cat in the Hat tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust that contains the land of the Whos. Not only must he protect the Whos, but he must guard an abandoned egg, left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces a world of trouble, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and emerge triumphant, all to the sounds of an award-winning Broadway score.





  **FAMILY**
Since 1997 **AUTO CARE**

Complete Auto Repair Shop

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

GOOD YEAR 

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

NO CREDIT CARD FEES!



Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests March 13 - 19. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

March 13

Preston Ross Hathcock, 42, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

March 14

Tyler Kyle Smith, 30, was charged with driving while impaired, possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, hit/run leave scene with property damage and resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Caleb G. McConnell made the arrest.

Sheldon Trent Bateman, 47, was charged with trafficking opium or heroin, possession of methamphetamine and maintaining a place for a controlled substances. Caleb G. McConnell made the arrest.

Adam Randolph Sackman, 35, was trafficking opium or heroin. Caleb G. McConnell made the arrest.

March 15

Nicholas M. Hennequin, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

March 16

Wesley Ray Moor, 41, was charged with assault on a female. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

March 17

Nathaniel Joshua Cabe, 39, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Tiegha Shaye Franklin, 39, was charged with driving while license revoked and fictitious/canceled/revoked/registration card/tag. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

Bradford John Brandon, 30, was charged with offense committed in jurisdiction. Sargent Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

March 18

Charles Patrick Ellenburg, 34, was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle and obtaining property by false pretenses. Caleb G. McConnell made the arrest.

March 19

Osman Adalberto Lopez De Leon, 35, was charged with driving while impaired and open container after consume alcohol first. William D. Stamey made the arrest

Juanita Marie Cleveland, 47, was charged with failure to appear. Sargent Jonathan A. Taylon made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

March 13

Seth Patrick Steiert, 30, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

March 13

Mickael Gerard Murphy, 43, of Tuckasegee, was charged with damage to real property. No bond was set.

Sierra Salome Jenkins, 32, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Josue David Roman-Negron, 39, of Cullowhee, was charge with warrant service. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Christopher James Meeks, 33, of Sylva, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle and larceny of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Margie Lynn Toineeta, 53, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for probation violation. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Joshua Bryan Parker, 39, of Otto, was charged with warrant service for other jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$1 was set.

March 14

Nichole D. Bradley, 30, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia and felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond of \$100,000 was set.

Billy Joe Brady-Smith, 28, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for larceny of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Travis Wayne Fisher, 37, of Sylva, was charged with communicating threats, breaking and entering-forcible, destruction/damage of property, felony probation, misdemeanor child abuse and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Jamie Morgan Fuller, 24, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Christy Lynn Burgess, 48, of Whittier, was charged with felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Randy Dean Mathis, 45, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Richard Malcombe Webb, 33, of Whittier, was charged with true bill of indictment for habitual felon. No bond was set.

March 15

James Randel Cope, 50, of Whittier, was charged with sex offense with a minor and indecent liberties. A secured bond of \$150,000 was set.

March 16

Glenn Paul Young, 22, of Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for assault on a female. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Brenda Jean Nations, 40, of Robbinsville, was charged with failure to appear on a felony and possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

March 17

Dustin Ray Conard, 29, of Sylva, was charged with being a habitual felon. No bond was set.

Ashley Savannah Frady, 36, of Cashiers, was charged with failure to appear for school attendance violation. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

March 18

Jesse Doyle Buchanan, 43, of Sylva, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

James Robert Logan, 37, of Tuckasegee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Lane Elizabeth Stocker, 42, of Sylva, was charged with simple assault and resisting a public officer. No bond was set.

Grayson Lee Shuler, 49, of Whittier, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Shadrack Hannaniah Whitmire, 48, of Cashiers, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$750 was set.

March 19

April Nations, was charged with failure to appear for marijuana up to 1/2 oz, felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Galdino Palma Cruz, 33, of Sylva, was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Funding is available to help with energy costs

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), announced the award of \$560 million this week in addition to the \$1 billion awarded last month for a total of \$1.56 billion to help cover American households home heating and cooling costs. The grant awards are part of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help low-income households with their energy costs – a program that the Biden Administration significantly increased funding for through the American Rescue Plan and the Bipartisan Infrastructure law. This past year, LIHEAP served over 6 million households with heating, cooling, and weatherization services. This release brings the total LIHEAP funding for Fiscal Year 2023 to \$6.1 billion, and is part of the Biden Administration's broader efforts to lower costs for American families and give them more breathing room.

These awards build on historic investments in LIHEAP. In October 2022, LIHEAP released \$4.5 billion in funding, which included \$100 million of funding appropriated for FY23 through a bipartisan infrastructure law. Together, these funding releases total \$6.1 billion, increasing the historic investment of \$3.9 billion in LIHEAP funding in FY 2022, and \$8.2 billion in FY 2021.

"LIHEAP provides a vital lifeline to households struggling to maintain affordable home energy services," said ACF Assistant Secretary January Contreras. "As the nation grapples

with the impacts of climate change and extreme weather, which disproportionately impacts communities of color and lower-income households, LIHEAP is especially important to creating greater equity in accessing energy services."

LIHEAP provides households with not only energy assistance, but also provides crisis and weatherization assistance to help achieve safe and healthy indoor temperatures. LIHEAP's assistance with weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs, including the use of renewable energy, helps reduce energy consumption and make homes more energy efficient.

"For more than 42 years, LIHEAP has helped households maintain safe indoor temperatures each winter and summer," said Dr. Lanique Howard, director of the ACF Office of Community Services. "With an appropriation of \$6.1 billion, LIHEAP is well-positioned to support millions of households this year by reconnecting households to home energy services, preventing energy disconnections, and making energy bills more affordable."

Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance should visit energyhelp.us or call the National Energy Assistance Referral hotline toll-free at 1-866-674-6327. In Macon County, contact the Macon County Department of Social Services, 1832 Lakeside Government Complex, Franklin. Phone: 828-349-2124; or visit maconnc.org/dss.html

Patriotism and remembrances highlight Beirut Memorial kick-off

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Marine veteran Nick Mottola has been formulating a plan to create The Traveling Beirut Memorial Wall for many years. Mottola lost comrades in the early morning of Oct. 23, 1983, when a truck packed with compressed, gas-enhanced explosives destroyed the First Battalion, 8th Marines Headquarters building in Beirut, Lebanon. Mottola hosted a kick-off event at his home in Franklin, March 11, to provide information and generate support of the memorial wall project.

