

Charges dismissed against former town official

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

NASHVILLE – Long-time former Nashville Town Councilwoman Louise Hinton has been cleared of all charges relating to her November 2023 criminal summons for a misdemeanor charge of violating privacy of employee criminal records.

Hinton was served December 1, 2023, for an alleged offense September 26, 2023, in which Hinton was accused of allowing

her son, Jeff Hinton, “to read and keep a packet containing information regarding an ongoing internal investigation between the plaintiff and another employee,” according to court records.

The personnel records involved reportedly belonged to former Nashville Police Chief



HINTON

J.T. Winstead.

The alleged offense, which occurred while Hinton was still in office, occurred the night before Winstead and Matt Joyner, who was then serving as town Human Resource Director, received non-disciplinary suspensions while an internal investigation was in process.

A number of town officials were subpoenaed as witnesses twice in the case, on January 9, 2024 and February 26, 2024, among them Randy Lansing, Town Manager; Brenda Brown, Mayor; Larry Taylor, Council

member; and Chris Joyner, currently Director of Public Safety but then Nashville Fire Chief.

The charges against Hinton were dismissed out of court May 8 under an order signed by prosecutor Jeffrey Koehler, stating that the court was “unable to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the defendant (Hinton) maliciously permitted another person to have access to information contained in the file in question.”

Winstead had been the complainant in the case.



FESTIVAL FUN – Pictured above (left) Paisley Ward and Sadie Pernell of Nashville are all smiles enjoying a carnival ride. Pictured right, the Sudan Animated Animals visit with parade spectators bringing huge grins to all ages. **SEE MORE PHOTOS INSIDE TODAY.** Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake

Festival draws thousands to Nashville

FROM STAFF REPORTS

NASHVILLE – Good weather, festival food, vendors, carnival rides along with back-to-back bands kept visitors busy in downtown Nashville last weekend during the 26th Annual Nashville Blooming Festival.

The event, organized by the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, brought thousands of people to the town on Mother's Day weekend. Organizers were still calculating

attendance at press time but anticipate at least 30,000 people visited Nashville over the four-day event.

Carnival rides opened Wednesday and Thursday followed by a kick-off party at Nash Arts on Thursday with live music by Miss Mini and the Sandman Band. Friday night and Saturday continued with all of the festivities including performances by Curtis Joyner, East Coast Rhythm & Blues, Jim Quick & Coastline, Meredith Davis Johnson, Chandler James and the head-

liner, Easton Corbin.

The Blooming Festival Parade made its way through downtown Saturday morning as streets were lined with spectators. Organizers also reported 97 vendors on Saturday for all-day shopping. Local merchants in downtown remained open extended hours for the event both Friday and Saturday.

New this year, a shuttle bus providing rides from satellite parking was on hand from 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Saturday offering

See FESTIVAL page 3-A



Nashville, NC native Chandler James entertains the crowds Saturday afternoon opening for Easton Corbin. Photo by Nick Crawley

NCPS Educator of the Year awards presented

NASHVILLE – Nash County Public Schools (NCPS) honored its educators' achievements during the 2024-2025 Educator of the Year Awards, held May 8 at the Benvenue Country Club in Rocky Mount.

“We are incredibly proud to honor these educators who not only demonstrate exceptional skill and dedication but also inspire and shape the futures of our students,” said a district spokesperson. “Tonight’s awardees exemplify the transformative power of education and the positive impact of committed teach-

ing professionals.”

The event saw Jasmine Wilson, a science teacher at Early College, receiving the prestigious Teacher of the Year award. Wilson, renowned for her engaging teaching methods and commitment to student success, represents the epitome of educational excellence within Nash County Public Schools.

The First Year Teacher of the Year award was presented to McKenzie Hinnant, recognizing her exceptional commitment and outstanding contributions to student success in her first year of

teaching.

Leadership excellence was also celebrated, with Dr. Leon Dupree, the principal of Rocky Mount Middle, named Principal of the Year. Dr. Dupree’s impactful leadership and dedication were highlighted through a rigorous evaluation process involving peer nominations and interviews.

Melissa Denton, assistant principal at Nashville Elementary, was awarded Assistant Principal of the Year for her effective leadership and dedication to the Nash County school community.

The ceremony also recognized

Twana Daniels, a teacher assistant at Williford Elementary. She received the inaugural Teacher Assistant of the Year Award for her exemplary daily performance and role as a motivational leader among her colleagues.

The evening was further highlighted by a generous donation from Davenport Autopark, which awarded a car to the Teacher of the Year, demonstrating significant community support for education.



Melissa Denton (left) was named Assistant Principal of the Year. Pictured right is NCPS Superintendent Steve Ellis. Contributed photo

NCPS to cut 53 educator positions

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

NASHVILLE – Two principal positions, twenty-eight K-12 teacher jobs and twenty-three teacher assistant jobs are on the chopping block in Nash County schools as a result of declining enrollment, a decreased budget and loss of schools.

A Board of Education special called meeting at 12 noon Friday, May 10, was held remotely, with the public given to chance to view the meeting via livestreaming on YouTube.

The video showed two board members physically in attendance- Chair LaShawnda Washington and Evelyn Bulluck, accompanied by Sheila Wallace, Executive Director of Human Resources & Federal Programs, school board attorney Jason Weber

See CUTS page 5-A

Momeyer chops tax rate 25 percent

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

MOMEYER – The Town of Momeyer is cutting its property tax rate from 13 cents to 9 cents per \$100 valuation, which is a 25% reduction that keeps the town ‘revenue neutral.’

The new proposed rate will be presented along with the FY2025 budget at an upcoming special town meeting, set Thursday, June 6 at 7 p.m. for the purpose of providing a mandatory public hearing prior to a vote on final budget adoption.

As of press time, the location was still to be set, but will probably be either at the Momeyer Baptist Church Fellowship Hall or the Ruritan Club.

Citizens should call the Momeyer Town Hall for updated meeting information.

Council members voted unanimously

See TAXES page 5-A

THIS WEEK'S EDITION

AREA DEATHS

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PUBLISHED FOR
EDNA CRUMPLER

And The Citizens
of Nash County



75 CENTS PER ISSUE

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SAVANNAH RAE BLISS
REBECCA "BECKY" BYRD BULLOCK
BRIAN KEITH DAUGHETY
PONZELLA DICKENS DAVIS
MARGARET GLOVER FERRELL
JIMMY HAROLD GRIFFIN
STEVEN MITCHELL HUGHES
SYLVIA HAWKINS HULL

GAIL SCHULTZ JENKINS
BONNIE RAE LEONARD THOMAS
CRAWFORD LOONEY
JOYCE ANN TAYLOR MCCracken
ELSIE EVELENE SELLERS MURRAY
DEBORAH GODWIN PAGE
ROBERT PITTMAN, JR.
TONY LEE SNOW
GREGORY "GREG" BRIAN WILLIS

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DEATHS

MARGARET GLOVER FERRELL

MIDDLESEX – Margaret Glover Ferrell, 90, passed away May 11, 2024. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 16, 2024, at Joyner's Funeral Home, Wilson. Interment will follow in Bailey Town Cemetery, Bailey. Rev. Roger Murray will officiate. The family will receive friends Thursday 11:00 – 12:45 p.m. at Joyner's Funeral Home, 4100 Raleigh Road Parkway, Wilson.

Margaret is survived by her husband of 71 years, Bobby R. Ferrell; son, Steve Ferrell of Middlesex; daughter, Amy Sykes and husband, Robert of Spring Hope; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and her sister, Carolyn Hipps of Raleigh.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hural Astor and Carrie Glover, and her sister, Elizabeth Ann Whitley.

JIMMY HAROLD GRIFFIN

MIDDLESEX – Jimmy Harold Griffin, 81, passed away May 7, 2024. Funeral services were held May 10, 2024, at Joyner's Funeral Home, Wilson. Rev. Mike Lewis officiated. A graveside service was held Saturday in Hollywood Cemetery, Middlesex. Rev. Justin Bass officiated.

Jimmy is survived by his daughter, Donna F. Mozingo and husband, Scott of Zebulon; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister, Rachael Cozart and husband, Edward of Bailey, and his brother, William "Elmo" Griffin and wife, Janice of Middlesex.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Faye Perry Griffin, and his parents, Carl and Lillian Griffin.

BRIAN KEITH DAUGHETY

NASHVILLE – Brian Keith Daughety, 46, passed away Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Funeral services were held May 13, 2024, at Joyner's Funeral Home, Wilson. Interment followed in Evans Family Cemetery, 2812 Rose Loop Road, Nashville. Rev. Morgan Daughety officiated.

Brian is survived by his mother, Linda Daughety of Wilson; sister, Katharyn Carroll and husband, Paul of Zebulon; fiancé, Ginny L. Evans of Nashville and her family, mother, Linda B. Evans of Nashville; sisters, Tara Page and husband, David, and Nikki Evans both of Raleigh, and brother, Steven Evans and wife, Lindsey of Nashville; an aunt and uncle, many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Gaylord Keith Daughety and Ginny's father, Joseph Steven Evans, Sr.

Flowers are welcome or please consider memorials in Brian's memory to American Cancer Society, 930 Wellness Drive, Greenville, North Carolina 27834.

PONZELLA DICKENS DAVIS

WHITAKERS – Ponzella Dickens Davis, 82, passed away May 9, 2024.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 beginning at 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Word Tabernacle Church located at 821 Word Plaza in Rocky Mount. Funeral services will follow the visitation beginning at 12 noon.

SYLVIA HAWKINS HULL

ROCKY MOUNT – Sylvia Hawkins Hull, age 87, passed away on Thursday, May 9, 2024. Born in Nash County on April 18, 1937, she was the daughter of the late Robert S. Breedlove and Maggie Winders Breedlove. She was also preceded in death by her two husbands, Wayne Hawkins, and Roger Hull.

Sylvia is survived by her daughters, Angela Reed, and Mary Ellen Joyner; her son, Ted Hull; 6 grandchildren.

A graveside service was held May 13, 2024 at Rocky Mount Memorial Park with Rev. Mark Harrell officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Sylvia's memory to Forest Hills Baptist Church, 1407 Forest Hills Road NW Wilson, NC 27896 or Salem Community Baptist Church, 4502 Swift Creek School Road Whitakers, NC 27891.

TONY LEE SNOW

NASHVILLE – Tony Lee Snow, age 71, passed away on Friday, May 10, 2024. Born in Iredell County on October 18, 1952, he was the son of the late Leon Garnor Snow and Minnie Faye Jenkins.

Tony is survived by his sister, Beverly Harless, and husband Jeff; his brother, Joel Snow, and wife, Shirley; his nieces; his great nephews and his great nieces.

Services will be private.

REBECCA "BECKY" BYRD BULLOCK

ROCKY MOUNT – Rebecca "Becky" Byrd Bullock, passed away May 9, 2024. Born on September 12, 1929, Becky was the daughter of William M. Byrd and Eliza Mae Byrd. In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her husband, William D. Bullock and brothers, Charles Byrd, Richard Byrd, Thomas Byrd and June Byrd.

Becky is survived by her daughters, Pat Cyrus-Karr (Randy) and Debbie Valentine (Roland); two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and extended

family.

The family will have a private burial at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to Rocky Mount Meals on Wheels, PO Box 7611, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

SAVANNAH RAE BLISS

Savannah Rae Bliss, age 27, passed away May 9, 2024. She was preceded in death by her son, Gunner Thomas Bliss; mother, Tanya Dawn Woodell; grandmother, Patty Keefe Downing and grandfather, Thomas Woodell.

She is survived by her two daughters, Peyton Elizabeth Bliss and Madelyn Rae Bliss; father, Bryce Woodell; brother, Bryson Woodell; sister, Makala Singer; grandfather, Dr. Ricky Downing (Ginger); an uncle and several other extended relatives.

A service will be held on Saturday, May 18th, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Oak Level Baptist Church, 3598 Oak Level Road, Rocky Mount. Visitation with family and friends will be prior to the service beginning at 10 a.m.

STEVEN MITCHELL HUGHES

ROCKY MOUNT – Steven Mitchell Hughes, age 69, passed away Saturday, May 11, 2024. He was born on May 12, 1954 in Edgecombe County to Hunter and Lula Colbert Hughes, both of whom preceded him in death.

He is survived by his children, Mitchell Hughes (Sandy) of Rocky Mount, Frances Tevepough (James), also of Rocky Mount and Stephanie Keel (Walter) of Tarboro; sisters, Carol Teeters (Danny) of Collinsville, Texas and Beth Hughes of Rocky Mount; 5 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and extended relatives.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

DEBORAH "DEBBIE" GODWIN PAGE

ROCKY MOUNT – Deborah "Debbie" Godwin Page, age 68, passed away on Monday, May 6, 2024. She was born in Papworth, England on August 12, 1955. Debbie was preceded in death by her father, Walter Godwin.

Debbie is survived by her husband of 25 years, Howard Page; her daughters, Erika Lea Joyner and Rachael Finley and husband, Richard; two grandchildren; her mother, Joyce Lewis and husband, Paul; her brothers, Doug Lewis, Craig Lewis, Brian Lewis, and Mike Lewis; her sisters, Patricia Godwin Wallace and Vickie Godwin Amereson; her nieces and nephew and many other great-nieces and great-nephews.

A service was held May 10, 2024, at Wheeler &

Woodlief Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Pastor Randy Jones officiating. Burial followed at Rocky Mount Memorial Park.

DEBORAH DENISE BATTLE

ROCKY MOUNT – Deborah Denise Battle, age 58, passed away on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

Arrangements will be announced by Wheeler & Woodlief Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Rocky Mount.

ELSIE EVELENE SELLERS MURRAY

ROCKY MOUNT – Elsie Evelene Sellers Murray, age 94, passed away on Friday, May 10, 2024. Born in Brunswick County on January 23, 1930, she was the daughter of the late Thomas Hoover Sellers and Ada Pearl Atkinson Sellers Clemmons. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Clyde Hilton Murray, Sr.; her daughter, Debra Elaine Georgealis; her brother, Edwin Carlton Sellers; and her sisters, Elois Elizabeth Sellers Gore, Linda Mae Sellers Varnum, and Thelma Earline Sellers Leonard.

Elsie is survived by her son, Clyde Hilton Murray, Jr. and wife, Shelia; her daughter, Karen Yvonne King and husband, Jimmy; her son-in-law, Nicholas Georgalis; 6 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; 8 great-great-grandchildren

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Pineview Cemetery with her son, Rev. Clyde Hilton Murray, Jr. officiating. Visitation with the family will follow the service at the graveside.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Elsie's memory to Oakmont Baptist Church, 1100 Red Banks Road, Greenville, NC 27858.

THOMAS CRAWFORD LOONEY

ROCKY MOUNT – Thomas Crawford Looney, 89, passed away May 10, 2024.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Peggy Daniel Looney; his three daughters, Ashlin Looney Gravely and her husband Keen of Rocky Mount, Stuart Looney Allen (William) of Arlington, Virginia, and Elizabeth Looney McGuire (Scott) of Gilbert, South Carolina; eight grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren and two on the way; by his sisters, Mary Corinth Williams, Gwendoline Corinth Trieber (Frank); and his brother, Albert Corinth; his brother-in-law Bert Daniel (Frankie); nieces and nephews and their children.

In lieu of flowers, please give to a charity of your choice or one of Tom's favorites: PeaceMakers: 2221 W Raleigh Blvd,

Rocky Mount, NC 27803; Your Choice Resource Center: 400 Sunset Ave, Rocky Mount, NC 27804; United Community Ministries: 341 McDonald St, Rocky Mount, NC 27804; and UNC Nash Hospice: 2460 Curtis Ellis Dr Building 100, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

A service was held May 14, 2024 at Redeemer Church, Rocky Mount officiated by Dr. Dayton Hartman and Chaplain (MJR) William H. Allen, IV.