He told the 50-plus attendees, after a formal flag raising ceremony, that the 501(c)3 status was secure for the organization that will plan, build, and travel with the memorial wall/museum; the traveling wall will be modeled after the permanent wall outside the gate of Camp Gilbert H. Johnson, a satellite camp of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, in Jacksonville, N.C. (See March 2, 2023, Macon County News article.) Mottola addressed the media, veterans with the 828Vets organization, his family, Gold Star family members [immediate family member(s) of a fallen service member], and veterans who served during the Beirut cri-



Dozens of veterans, including soldiers who served in Beirut, attended a March 11 Franklin event focusing on plans to build a traveling memorial wall.



Veteran Nick Mottola spearheaded a flag raising ceremony at The Traveling Beirut Memorial Wall launch.

sis, which resulted in the worst overall Marine death toll since World War II's Battle of Iwo Jima.

Mottola tearfully shared the experience of visiting the stationary wall in Jacksonville in 2000 for the first time.

"I stayed in the parking lot, sobbing for an hour or two. I couldn't even get out of the car to go and see the wall [where the names of the Marines killed are listed.]" He went back to the wall again in 2005, attending a candlelight vigil – at which time the names were read. "I was asked to read one of the panels, and one of the names on the panel was someone I knew and served with."

Mottola has revisited the wall many times and a plan began to formulate to build a traveling wall, much like the traveling Vietnam wall, that will be taken to areas where surviving family members live so that they, educators and students, and anyone else who is interested in the history surrounding that 1983 tragedy, can learn, remember, and pay tribute to fallen soldiers.

"If it wasn't for October 1983, we wouldn't be here together," said Mottola. "We have a camaraderie, and I'm so thankful to those who served in Beirut – and for the Gold Star families. All together, we will make this traveling wall happen. The goal is to build a wall that will last well into this century



A sign was erected on Veteran Nick Mottola's property in Franklin that memorializes a fallen soldier who served in Beirut.

and beyond."

Mottola also read a letter from Congressman Greg Pence, brother of former vice president Mike Pence, who had planned to be at the event but could not because of a family issue. The letter read: "As a Beirut veteran, I know that Our First Duty is to Remember. To all those gathered here for this dedication and those looking on, I thank you for never forgetting the service and sacrifice of all those who gave their lives in Beirut 40 years ago this fall. While I could not be here in person to join you today, I am reminded of the Marine Corps creed that forever lives in the heart and soul of every individual who has earned the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor: Semper Fidelis. From Latin, the phrase means always faithful."

Congressman Pence further explained, in his official Congress of the United States letter, his



Veterans traveled from several different states to attend the kick-off of The Traveling Beirut Memorial Wall, which was also attended by a Naval Investigative Service agent, Grant McIntosh, responsible for investigating the Oct. 23, 1983, bombing in Beirut, pictured with Nick Mottola.

role in Beirut and how he was "spared when so many were not" but has "never forgotten those American heroes." He added, "I will continue to honor those Marines in everything I do and remember them with each decision I make in Congress."

Mottola said fundraising for the wall and the trailer to carry it will begin sometime this year, with communication for the project primarily occurring through the The Traveling Beirut Memorial Wall Facebook account. Many of his own personal items and photographs, as well as other items donated, will be part of the traveling museum.



Part of the March 11 Traveling Beirut Memorial Wall event involved the planting of a memorial tree.

New books from local authors showcase nature and animals

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

French Painter Claude Monet famously said, “The richness I achieve comes from nature, the source of my inspiration.”

Certainly, the beauty of the Western North Carolina mountains has stirred countless writers, photographers and artists. The prose of locally noteworthy modern writers Charles Frazier (“Cold Mountain”) and Ron Rash (“Serena”) has showcased native foliage, wildlife and expansive vistas.

Most recently, new adult books have been published that focus on nature and history – and an addition to a local author’s children’s book series was inspired by a beloved pet.

‘When the Dogwoods Bloom’

A just-published book by Nantahala Hiking Club president Victor Treutel was a “labor of love,” finished primarily during the pandemic lockdown. He describes “When the Dogwoods Bloom” as “an emotional story of loss and love based on historic events and heroic people that will make you laugh and cry.”

Treutel, an avid landscape and wildlife photographer, retired to the area with his wife, Gayle, after a career in technology. He said, “Writing has been a passion, not a career.” Though he has written other books in the past, he explained that with “When the Dogwoods Bloom,” he wanted the setting to be the mountains and the Appalachian Trail.

While the plot is rich in Cherokee history, with the historic figure of Tsali as central to the theme, the story is also about recovery following a spouse’s death. “In my years on the Appalachian Trail, most hikers seemed to use the time on

the trail to unplug and recover from life’s challenges and chaos,” he said. “While doing research, I became more aware of the Cherokee history in the Smokies and began incorporating that into the story. The more I wrote, the more important the Cherokee story became.”

Although “When the Dogwoods Bloom” is historical fiction, Treutel notes, “A writer’s life experiences always guide their writing. My process for writing is to start early, 3 a.m. Usually I sit in the dark and write, waiting for the sun to come up and illuminate the mountains. It’s a magical time of day for me that has provided a lot of inspiration. I think that is clear right from the start of the story.”

Treutel will present information about “When the Dogwoods Bloom” and conduct a book signing during the Macon County Public Library’s “Walking with Spring” series Thursday, April 13, at 6 p.m. The presentation is free to the public.

‘Coming into Animal Presence’

On March 15, as part of the Bartram Writers Series, author John Lane answered questions and signed books at the Rickman Store in Cowee Valley. “Coming into Animal Presence” is a book of essays that explores the intersection of the human imagination and wildlife. The book is a companion volume to Lane’s “Coyote Settles the South” (2016) and “Neighborhood Hawks” (2019).

Some of the essays are creative, while others are written in a journalistic style, but each delves into Lane’s encounters with wild animals. For example, one essay ponders the fate

of a wing-shot goose finding refuge in the Lane family’s frog pond. While the Western North Carolina mountains are not central to all the essays, they all focus on some aspect of nature.

Lane, author of several books of poetry and prose, teaches environmental studies at Wofford College in South Carolina. However, Lane has lived in the area and once worked at the Nantahala Outdoor Center; and, his writings often celebrate the region, including his 2005 book: “Chattooga: Descending into the Myth of Deliverance River.”

‘Molly and Grainne’

Gail Notestine’s series of children’s books are based on an Irish wolfhound she once owned whose name was Grainne. A Franklin resident for 17 years, Notestine has rescued and raised several large dogs, but the wolfhound particularly inspired her writings.

Notestine’s husband, David, before he died a few years ago, operated Franklin Watch Repair. “We lived all over, but fell in love with the area, like many people have. I’ve written as a hobby most of my life and used to manage a parrot sanctuary, so my first humorous book was from a bird’s perspective. I started dabbling in children’s books, with a dog personified, and now have six books in the Molly and Grainne series – with the seventh, “All that Glitters,” due out on April 25.

The 67-year-old author says she has had writer’s block at times, especially after the death of her husband, but tries to set daily goals for herself.

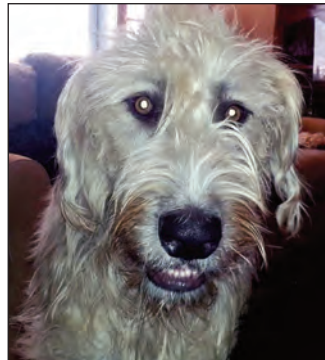
“I might write anywhere from 500 to 5,000 words in a sitting,” she said.

Notestine is inspired during the writing process by the mountains in which she lives but also with the knowledge that today’s children are less imaginative due to technology. As a voracious reader of at least 10 books a week when she was growing up, she noted that books were her “escape” into various times and places.

“Children need to use their imaginations and there are very few reasons for them to use imaginations any more. I’ve



Gail Notestine’s series of children’s book, “Molly and Grainne,” are based on an Irish wolfhound she once owned named Grainne. The seventh in the series, “All that Glitters,” is due out on April 25.



given them Grainne, a dog who thinks and has adventures. I want to instill a love of reading in children,” said Notestine.

The Macon County Public Library has ordered Notestine’s boxed set of books, which will be available for patrons to check out, while the A Novel Escape bookstore on Main Street in Franklin includes a section featuring local and regional writers, and owner Liz DeWandeler said she plans to offer “When the Dogwoods Bloom” and “Coming into Animal Presence.”

EATING OUT YOUR GUIDE TO AREA DINING

PAPA'S PIZZA TO GO
 THE WAIT IS OVER! WE ARE NOW OPEN
 At Our New Location
 38 Palmer St Circle - Franklin, NC
 Downtown Beside The Old Ingles
 Hours
 Mon - Thurs 11am - 8pm
 Fri & Sat 11am - 9pm • Closed Sun
 Delivery 828.369.9999



gracious PLATES ON MAIN
 FOOD & FRIENDSHIP
 46 EAST MAIN STREET
 FRANKLIN, NC
 facebook graciousplatesonmain.com
 Now Serving
SATURDAY BRUNCH
 8am - 11am
SUNDAY BRUNCH
 Now with expanded hours & brunch menu
9am - 2pm

Understanding plant tags and seed packets

Melinda Myers – Columnist

Gardening is a wonderful way to grow your own food and create a beautiful landscape. Proper plant selection can help you make wise purchases when visiting the garden center or ordering plants online.

Much of the information you need to know can be found on plant tags and seed packets. Understanding this information can help you select plants suited to the growing conditions in your yard.

Most gardeners first learn about plants by the names that friends, relatives, or fellow gardeners use to refer to them. Each plant also has a unique scientific, also called botanical, name. Since plants can have multiple or regional common names, it is important to check the botanical name when shopping. Checking the tag for the botanical name ensures you buy the right plant.

On the packet is the word “zone” followed by numbers in the information on trees, shrubs, perennial flowers, and vegetables. These numbers reflect the plant’s ability to survive the average minimum winter temperatures in the hardiness zones listed. You can find your hardiness zone on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Hardiness Zone Map. It is often included in plant catalogs and other gardening resources to help you find plants suited to your climate. Despite record summer temperatures, it is still important to select plants that can survive the average minimum winter temperatures in your area. Selecting plants that tolerate both the highs and lows where you live will increase their chance of returning each year.

Make sure the plants you select have sufficient frost-free growing days to mature and flower or produce fruit. This is listed as the number of days from planting until harvest. Count the number of days in your growing season from the time you can plant to harvest to see if it’s a good choice.

Matching plants to the amount of sunlight they need to thrive is also important for growing healthy plants. In general, full-sun plants prefer six, preferably eight or more, hours of direct sunlight. Areas receiving only intense afternoon sun are often suitable for plants listed as full or part sun tolerant. Part-sun plants usually need four to six hours of direct sunlight. Part-shade plants generally need two to four hours of direct sunlight preferably from east-facing or other locations where the sun is less intense. Shade plants usually perform well with two

hours of direct sunlight or bright, indirect light throughout the day.

Always check the mature size and spread of the plant you select. Picking the right size plant for the available space will save you time and frustration having to prune the mature plant down in size.

No matter what plants you select, make sure to call 811 at least three business days before you begin planting. Wisconsin residents can also file online at www.DiggersHotline.com and gardeners in any other state can visit <https://call811.com/811-In-Your-State>. They will contact all the appropriate companies



Check the back of seed packets for pertinent information so you provide the proper growing conditions for the plantings to flourish.

Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

who will mark the location of their underground utilities in your designated work area. This free service can help reduce the risk of injury and the inconvenience of accidentally knocking out power, cable, or other utilities.

For more gardening information, register for Myers’ free webinar “Understanding Gardening Basics to Boost Your Gardening Success” on March 29 at 6:30 p.m. The webinar is free, but registration is required. Visit Myers’ website www.MelindaMyers.com. If you cannot attend, a recording will be available to watch 24 hours after the live presentation.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, and hosts *The Great Courses* “How to Grow Anything” DVD instant video series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda’s Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned to write this article. Myers’ website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Deaths & Funerals

Tommy Nicholson

Tommy Nicholson, 69, was healed and went to live eternally with Jesus on March 18, 2023, after a courageous fight with cancer.

He was born in Jackson County, North Carolina, and moved to Franklin, N.C., when he was three. He worked for A&P in his teen years, Burrell Motor Company with Lynn’s brother Keith, where he met Lynn. He married Lynn Shope Nicholson and learned to square dance with family and danced with Lynn on a team for many years. He later worked for Bryant Funeral Home and Jim Brown Chrysler Dodge. He was a member of the Franklin Fire Department.