GREGORY "GREG" BRIAN WILLIS

GOLDSBORO – Gregory "Greg" Brian Willis, age 61, passed away on Sunday, May 12, 2024. Born in Nash County on September 11, 1962, he was the son of the late Joseph Otis Willis and Helen Grace Townsend. He was also preceded in death by his brothers, Joseph Timothy Willis and Terry Willis.

Greg is survived by his son, Justin Willis of Rocky Mount; his sister, Sherri Ann Willis of Red Oak; his sister-in-law, Maureen Willis Peacock of Nashville; his niece and nephews.

A special gathering of family and friends will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Wheeler & Woodlief Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Greg's memory to Joseph Timothy Willis Scholarship of Faith, Family, and Future, 2221 W. Raleigh Blvd., Rocky Mount, NC 27803 or www.peacemakers.org.

GAIL SCHULTZ JENKINS

ROCKY MOUNT – Gail Schultz Jenkins, 75, passed away May 13, 2024. Born in Shelby County, TN on July 30, 1948, she was the daughter of the late William Schultz and Edna Wolfzorn Schultz. She was also preceded in death by her nephew, Kenneth Anthony "Tony" Bierley.

Gail is survived by her husband of 54 years, Thomas "Tom" Jenkins, III; her daughter, Corinne Jenkins; her son, William Jenkins (Barbara); one grandchild; her sisters, Wanda Bierley, Lola Schultz, and Julie Schultz; her brothers, Victor Schultz (Jane) and Marvin Schultz (Mary Ann); and a family full of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A service will be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 301 S Circle Dr, Rocky Mount. Visitation with the family will be at 2 p.m. prior to the service at St. Andrew's.

BONNIE RAE LEONARD

Bonnie Rae Leonard, 74, passed away May 9, 2024. She was born June 2, 1949 to the late Russell and Catherine Leonard. She is also preceded in death by her son Kelly Hicks; brother Dalton Leonard and wife Joan; sisters Connie Averette and Faye Carney; brother-in-law Tom Bailey.

Bonnie is survived by her sons Randy Hicks and Destr Leonard (Cathy); one grandchild; great 3 grandchildren; sister Diane Leonard Bailey; brothers Tim Leonard (Phyllis) and Jerry Leonard (Peggy); several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held May 11, 2024 at Cornerstone Funeral Home.

ROBERT PITTMAN, JR.

WILSON – Robert Pittman, Jr., 73, of Wilson passed away May 10, 2024 in Wilson. He was the son of the late Robert Pittman, Sr. and Peggy Gardner Pittman.

He is survived by one brother, Joseph Earnest Pittman, of Wilson; one sister, Kathryn Lewis and husband Billy of Nashville; one niece; one great-niece.

A memorial service will be Friday, May 17, 2024, at 4 p.m. in the chapel of Cornerstone Funeral Home with Rev. Ricky Nelms officiating. Visitation will follow the service until 6 p.m.

Flowers will be welcome.

JOYCE ANN TAYLOR MCCracken

Joyce Ann Taylor McCracken, 81, passed away Monday, May 13, 2024. She was born May 9, 1943 to the late Alphonzo and Emily Hall Taylor. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her son, Donald Ray Taylor; step-son, Bill McCracken.

She is survived by her husband William McCracken; son, Jimmy Wood (Cindy); step-son, Berry McCracken; two step-daughters, Debbie Spivey (Lewis) and Teresa Winstead; brothers, Bruce (Diane), Gene (Anita), and Paul Taylor (Gail); thirteen grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Visitation with family and friends will be Thursday, May 16, 2024 from 1:00-1:45 p.m. at Cornerstone Funeral Home. A funeral service will follow at 2:00 pm in the Chapel.

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Town of Nashville runs late with state audit

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

NASHVILLE – The Town of Nashville has missed its annual audit reporting deadline, but officials are due to receive the report at their June 4 council meeting.

Tressa Rudd, Nashville Finance Director, reported April 16 that

the Town had received notice from the Local Government Commission that its FY-23 audit submission was late and had not been received as of the April 1 submission date. She said the old auditor had left.

Rudd told council members that the the audit was close to completion.

Randy Lansing, Town Manager,

told *The Graphic* that former auditor Petway, Mills, & Pearson PA it was no longer doing municipal audits, leaving the town scrambling to find an auditor, as most firms' schedules were already full.

"Thankfully, we were able to contract with Thomas, Price, Scott, Adams & Company, but they informed the town that their auditing schedule was very full,

and Nashville's audit would be one of the last ones to get done," Lansing said.

Lansing said the audit would be submitted shortly after the June 4 meeting to the LGC (Local Government Commission).

State law requires that the LGC send notices to all counties and municipalities that have not submitted audit reports by April 1.

Agencies that do not meet the deadline are put on updated Unit Assistance Lists. If late reports are not submitted by July 1, the LGC may direct a portion of the government unit's sales tax distribution to be withheld, according to the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer website.

Shots fired near festival, no one hurt, vehicle damaged

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

One man and one boy are under investigation by Nashville Police after a shooting incident in an area adjacent to Saturday night's Blooming Festival.

Officers working security for the Festival reported hearing shots fired at 8:10 PM in the area behind the Jail, on Vale Street. Officers gave chase and detained two individuals seen fleeing the area on foot.

An immediate investigation revealed no gunshot victims on the scene, and no one was transported to Nash

ER. A vehicle was damaged in the shooting, which involved a 9mm handgun.

Two suspects discharged a weapon, according to Deputy Police Chief David Boykin. One, a juvenile male, was taken into custody on a juvenile secured custody order. He has been charged with Assault With A Deadly Weapon and Discharging a Firearm into an Occupied Vehicle.

Reports circulating on social media that the suspects were masked were unfounded, according to Boykin, who said that officers encountered several people wearing masks at the festival throughout the evening who removed their

masks on request.

No names are currently being released and the investigation is ongoing.

The incident occurred shortly before entertainer Easton Corbin was due to go on stage, festival organizers said, with word received that the suspects had been apprehended and detained within ten minutes.

Once organizers were notified that the area was safe and that the incident had occurred outside Festival grounds, activities resumed without delay.

Additional security was added near the stage at the promoter's request.

FESTIVAL

Continued from page 1-A

visitors quick and easy parking and a free ride to the event.

Cindy Brantley of Momeyer was crowned as the 2024 Blooming Festival Mother of the year.

The event is organized by a committee under the umbrella of the chamber, "A huge thank you goes out to everyone involved with the 2024 Nashville Blooming Festival," said Chamber President Cliff Joyner, "All our visitors, sponsors, vendors, participants, volunteers, and our public safety personnel played a tremendous role in the event."

Festival chair Jo Anne Cooper said all events ran smoothly over the week-end though an incident in an area adjacent to the festival encourages the committee to evaluate protocols for unanticipated incidents, "We were placed on high

alert quickly as we learned shots had been fired behind the jail," she said, "I was personally in communication with Nashville law enforcement and public safety officials immediately." Cooper said the incident appeared to happen just after 8 p.m. and she was advised two suspects were quickly apprehended within minutes of the happening. "We were advised all was clear and safe once the suspects were in custody," she said, "Once we knew all was safe, we proceeded with the evening concert. Our priority is the safety of visitors and volunteers," she said. "Unfortunately such issues are happening across the nation everyday. Nashville is a safe town, but that doesn't make us immune to the unfortunate change of climate we see in today's world."

Joyner echoed stating safety is always a priority, "Except for a short time on Saturday night, the music, parade, carnival, and shopping were enjoyed by thousands. The Nashville Chamber of Commerce's objective is to always provide a fun and safe event for the entire family," he said, "As we evaluate this year's event, we will strive to enhance the enjoyment and safety as we work towards the 27th Blooming Festival in 2025."

FESTIVAL PHOTOS PAGES 6-7A

Castalia to raise sanitation rates in proposed budget

BY AMANDA CLARK
GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

CASTALIA – Castalia's proposed FY 24-25 budget will include a \$1 increase in its sanitation rates.

Sanitation fees are proposed to go from \$25 to \$26 per month, Mayor James Alston told commissioners last Tuesday night at the board's regular meeting. The town contracts with GFL Environmental, Inc. for its sanitation collection.

Alston said everything seemed to be going up and the town had no choice but to raise rates. Town Clark Tracy Shearin said the town hasn't raised its sanitation fees since 2020.

A public hearing is set for June 4 at 6 p.m. on the proposed FY 24-25 budget, which totals \$250,109. The figure is an increase from the current year's budget of \$232,200.

General fund appropriations include \$112,800 for general government, \$34,000 for sanitation, \$97,000 for culture and recreation, \$5,000 for Powell Bill and \$1,309 for a contingency appropriation.

Proposed revenues include \$40,284 in real property taxes, \$4,100 in motor vehicle taxes, \$9,225 in Powell Bill funds, \$14,500 in franchise taxes, \$36,000 in government services/culture and recreation fees, \$65,000 in sales taxes, \$6,000 in interest for investments \$25,000 in other revenues and \$50,000 in designated building capital transfer from general fund.

There are no other increases proposed for the budget and the property tax rate is proposed to remain at 32 cents per \$100 valuation.

Commissioners unanimously approved setting the public hearing for June 4.



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Utah is number one and this is great for NC

Last week it was reported that Utah has been named the Best State to Live by U.S. News and World Report for the second straight year.

Your feelings might have been hurt if you saw North Carolina come in at Number 19.

I, too, was disappointed. I was hoping to see us around the 45-50 range. More on that later in the column.

It is fantastic that Utah took the top spot. People who are thinking about moving should definitely move there.

It is worth mentioning here that Utah calls themselves the Beehive State not because they have a lot of beehives, but because bees represent perseverance and industry. In all honesty, that's kinda weird, but live and let live is the motto in this space when referring to things that don't affect me personally.

The news outlet compiles the rankings based on a state's healthcare, education, natural environment, opportunity, economy, infrastructure, fiscal stability, and crime and corrections.

If they'd have done these rankings based on new roundabouts or orange highway construction barrels, I feel like we'd have



The Soap Box

by mike brantley

been near the top in infrastructure.

Utah doesn't have a single ocean to speak of, although they do have a lot of salt and right many fair-sized piles of rocks, but they must have scored pretty good in the categories outside of natural environment. Maybe it was multiple choice and they picked "C" a lot.

Rounding out the Top 10 were New Hampshire, Nebraska, Minnesota, Idaho, Iowa, Vermont, Washington, Florida, and Massachusetts. These would all be excellent places for people to relocate to, although with the exception of Florida, they are all pretty cold.

I've been thinking for some time that North Carolina really needs to hang a 'No Vacancy' sign at our borders. You're probably thinking that's very provincial or selfish or anti-Southern Hospitality.

Some might even read this and think I'm directing ire at Yankees, so let me clarify: possibly, maybe, I'm not sure. I mean we do have homegrown annoying people.

A friend of mine who says she's a transplanted Yankee often takes exception to these rants, but I've never seen clear evidence to support this, and frankly her restaurant on Washington Street makes the best chicken salad there is, so it doesn't count anyway.

At the very least, we should probably set up customs checks at all entry points. The questions would be pretty straight forward and brief:

1. Do you plan to try to tell us how to do everything better, like they did back home, the place you find yourself fleeing at 90 mph?
2. Will you try to make things here the same they were there, at the place you just fled?
3. Will you use the word "barbecue" as a verb?
of our accents and the lack of a "decent [expletive] bagel or [expletive, expletive] slice of pizza"?
5. Will you criticize the lack of snow-

plows in an area that gets snow about once every four years?

Any "yes" answers to these questions would result in deportation.

This may sound a little harsh, but it's hard to miss the "progress" in North Carolina that is resulting in a mass influx of people who come here because we're awesome.

To be honest, I don't know that these rankings matter all that much. Texas, a pretty great place, was at No. 29, a full six spots behind New York.

South Carolina was No. 41 (ok, that's probably accurate) and California was No. 37. Alaska may have figured it out by checking in at No. 45, and the usual suspects in rankings made up the bottom: West Virginia, Arkansas, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Louisiana.

I have lots of great friends from other places and many of them are — gasp — Yankees. Many things need improving in this state. Progress is welcome, but I'm not sure we need every farm turned into a housing development, unless those folks are bringing a "decent [expletive] bagel or [expletive, expletive] slice of pizza."

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Backward Glances

A PICTORIAL LOOK INTO THE PAST



This photo originally published in The Graphic on May 7, 1970. Pictured are new officers for the Rocky Mount Moose Lode. Seated, left to right, are: John Winstead, treasurer; Noah Baker, district president; Tom Hedgepeth, past president; J.C. Brantley, governor; Billy Flowers, Jr., governor; and Gordon Brunson, secretary and eastern vice president. Standing, left to right, are: Leslie Howell, outer guard; Roland Lucas; trustee; L.L. Mercer, sergeant at arms; Fred Ayers; preiate; Raymond Blackburn, inner guard; Jim Ayers; trustee; and Mike Outlaw, trustee. Graphic photo

We're not immune to what has become the norm in our country

Though every element of this year's Blooming Festival seemed to have rolled out smoothly, unfortunately an incident Saturday evening will forever remain in our thoughts.

When we, as organizers, were notified shots had been fired behind the jail, and in real time I was watching thousands of people making a mass exodus from the carnival area running towards our direction at the stage end, my heart sank.

For a few minutes we didn't know if it was an isolated incident or if there was an active shooter. Thank goodness I quickly received word from our public safety team that it was indeed isolated and two suspects were in custody. Those few minutes slid by like molasses. It seemed like hours though the entire length from the shots fired to "all is clear" was about 20 minutes.

It saddens me, all of the organizers, and quite frankly most anyone who lives here, that what has become an everyday happening around our country, happened here. Again, thank God it was not an active shooter, though a kid firing a gun is enough to make you have a sick feeling in your gut.

Though Nashville is probably one of the safest places to live, work and play, that doesn't mean we're immune to what our society has become today. Both large cities and Small Town USA are facing such issues.

Some folks pointed the finger at people who work tirelessly to provide such an event or even at law enforcement who had the festival grounds surrounded with security



by jo anne cooper

and indeed nipped this incident quickly.

The real problem is not the festival — or any community event — it's children who have been let run wild with absolute no structure in their lives. We have an entire generation who have never been paid attention to nor taught right from wrong.

Their parents have walked away from them or just chose to ignore their responsibility of being a parent.

There are cases where the parent has done all they can do but a child is sucked into peer pressure joining those who take the wrong path.

I think this is the issue we need to be paying attention to, the root of our problem.

I don't know what the solution is, but it starts at home. If a child is taking the wrong path regardless of good parenting, well then, it takes a village.

I witness law enforcement in our area take time out most every day to spend time with kids who are getting dragged into some bad areas.

I see police officers visit classrooms, playgrounds and other places to offer their time to help and encourage kids to take a better path.

Social media somewhat blew up with people making unfounded accusations. We can bicker back and forth about what happened

Saturday night, but sadly it's what we're facing every single day across our nation. We read or hear about people walking into grocery stores, churches, or schools shooting and killing people.

Nashville has always been, and still is, a safe town. But again, we are not immune to what the world has become today. Anything can happen regardless of how hard we try to prevent it.

Short of absolutely cancelling the carnival, or the entire event, we will never be able watch every single person throughout the entire two-day event.

I commend the Nashville Police Department and Nash County Sheriff's Office for the incredible job they do during the festival as well as Nashville Fire Department. They all bend over backwards to provide safety. This festival has a 27 year history of providing a lifetime of memories. Two kids, who should have never had access to a gun, shouldn't ruin a Nashville tradition. But unless the people who are complaining step up and offer to lend a hand in the arena of helping these kids who are following the wrong path, I'm afraid it is a trend that will become more and more prevalent, even locally.

I too am guilty of hearing of all of the happenings in our nation today and not stepping up to inquire what we can do. If we reach ONE kid at a time and turn them around to follow a better path, that's worth every minute it takes.

Happy Birthday



- MAY 16: Carol Alston, Faye Smith
- MAY 19: Charlean Richardson
- MAY 20: Krystal Knight
- MAY 21: Alisa Woodard
- MAY 22: Loretta Bass

To see that your birthday - or that of a loved one or friend - is acknowledged by The Nashville Graphic, mail a postcard to: **The Nashville Graphic "Birthday" 203 W. Washington Street, Nashville, N.C. 27856** Be sure to include the birthday honoree's name and birth date. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

Backward Glances photos may be submitted to:

The Nashville Graphic
203 W. Washington Street, Nashville, 27856
or may be emailed to news@nashvillegraphic.com

Please include contact information and a description of the photo

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Letters Welcome
The Nashville Graphic welcomes and encourages letters from its readers. To be considered for publication, letters must be signed and must bear the address and telephone number of the writer. The phone number will not be printed, but may be used for verification purposes. Letters should be no longer than 350 words. The Nashville Graphic reserves the right to edit letters for length, grammar, and good taste.

Convicted felon caught with guns, drugs at traffic stop

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

An April traffic stop on Raleigh Road, Rocky Mount, ended in the arrest of a 34-year-old convicted felon on multiple charges involving possession of drugs and guns.

Clarence Borum of Smith Street, Rocky Mount, is currently in jail under a \$400,000 secured bond according to a news release from the Nash County Sheriff's Office.



BORUM

Borum, driving a white

Cadillac Deville, was stopped at the intersection of the Raleigh Road and Westwood Drive April 23 and was found to be operating with a suspended driver's license.

K9 Pinka performed a "free air sniff" of the vehicle and indicated the presence of illegal narcotics. Borum then attempted

to flee on foot, the release said, but was apprehended without incident.

A search of the vehicle produced a Ruger 5.7 handgun and a p80 Glock pistol, one of which had been converted to fully automatic status, making it a weapon of mass destruction, according to Sgt. Kevin Bisette of the NCSO Investigations division.

Also recovered during the vehicle search were 3 grams of Cocaine, 7 multicolored tablets of MDMA, also known as Ecstasy, and 110 grams of "green leafy substances consistent with marijuana."

Borum was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon; possession of a weapon of mass destruc-

tion; possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver a schedule I controlled substance; possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver a schedule IV controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver marijuana, possession of cocaine, and maintaining a vehicle for a controlled substance.

Man sentenced for high-speed chase involving child, puppy

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

A 29-year-old Rocky Mount man will be serving eight years in federal prison after a high-speed chase in January 2023 where a child and puppy were in the car along with drugs and guns.

Chi-Ali Bunn of 5893 Autry Road, Rocky Mount, plead guilty in September 2023 to possession of an

unmarked short-barreled rifle and was sentenced this month, according to a news release from the Nash County Sheriff's Office, which was involved in the case along with Wake County and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.



BUNN

"The defendant fled police in a high-speed

chase exceeding 111 miles per hour with guns, drugs and a kid in the car," said U.S. Attorney Michael Easley, who added that "a short-barreled rifle and high-capacity drum magazine have no place around a child, especially in a car travelling at speeds over a hundred miles an hour."

The release states that Bunn approached an NCSO license check in January and turned around to avoid deputies, who then pursued.

Bunn reportedly ran multiple stop signs, traveled on the wrong side of the road, weaved in and out of traffic and narrowly avoided colliding with other motorists, eventually crossing into Zebulon, where the Wake County's Sheriff's Office deployed stop sticks to flatten two tires of Bunn's vehicle.

Law enforcement did not realize there was a child in the car, the release said, who was not identified

other than being Bunn's child. Also in the car was a puppy along with a two guns- a loaded 9mm and a .223 rifle- a pill bottle with eight Oxycodone pills, a digital scale and a cut straw containing cocaine residue.

There were no injuries to the child or the puppy, both of which were turned over to a guardian at the conclusion of the incident, according to Sgt. Kevin Bisette of the NCSO Investigations Division.

Bunn was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Terrence Boyle, with the prosecutor Assistant U.S. Attorney Phil Aubart.

"We appreciate the collaboration and partnerships with the U.S. Attorney's Office and dedicated law enforcement," said Sheriff Keith Stone. "Dedicated law enforcement and prosecutors make safe communities."

Principals to change locations

Nashville Elementary principal will move to Bailey, D.S. Johnson principal will move to Nashville

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

Effective July 1, five school principals will be taking the reins at six different schools as a result of demerger changes within Nash County Public Schools.

Quintin Mangano, Principal at Nashville Elementary, will become the new Principal at Bailey Elementary.

Darsheka "Tiffany" Hopkins, current Principal at D.S. Johnson Elementary, will become the new Principal at Nashville Elementary. D.S. Johnson is one of four schools going under Edgecombe County jurisdiction.

Allen Michael Wilson, currently Principal at Bailey Elementary, will become the new Principal at Edwards Elementary.

Vanessa Love, current Principal at Edwards Middle School, will become the new Principal at Winstead Avenue Elementary, which has been without a full-time Principal since Courtney Land moved to Coopers Elementary in January after Michelle Griffin retired.

Kevin Shackelford, current Principal at Williford Elementary, will continue in the same location but in a different capacity, as Williford changes to a Pre-K center under the name Williford Early Learning Center. The building will also house

the Nash Everywhere Digital Academy (NEDA), and Shackelford will head up NEDA as well.

The new principal appointments were approved by the Board of Education May 6.

"We are confident that these appointments will greatly benefit our schools and communities," said Steve Ellis, Superintendent, adding that "each leader brings a unique vision and dedicated commitment."

Wilson was the district's 2024-2025 NCPS Principal of the Year, while Mangano was a finalist for that award last year, as was Hopkins in 2020-2021.

TAXES

Continued from page 1-A

on the tax reduction at their May 13 meeting after watching and discussing a powerpoint presentation composed by Momeyer Mayor Will Funderburg, entitled "Revenue, Budget and Responsibility." They also approved a proposed town budget, to be finalized this week after minor changes.

Funderburg said that end-of-year surplus had exceeded total property tax collected in three of the last five years, with the town adding \$117,234 to a CD and \$68,230 to a bank account in the same time period.

The current budget, Funderburg said, calls for \$19,000 in property tax collection, to add to a budgeted \$27,720 surplus from the 2024 budget.

Due to revaluation, however, the actual property tax collected will be \$20,366, leaving a surplus of \$39,086, Funderburg said.

Figures shown for property values inside of town for 2023 versus 2024, displayed an increase from \$16,792,500 to 23,358,800. Funderburg said that the town could collect zero property tax and still have a budget surplus of \$8,720, and that holdings are "sufficient to finance the operation of the town for over six years with zero revenue."

"We are not a business, we are a government," Funderburg said. "Profit isn't the goal unless it is for a specific purpose. We should be running balanced budgets and putting the smallest financial burden on our citizens."

Council members debated between reducing the rate from 13 cents to 6 cents or 9 cents, either of which Funderburg said would put Momeyer at the lowest property tax for any town in Nash County.

"I like the nine," said Edward Jackson, council member. "In today's world, that's taking a big step."

Council members hoped the reduction would mitigate any potential county tax increase, and encouragement for current landowners to hold onto their land rather than selling to developers.

"There is a lot of legacy in town among families. Nobody is selling Mama and Daddy's property," Funderburg said, stating that he hoped it would stay that way.

"I feel like we've got a lot of rainy day funds," said Richard Matthews, council member, who said he applauded Funderburg's efforts in "digging in."

Funderburg also said it also wasn't enough for the town to have savings CD's, but that they should "put labels on them" that designate planned fund use. He cited G.S. 159-9 that capital reserve funds' purpose should be stated, although that purpose can be changed by ordinance at any time.

"We need to account for every dollar of projected income by placing it in a budget category," Funderburg said.

A related discussion, and the reason for a delay in budget finalization, had to do with a stated need for new accounting software,

which was approved. "It would be a whole lot easier than pen and paper," said Sheila Alford, Town Clerk, who presented vendor options with the goal of having a new system in place prior to the July start of the new fiscal year.

Momeyer's proposed budget, presented by Councilwoman George Alma Edwards, totals \$116,450. That is a drop from last year's \$150,689, due largely to not having a repeat transfer of \$38,000 in ARPA funds. Under revenues, the highest amount, \$85,000, is in the category local option sales tax, up \$10,000 from last year's figure. Property vehicle taxes are the second highest category, stable at \$19,000.

Under expenditures, the largest amount was \$50,915 under the miscellaneous town office category, a significant rise from last year's \$13,777.

Officials said the rise was due largely to having over-budgeted funds last year in other accounts that were not fully used, such as for insurance and lawyer fees. Some unused ARPA funding was left over as well.

The miscellaneous fund is also where the town pulls money from if there is need in other areas.

The second largest category was salaries at \$17,600, about \$500 more than last year. New this year is \$3,000 being set aside for a community event, tentatively planned for Fall.

CUTS

Continued from page 1-A

and Tremain McQueen, Executive Director of Technology and Innovation.

Board members checking in remotely were Donita Chavis, Bill Sharpe, Dean Edwards, Sharonda Thomas-Bulluck, Ricky Jenkins and Chris Bisette. Absent were Lank Duntton, Franklin Lamm and Jacques Gray.

Board members voted unanimously to accept the RIF (Reduction in Force) recommendations that Wallace presented, although Bulluck and Chavis had comments.

"I wish this was not the situation," Bulluck said. "It is out of control of the board. We have no choice."

Chavis said she wanted people to know whose jobs that are to be affected that "it was a very fair process

by central office, with no one singled out."

Prior to the vote, Wallace reiterated the reasons for the RIF, citing declining student enrollment (from 14,600 in 2023-2024 to 12,169 in 2024-2025) and an 11% budget decrease as a result of the upcoming demerger with Edgecombe County Schools.

Wallace also touched briefly on RIF criteria for certified and classified personnel, including work performance, evaluation ratings, and excessive absences, along with program enrollment.

After announcing the two principal cuts, Wallace said that attrition was used when possible to eliminate positions, such as those held by retiring personnel or those who were choosing to leave.

No other information was given regarding the cuts or the school locations.

The board met virtually for about nineteen minutes before going into Closed session to discuss personnel matters, which may have involved approving specific position cuts.

After coming out of closed session, Washington announced that a vote would be taken on matters discussed in closed session. A vote was taken without any information being given on the action taken.

For more information on RIF criteria, it has been listed on the school system website under the Demerger Information Page as "Reduction In Force Information."

NASH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORTS

Assault with a deadly weapon; damage to personal property reported at 10762 Liles Rd., Bailey on 5/9/24

Larceny felony reported at 123 Cary St., Nashville on 5/11/24

Damage to personal property; motor vehicle theft; breaking and entering auto, larceny from auto reported at 1897 Sheldon Rd., Bailey on 5/5/24

Obtain signature by false pretense; forgery-notes, checks, securities; obtain property by false reported at 2152 Algje Rd., Nashville on 5/8/24

Financial transaction card fraud reported at 2376 S NC 58, Nashville on 5/6/24

Financial transaction card

fraud reported at 2481 S NC 581, Spring Hope on 5/9/24

Firearm by felon; possession stolen firearm; possession cocaine; possession drug paraphernalia/not marijuana reported at 2576 Wintergreen Rd., Nashville on 5/9/24

Trafficking cocaine reported at 3582 Taylors Store Rd., Nashville on 5/6/24

Missing persons reported at 3907 S. Browntown Rd., Rocky Mount on 5/11/24

Common law robbery reported at 5102 Dortches Blvd., Rocky Mount on 5/8/24

Larceny felony reported at 6378 Vance St., Bailey on 5/6/24

Warrant service; call for service reported at 6952 Hill Rd., Spring Hope on 5/7/24

Larceny of firearm reported at 7104 Elkhorn Rd., Rocky Mount on 5/9/24

Larceny misdemeanor reported at 902 N NC 581, Spring Hope on 5/5/24

Trespass-second degree reported at 9156 Mill Branch Rd., Rocky Mount on 5/5/24

Speeding in highway work zone greater than 80 or 15 miles over; fail to stop for light and siren reported at mile marker 133 I-95 S., Nashville on 5/7/24

Fictitious registration/alt title; speeding; fail to produce/false information license; possession drug reported at NC 4/ Gold Rock Rd., Rocky Mount on 5/9/24

NASHVILLE POLICE REPORTS

INCIDENTS

Larceny misdemeanor reported at 1205 Eastern Ave., Nashville on 5/9/24

Larceny felony reported at 733 E. Washington St., Nashville on 5/6/24

Driving while license revoked not impaired revoked; DWI reported at mile marker 460 US 64 E on 5/9/24

Possession schedule I controlled substance felony reported at 501 W. Washington St., Nashville on 5/6/24

Obtain property by false pretense reported at 1205 Eastern Ave. on 5/10/24

ARRESTS

Zakee Mentakneez Clemmons was charged with Driving while license revoked not impaired revoked; DWI on 5/9/24

Presley Lamont Settles was charged with possession schedule I controlled substance felony on 5/6/24

Official Notice of Town of Red Oak's Proposed Budget for FY 2024-2025

The Town of Red Oak's budget for FY 2024-25 has been submitted to the Town Council and a copy is available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk to the Board, located in the Red Oak Town Hall, 8406 Red Oak Blvd. A Public Hearing on the budget will be held at 6:30pm, May 13, 2024.

A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on the town website and FB page.

Questions or looking to submit a public comment? Please contact the Town Clerk at 252-443-1239 or email: townofredoak@gmail.com

Publication dates: 4/25, 5/2, 5/9

TOWN OF NASHVILLE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The proposed fiscal year 2024-25 budget for the Town of Nashville has been presented to the Nashville Town Council and is available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk at the Nashville Town Hall from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm weekdays.

The Town of Nashville Town Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget at 7:00 pm on June 4, 2024, at Nashville Town Council Chambers located at 114 West Church Street, Nashville, North Carolina, for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed budget. Interested persons are invited to attend the Public Hearing and express their views.

Louise Bennett
Nashville Town Clerk

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BLOOMING FESTIVAL SNAP-SHOTS 2024



Nashville Town Councilman Larry Taylor claps while listening to gospel music Saturday morning. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



Faith Christian Ministries Director Laura Bartholomew shows festival spirit wearing her 2024 Blooming Festival shirt while preparing to open Saturday morning. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



Natalie Horton of Nashville prepares for a thrill ride at the carnival. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



Joanna Martin of Parkton, NC, considers how a necklace looks in the sunlight while visiting a vendor during the festival. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



Wayland Gupton from Rocky Mount (left), Syler Schoenthaler of Rocky Mount (center), and Rexton Wheeler of New Bern (right), enjoy the rides at the carnival. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



National music artist, Easton Corbin, performs at the 2024 Nashville Blooming Festival. Photo by Nick Crawley



Kevin Maza takes a shot at one of the carnival games while his mom, Amanda looks on. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



The Southern Nash Jazz Band rides and marches in the parade. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



A fist bump with a Dunn Clown is sure to make for a good day! Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



Riders of the Southern Bank float sport the 2024 festival shirts. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



All smiles on the CloudWyze float. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake

BLOOMING FESTIVAL SNAP-SHOTS 2024



Jordan Lytton, Nashville Chamber of Commerce 2024 Distinguished Citizen, rides in the Blooming Festival Parade. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



The Dunn Clowns always make a few friends along the Blooming Festival Parade route. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



Mr. and Mrs. Nash Central High School (Jon Ayden Horne and Hope Lee), ride in the Blooming Festival Parade. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



Nashville Elementary School students ride in the Blooming Festival Parade. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



Ramzi Abukheit owner of RJ Snacks in Nashville, throws out bags of chips to parade spectators. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



Plenty of waves come from the Town of Nashville float. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



The Sudan Prowlers are always a crowd pleaser. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



Cindy Brantley is the 2024 Nashville Blooming Festival Mother of the Year. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake



Della Inscoe of Nashville enjoys every lick of an ice cream cone. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake

Nashville okays rezoning of agriculture land

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

Citing similarity of land usage on one side and across US 64, Nashville Town Council members have approved re-zoning part of a 35-acre

parcel from agricultural to industrial, with planned use for development for warehouse storage.