He and Lynn retired in 2011 and began a fun journey of mowing yards and antiques. In 2017, they bought the business of the Classy Flea where he witnessed and was a friend to many. He was saved at South Macon Baptist Church on a day that Macon Citizens for the Handicapped came and sang. They touched his heart, and he asked Jesus to be his savior that day. He was a deacon of Tennesse Baptist Church. He was a Christian not only in church but everywhere he went and to everyone he met. He loved and was loved by many. He always saw the good and the hope for folks who may have turned the wrong way in life and was never one to judge. He would always pray and encourage folks. He was one to see when folks needed a helping hand in life and would always encourage, pray, and help folks when he learned about hardships they were having.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Janie Nicholson of Franklin.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Lynn Shope Nicholson; daughter, Kimberly Ledford and husband Ben; granddaughters, Hannah and Macie; aunt, Lila Jo Queen of Sylva, N.C.; and cousins, Billy Queen, Ricky Queen, Katrina Frizzell, Vera Banks, Charlie Ashe, Vaughn McClure, and many other cousins: sister-in-law, Gail Shope; brother- and sister-in-law, Wade and Carolyn Shope; nephew, Wade Shope Jr., Tracy, Sydnie and Lucas; brother- and sister-in-law, Ronnie and Ruth Dowdle; niece, Delena Raby and Bobby; great niece, Chelsie Raby and fiancée Cody Villagomez; niece, Crystal Dowdle; and his Tennesse Baptist Church family.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, March 21, at Pine Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Carl Carpenter, Steve Reeves, Greg Rogers and Lloyd Fish officiating. Burial followed at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bobby Raby, Jeff Tallent, Joe Rogers, Chad Pilkerton, Mike Breedlove, Joe Breedlove, Jim Ledford, and Jason Francis. Honorary Pallbearers were Marvin Shepherd, Ronnie Dowdle, Wade Shope, Roy Carr, Wade Shope Jr., Guy Grant, Ricky Queen, Mike Wooten, Calvin Buchanan, Bill More, Dearl Ledford, Eddie Jones, Greg Solomon, Chuckie Bates and Burt Raby.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you just love as you have loved us and to help someone along the way as folks have helped us.

Donations may be made to Mens Challenge of the Smokies, 336 Living Hope Way, Franklin, NC 28734; or No Wrong Door, PO Box 1594, Franklin, NC 28744.

Tommy leaves one sentence to always remember, “Guard your testimony.”

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

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



Tommy Nicholson

Established 1960

FRANKLIN BODY SHOP

Longest Operating Body Shop
in Franklin and Macon County

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

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

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

SPRING TEA
at the bookstore

SATURDAY APRIL 1ST
3PM

\$25
per person,
Reservation
required

gather your friends and
join us for a tea party
with tea & tiny bites

we can accommodate groups of 2-6

A NOVEL ESCAPE 60 E MAIN ST 828-369-9059



Deaths & Funerals

Patricia 'Pat' Louise Beck

Patricia "Pat" Louise Beck went home to be with the Lord on March 12, 2023. She was born in Macon County, North Carolina, on Sept. 17, 1938, to the late Fred Littleton Sr., and Lucy Littleton Henry. She was a homemaker, a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Mildred "Susie" Rogers; brother, Fred Littleton Jr.; and her husband of 63 years, Sammy Beck.

She is survived by her daughter, Debbie Brock of Pensacola, Fla.; granddaughters, Melissa Brock of Irvine, Calif., and Ann Brock of Westville, N.J.

A funeral service was held on Friday, March 17, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Burial was in the Highlands Memorial Park.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Charles Hayse Jennings

Charles Hayse Jennings, 75, of Cashiers, N.C., passed away on Saturday March 18, 2023. He was born on June 15, 1947, to the late Glenn and Florene Jennings.

He never met a stranger and he loved to joke around. He was most known for his Jennings hello. He retired from Hayse Jennings Grading and the Glenville Cashiers Rescue Squad.

He is survived by two sons, John (Berta), Sam (Sandy); three grandsons, Michael (Kassie), Jonathan (Emilia), CJ (Karmen); and two great grandsons, Tucker and Cane; two brothers, Melvin (Louise), and Marvin (Kaye); one sister-in-law, Brenda; and many nieces and nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Ann; and by one brother, Merrill.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad, 63 Norton Road, Cashiers, NC 28717.

An online registry is available at www.appalachianfuneralservices.com.



Patricia Louise Beck



Charles Hayse Jennings

Gary Mitchell Raby

Gary Mitchell Raby, 63, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, March 19, 2023.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of Barbara Ann Watson Talley and the late Bobby Joe Raby. In addition to his dad, he was preceded in death by a brother, Randy Raby.

He was a mechanic and a carpenter by trade. He was a member of Mt. Sinai Assembly of God. He enjoyed woodworking, knife making, and making jewelry. His family said that "Gary could make or fix anything."

He is survived by his mother, Barbara Watson Talley of Lumberton, N.C.; wife of 32 years, Lena Huscusson Raby of Franklin; three daughters, Violet Lorraine Sontag Elliott (Jairo) of Franklin, Stasia Lynn Raby McMiller (Kelvin) of Orlando, Fla., and Dusty LeAnn Collins (Randy) of Lenoir, N.C.; one brother, Mike Raby of Franklin; and two sisters, Sandra Thorndyke of Lumberton, N.C., and Michele Raby of Franklin; 13 grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, March 23, at 3 p.m., at the Roper cemetery. Mike Raby will officiate the service.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home on Thursday, March 23.

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



Gary Mitchell Raby

Jason 'Buck' Gabriel Buchanan

Jason "Buck" Gabriel Buchanan, 46, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

Born in Sylva, N.C., he was the son of Bruce and Joan Weaver Buchanan of Franklin, N.C.

He was a member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church and had recently been attending Pine Grove Baptist Church. He started welding at an early age and while in high school, he received the VICA Welding award. He later attended Tri County Community College where he studied welding. He loved to weld and to fish.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Misty Raby Buchanan; two sons, Zachary Ryan Buchanan, and Preston Gabriel Buchanan, both of Cullowhee, N.C.; brother, Evans Buchanan and wife Angela of Jacksonville, N.C.; sister, Amy Price and husband Johnnie of Franklin; mother- and father-in-law, Jackie and Freddy Raby of Franklin; and three brothers-in-law, Chuck Norton and wife Kim, and Tony Norton and fiancée Stephanie, and Lawson Raby and fiancée Renee, all of Franklin; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and a host of friends.

A celebration of life was held Monday, March 20, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Johnny Raby and Rev. Greg Rogers officiating.

The family requests donations be made to one's favorite charity. Online condolences can be left at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Jason Gabriel Buchanan

Frederick Bryan Runken

Frederick Bryan Runken, 72, of Scaly Mountain, N.C., passed away Monday, March 13, 2023. He was born June 16, 1950, in Darmstadt, Germany to the late Roy and Johanna Becker Runken. He owned and operated Scaly Mountain Builders, he loved motorcycles, camping, RVing, jewelry making and woodworking.