Nashville Development LLC, located in Creedmor, NC, applied to rezone a portion of 1860 US 64 A, currently the property of Batchelor SA Heirs, from A-1 to I-1. The property

is located to the west of Avents Lane.

Chase Massey, appearing at the May 7 council meeting, also spoke at the April 30 Planning Board meeting on behalf of the applicant, saying that the plan was to use 7.5 acres on the left side of the 35 acres for self-storage units, a use per-

mitted under an I-1 zoning district.

Shawn Lucas, Nashville Planner, said his department recommended approval for the re-zoning, citing the example of adjacent property to the north, which is zoned I-1, and properties to the west, which is zoned both A-1 and I-1. Lands to the south and

east are still zoned as A-1.

Lucas's staff report to the planning board stated that rezoning would be "inconsistent with the future land use map", which identified the property as slated for Agriculture, but would be "contiguous with the adjacent Industrial Zoning District."

Massey was asked how

many self-storage units were planned, but said he did not know yet.

The re-zoning request, recommended for approval from the planning board, was passed unanimously by council members, with a remark by Kate Burns that "we need to preserve agriculture-zoned properties going forward."

Nashville lowers boom on nuisance property

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

Nashville Town officials lowered the boom May 7 on an overgrown property located at 714 Bayberry Lane, authorizing \$2,000 in cleanup, for which homeowner Wyatt McGhee will ultimately be responsible to pay.

Shawn Lucas, Planning and Development Director and former Code Enforcer for Nashville, said McGhee was first cited for three property violations in August of 2023, including 'noxious growth of weeded, grasses or other plants or business that ... threaten to become a fire hazard for a harboring place for rats, mice, snakes or other vermin or otherwise poses a danger to public health or safety.' Other citations addressed "accumulations"

and overhanging or protruding trees.

Lucas said the issue of McGhee's property has been before the council three times, including on November 14, 2023, during which McGhee was granted more time to correct the offending conditions, and again on December 5, 2023.

As of April 30, 2024, Lucas said he and Tomasine Jones, Code Enforcement Officer, had visited the property and noted that the August 2023 violations were still present.

Lucas showed council members numerous photographs of overgrowth both in front and back of the property, including a profusion of mulberries on the ground and sidewalk, noting a strong contrast in the property's appearance with others in the neighborhood and that there had been multiple complaints.

"Are mulberries illegal

in the town of Nashville?" McGhee asked, saying that he had planted the bushes as a food source for birds. McGhee also contested that his property was home to vermin, relating that he didn't consider birds, squirrels, hawks and the occasional rabbit in that category.

McGhee describing his property as 'environmentally friendly,' said he had cut back ground cover and removed trees in an attempt to meet town requests. He also said he had done what he could while caring for two elderly parents, an aging mother-in-law, helping a friend with a stroke and parenting a 12-year-old daughter.

Most of the council members addressed McGhee with similar remarks as to having given him enough time to correct issues and that they had not been fixed. "I believe this council and

the prior council have given him ample time and a grace period, but his property is not in harmony with the neighborhood. Apparently, Mr. McGhee is unable to come into compliance on his own," said Xavien Harrison, council member.

Council members authorized Lucas to contract with Joyner & Son Maintenance of Rocky Mount to do cleanup, which will involve cutting and clearing overgrowth, clearing the fence line, trimming trees, hauling debris from cleared areas, grass cutting, weed-eating and blowing.

In other action, council members approved a \$450,000 three-year contract with CTR Coatings to re-line and seal leaking sewer manholes in the town's sewer collection system.

Lee Brown, Public Works Director, cited numerous defects and

leaks in more than 430 of the Town's approximately 923 sewer manholes, relating that losing 1 gallon per minute of excess water equates to approximately 619,200 gallons a day that enters the town system and is then sent to Rocky Mount's Wastewater Treatment Plant and charged for treatment.

CTR Coatings have already re-lined and sealed 80 existing sewer manholes in the last two years, Brown said, with the focus on addressing the worst manholes first. A three-year contract would allow sealing 38-42 manholes per year, Brown said, which would be a good start on making repairs to the town's aging system.

In other action, council members also approved a \$17,820 change order for construction of a kitchen in the new Rec Center Building at 200 S. Boddie Street,

which is within money already budgeted for building upfits, according to Koy Worrell, Parks and Rec Director. Worrell said having a working kitchen would enhance building use and rentals for parties and other events.

Worrell also asked for, and received a proclamation from Mayor Brown to designate Mary 18 as "Kids to Parks Day" in the town of Nashville. The national event is held annually on the third Saturday to May as encouragement for children and their families to live a more active lifestyle and to visit local parks, public lands and waters.

Worrell said a Bounce House will be set up the day before at the Nashville Farmers Market, along with games and other activities for children, with information available about how to enjoy local parks.

Soil & Water hosts 50th catfish luncheon

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

The 50th annual Nash County Soil and Water Catfish Luncheon May 9 at the Nash County Ag Center drew an appreciative crowd of 275 along with multiple distinguished speakers, including Bob Etheridge, State Executive Director of the North Carolina Farm Service Agency, who gave the keynote address after an invocation by Parker Phillips and a welcome by Stacie Shatzer, County Manager.

Etheridge lauded Bobby Joe Fisher, Chairman of the Nash Soil & Water Board, for serving 34 years.

"His legacy, along with yours, will help future generations have land to farm and food to eat," Etheridge said, encouraging policy makers to continue to invest in farmers.

"Agriculture serves you three times a day and more, if you have a snack," Etheridge said, who said that people don't think about it if food is plentiful.

Etheridge said it would take collaboration on the county, state, and federal level as well as farmers themselves to participate in means to safeguard natural resources for future gen-

erations. While crediting President Biden with providing additional money in resources for sustainable agriculture, Etheridge urged legislators and judges present to be mindful of the need for ag conservation.

"Where city meets rural, rural always loses," Etheridge said.

Elaine Marshall, North Carolina Secretary of State, spoke about the need to support rural businesses.

"It's a tragedy when young people think they can't come home and make a living," Marshall said. "Our brainpower is draining out."

Marshall said that there are existing resources that people don't know about, including low-interest loans available for small businesses. She referenced a program of hers called 'Rural Rise NC,' which connects start-up businesses with mentors, business counselors and funding sources, according to its website, sosnc.gov/rural_rise/index.

"The entrepreneurial ecosystem in Raleigh is thick," Marshall said, "but outside, not so much." Marshall did say that was looking to change, however, with over a 200% increase in filing coming from rural counties for the program, par-

ticularly from neighboring Edgecombe and Scotland counties.

Greg Hicks, Assistant State Agriculture Commissioner, brought greetings from Ag Commissioner Steve Troxler, who he said regretted not being able to come.

"Smelling that catfish, I have to admit I feel pretty lucky to be here," Hicks said. "Now I know why he looks forward to this."

Hicks related details from a report on planting intentions for 2024 compiled by the National Ag Statistics Service, including slight increases in cotton, flue-cured tobacco and soybeans, while corn, peanuts and winter wheat were expected to be down.

Hicks said that Nash County agriculture brings in over \$198 million in cash receipts, ranking sixth in the state for sweet potato production, fifteenth in cotton production and fifteenth in layers.

"It seems North Carolina is on everyone's radar as a destination state," Hicks said, adding that while Troxler is not against development, "he believes we are at a point where must be strategic and smart in that development if we intend to have a strong agriculture economy, if we want to con-



Local farmers, community partners and guests join together for the 50th Annual Catfish Luncheon hosted by Nash Soil & Water. Graphic photos by Nancy West-Brake

tinue to feed ourselves and if we want to have the infrastructure in place to accommodate this growth."

"We really need to dig in on farmland preservation efforts and investments in agriculture's future," Hicks said, relating that the American Farmland Trust ranks NC second in the country in projected land loss by 2040.

Hicks said that 35,000 acres in permanent conservation easements have been

recorded in the state since 2006, and that this year's application requests set a new record at \$55.2 million for 132 applications.

"We need to invest in agriculture like we invest in attracting new industry," Hicks said.

"Every investment we make today to prepare for agriculture's future is an investment in our ability as a country to feed ourselves and feed the world long

term."

Fisher said he wanted to thank everyone who helped make the event a success, including retired Forest Ranger Bill Lewis and former Southern Nash Ag teacher Ralph Pegram for heading up the cooking of the catfish, procured from Carolina Classic out of the Little Washington, and the Louisiana Lowcountry Boil of crawfish, sausage, corn on the cob and potatoes.

Community forums for opioid fund use begin

BY NANCY WEST-BRAKE GRAPHIC STAFF WRITER

Beginning tonight, May 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Red Oak Community Building, Nash County officials are holding five community forums to solicit public input on how best to spend Opioid Settlement Fund money to help those who suffer from opioid abuse.

"We recognize that opioids have impacted every county in North Carolina, but each county is unique," said Tia Foula, Assistant County Manager and Opioid Settlement Manager.

"We want our plan to address the specific needs of Nash County citizens, and want to hear from our residents who about to best utilize these funds to address the opioid crisis

in our community," Foula said.

Tonight's meeting, along with others planned in Battleboro, Nashville, Bailey and Rocky Mount, will include a background presentation, followed by a brief panel discussion and then audience input and questions.

Nash County first received Opioid settlement funds in July of 2022, receiving about \$700,000 that year. To date, the amount is \$2,908.32, with none having yet been spent. Nash County's total share will come to \$9.8 million.

Foula said that the NC Memorandum of Agreement, which allocated 15% of settlement funds to the state and the remaining 85% to the one hundred counties and seventeen municipalities, dictates that local decision-makers lean on constituents such as health-care providers, community

organizations, and people with lived experience to make decisions how funding should be allocated.

Another part of the Nash County Opioid Action Plan, Foula said, will be gathering information from a survey to gain feedback from community members. She said the county is also working to identify members of the public to be trained as Certified Peer Support Specialists, who can share their own lived experiences with opioids and give practical guidance to help those in need take steps for self-empowerment and to build

fulfilling, self-determined lives.

In addition to tonight's meeting in Red Oak at 8285 Red Oak Blvd, Battleboro, the following meetings are scheduled:

-June 27- Drake Community Center, 5251 Drake Road, Battleboro

-July 11- Nash County Agricultural Center, 1006 Eastern Avenue, Nashville

-July 25- Bailey Town Hall, 6217 Main Street, Bailey

-August 22- South Rocky Mount Community Center, 710 Recreation Drive, Rocky Mount

All meetings are scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"All community members are encouraged to attend," Foula said, "especially those directly impacted by opioid use and overdose. Their insights and experiences will help shape the county's response to the opioid crisis."

The North Carolina Opioid Settlements website, ncopioidsettlement.org, states that North Carolina will receive \$1.5 billion from a series of national opioid settlements totaling \$56 billion resulting from national litigation settle-

ments with drug distributors and manufacturers. The money is to be paid out over eighteen years for state and local governments to address community needs such as treatment, recovery, and harm reduction.

The survey, which Foula said will help county officials prioritize evidence-based strategies from a list of 12 options, can be found online at this address:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPG79YJ>



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Central Softball Comes To A Close



GONNA BE A CLOSE ONE. Nash Central High School veteran catcher Abbygale Joyner reels in a throw to home plate as a Midway runner approaches during second-round action of the Class 2-A State Softball Playoffs in Sampson County. (Photo Submitted by Meryn Johnson)

Lady Bulldogs stopped again by Midway HS

By GEOFF NEVILLE
Graphic Sportswriter

SPIVEYS CORNER -- Same place, same result, one year later.

Forgive members of the Nash Central High School softball team if they aren't anxious to make a return trip to Spiveys Corner to tangle with Midway in the Class 2-A State Playoffs.

Central's season has ended at Midway two years in a row now after last week's 10-0 setback to the Raiders in second-round playoff action in Sampson County.



See NCHS, Page 3B



SOUTHERN NASH STAR PITCHER ANNA DICKINSON

2024 SOUTHERN NASH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER REVERSAL OF FORTUNE



EMORY IN CONTROL. Southern Nash High School scoring whiz Emory Gibson (right) dribbles through the Franklinton defense during last Thursday's Big East Conference girls soccer showdown on the SN campus. (Photo Submitted by Carl Copeland)

Southern Nash soccer season ends in playoffs

By GEOFF NEVILLE
Graphic Sportswriter

STANHOPE -- Fortunes changed quickly in the parity-filled Big East Conference girls soccer standings this spring -- a trend that continued into the Class 3-A State Playoffs.

Southern Nash, the defending Big East champion, found itself in contention for league supremacy heading into the final few weeks before losses to

Northern Nash and Roanoke Rapids sent the Ladybirds backward in the standings.

So much so that SN need a final-match victory over upstart Franklinton last Thursday in order to move into a tie with the Red Rams for third place in the always-competitive league.

Franklinton had been on a different path heading into the match as Coach Bri Folds' club entered with a five-match winning streak that included a win

over a tough Northern Nash contingent.

That surge also pushed the Lady Rams ahead of Southern in the standings, but SN would have a Senior Night response with a 3-0 decision at the SNHS Soccer Complex in Stanhope.

With the win, Southern moved into a third-place tie with Franklinton in the final Big East standings at 8-4.

Northern Nash and Roanoke Rapids

See SOCCER, Page 3B

Coming through in clutch

By GEOFF NEVILLE
Graphic Sportswriter

STANHOPE -- For a team that didn't have to overcome much adversity in the regular season, the Southern Nash Ladybirds seem like old pros at it during the Class 3-A State Softball Playoffs.

See BIRDS, Page 2B



FRANKLINTON RUNNER BRINKLEY ROBINSON

Frosh phenom in the Big East

By GEOFF NEVILLE
Times Sportswriter

FRANKLINTON -- Ask

See FROSH, Page 3B

BRIGHT FUTURE Zipko makes college choice

By GEOFF NEVILLE
Graphic Sportswriter

RED OAK -- Football and engineering.

Those were the two intangibles Northern Nash's Andrew Zipko was looking for the most when seeking a college to attend -- and he found them at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Central Massachusetts.

WPI, a Division III program, will be Zipko's home for the next four years as he will look to excel academically and athletically for the appropriately-named Engineers.

"Andrew wants to be an



NORTHERN NASH'S ANDREW ZIPKO

See ZIPKO, Page 2B



NORTHERN NASH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STANDOUT ANDREW ZIPKO SIGNS WITH WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE



NORTHERN NASH'S ANDREW ZIPKO WAS EXCEPTIONAL ALONG THE DEFENSIVE LINE DURING THE 2023 SEASON (Graphic photo by Geoff Neville)



ANDREW ZIPKO IS HONORED AS PART OF NORTHERN NASH HIGH SCHOOL'S BASEBALL SENIOR NIGHT

ZIPKO

continued from page 1B

engineer, and he was still hoping to maybe play football on the college level," said Northern Nash Athletic Director Joey Keefe, who also coached Zipko on the baseball diamond.

"I think he got on the internet and starting searching schools that have both engineering and football, and that's how he ended up getting connected with (WPI)."

Everything Zipko seems to have touched during his tenure at Northern Nash has turned to gold -- at least hardware gold for the school's trophy case.

As a junior, Zipko helped NNHS win the Big East Conference and reach the Class 3-A State Finals -- and the Fighting Knights piggybacked that excellence by reaching the State Final Four last fall.

Zipko, a defensive end, played a huge role in Northern Nash's success as he recorded 86 tackles, including 11 for a loss, while helping the Fighting Knights finish a whopping 13-2 overall.

One of the highlights of the campaign came when Zipko recovered a fumble for a touchdown during a league victory over the Bunn Wildcats.

At the end of the year, Zipko received

a prestigious spot on the Big East's All-Conference Football Team.

But the heroics didn't stop on the gridiron for Zipko as he swam and wrestled during the winter season -- and was part of NN's boys pool team championship squad.

And in the spring, Zipko was a key player for the Knights, who shared the Big East regular season crown and claimed the league's tournament championship.

Then there's the academic part of it as Zipko boasts a 4.3 grade-point average and has already earned some college credits through courses at Nash Community College.

Not only for acclaim or braggadocio, Zipko is a no-nonsense multi-sport performer who doesn't prefer a lot of fanfare -- only the desire to be part of a winning team.

"And is the kind of kid who just goes about his business," Keefe said. "He is smart, polite and well-rounded."

"He's a hard worker who is going to get after."

"He is mild-mannered, but don't let that fool you -- he is quite a competitor."

Mudcats on a roll in Fayetteville

From Staff Reports

FAYETTEVILLE -- The Carolina Mudcats (22-9) won the final game of the series against Fayetteville (18-15) in exciting fashion on Sunday.

The Woodpeckers loaded the bases in the bottom of the 9th inning with no outs.

Carolina's Blake Whiting (S, 4) struck out the final three batters, leaving the bases loaded to end the game and giving the Mudcats the 6-5 victory Sunday evening.

The Mudcats started the scoring in the 3rd with Victor Torres hitting an RBI single to score Miguel Briceno.

Two batters later, Yophery Rodriguez singled to left, scoring Reece Walling, making the score 2-0.

In the 4th inning, Kaylan Nicasia (4) hits his team-tying best fourth home run of the season to give Carolina a 3-1 lead in the minor league baseball showdown in Cumberland County.

Nicasia and Yoswar Garcia went back-to-back with triples in the 8th inning.

Nicasia scored on Garcia's triple to put the Mudcats up 6-4.

Fayetteville's shortstop, Chase Jaworsky (3), hit a solo home run, his second home run of the game, to bring the Woodpeckers within one run at 6-5 in the 8th.

The first three batters reached base for Fayetteville in the bottom of the 9th.

Whiting went on to strikeout the final 3 bat-

ters to end the game.

Mudcats starter, Josh Timmerman, pitched 4.0 innings only surrendering 1 hit and struck out 5, but did not figure in the decision.

K.C. Hunt (W, 3-0) came in relief for Timmerman to give up 3 hits while also striking out 5 to pick up the win.

Carolina took the series in Fayetteville, 4 games to 2.

The Carolina Mudcats remained in 1st place in the Carolina League North Division by 1 game over the Fredericksburg Nationals out of Northern Virginia.

For more information on the Carolina Mudcats, contact the team's front office at Five County Stadium in Zebulon at (919) 269-2287.



(L TO R) SN'S ANNA DICKINSON AND COACH SCOTT COLLIE (Graphic photo by Geoff Neville)

BIRDS

continued from page 1B

As part of their prolific, historic 2024 campaign, Southern Nash outscored its foes 227-12 while going undefeated with 20 consecutive wins to go with Big East Conference regular season and tournament championships.

But veteran SNHS head coach Scott Collie knew the dominance would end come the postseason, when the level of opposition would increase tremendously -- and his Ladybirds would have to respond to that challenge.

That they have through two rounds as Southern has scratched out a pair of victories, topping Greenville Rose 6-5 in last Tuesday's playoff opener at home before continuing to advance last Friday with a 2-1 nail-biter over Eastern Alamance at Ladybird Field.

Southern has experienced some tough postseason luck in recent years -- a trend Collie and Company wanted to buck in 2024.

Consider it done, but it didn't come without effort -- along with some clutch performances.

That started in the Rose matchup as the Ladybirds appeared to be in

trouble, trailing 5-0 heading into the bottom of the fourth stanza of action.

Kaylie Love brought SN closer with a 2-run single, and Addison Brumfield trimmed the deficit to 5-3 two innings later with a run-scoring base knock.

Still, SN was just three outs away from defeat heading into the bottom of the seventh before Sarah Ewers led off the decisive frame with a walk.

Freshman slugger Noel Dobbins then came up with the 'hit of the year' for the Ladybirds as she blasted a two-run homer to tie the score -- and electrify the crowd and the SNHS dugout.

With the momentum secured, Southern kept the rally going when Carlee Beckham walked and went to second on a sacrifice bunt from Paisley Baker.

After advancing to third, Beckham sped home with the winner off Savanna Baines' infield grounder, and the Ladybirds had delivered one of their most momentous comebacks in recent memory.

But the hits -- literally -- didn't stop there as the Ladybirds were back on

the field three days later to tangle with the visiting Eagles from Mebane.

This time around, defense and pitching were the order of the day as SN ace Anna Dickinson was brilliant, fashioning a two-hitter to go with one walk and eight strikeouts.

Southern took the lead with a single run in the second when freshman Aliyah Croll singled, stole second and came all the way home off an errant Eagles' throw that went all the way to the outfield fence.

SN tacked on another tally in the fourth when Dobbins struck again, this time with a leadoff double.

Following a sacrifice bunt from Beckham, Love delivered a key single to send the Ladybirds ahead 2-0.

Eastern Alamance registered its lone run in the top of the sixth, but Dickinson was able to escape further damage as the Eagles stranded runners on second and third.

Southern, now at a sterling 22-0, was scheduled to host Dixon on Wednesday in a third-round showdown at Ladybird Field on the SNHS campus.



SOUTHERN NASH FRESHMAN STAR ALIYAH CROLL (Graphic photo by Geoff Neville)



2024 NASH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

NCHS

continued from page 1B

The contest was close until the Raiders, with only one senior on their roster, broke things open with a six-spot in the bottom of the fourth stanza of action.

The event was called after the top of the fifth frame due to the mandatory 10-run rule.

It wasn't the way the Bulldogs wanted to end things, but it was still an exceptional campaign for Coach Todd Brewer's crew, which went 14-7 overall to go with an 8-6 mark in the Big East Conference -- a number that was good enough for the third position in the competitive league.

And Central earned yet another postseason triumph as the Bulldogs topped Farmville Central by a 15-5 margin last Tuesday in the first round of the Class 2-A State Playoffs at The Dawg Pound on the NCHS campus.

With the score tied at 3-3 heading into the bottom of the third, Central put together a gargantuan 11-run uprising to pull away for good -- and move into its second-round meeting with Midway.

NCHS senior Lydia Hill, playing in what



NASH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL PITCHER HANNAH FRAZIER

would be her final home game, blasted a home and drove in five runs to spark the Bulldogs' prolific 18-hit attack.

Gracyn King, Hannah Hudlow and Maci Worrells all had three base knocks apiece and combined to drive in nine runs. King also came through with a pair of doubles.

The Bulldogs have enjoyed plenty of success under Brewer's recent

tenure, but, in order to keep the run going, they will have to find some replacements next spring for its sterling five-person senior class.

NC's battery of pitcher Hannah Frazier and catcher Abbygale Joyner will be graduating, along with shortstop Maci Worrells, who has signed a letter-of-intent to continue her outstanding softball career at Barton College.

FROSH

continued from page 1B

any long-time track and field observer about the greatest girls distance runner in Franklin County history, and the discussion usually begins and ends with one name -- Tria Metzler.

The funny thing is that, since Metzler's star-studded career ended in 2006, nobody has even dared to compare another runner to her -- and for good reason.

The amazingly talented Metzler won several state championships in Cross Country, 1600 and 3200 for the Wildcats before hanging up her running shoes to attend North Carolina State University.

Two decades later, another young standout from Franklin County is making an elite name for herself on the track -- Franklinton's Brinkley Robinson.

Just like Metzler did as a freshman, Robinson has become an instant hit in the Big East Conference and beyond.

FHS head coach Clennie Wilkins' motto of thinking higher than just local has rung true for Robinson, who swept the Big East Conference Championships last month in the 400, 800, 1600 and 3200.

And last Friday at the Class 2-A Mid-east Regionals at UNC-Pembroke, Robinson showed off her skills to a larger audience as she rolled to victories in the 800 and 1600. She was also third in the 400, thanks in part to a slow start after the gun.

Robinson's winning times in the 800 (2:20.88) and 1600 (5:20.39) were both personal bests as she defeated rivals from tradition-rich distance schools such as Cedar Ridge and Carrboro.

"Brinkley had run in middle school, but she didn't have a lot of distance experience," Wilkins said. "It's been fun to watch her develop. She has a lot

of god-given talent, but you still have to work to continue to get better."

And when Robinson flies around the track -- on her way to accumulating more accolades -- Wilkins can't help but think he's watching Metzler in action all over again.

"I was fortunate enough to be at Bunn when Tria was there," Wilkins said. "There are a lot of similarities and some differences, with the main difference being that Tria had more cross country distance, while Brinkley has the 400 and 800 speed."

"But both Brinkley and Tria have a desire and passion for it. They are both hard workers who love to compete."

Expectations for Metzler were high from the get-go at Bunn event when she was a ninth-grader -- and some of them were a bit unreasonable for a young person of that age.

That's something Wilkins saw in person, so he wants to make sure Robinson doesn't experience the same pressure this early in her career.

"Certainly, we all expect Brinkley to win every time she races, and so does she," Wilkins said. "But as a coach, it's important for me to emphasize to her that she has to have fun and enjoy the moment."

"She has been blessed with this skill -- just enjoy the experience."

Robinson will look to step onto the state medals stand for the first time this Saturday at the Class 3-A State Track and Field Championships at historic Aggie Stadium on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro.

Robinson will compete against the state's elite performers -- most of who are older than her -- in the 400, 800 and 1600.



SOUTHERN NASH SENIOR GREAT CHARLOTTE BENSON (AT RIGHT)

SOCCER

continued from page 1B

finished tied for league supremacy with identical 10-2 marks -- and Franklinton's win over NN would certainly be influential in the closing conference rank.

FHS was looking to pull off another signature win last Thursday over the Ladybirds, and the Lady Rams had their share of chances.

But SN keeper Jenna Rivera put together one of her best performances of the season to keep Franklinton off the scoreboard.

Emory Gibson delivered a pair of goals for the Ladybirds, while senior Blair Batchelor, playing her final home match, also found the back of the net.

But any momentum either team gained or lost from the match was thrown out heading into this week's Class 3-A State Playoffs as Southern Nash lost in the first round -- while Franklinton delivered a resounding triumph.

FHS has made considerable strides this spring under Folds' direction as a young roster continues to mature -- and has hung tough with the top clubs in the Big East (of



SOUTHERN NASH'S ANA ALONSO

which the Lady Rams are now one).

Franklinton proved that point Monday by securing a 2-0 road decision at Harnett Central in the opening round.

The Lady Rams moved into a second-round showdown at West Carteret, while Southern saw its campaign conclude in the first round with a 3-1 setback at Dixon.



SOUTHERN NASH SENIOR BLAIR BATCHELOR (AT RIGHT) CELEBRATES WITH TEAMMATE ANA ALONSO AFTER SCORING AGAINST FRANKLINTON

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What was the first sin?

BY MIKE RUFFIN

"Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'" (Genesis 3:4-5)

I once thought that Satan was not the source of all evil in this world. Just because people could be bad, ugly, mean-spirited, or whatever label you might want to attach to it, didn't have to mean that the devil made them do it.



A lot of unbelievers do not associate evil with Satan. However, a lot of Christians also fail to connect the evil we see in others with the devil. Isn't it interesting that the confusion we experience about the real source of evil also comes from Satan himself? I think that's what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, "For God is not the author of confusion". (1 Corinthians 14:33)

Satan took the form of a serpent in early Genesis. He convinced Eve that God really didn't mean what he said about eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve believed him,

Adam followed, and the rest is history. Sin was born.

There are many that believe the original sin was an act of sex. They will tell you that Eve seduced Adam in order to get her way. They would have us believe that the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden was a symbol of sexual relations. In other words, Adam and Eve sinned by committing a sexual act.

The Bible does not support such a conclusion. In fact, Genesis tells us that God blessed Adam and Eve and instructed them to "be fruitful and multiply". (Genesis 1:28) The forbidden fruit had nothing to do with a sexual act.

There are many that claim that the original sin was knowledge. In one sense, Satan's promises were true. Their eyes were opened, and they did know good and evil. But the original sin had nothing to do with knowledge. God wanted Adam and Eve to know what good was and what the evil would be. But when Adam and Eve up-set God's apple cart, they discovered what evil was and what good could have been.

The real key to the original sin is found in Romans. Paul tells us, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners." (Romans 5:19)

Adam and Eve's decision to eat fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil was a simple act of disobedience. It's the very same sin that we commit today. It's our connection to the past and points out that sin is a trait, not a symptom.

Simple acts of disobedience have profound implications. The New Jerusalem Bible teaches that disobedience is an attack on God's sovereignty. The knowledge of what is right and what is wrong is the power of man "deciding for himself what is good and what is evil and of acting accordingly, a claim to complete moral independence".

We will continue to sin. That's a promise from God. But God also promises, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous". (Romans 5:19)

The truth is Jesus' death on the cross allows us to trade our sins for his righteousness. It's a trade that doesn't cost us! That's why the Apostle Paul said, "But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more". (Romans 5:20)

Indeed, his grace is sufficient.

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Intersections: God and Life

BY CARLYLE HALL, JR.

"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90 is a prayer of Moses – the only psalm attributed to Moses. The psalm begins by declaring the eternity of God (Psalm 90:1-2). In contrast to the God who is from everlasting to everlasting, Moses then declares the brevity and frailty of human life (Psalm 90:3-11). It is not until verse 12 that the prayer of Moses makes a request. He petitions God to teach us to number our days so that our hearts may become wise.



What does Psalm 90:12 mean? There are many implications to this prayer request that we should consider. But it may be that the best way to understand verse 12 is to keep reading to verse 14: "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days." In a real sense, the two verses are two different ways of saying the same thing. A wise heart is a heart that is satisfied in God.

Moses and the children of Israel learned the hard way that the years of our lives are but "toil and trouble, they are soon gone, and we

fly away" (Psalm 90:10). It is a waste of life to invest in things that cannot save and do not satisfy. There is a void in every life that only God can fill. Is there a void in your life? Does it feel like something is missing? Are you looking for satisfaction in the wrong places? Ask God to satisfy you in the morning with his steadfast love. Ask him in faith to satisfy the needs of your heart.

God Satisfies in the Morning. Moses asked the Lord to satisfy him at a strategic time: "in the morning." Of course, God can satisfy any time. His steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 100:5). God works the night shift! Yet the sovereign "Night Watchmen" (Psalm 121:3-4) is an early bird. When you wake up each day, God provides new mercies without fail (Lamentations 3:22-23). Is there a void in your heart you need God to fill? Make it a priority to meet the Lord in the morning before the day starts. Listen to God through daily scripture intake. Talk to God through ongoing believing prayer.

God Satisfies with Steadfast-Love. How long should your morning devotional time be? As long as it takes you to satisfy your heart with God's love for you. "Stead-love" is the covenant-keeping love of God. God loves you because he has promised to love

you, and he always keeps his promises. People may change their minds about you for any reason. God has every reason to change his mind about you. Yet nothing can separate you from the love of God in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:38-39). Don't start the affairs and activities of the day without meditating on God's loyal love for you.

God Satisfies in all Circumstances. Why does Moses ask God for satisfaction? "That we may rejoice and be glad all our days." Divine satisfaction brings joy externally ("rejoice") and internally ("be glad"). It is a life of heavenly blessing, spiritual contentment, and complete fulfillment. Unfortunately, we look for satisfaction in the wrong places. But the futile and foolish things of this world only offer temporary satisfaction. But the hand of the Lord gives satisfaction that brings rejoicing and gladness "all our days." Whatever the day brings, the Lord can give peace that surpasses all understanding to guard your heart and mind (Philippians 4:6-7). It's yours for the asking today!

Carlyle Hall Jr., serves as pastor at Castalia Baptist Church and he welcomes your thoughts/questions at Carlylehall65@gmail.com.