He is survived by his children, Leslie Dryman (Stacey) of Scaly Mtn., Mandy Barnes (Richard) of Dillard, Ga., Lori Brooks (Ross) of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Charles Robinson and Kendra Johnson both of Scaly Mtn.; grandchildren, Christopher Barnes, Bryant Barnes, Kelli Barnes, Carol Barnes, John Barnes, Danielle Reese, Ethan Crisp, Caleb Moore, John Brooks, Payton Robinson, Karalee Robinson, Susan Johnson and Kenneth Robinson; brothers, Jeffrey Runken (Michaelle) of Franklin, N.C., and Michael Chris Runken (Becki) of Raleigh and Highlands, N.C.; and his former wife, Karen Runken of Florida.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, March 26, at 2 p.m., at the Scaly Mountain Fire Department. The family will receive friends following the service.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the family. Online condolence at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



Frederick Bryan Runken

James Ernest Reagle

James Ernest Reagle, 88, son of late Emmet and Irene Reagle of Saegertown, Pa., entered eternal rest on March 20, 2023. He is the eldest brother of Gary, Myrna, Neal, Edward, Gaylord, Keith, and Cindy.

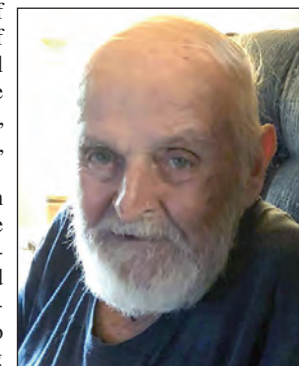
He graduated from Saegertown High School 1952, worked the family farm, delivered milk, became a Real Estate agent, worked Erie Lackawanna Railroad retiring in 1982, and then moved to Florida. Being the hardworking man he was, he owned JR Saloon in Sanford, Fla., and started his own lawn business, retired in 1999, and moved to Franklin, N.C., to start a lawn business that he retired from in August 2022.

He met the love of his life, Mildred Doris Hosick Reagle in 1952 and wed on Nov. 10, 1954. He is predeceased by Doris on Feb. 8, 2017, after 68 years of love and as best friends.

The couple leaves behind five daughters, Melody (Wayne), Crystal (Jim - late), Jamie, Lisa (Dan - late) and Hope (Arnold); 10 grandchildren, one late grandchild, 14 great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren.

Per Jim & Doris's wishes, no visitation or services are planned. Donations may be made to your local Humane Society. Their wishes were family to gather, share time together, and beautiful memories in their own special ways.

Condolences may be sent to Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory, 105 West Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734; or at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



James Ernest Reagle

CORNERSTONE MEMORIALS
 DOYLE YORK, Owner
 Located at Rabun Flea Market
 (706) 746-2548
 (706) 746-9977
 Please Call For Appointment
 (706) 746-2837
 134 Market Circle • Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Moffitt Family FUNERAL CARE David Moffitt
 OWNER/FUNERAL DIRECTOR
Because Funeral Care Shouldn't Cost So Much
 828-634-1966
 668 Highlands Road • Franklin, NC



View obituaries online at
themaconcountynews.com

Joey Logano drives No. 22 dominant Ford to victory in Cup Series race in Atlanta

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

HAMPTON, Ga.—Deftly maneuvering his No. 22 Ford through the final two laps of Sunday's Ambetter Health 400, Joey Logano finished the NASCAR Cup Series race where he started—at the front of the field.

With a push from Christopher Bell on the backstretch on the final lap, Logano moved to the outside of leader Brad Keselowski with huge momentum and charged past Keselowski's No. 6 Ford into the lead.

Logano pulled down to the inside lane through the final two corners and crossed the finish line .193 seconds ahead of Keselowski and .194 seconds ahead of third-place Bell.

"Yeah, first off so special to win Atlanta for me," said Logano, a Connecticut native who began to refine his talent racing Legends cars at Atlanta. "So many memories of me and my dad racing right here on the quarter mile. This is the full circle for us. So many memories gritting over there with the Legends car, racing, having a big time.

"Dreaming of going straight at the quarter mile and going onto the big track. That was always the dream to do it. To finally win here means so much to me here personally, but the team.

"The Auto Trader Mustang—this thing was an animal. Very, very fast. Able to lead a ton of laps, race really hard there at the end, get a good push from the 20 (Bell) to clear myself. Huge victory. Nice to get one early in the season. Always feels better, but what a great day for us."

Logano's first victory of the season and first at Atlanta was no surprise. On Saturday, the reigning series champion led eight Ford drivers into the top eight starting positions for Sunday's race.

Logano won the first stage wire-to-wire, leading the first 63 laps. In Stage 2, he finished second to Team Penske teammate Austin Cindric. All told, Logano led 140 of the 260 laps. Keselowski was second with 47 laps led.

The victory was Ford's first of the season after Chevrolet drivers claimed trophies in the first four events. Logano is the second straight driver to win from the pole at Atlanta, following Chase Elliott last summer.

Disappointed with second place, Keselowski was nevertheless elated with the quality of racing in the closing laps.

"The coolest thing about this race is two veterans showed you can run a race here side-by-side, bump-drafting, and not wreck the field," Keselowski said. "It can happen if you race respectfully. I thought everybody did a great job.