RED OAK NEWS

BY SUZY PEARCE

Red Oak Baptist Church had a Parent/Child Dedication on Sunday, May 12 during the morning worship. Children dedicated included Thomas Steele Baker, son of Sean and Carrie Baker, and Bryan Fisher Keen, Jr., son of Bryan and Sarah Keen.



The Baptist Men will have their monthly breakfast meeting on Sunday,

May 19 at 8:30 am.

The Baby Bottle Blessing of Your Choice Resource Center is now going on at Red Oak Baptist Church. Be sure to sign up and pick up a bottle, fill with coins or check, and return bottle to church by Father's Day.

High school and college graduates will be recognized on Sunday, June 2 at Red Oak Baptist Church during the morning worship at 11 a.m.

Be sure to sign up your children for "SCUBA: diving to friendship with God" Vacation Bible School

June 23 - 27 at Red Oak Baptist Church. Preschool (3 years by January 1, 2024 - 5 years) through elementary (K - 5th grade) children are invited. There will be dinner each night at 5:30 p.m. with VBS beginning at 6 p.m. and concluding at 8:30 pm. You can sign up online at redoakbaptist.org. Sign up by June 1 to guarantee a VBS t-shirt. You can also sign up in the foyer of the Family Life Center.

Our sympathy to the family of Tilton May in their recent loss.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



The Town of Castalia hosted a National Day of Prayer Service last Thursday, May 2nd. Pictured above, members of the community join together for the service. Pictured right, Castalia Town Clerk Tracy Shearin reads scripture and prayer while Castalia Mayor James Alston stands behind her.

Contributed photos



CHURCH EVENTS CALENDAR

NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Nashville Baptist Church Womens' Bible Study is held every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. through May 28. The church is located at 512 E. Washington Street, Nashville.

ROCK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Women's Day will be held at Rock Hill Baptist church on May 26 at 11 a.m. Rev. Bertie Watson, associate pastor of Union Hill Baptist Church, will be the guest speaker. The church is located at 2553 West Old Spring Hope Rd., Nashville.

JOHNSON CHAPEL MBC

The 3rd Sunday worship service will be held May 19 at 10 a.m. Rev. Dr. Phillis Utley Mitchell, guest preacher, member of Victory Family International Church, Fayetteville, will bring the message. The 4th Sunday worship service will be held May 26 at 9 a.m. Sister LaDonna Battle, speaker (JC-MBC) will bring the message. The church is located at 317 Beauvue Rd., Elm City.

CASTALIA CHURCH OF GOD

Castalia Church of God will have a BBQ fundraiser 11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday, May 17. Take-out only. BBQ is \$10 per pound and slaw is \$4 per pint. Pick up at Castalia COG Family Life Center, 11072 Estelle St, Castalia. For information, contact castaliachurchog@gmail.com.

Deadline to submit calendar items is 10 a.m. on Monday

Submit your church news, announcements and photos!
news@nashvillegraphic.com

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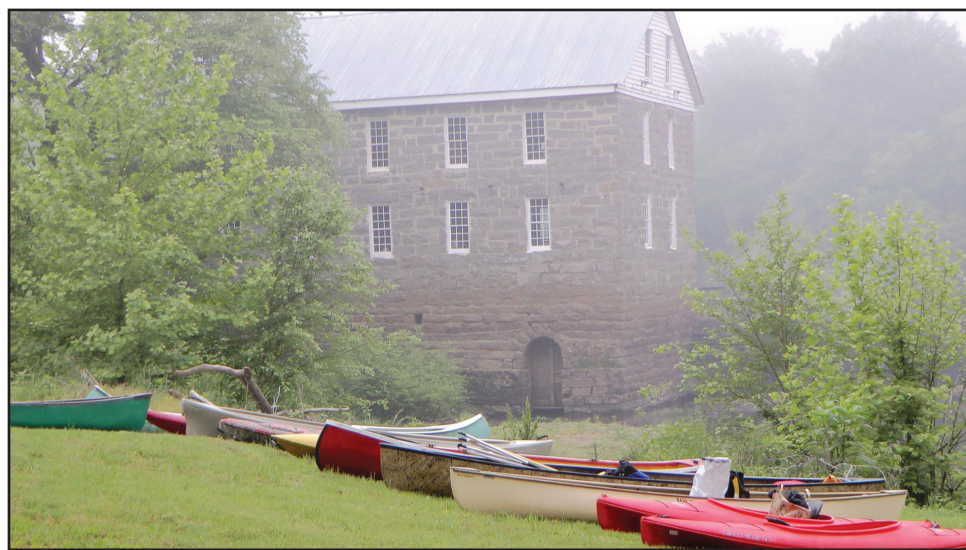
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The Annual Fishing Creek Paddle kicks off at Bellamy Mill at the dam on Fishing Creek in Enfield. Contributed photo

Fishing Creek Paddle event slated for Saturday, June 1st

On Saturday, June 1, Downtown Enfield Restoration & Preservation (DERP) will sponsor the Annual Fishing Creek Paddle. Registration for the Fishing Creek Paddle begins at 8:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. at Bellamy Mill.

Fishing Creek is the largest tributary of the Tar River and is located in Halifax County. The North Carolina Department of Water Quality documented that the "water quality in this rural subbasin is excellent" and "streams within the Fishing Creek Subbasin and associated riparian habitat support significantly rare fish, mussels, and plants in addition to the Tar spiny mussel and dwarf wedgemussel. Fishing Creek,

in particular, is a designated nationally significant aquatic natural heritage area."

The fun starts at Bellamy Mill at the dam on Fishing Creek in Enfield. Bellamy's Mill is on the National Register of Historic Places. Besides the mill's historic significance and natural beauty, it will also be the starting point and destination for the Paddle; the site where a complimentary picnic lunch will be served after the two and one-half hour paddle ends.

Drop off your kayaks at the put-in, located at a pastoral farm setting, located at 13688 NC 48, Whitakers between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. Then head to Bellamy's Mill, 3626 Bellamy's Mill Road, Whitakers, for registration.

Registration for the Annual Enfield Fishing Creek Paddle begins at 8 a.m. Refreshments will be served during registration. Push-off is at 9 a.m. Beginners are welcome. Planners state it's an easy navigation down Fishing Creek, where you will float down the creek with kayaks and canoes for two and one-half hours. The paddlers will then enjoy lunch and will be given their complimentary American-made gift. For tickets, go to the following website:

<https://derpfishingcreek-paddle.rsvpify.com/>

For more information call 252-445-5903 or visit DERP's website at www.derpserves.org.

Digital recycling event is May 21

Southern Bank and Kramden Institute will host a digital recycling event in downtown Rocky Mount on Tuesday, May 21. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Southern Bank's Business Center located at 100 N. Church Street in Rocky Mount.

The event provides a secure means for local businesses and individuals to recycle retired computer equipment and devices. Donated computer equipment is scrubbed of all data before being refurbished and donated to those in need in the community, including

students and low income adults who otherwise would have no access to computers or online resources.

Individuals and businesses can drive through to drop off personal or business computers, servers, LCD monitors, tablets, cell phones and peripherals such as a keyboard, mouse and power cords. The donation process only takes about three minutes.

For larger donations, Kramden offers scheduled on-site pickup service for businesses.

Items not accepted include CRT monitors, print-

ers, scanners, shredders, stereo speakers, household appliances, consumer electronics, lamps, or bulbs.

All computer devices are erased and repurposed by Kramden Institute of Durham. Kramden is a non-profit organization that provides training and affordable computers to students and low income adults across North Carolina. Kramden applies a DOD-certified 3-pass data wipe to all data-bearing devices. Donations are refurbished and benefit those in need first. The rest are sent for sales of parts or R2-certified recycling.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Calendar events must be submitted by 10 a.m. Monday for publication. Items accepted are events sponsored by not-for-profit organizations or free events. Mail to: Community Calendar c/o The Nashville Graphic, 203 W. Washington St. Nashville, NC 27856 or fax (252) 459-3052 or email to news@nashville-graphic.com. Please include a contact name and phone number.

MAY 17

A veteran's benefits information session will be held on May 17 at 11 a.m. at Harold D. Cooley Library, 114 W. Church St., Nashville.

MAY 21

Harold D. Cooley Library hosts LEGO Club for ages 6 and older the third Tuesday of the month from 4-5 p.m. Test your skills by free building or participating in a challenge build. The library is located at 114 W. Church St., Nashville. For more information call 252-459-2106.

MAY 24

The 11th anniversary H. Earl Coley Golf Classic will be held May 24 at North Green Country Club. The event will benefit the O.D. Moore Scholarship Foundation. To help sponsor or for more information call 252-469-9805, 252-469-1299, 301-873-8586, 919-672-0448 or email gmmfmoody@aol.com

MAY 27

The Joint Veterans Committee of Nash, Edgecombe and surrounding counties will host a Memorial Day ceremony at Jack Laughery Park, 321 N. Church St., in Rocky Mount on Monday, May 27, 2024, to remember our fallen heroes. The opening ceremony will begin promptly at 10 a.m. with the entrance of the Nash Central High School NJROTC. The American Flag will be

at the half-staff position honoring our fallen heroes. Col. Laurie M. Buckhout (U.S. Army retired) will be the key-note speaker. Sgt. Major Leo Nieves (USMC Ret.) will then perform a POW/MIA Fallen Comrades Ceremony followed by a Ceremonial rifle salute by the NJROTC and the playing of "Taps". The American flag will be raised to full staff at 12:00 noon. Everyone is encouraged to bring their lawn chairs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Legion Post 110 meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Nashville Community Building on S. Alston Street. For more information call 413-212-3117 or 252-908-2292

NC Reads at Braswell Memorial Library Feb. - June. For more information call 252-442-1951 ext. 851.

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) diet class will meet weekly at Oak Level Baptist Church on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. For more info call Bobby Catlett 904-0931.

Nash County Pet Connection Center



The shelter is open Mon. - Fri. 1-4 p.m. 3600 Eastern Ave. Rocky Mount 252-459-9855



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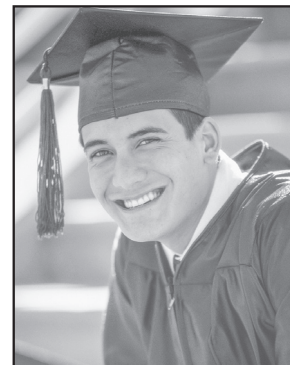
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\$15 AD
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Class of 2024

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Photos can be picked-up after the ad appears in the paper. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want photos mailed back to you. You may email your photo and form, call (252) 459-7101 for information.

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NASH COUNTY DEED TRANSFERS

Brian Frantz and Jennifer M. Frantz to Brian Keith Creech; Windchase Subdivision, Block A, Lot 6

Nuview Trust Co. Custodian FBO Amanda Watkins IRA and Nuview Trust Co./ Cust Amanda Watkins IRA #2026175 and Amanda Watkins to Everly Mae Real Estate Fund, LLC; 832 Russell Street, Rocky Mount

American Esquire Trust and Bethany Humphries to Everly Mae Real Estate Fund, LLC; 832 Russell Street, Rocky Mount

Troy V. Davis to Afreshnewstart, LLC; 616 Starling Way, Rocky Mount

The Davis Property Group, LLC to Afreshnewstart, LLC; 517 Lark Lane, Rocky Mount

Andrew Webb, Andrew K. Webb, Jessica Webb and Jessica Renee Webb to Deborah Terry Gibson; lots 1 and 2; \$237,000

G. Kenneth Dozier, George Kenneth Dozier, Martha Rebecca Barnhill Dozier to City of Rocky Mount; 1.37 acres

Kevin Bruce Dozier Discretionary Trust, Kevin Bruce Dozier, Martha Rebecca Barnhill Dozier and G. Kenneth Dozier to City of Rocky Mount; property on Dozier Road

Kevin Bruce Dozier Discretionary Trust, Kevin Bruce Dozier, Martha Rebecca Barnhill Dozier and G. Kenneth Dozier to City of Rocky Mount; 11.96 acres

Jennifer P. Walker to NDW Investments Firm, LLC; 3405 Brookview Drive, Rocky Mount; \$190,000

Adams Homes AEC, LLC to Phoebe Trenace Cannady; 9309 Whitley Road, Bailey;

\$340,000

C.A. Gardner Jr., Clifton A. Gardner Jr., Clifton Augustus Gardner Jr., Iva G. Winstead, Iva Elizabeth Winstead and Iva Elizabeth Gardner Winstead to City of Rocky Mount; property north of Arrow Road

C.A. Gardner Jr., Clifton A. Gardner Jr., Clifton Augustus Gardner Jr., H. Brent Bass and Harold Brent Bass to City of Rocky Mount; 64.96 acres

Brandon Douglass Cone to Christopher Gupton and Olivia Goodman; 4357 Mitchell Road, Middlesex; \$165,000

German Reyes and German Reyes Rodriguez to Samuel Torres Andon, Ann Isabel Narvaez Aldana and Ana Isabel Narvaez Aldana; property in Nash County

Ricks Properties of North Carolina, LLC to Catherine Courtney Bondy Ferguson and Tyler Bradley Ferguson; Section 1, Northgreen Village, Part 6, Lot 285

Rogelio Mayorido Jimenez to Rogelio Mayorido Jimenez and Sayda A. Alvarez Lopez; Section II, Benbrook Section II, Block G, Lot 7

Eddie Walker, Eddie Lee Walker, Pamela Walker and Christie Walker to Emanuel Zavalza Lepe and Blanca Elba Barrios Salgado; 12730 South Street; \$23,000

Eddie Walker, Eddie Lee Walker, Pamela Walker and Christie Walker to Emanuel Zavalza Lepe and Blanca Elba Barrios Salgado; Bloomer Hill, Lot 29-C; \$23,000

Kief Ridley and Yvette Ridley to Jeffrey William Ridley; Bissette Estates, Phase 2, Lot 2

Swane G. Holloman and Traci M. Holloman to Gray

Moss, LLC; 1362 First Street Extension, Nashville

RBD Investments, Inc. to Thomas H. Brock IV; .2494 acres in Nashville; \$306,000

LLG Trustee, LLC and Jennifer L. Cousino to Allied First Bank, SB, Servbank and Key Title; 404 East Washington Street, Nashville

Starlight Homes North Carolina, LLC to Kathryn A. Felton; Bryson's Ridge, Phase 1, Lot 181; \$290,000

VGG Holdings, LLC to Omayra Beltran Rodriguez; 12670 West Hanes Avenue, Middlesex; \$317,500

Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC, Carlton L. Dalton and Billie A. Dalton to GSMS 2021-1 Trust and William R. Echols; 629 Arrington Avenue, Rocky Mount; \$54,000

Michael A. Forlenzo and Megan M. Forlenzo to Jessica Holcomb; 3424 New Haven Lane, Rocky Mount

Jo Anne Viverette Johnson, Sherri V. Debolt, William J. Viverette, Deborah Davis Viverette, Cynthia D. Viverette, Alicia W. Probasco, Scott Probasco, Sara Worrell-Berg, Sara Worrell Berg, Charles Berg, Jennifer Worrell, Paul Richard Whitley, Charles H. Whitley Jr., Vicki Whitley, Darrell S. Whitley, Mollie Whitley, Yvonne W. Jones, Calvin Jones, Debra Smith Daughtridge, Joseph Allan Daughtridge, Joni Lee Bynum, Paul Steven Daughtridge, Allison Proctor Daughtridge, Mary Daughtridge Edwards and Steven Matthews Edwards Jr. To New Sion, LLC; 52.7 acres

Patricia Ann Tyson Carpenter to Zollie Lee Carpenter Jr. and Gloria Casper Carpenter; 2002 Sandy Cross Road, Nashville

Larry Allen Hyde to Richard Adam Williams; 106 South Boddie Street Street and 112 South Boddie Street, Nashville; \$24,500

Steve A. Moss and Phyllis H. Moss to Peggy M. Smith; 4531 Reams Road, Spring Hope; \$90,000

Prime 1 Builders, LLC to Town of Nashville; 1.127 acres and 2.094 acres on Cooke Road

Haley Hinnant Jr. and Geraldine H. Hinnant to Sallie M. Grimes; Lot 2

David Baker, David R. Baker, Brenda Baker, Brenda M. Baker and Anthony David Baker to Michael Thomas Petruny and Emily Christine Leupp Petruny; Whitley Crossing, Phase 2, Lot 22; \$325,000

Hilda Rae W. Manning to David Nelus Manning III; 35.51 acres in Ferrells Township

Jasper L. Anstead, Jasper Anstead, Bertha Anstead and Mary Anstead Wiggins to Jasper Anstead and Mary Anstead Wiggins; .83 acres

Matt S. Maclean, Matthew Scott Maclean and Sandi Lee Maclean to Ethan Thomas Ghiloni; Beaver Creek, Phase 1-B, Lot 15; \$343,000

Kathy Farmer, Kathy K. Farmer and Aubrey Farmer to Jennifer Farmer Pittman and Roger Derrick Pittman; property in Mannings Township

Rainwater Limited Liability Co. to Courtney S. Taylor and Zachary W. Taylor; Beaver Creek, Phase 5A, Lot 57; \$349,000

Triangle Homes and Rehab, Inc. to Jonathan Tomas Castro and Berenice Villa Rosendo; 5230 Nancy's Way, Rocky Mount; \$200,000

Logan E. Varnell, Logan Elliot Varnell, Micah Varnell and Micah Lee Varnell to David Wayne Griffin and Morgan Blair Griffin; White Oak Ridge, Lot 9; \$295,000

Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC, Johnny Raffeo ad Bethany Raffeo to Adam Alle and James E. Cross Jr.; 7037 Little Creek Road, Zebulon

Richard A. French and Alicia O. French to Richard A. French, Richard Anthony French and Alicia O. French; 48.66 acres and .52 acres

Glen Yasser to Ashley Lauren Yasser; 9575 Cedar Grove School Loop Road, Nashville

Clay T. Strickland Revocable Declaration of Trust, Clay T. Strickland, Cindy S. Joyner and Cathy S. Barnes to Cindy S. Joyner; .036 acres

Dennis M. Joyner and Cindy S. Joyner to Seth Joseph Joyner; 3.669 acres

Heritage Development, LLC to RTV Holdings, LLC; New South Development Company, Block M, Lots 11-12

Darius D. Ellis to Prestige Home Solutions, LLC; Lot 7, Salemwoods, Phase 1; \$110,000

Armaney L. Richardson and Charles M. Peterson to RTP Trust and Giliistine Todd Richardson; property in Castalia Township

Patricia Tarbell to Patricia Tarbell and Judith P. Bailey; Lot 2

Thomas J. Kennedy and Gennette V. Kennedy to Terry

Daniel Kennedy; 2151 Joelene Drive, Rocky Mount

Carolyn L. Livingston, Carolyn L. Tucker, Carolyn Vernella Lynch and Jerry A Livingston to Jose Trinidad Cardenas Islas; 13097 NC Highway 43, Nashville; \$56,000

Nash Horizon, LLC to POP Homes-RDU, LLC; Baker Farm, Lots 17, 18, 39,40 and 56; \$200,000

Glen H. Tellefsen and Courtney L. Tellefsen to Timothy R. Mills II; 27 1/2 acres, 24 acres and 32 acres; \$194,000

Barbara Swinson Burch and Jonathan Swinson Burch to William Mark Wooten and Casey Ann Wester; 1537 Sarah Ruppert Road, Nashville; \$385,000

Brenda M. Seagroves to Dana Turner and Michael Gwin Turner Jr.; Section 4, Western Hills Subdivision, Lot 7

Charles J. Bunn III to Red Oak Farms Development, LLC; The Farm at Red Oak Phase I, Lot 12

Eva B. Luper to Jutison Brian Crumpler; 4.67 acres

Stephanie Cooper to Fred A. Stanley and Tanya Shaw Hales; Section 4, Englewood, Block FF, Lots 1-2; \$220,000

J&W Development of Nash, LLC to Charles Bunn III; Red Oak Farms Development, Lot 2; \$475,000

New Village, LLC to Kelvin Gittens and Leticia Gittens; property in Rocky Mount; \$8,000

Janice M. Jones and Brenda Lynette Arrington to Janice M. Jones and Brenda Lynette Arrington; 13695 Watson Seed Farm Road, Whitakers

NC Wesleyan University announces three new scholarships



Judith Vilagos Parsons shakes hands with NCUW President Dr. Evan Duff after establishing a scholarship at NCUW in memory of her husband Howard Parsons. Contributed photo



Keiya Fields McKoy (left) and Denikee Fields Davis established a scholarship at NCUW in memory of their mother, Gail B. Fields. Contributed photo



Charles Randall Ranke (left) is pictured with his son, Stephen Ranke, Infrastructure and Systems Administrator with NCUW. Stephen Ranke has established a scholarship at NCUW in memory of his father. Contributed photo

ROCKY MOUNT – North Carolina Wesleyan University (NCWU) has announced three new scholarships that will accept applications starting Fall 2024.

Each scholarship was generously offered in memory of a loved one and aligns with Wesleyan's beliefs of being personal, practical, and purpose-driven.

The Charles Randall Ranke Scholarship is an annual scholarship established by Stephen Ranke (Infrastructure and Systems Administrator with NCUW), in memory of his father, Charles Randall Ranke.

Charles Randall Ranke was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, and an Eagle Scout with the B.S.A. The scholarship will be available to any student with preference given to an Eagle or Gold Scout with the next consideration being any Veteran student. The student must be of good character, remain in good standing with the University, maintain an overall 2.5 GPA and have a financial need. In the event no student meets the aforementioned preference, it will be awarded to a worthy student according to the Universities' general

financial aid criteria. This will become available Fall 2025.

Gail B. Fields Annual Scholarship is established by Keiya Fields McKoy and Denikee Fields Davis (Student Affairs Administrative Assistant for Wesleyan) in memory of their mother. Gail Fields was not only Wesleyan's loyal and dedicated receptionist, but friend and family. The scholarship is open to students majoring in Religious Studies to fund research, tuition, and educational expenses in furtherance of their degree. The recipient should be a sophomore, junior, or senior with a GPA of 2.5 or greater. Student selection will be determined by the Financial Aid Office and the Religious Studies Department.

Howard Parsons Biomedical Endowed Scholarship is established by Judith Vilagos Parsons '75 in memory of her husband, Howard T. Parsons '74. Judith Parsons established an annual scholarship in 2022 that honored her late husband, but she wanted a scholarship that would remain even after her memory. Mrs. Parsons shares, "The quest

for knowledge is a lifelong pursuit and for Howard and me, Wesleyan was pivotal in shaping not only our lives and careers, but also our understanding of how we can best serve others. Our hope is that this gift will assist students in their own journeys, and allow the same wonderful experience of learning Wesleyan provided us." Primary consideration will be given to Biomedical Science students or other areas of science to fund research, tuition, and educational expenses in furtherance of their degree. Scholarship recipients will be selected by the Biomedical Science faculty, with preference given to those who would most benefit academically and financially. Recipients must be a U.S. citizen of good character, remain in good standing with the University, maintain a minimum of 3.0 GPA in the sciences and 2.5 overall GPA.

For more information about Wesleyan's scholarship opportunities, visit <https://ncwu.edu/scholarships/> or information about donating for a cause you are passionate about, visit <https://ncwu.edu/give/>.

NASH COUNTY BUILDING PERMITS

New single family dwelling; 7586 Michelle Rd., Rocky Mount; D.R. Horton Inc.; \$155,020

New single family dwelling; 7614 NC 56, Castalia; Adam Schroeder; \$300,000

Renovation/alteration; 968 Aventon Gin Rd., Whitakers; Gara Fluitt; \$20,000

Renovation/alteration; 2930 Peachtree Hills Rd., Spring Hope; Tony Shearin; \$1,000

Multi-sectional; 4815 Mike Lane, Nashville; Adam Williams; \$60,000

Multi-sectional; 6525 Little Creek Rd., Zebulon; Debbie Cummins; \$200,000

Addition (covered); 2508 Derby Dr., Rocky Mount; Wilson Taylor; \$45,000

Multi-sectional; 4810 Mike Lane; Nashville; Adam Williams; \$60,000

Singlewide; 5761 Frazier Rd., Spring Hope; Chris May; \$105,000

Miscellaneous; 120 W. Washington St., Nashville; Lisa and James Sargent; 0.00

Detached accessory structure; 12296 W. NC 97, Middlesex; Sandra Lowman; \$15,000

Singlewide; 5841 Redman Rd., Rocky Mount; Claude's Construction, Inc.; \$20,000

New single family dwelling; 2420 Heartland Rd., Battleboro; Dean Holland; \$240,000

Singlewide; 5059 Needham Rd., Bailey; Randy Glover; \$4,000

New construction commercial; 530 N. Old Carriage Rd., Rocky Mount; \$35,587

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Notices

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD- every effort is made to avoid errors in advertisements. Each ad is carefully checked and proofread. The Nashville Graphic asks that you check your ad carefully and in the event there is an error, report it immediately to our Classified Department by calling (252)459-7101. The Nashville Graphic will accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion at the time we are notified of the error and will reprint the correct version once without additional charge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The Nashville Graphic would like to acknowledge area resident's birthdays. To see that your birthday - or that of a loved one or friend - is acknowledged by The Nashville Graphic, mail a postcard to: The Nashville Graphic "Birthday" 203 W. Washington Street Nashville, N.C. 27856 Be sure to include the birthday honoree's name, city or town of residence and birth date. **NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.**

TO ADVERTISE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS Call 252-459-7101 or email classifieds@nashvillegraphic.com The Nashville Graphic

Notices

NOTICE TO READERS

The Nashville Graphic scans all classified ads, but we advise our readers to investigate any company asking for money to be mailed in advance. Companies asking you to dial "900" prefix phone numbers are asking you to pay for the call amounting to a per call cost or minute cost. Any ad with the "Get Rich Quick" sound should be checked into.

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The Nashville Graphic Classified

advertising deadlines: Friday, 12 noon for the Next Thursday Edition.

The Nashville Graphic Legal

Advertising Deadlines: Friday, 12 noon for the Next Thursday Edition

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P/T MAINTENANCE - accepting letters of interest for mature, reliable person with basic maintenance repair knowledge to work 15 hrs/wk, starting at \$17/hr, at Sedgewood Apartments in Winton. Duties include routine & preventative maintenance, as well as preparing vacant units within company timelines. Must furnish hand tools, have reliable transportation, and must be on call for emergencies and special projects. Credit and criminal checks required. Please email letter of interest to Sshaw@partnershipm.com. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Real Estate for Sale

1 ACRE LOTS FOR SALE

\$25,000.00 Lonesome Pine Acres on Lonesome Pine Road (Whitakers) 252-567-5401

LEGALS

Legals

NOTICE OF PROCEEDING AND SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF NASH IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE FILE NO. 24-JA16

IN RE: Easton Edwards A Minor Child, DOB: 08-23-2021

Abused, Neglected, and Dependent Juvenile

To: Shannon Edwards and Blake Edwards

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, In Re: Easton Edwards (DOB: 08-23-2021). A juvenile petition alleging that the minor child is a neglected and/or dependent juvenile has been filed pursuant to N.C.G.S. §7B-402. The Nash County Department of Social Services will be requesting that the Court adjudicate the minor child as being neglected and dependent. If the Court determines that the allegations of the petition are true, the Court will conduct a dispositional hearing and enter an order designed to meet those needs and the objective of the State. The Court may order the parent to pay child support if custody is placed with someone other than the parent. The dispositional order or subsequent orders may remove the juvenile from the custody of the parent, guardian, or custodian. It may order the parent to pay for treatment for the juvenile or parent and it may, upon proper notice and hearing and a finding based on the criteria set out in N.C.G.S. §7B-1111, terminate the parental rights of the respondent parent.

You are required to make a defense to such pleading not later than June 18, 2024, said date being forty (40) days from the publication of this notice, and upon failure to do so, the Nash County Department of Social Services, Petitioner, will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

You have the right to be represented by an attorney in this matter. Jayne B. Norwood is provisionally appointed to represent the mother and Audrey Cooper is provisionally appointed to represent the father. You should immediately contact the Nash County Juvenile Clerk of Court, Ms. April Mowatt at (252)220-3000 regarding the appointment of counsel. You have the right to attend all hearings in this matter.

Legals

This the 29th day of April, 2024

s/Nana Mahmoud
Nana Mahmoud, Staff Attorney
Nash County Department of Social Services
P. O. Drawer 819
Nashville, NC 27856
(252)459-1271

Publication Dates: May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

NORTH CAROLINA NASH COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION 22 SP 145

JAMES MICHAEL MURRAY and ARNOLD RAY EDWARDS, Petitioners vs.

MARSHA ELAINE EDWARDS PARKER, DORIS FAYE EDWARDS, and CRYSTAL EDWARDS KENNEDY, Guardian for Kenneth Murray Edwards, Respondents.

NOTICE OF SALE OF TIMBER (Sealed Bid Procedure)

TAKE NOTICE that under and by virtue of the Order for Sale of Timber entered on April 5, 2024 in this proceeding, the undersigned Commissioner is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of timber located upon the real property (Nash Co. PARCEL 026571) described as:

All that certain tract of land containing one hundred and thirty-six (136) acres, known as the "Mollie Lewis Home Place," in Jacksons Township, Nash County, North Carolina, located about one-half mile east of the public road leading from Spring Hope to Middlesex, by way of Bryant's Bridge, four miles south from Spring Hope, North Carolina, on the waters of Tar River, and now in the possession of Mollie Lewis, bounded on the North by a small branch and Strickland's Spring Branch; on the East by Tar River; on the West by the lands of Dr. J. C. Brantley and J. N. Bergeron; on the South by the lands of Mrs. W. T. Baines. Said tract of land is particularly described according to a plat prepared by Jos. T. Insoe, Surveyor, on the 8th day of August, A. D., 1933, as follows, to wit:

Beginning at a holly pointer on Tar River, corner for Mrs. W. T. Baines; thence along the line of Mrs. W. T. Baines South 70 degrees West 3597 feet to a stake in Dr J. C. Brantley's line; thence along the line of Dr. J. C. Brantley and the line of J. N. Bergeron North 4 degrees 30 minutes East 2218 feet to a sweetgum on a small branch J. N. Bergeron's corner; thence down said branch and Strickland's Spring Branch as they meander the Tar River; (A straight line connecting these points in North 87 degrees 30 minutes East 3100 feet.) thence down Tar River South 4 degrees east 1100 feet to the beginning, and being the identical tract of land conveyed to Mollie Lewis by W. T. Baines and wife by deed recorded in book 140, page 395, Nash County Registry.

Date on which Sealed Bids will first be accepted. **May 20th, 2024**

Address at which Sealed Bids to be submitted: P. O. Box 8296, Wilson, NC 27893; Or: rnr@narronholdford.com; Or: 252-291-9846 (fax)

Manner and form in which Sealed Bids submitted: First Class Mail, email or facsimile

Legals

Time and Place Sealed Bids opened: May 31, 2024 at 2:00 PM 212 W. Church St., Nashville NC

Minimum No. Bids required: Three (3) Bids

If you are interested in placing a bid on this timber, your sealed bid must be submitted in writing to the undersigned Commissioner in writing, on or before May 31, 2024: Robert Rountree, Commissioner, Post Office Box 8296, Wilson, North Carolina 27893, or alternately, by email at rnr@narronholdford.com, or by facsimile at 252-291-9846.

Except as noted above, the timber to be offered pursuant to this Notice Of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS". Except as noted below, the Commissioner makes no representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property upon which the timer is situate, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed.

This sale of timber shall be subject to the requirements of N.C.G.S. §1-339.13A; this Notice and any Report of Sale will be reviewed by the Nash County Clerk of Superior Court for compliance with statutory requirements. This the 8th day of May, 2024.