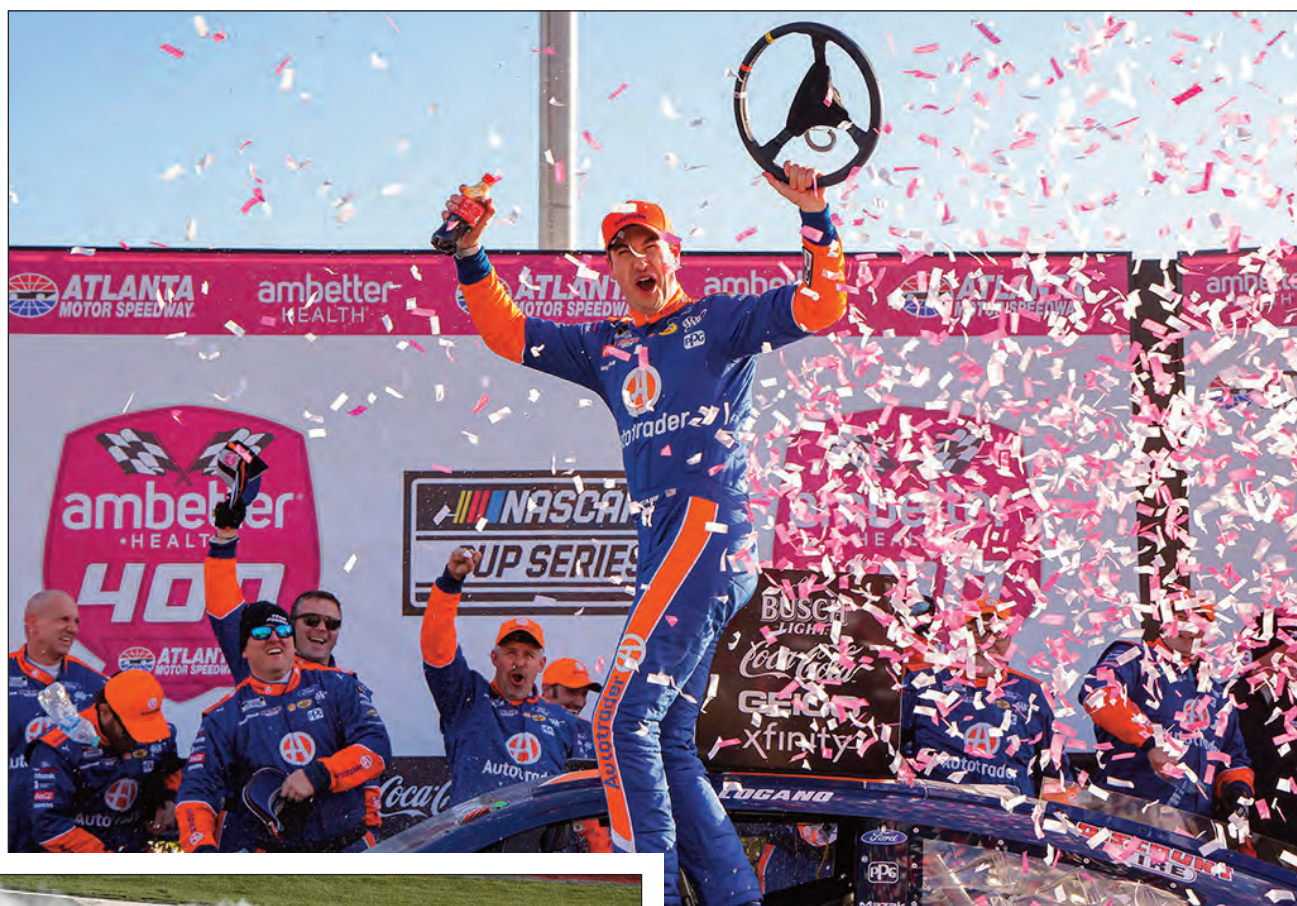
"We were right there. Proud of my team and the effort. Nothing much we could do there at the end."

Not that there wasn't plenty of action before the final laps ended with Logano's 32nd career victory.

After two relatively placid stages where single-file racing predominated, the intensity increased exponentially as the end of the race approached.

On Lap 190, one lap after Kevin Harvick had taken the lead for the first time, Chastain pulled up close behind Harvick in the draft. Harvick's No. 4 Ford broke loose and triggered a massive wreck on the backstretch that involved 14 cars.

Harvick was eliminated, along with William Byron, Chris Buescher, Harrison Burton and BJ McLeod. The defending race winner, Byron was seeking his third straight Cup victory



Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Autotrader Ford, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Ambetter Health 400 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on March 19, 2023, in Hampton, Ga. Photo by Jonathan Bachman/Getty Images



of the season.

"It looked like the No. 1 (Chastain) and the No. 4 just got connected there into Turn 1 and got the No. 4 loose," Byron said after a mandatory visit to the infield care center. "It's just part of racing. That's the way it goes—not really in our control. We were up there running in the top-five and doing what we needed to do."

Harvick's assessment of the wreck was essentially the same.

"I think he just caught me so quick right there in the middle of the corner, and then he kind of was up on the right rear part of the (car) and he came back down, and when he came back down it just spun the thing out," Harvick said. "I don't think he actually even hit me, but it started chattering the rear tires, and then I was just along for the ride."

Nineteen laps later, a five-car accident off Turn 4—triggered when one of then-leader Aric Almirola's tires went flat—knocked Almirola, Kyle Larson and Daniel Suárez out of the race.

"There was nowhere to go," Larson said ruefully. "Nobody had been having tire issues, so I wasn't even expecting the No. 10 (Almirola) to have a tire issue in front of me. Even if I did, I didn't have time to react.

"It's a bummer. Just frustrating.. I was finally up front on

this style of race track and still end up with a DNF (did not finish). I don't know—just frustrating."

Corey LaJoie finished a career-best fourth, followed by Tyler Reddick, Denny Hamlin, Ryan Blaney, Erik Jones, Ty Gibbs and Kyle Busch. LaJoie also gave Logano a push as the winner worked his way back to the front.

"I hope he gives me a shout-out for pushing him," LaJoie said. "Gave him a good shot there at the end."

Austin Hill wins at Atlanta for third NASCAR Xfinity victory of 2023

HAMPTON, Ga. – In a race that started in chaos and ended in bedlam on the last lap, Austin Hill won his third NASCAR Xfinity Series race of the season, beating Daniel Hemric to the checkered flag in Saturday's RAPTOR King of the Tough 250 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

With his family in attendance, the Winston, Ga., native, led three times for a race-high 103 laps and dominated an event that featured a record 12 cautions for 68 laps.

NASCAR called the final yellow on the last lap, after a multicar wreck erupted as Hill and Hemric approached the finish line.

Parker Kligerman made a race of it until the cars entered the frontstretch dogleg on the last lap. At the end of a two-lap dash to the finish, Kligerman's Chevrolet turned sideways across the front bumper of Hemric's car and hit the right rear of Hill's No. 21 Richard Childress Racing Chevy.

Hill maintained control and took the checkered flag with Hemric trailing by .085 seconds. Kligerman slid backwards across the finish line in fourth, as Ryan Truex edged him for the third spot by .001 seconds.

"They knew we were here," Kligerman radioed to his Big Machine Racing team.

The defending race winner, Hill came to Atlanta with victories at Daytona and Las Vegas and, understandably, the Xfinity Series lead. The win was Hill's second at Atlanta and

the fifth of his career.

The only thing that shook Hill all night was the contact with the right rear of his car in the final 100 yards.

“I have no idea how I saved it coming to the line,” Hill said, after his young daughter ran out to greet him at the finish line. “What a start to the season. Everybody at Richard Childress Racing, ECR engines—we’ve just had such a fast start with Chevrolet. This has been special, for sure.”

Riley Herbst finished fifth, followed by Brett Moffitt, Josh Berry, John Hunter Nemechek, Sam Mayer and Justin Haley.

Hill won the first stage, and Kligerman gave Big Machine its first-ever stage victory in the second.

In the first two stages combined, the race featured more caution laps than green-flag laps—49 to 31, to be exact—the result of nine yellow flags.

Josh Williams’ No. 92 Chevrolet sustained damage in a Lap 27 accident with the No. 02 Chevy of Kyle Weatherman, and when Williams dropped debris on the frontstretch to cause the fourth caution moments after the subsequent Lap 32 restart, NASCAR parked him under the Damaged Vehicle Policy.

Instead of driving his car to the garage, however, a frustrated Williams parked it at the start/finish line. NASCAR ordered Williams to the hauler for a discussion of the incident, after he was released from the infield care center.



Austin Hill, driver of the #21 Bennett Transportation Chevrolet, and crew celebrate after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series RAPTOR 250 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on March 18, 2023, in Hampton, Ga.

Photos by Sean Gardner/Getty Images



Christian Eckes scores overtime win in wild NASCAR Truck race at Atlanta

HAMPTON, Ga. – Christian Eckes finished where he started Saturday’s Fr8 208 NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series race at Atlanta Motor Speedway—with a lot of turmoil in between.

Eckes claimed his second victory in the series in overtime, choosing the bottom lane and front-row position for a restart on lap 136 of 137.

After leading the first 30-lap stage of the race wire-to-wire, however, Eckes sped on pit road and lost track position. He spent the rest of the event working his way back to the front.

In a race that featured a record 11 cautions for 58 laps, the driver of the No. 19 Chevrolet restarted 13th on Lap 103, but three yellow flags later, he was on the inside of the front row beside leader and ultimate runner-up finisher Nick Sanchez for the overtime restart.

Eckes surged ahead, took the white flag in the lead and was out front when NASCAR called the final caution of the race for a wreck in Turn 4 involving Tyler Ankrum, Stewart Friesen and defending series champion Zane Smith.

John Hunter Nemechek ran third after lead-

ing a race-high 53 laps to Eckes’ 35. Nemechek had the lead for a restart on Lap 121, but was shuffled back in traffic.

Bayley Currey finished fourth, earning his first NASCAR national series top five, and Ben Rhodes came home fifth after giving Eckes a much-needed push to the lead.

Photo by Jonathan Bachman/Getty Images



Christian Eckes, driver of the #19 NAPA AutoCare Chevrolet, lifts the FR8 Auctions 208 trophy in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Fr8 208 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on March 18, 2023 in Hampton, Georgia.

Photo by Jonathan Bachman/Getty Images

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

Franklin, NC - Five Day Forecast

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
75°/53°	77°/56°	70°/42°	70°/48°	67°/44°
10%	20%	85%	20%	60%

Decks & Additions Tractor Service
Home Remodeling Driveway Repair
Flooring Grading

KZ CONSTRUCTION
828-283-0659
BuildwithKZ@gmail.com

Gooder
GRAFIX

AWARDS & ENGRAVING
IMPRINTED APPAREL
SIGNS

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

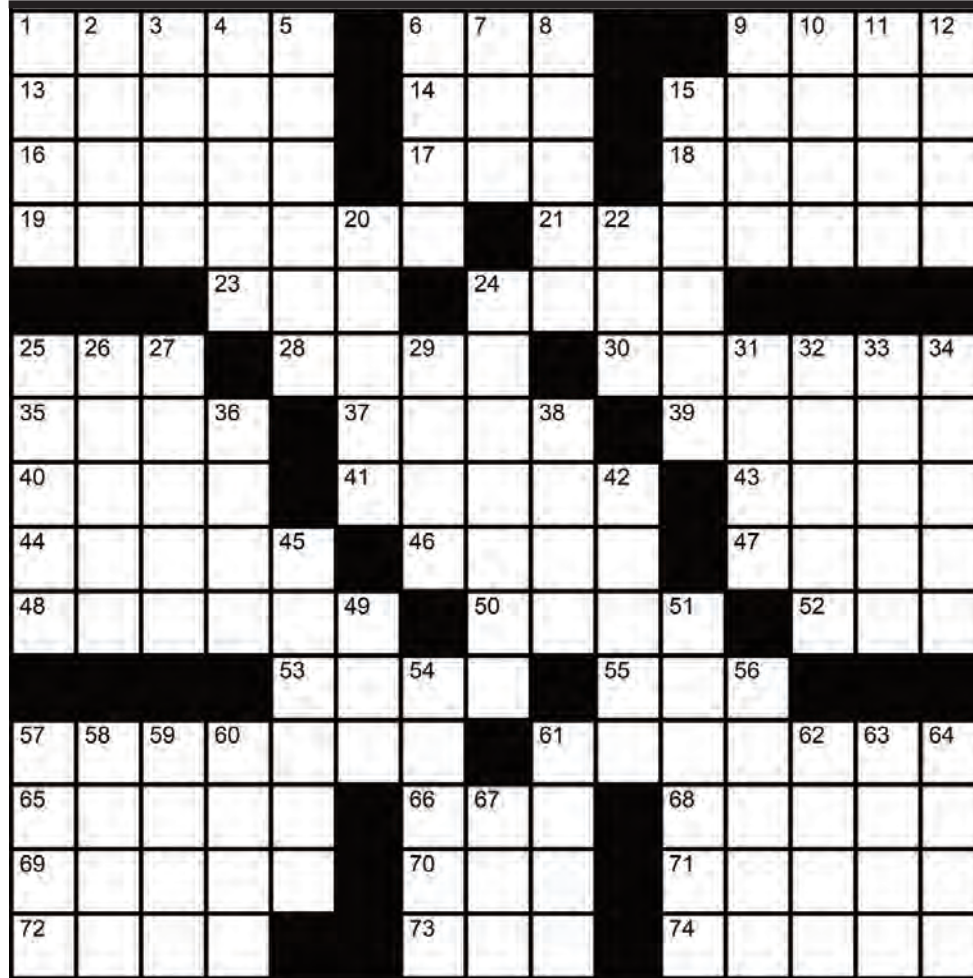
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE 2010s

ACROSS

- 1. Necktie alternative
- 6. Finish line
- 9. Show of appreciation
- 13. Biotic community
- 14. Hula dancer's necklace
- 15. House duty
- 16. Sofia Costanza Brigida Villani Scicolone's stage last name
- 17. International distress signal
- 18. Hogwarts professor, part werewolf
- 19. "Avengers: _____," second-highest grossing movie of all time
- 21. *Annexed Black Sea peninsula
- 23. Santa _____, Orange County
- 24. Multicolored horse
- 25. *Rand Paul's title, abbr.
- 28. Youngster
- 30. *Type of spinner popular in the late 2010s
- 35. Between duet and quartet
- 37. Newspaper piece
- 39. Pope's court
- 40. Bohemian
- 41. *Tonya and Harley Quinn to Margot Robbie, e.g.
- 43. *Like Millie Bobby Brown and friends in "Stranger Things"
- 44. Prows
- 46. Vaulting prop
- 47. Fencer's blade
- 48. *Animated story of Elsa and Anna
- 50. Greek salad ingredient
- 52. Make #26 Down