Robert Rountree, Commissioner NARRON & HOLDFORD, P.A. P. O. Drawer 279 Wilson, NC 27894-0279 Telephone: (252) 237-3153 Fax: (252) 243-1733

Publication Dates: May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Town Board Meeting

Town of Momeyer

The Town of Momeyer's scheduled board meeting on June 10th, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Town Hall has been rescheduled to June 3rd, 2024 at 9:00 am.

Publication Dates: May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

Foreclosures

22 SP 38

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NORTH CAROLINA, NASH COUNTY

Under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed by Lamia Jackson Langley to TRSTE, Inc., Trustee(s), which was dated May 25, 2005 and recorded on June 17, 2005 in Book 2150 at Page 39, Nash County Registry, North Carolina.

Default having been made of the note thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC, having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust, and the holder of the note evidencing said default having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door of the county courthouse where the property is located, or the usual and customary location at the county courthouse for conducting the sale on **May 29, 2024 at 01:30 PM**, and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described property

Foreclosures

situated in Nash County, North Carolina, to wit:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE CITY OF NASHVILLE IN THE COUNTY OF NASH AND STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND BEING DESCRIBED IN A DEED DATED 05/14/1993 AND RECORDED 05/26/1993 IN BOOK 1411 PAGE 582 AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF THE COUNTY AND STATE SET FORTH ABOVE AND REFERENCED AS FOLLOWS:

LOT 7, BLOCK C, SUNNYFIELD SUB-DIVISION, PLAT BOOK 11, PAGE 176.

Save and except any releases, deeds of release or prior conveyances of record.

Said property is commonly known as 2284 Barnes Ct, Nashville, NC 27856.

A certified check only (no personal checks) of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale. Following the expiration of the statutory upset bid period, all the remaining amounts are immediately due and owing. THIRD PARTY PURCHASERS MUST PAY THE EXCISE TAX AND THE RECORDING COSTS FOR THEIR DEED.

Said property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS WHERE IS." There are no representations of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale. Substitute Trustee does not have possession of the property and cannot grant access, prior to or after the sale, for purposes of inspection and/or appraisal. This sale is made subject to all prior liens, unpaid taxes, any unpaid land transfer taxes, special assessments, easements, rights of way, deeds of release, and any other encumbrances or exceptions of record. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the current owner(s) of the property is/are Ricky D. Langley, Jr. and wife, Stacey B. Langley.

An Order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgage has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination [NCGS § 45-21.16A(b)(2)]. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

If the trustee is unable to convey title

Foreclosures

to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in their sole discretion, if they believe the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy.

Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC Substitute Trustee Brock & Scott, PLLC Attorneys for Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC 5431 Oleander Drive Suite 200 Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (910) 392-4988

File No.: 22-02013-FC01

Publication Dates: May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

Estate Notices

File No. **23 E 661**

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Wallace H. Phillips** deceased, late of **Nash County**, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned at 913 West Haven Blvd, Rocky Mount, NC 27803 on or before August 9, 2024 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please settle immediately.

This the 9th day of May, 2024.

Barbara Ann Jones 913 West Haven Blvd Rocky Mount, NC 27803 Executrix of above named decedent.

Publication Dates: May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024

File No. **24 E 320**

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as Executor of the estate of **William Ronald Barnes** deceased, late of **Nash County**, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned at 108 Wildwood Ave, Rocky Mount, NC 27803 on or before August 16, 2024 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please settle immediately.

This the 16th day of May, 2024.

Russell Whitfield Barnes 108 Wildwood Ave Rocky Mount, NC 27803 Executor of above named decedent.

Publication Dates: May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024; June 6, 2024



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Estate Notices

File No. **2024 E 000309**

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of **William Reginald Morris** deceased, late of **Nash County**, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned at 20 Brooks Cove Rd, Black Mountain, NC 28711 on or before August 9, 2024 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please settle immediately.

This the 9th day of May, 2024.

Meagan Morris Barry
20 Brooks Cove Rd
Black Mountain, NC 28711
Administrator
of above named decedent.

Publication Dates: May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024

NORTH CAROLINA
NASH COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL
COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
BEFORE THE CLERK
23-E-477

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The undersigned, Kirkland Bass, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Steve Korol of Nash County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent, Steve Korol, to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of August, 2024, which said date is three months from the date of the first publication of this notice or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said decedent are requested to make immediate payment.

This, the 6 day of May, 2024.

Kirkland Bass, Administrator
Estate of Steve Korol, Deceased
PO Box 847
Nashville, NC 27856

Valentine, Adams, Lewis,
Bass & Webb, LLP
Attorneys at Law
P. O. Box 847
Nashville, North Carolina 27856
Telephone: (252) 459-1111
Fax: (252) 459-1112

Publication Dates: May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024; June 6, 2024

File No. **2023 E 000514**

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of **Portia Mingia** deceased, late of **Nash County**, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned at 1133 N Hwy 581, Spring Hope, NC 27882 on or before August 9, 2024 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please settle immediately.

This the 9th day of May, 2024.

Darian Jordan Mingia
1133 N Hwy 581
Spring Hope, NC 27882
Administrator
of above named decedent.

Publication Dates: May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024

The Nashville Graphic
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Next Thursday Edition

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NASH

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Gail Ann Hightower, deceased, late of Nash County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all parties having claims of whatsoever nature against the said Gail Ann Hightower deceased, to exhibit the same to the said Administrator, c/o Nick L. Corn IV, P.O. Box 7100, Rocky Mount, NC 27804-0100, on or before 8/1/2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All parties indebted to the said decedent are hereby notified to pay said indebtedness to the undersigned at said address.

This 25th day of April, 2024.

Owen Hightower
Administrator of the Estate of
Gail Ann Hightower
P. O. Box 7100
Rocky Mount, NC 27804-0100

Nick L. Corn IV
Battle, Winslow, Scott & Wiley, P.A.
Attorneys for the Estate of
Gail Ann Hightower
P.O. Box 7100
Rocky Mount, NC 27804-0100

Publication Dates: April 25, 2024; May 2, 2024; May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024.

Estate Notices

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NASH

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Martha G. Buchanan Molder of Nash County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent, Martha G. Buchanan Molder, to exhibit the same to the undersigned Executor on or before the 2nd day of August, 2024 which said date is three months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said decedent are requested to make immediate payment.

This the 2nd day of May, 2024.

GREGORY T. MOLDER
4279 MAIN ROAD WEST
EMMAUS, PA 18049
EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF
MARTHA G. BUCHANAN MOLDER

BATTS, BATTS & BELL, L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
P. O. DRAWER 8228
103 CANDLEWOOD ROAD
ROCKY MOUNT,
NORTH CAROLINA 27804-1228
TELEPHONE: (252) 977-6450

Publication Dates: May 2, 2024; May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

NORTH CAROLINA

NASH COUNTY

CREDITOR'S NOTICE

The undersigned, having qualified as the Administrator CTA of the Estate of Gertie Rodgers Lewis, late of Nash County, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of August, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 9th of May, 2024.

Robert D. Kornegay, Jr.,
Administrator CTA of The Estate of
Gertie Rodgers Lewis
Nash County, 24-E-308
c/o Robert D. Kornegay, Jr., PLLC
P.O. Box 7845
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
Telephone: (252) 442-8037

Publication Dates: May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024

North Carolina
Nash County

Notice to Creditors

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Jonathan Fredrick Hayden, deceased, late of Nash County, hereby notifies all persons having claims against the said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the August 16, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Dated this 16th day of May, 2024.

Jeffrey Joseph Hayden,
Administrator Estate of
Jonathan Fredrick Hayden
Post Office Box 757
Nashville, North Carolina 27856

Mark E. Edwards, Esq.
Fields & Cooper, PLLC
P. O. Box 757
Nashville, NC 27856

Publication Dates: May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024; June 6, 2024

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NORTH CAROLINA
NASH COUNTY

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

The undersigned, having qualified as the Executrix of the Estate of Linda S. Hall, late of Nash County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned, on or before August 8, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 2nd day of May, 2024.

Gayle S. Henry, Executrix of the
Estate of Linda S. Hall
409 Mayfair Drive
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Thomas W. King

Estate Notices

Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 7805
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
(252) 443-0113

Publication Dates: May 2, 2024; May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as administratrix of the estate of Kay Hutto Hill, late of Nash County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 859 Live Oak Lane, Nashville, North Carolina 27856 on or before August 23, 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 16th day of May, 2024

Jennifer Taylor Wells
Administratrix of Estate of
Kay Hutto Hill
859 Live Oak Lane
Nashville, NC 27856

Fields & Cooper, PLLC
Attorneys at Law
PO Box 4538
Rocky Mount, NC 27803

Publication Dates: May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024; June 6, 2024

NORTH CAROLINA
NASH COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL
COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
BEFORE THE CLERK
16-E-684

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The undersigned, Kirkland Bass, having qualified as Public Administrator of the Estate of Edna Lassiter, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent, Edna Lassiter, to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 31st day of July, 2024, which said date is three months from the date of the first publication of this notice or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said decedent are requested to make immediate payment.

This, the 17 day of April 2024.

Kirkland Bass, Public Administrator
Estate of Edna Lassiter, Deceased
PO Box 847
Nashville, NC 27856

Valentine, Adams, Lewis,
Bass & Webb, LLP
Attorneys at Law
P. O. Box 847
Nashville, North Carolina 27856
Telephone: (252) 459-1111
Fax: (252) 459-1112

Publication Dates: May 2, 2024; May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

North Carolina

Nash County

Notice to Creditors

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Melvin Ray Edwards, deceased, late of Nash County, hereby notifies all persons having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned, on or before the 26th day of July, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2024.

Lois Jean Edwards, Executor
Estate of **Melvin Ray Edwards**
Fields & Cooper, PLLC
Post Office Box 757
Nashville, North Carolina 27856

Publication Dates: April 25, 2024; May 2, 2024; May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024

NORTH CAROLINA

NASH COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, having qualified on February 29, 2024, as Executor of the Estate of Stephen Wilson Raper a/k/a Steve Raper, deceased, of Nash County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of July, 2024 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 25th day of April, 2024.

Robert W. Turney, Executor of the
Estate of Stephen Wilson Raper a/k/a
Steve Raper
PO Box 51579
Durham, NC 27717

Jason E. Spain, Attorney
Kennon Craver, PLLC
4011 University Drive, Suite 300
Durham, North Carolina 27707

Estate Notices

The Nashville Graphic: 4/25/2024,
5/2/2024, 5/9/2024, and 5/16/2024

File No. **23 E 783**

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as Executrix of the estate of **Raleigh Evans Jr.** deceased, late of **Nash County**, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned at 1005 Sycamore Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27801 on or before August 2, 2024 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please settle immediately.

This the 2nd day of May, 2024.

Rosalind J. Evans
1005 Sycamore Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27801
Executrix
of above named decedent.

Publication Dates: May 2, 2024; May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

NOTICE

Having qualified as the Executor of the Estate of Mark Edward Levin of Nash County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of Mark Edward Levin to present them to the undersigned on or before August 2, 2024 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.

Matthew J. Levin
Executor
C/o Julie T. Williams,
Attorney for the Estate
Farris & Thomas Law, P.A.
P.O. Box 2848
Wilson, NC 27894-2848
Telephone: (252) 243-3000

Publication Dates: May 2, 2024; May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

NORTH CAROLINA
NASH COUNTY

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Earlean Richardson Foreman, deceased, late of Nash County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned or undersigned attorney on or before the 31st day of July, 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned or undersigned attorney.

Mamie Lee Washington
Executor of the Estate of
Earlean Richardson Foreman
7796 US HWY 56 W
Castalia, NC 27816

Tia Hudgins Taylor
Lassiter & Sperati, PLLC
P. O. Box 4307
Rocky Mount, NC 27803
Telephone: (252) 977-1050

Publication Dates: May 2, 2024; May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NASH

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Melvin Jobe Warner Jr. (aka M. Jobe Warner Jr; M. Joe Warner Jr.), deceased, late of Nash County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all parties having claims of whatsoever nature against the said Melvin Jobe Warner Jr. (aka M. Jobe Warner Jr; M. Joe Warner Jr.) deceased, to exhibit the same to the said Executor, c/o Michael D. Gaynor, P.O. Box 7100, Rocky Mount, NC 27804-

Estate Notices

0100, on or before 7/23/2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All parties indebted to the said decedent are hereby notified to pay said indebtedness to the undersigned at said address.

This 25th day of April, 2024.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Executor of the Estate of
Melvin Jobe Warner Jr. (aka M. Jobe
Warner Jr; M. Joe Warner Jr.)
P.O. Box 7100
Rocky Mount, NC 27804-0100

Michael D. Gaynor
Battle, Winslow, Scott & Wiley, P.A.
Attorneys for the Estate of
Melvin Jobe Warner Jr. (aka M. Jobe
Warner Jr; M. Joe Warner Jr.)
P.O. Box 7100
Rocky Mount, NC 27804-0100

Publication Dates: April 25, 2024; May 2, 2024; May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF NASH

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of William D. Etheridge, deceased, late of Nash County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all parties having claims of whatsoever nature against the said William D. Etheridge, deceased, to exhibit the same to the said Executor, c/o Randall B. Pridgen, P. O. Box 8385, Rocky Mount, NC 27804, on or before August 12, 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All parties indebted to the said deceased are hereby notified to pay said indebtedness to the undersigned at said address.

This 9th day of May, 2024.

GINNY A. ETHERIDGE, Executor
of the Estate of William D. Etheridge
7298 Billy Buck Lane
Rocky Mount, NC 27803

Randall B. Pridgen
Randall B. Pridgen, PLLC
Attorney for the Estate of
William D. Etheridge
101 Candlewood Road
P. O. Box 8385
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Publication Dates: May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA NASH COUNTY

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Hilda House Soden deceased, late of Nash County, North Carolina, (Nash County File No. 24-E-282) the undersigned does hereby notify all parties having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before August 1, 2024 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All parties indebted to the said estate are hereby notified to make immediate payment to the undersigned at the same address.

This the 22nd day of April, 2024.

Randy M. Neville, Executor
Michael P. Murphy, Attorney
P.O. Box 8738
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Publication Dates: May 2, 2024; May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

NORTH CAROLINA
NASH COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL
COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
BEFORE THE CLERK
24-E-81

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The undersigned, Kirkland Bass, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Thomas L. Arrington Jr. of Nash County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent, Thomas L. Arrington Jr., to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of August, 2024, which said date is three months from the date of the first publication of this notice or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said decedent are requested to make immediate payment.

This, the 2 day of May, 2024.

Kirkland Bass, Administrator
Estate of Thomas L. Arrington Jr.,
Deceased
PO Box 847
Nashville, NC 27856

Valentine, Adams, Lewis,
Bass & Webb, LLP
Attorneys at Law
P. O. Box 847
Nashville, North Carolina 27856
Telephone: (252) 459-1111
Fax: (252) 459-1112

Publication Dates: May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024; June 6, 2024

NORTH CAROLINA
NASH COUNTY

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

The undersigned, having qualified as the Executor of the Estate of Barbara Taylor Groome, late of Nash County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned, on or before August 8, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Thomas Hudson Groome,
Executor of the Estate of
Barbara Taylor Groome
407 S. Barrington Drive
Florence, SC 29501

Thomas W. King
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 7805
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
(252) 443-0113

Publication Dates: May 2, 2024; May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024

NORTH CAROLINA

NASH COUNTY

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

The undersigned, having qualified as the Executrix of the Estate of Geneva H. Mills, late of Nash County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned, on or before August 15, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 9th day of May, 2024.

Donella M. Lee, Executrix of the
Estate of Geneva H. Mills
2234 W. Castalia Road
Nashville, NC 27856

Thomas W. King
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 7805
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
(252) 443-0113

Publication Dates: May 9, 2024; May 16, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024



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