SWITCH & GET

\$25

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

Consumer Cellular

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

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

© StatePoint Media

- 53. Look through a book
- 55. Good times
- 57. *Global surveillance whistle-blower
- 61. *Swedish audio streamer
- 65. BBQ spot
- 66. Words at the altar (2 words)
- 68. Beneficiary
- 69. Anti-seniors sentiment
- 70. Ides mo.
- 71. Bone hollow
- 72. Prepare potatoes
- 73. Tide's backward flow
- 74. City in France
- 4. Opposite of alpha
- 5. Not owner
- 6. Something _____
- 7. Opposite of paleo
- 8. "Saturday Night Fever" music
- 9. Pal
- 10. Between trot and gallop
- 11. Operatic solo
- 12. Actor Sean
- 15. Healthcare facility
- 20. *Bill de Blasio, e.g.
- 22. England's airforce
- 24. Recite rapidly (2 words)
- 25. Walking stick
- 26. Fielding mistake
- 27. Part of TNT
- 29. *BTS' genre
- 31. *Home to Blue Devils, 2015 NCAA winners
- 32. Complain
- 33. Downy duck
- 34. Policeman's shocker
- 36. Court of law opener
- 38. Mark for omission
- 42. Frame job
- 45. Not often
- 49. *Amal Clooney _____ Alamuddin
- 51. Naturally footless
- 54. Japanese cartoon art
- 56. Expressionless
- 57. Junk e-mail
- 58. Hindu serpent deity
- 59. Singer-songwriter Redding
- 60. Item on Santa's list
- 61. Acidic kind of apple
- 62. A fan of
- 63. *Plant in Zach Galifianakis' 2019 movie
- 64. Those not opposed
- 67. *Popular meme move

HAULING

- DIRT
- GRAVEL
- MULCH



Otto • Dillard Franklin

(828) 371-2432

PETS OF THE WEEK

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

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



Duke is a 1 year old male. He is extremely loving and enjoys cuddling. He knows how to sit and he walks well on a leash. He gets along with other dogs.

Tiramisu is about 6 years old, and is a male calico cat. He can be shy but likes to play once he gets to know you.



SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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

SPECIAL OFFER

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

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In-Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in-tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082989 0083445

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

© StatePoint Media

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

The Classifieds

Services

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

STALLSWORTH PAINTING Interior/Exterior, Pressure Washing, Handyman, 35 Years Experience. Insured. Cell (239)860-0117, home (828)332-4382.

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.

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

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.

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!

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

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

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.

Help Wanted

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

DONATION PICK-UP Lift up to 50 lbs, Monday-Friday, Some Saturdays, Nonsmoker. Able to pass drug test. Apply at Habitat for Humanity, 56 W. Palmer St., Franklin. M-F, 10-4.

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

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

THOMPSON LANDSCAPE CO. located in Highlands, NC, is hiring full-time Maintenance Crew Leader positions starting at \$18 per hour depending on experience. Must have a valid Driver's License, willing to work in some seasonal weather conditions, able to lift 50 lbs., good work ethic, and responsible individuals who are looking for good opportunities and advancements. Request an application at greg23@thompson-landscapeco.com or call (828)526-5280.

Community Fundraisers

DRIVE-THRU DINNER Saturday, April 1, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Rd., Turkey Soup, Salad, Cornbread and Cookie.

CRAFT FAIR Carson Community Center, Friday & Saturday, March 24 & 25, 9am-3pm., 3001 Old Murphy Rd.

FISH FRY Friday March 24, 4:30 - 7 p.m. St. Francis Catholic Church, 299 Maple St., fried whole fish and fish filets with hush puppies, French fries, colslaw, dessert and beverages. Dine-in or Take-outs Available. Adults \$15, Child's plate \$5.

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

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

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.

Garage & Yard Sales

MULTI-FAMILY Yard & Estate Sale. Antiques, Furniture, Glassware, Household, Clothing and Accessories and Much More! Friday 9-3 and Saturday 9-2 at Sweet Ophelia's, 308 Depot St. Next door to Sophisticut Hair Salon. Don't Miss This Sale.

Motor Vehicles

2011 CHEVY EQUINOX LS Grey, Runs Great, Good Gas Mileage. Call (828)342-4897 For More Information.

Boats & Campers

15' SPEEDBOAT Rinkerbuilt Tri Hull, New Battery, Nice Condition, 85hp Mercury. (828)349-0061.

Misc. For Sale

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

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

Animals

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

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

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

Real Estate

3.66 PRIVATE ACRES with Tiny House. Well, Septic, Spring, Reservoir, Several House Sites, State Road Frontage, Beautiful Cowee Valley. \$129,900 (828)371-6310.

3BD/1BA HOUSE 4 miles from Franklin, US 441N. (Brendle Rd.) Water Included, CH/A, No Pets, 55+ Community \$1200/monthly, Deposit Required. (828)342-9007, (828)342-3229, (828)524-5982.

Commercial Rentals

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

Rentals

VRBO ID-2773873 2 Bedroom Cabin located in Franklin. Available for Nightly or Weekly Guests. Contact (828)342-4897 For More Information.

TRAILER REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

- BRAKES
- BEARINGS
- WELDING
- LIGHTING
- 12V WIRING
- WHEELS/TIRES



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

Felix's Tree Expert, LLC

Complete Tree Removal
Stump Grinding
Firewood Delivery/Mulch

For All Your Tree Needs
Felix's Tree Expert, LLC

Accepting All Major Credit Cards

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

TreeServiceFranklinNC.com

Beat The Rush!

Only A Few Remaining!



Gear Up Now For Spring!

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



537 W. Main Street • Franklin, NC
828-524-8911 • maconrentalco.com



PIPER Sofa **\$1099*** REG. \$1199

BONUS RECLINER DEALS



COLLAGE
Rocking
Recliner

\$399



DOUGLAS
Rocking
Recliner

\$599



JAMES
Leather Rocking
Recliner

\$879



CASEY
Rocking
Recliner

\$449



JASPER
Rocking
Recliner

\$499



MORRISON
Rocking
Recliner

\$499

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

THIS AREA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF LA-Z-BOY COMFORT FOR YOUR HOME!

MACON FURNITURE MART

560 DEPOT ST. • FRANKLIN, NC

(828) 369-8296

MaconFurnitureMart.com