



Xfinity racing

Allmendinger drives to victory lane.

SPORTS, B1



Western Foothills

Conference has 5 teams among top 10 in west.

SPORTS, B1

Monday, March 27, 2023

hickoryrecord.com



ROBERT C. REED, RECORD

Tessa Bowman holds photos of her niece April Reid as she describes her concern about Reid's whereabouts. Lenoir Police Capt. Mark Barlowe looks on. Reid has been missing for two years.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Cheer for the upsets

Who doesn't love a sports underdog?

An underdog, by definition, is someone who is thought to have little chance of winning a competition or succeeding in an endeavor. I, like most people, love cheering for the underdogs. There have been scientific studies done on the psychology of it, but the general consensus is that people get more pleasure out of unexpected success than expected success.

I am one of those people for sure. I've spent a lifetime rooting for teams that are expected to lose. It's just an automatic reaction for me. When the Super Bowl rolls around and my favorite team isn't there, I will inevitably be drawn to cheer for the underdog. My favorite sports stories in general are all underdog stories. Nadia Comaneci's perfect 10 scores in the 1976 Olympics. The "Miracle on Ice" U.S. hockey victory over the Russians. The N.C. State Wolfpack's National Championship in 1983.

I watched with glee that year when the underestimated Wolfpack under the superb coaching of Jim Valvano upset a bigger, more powerful No. 1 ranked team from Houston that had been dubbed Phi Slama Jama. None of the pundits gave NC State a chance, but I was a child without a real understanding of how close to impossible it was for a No. 6 seed to win a national championship, and so I believed in them wholeheartedly.

This year's NCAA tournament was an exciting time filled

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CAMI HEPLER

Missing for 2 years

Lenoir police, aunt remain committed to finding April Reid

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April Reid, 38, of Lenoir, has been missing for two years.

Sgt. Stella January, who took over the case in July, said she longs to provide answers to Reid's family.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of April," January said as she held up a file that's 6 inches thick. January keeps the file in her desk. She said she looks through it at least once a week.

January said there is little evidence in Reid's disappearance. "It's been two years since April went missing," January said. "Two years of nothing."

When Reid was reported missing in 2021, Lenoir police searched her apartment. Nothing was found to suggest violence, January said.

Reid's information, including dental records, has been entered into the National Missing and

Unidentified Persons System. A DNA sample from Reid's sister was also submitted to the database, January said.

Tessa Bowman is Reid's aunt and the family member who reported Reid missing on May 20, 2021. The last time Reid was seen in the area was when she turned up on video at an ATM in Hickory. That was on Feb. 15, 2021, January said.

Reid was seen withdrawing money from the ATM. She was riding in a car with another person. The person and vehicle were identified, and authorities have determined the person is not linked to Reid's disappearance, January said.

The family told police the last time they communicated with

Please see MISSING, Page A3

Watch as Tessa Bowman talks about her niece April Reid's disappearance. To view the video, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. NEWSVU



PHOTO COURTESY OF TESSA BOWMAN

38-year-old Lenoir resident April Michelle Reid was last seen in February 2021. A \$1,000 reward is being offered for information leading to her location.

NOTABLE NEIGHBOR DAVID LASLEY

'I'll do whatever it takes to stay sober'

Former addict becomes substance abuse counselor in Newton

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David Lasley was once addicted to alcohol, heroin and cocaine. Now, he helps people overcome addictions.

Lasley has been a certified substance abuse counselor for 12 years at his family's business in Newton. DLA Counseling is located at 22 S. Main Ave.

DLA Counseling celebrated 30 years of business this year.

Lasley shared his story of sobriety and career as a counselor. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

What is DLA?

It is a family business. DLA stands for Doris Lasley and Associates. Doris, my mother, died in 2010. I wanted to streamline the name a little bit. Technically, it was Doris Lasley and Associates Substance Abuse Services. That's a bit of a mouthful, so I shorten it to DLA Counseling.

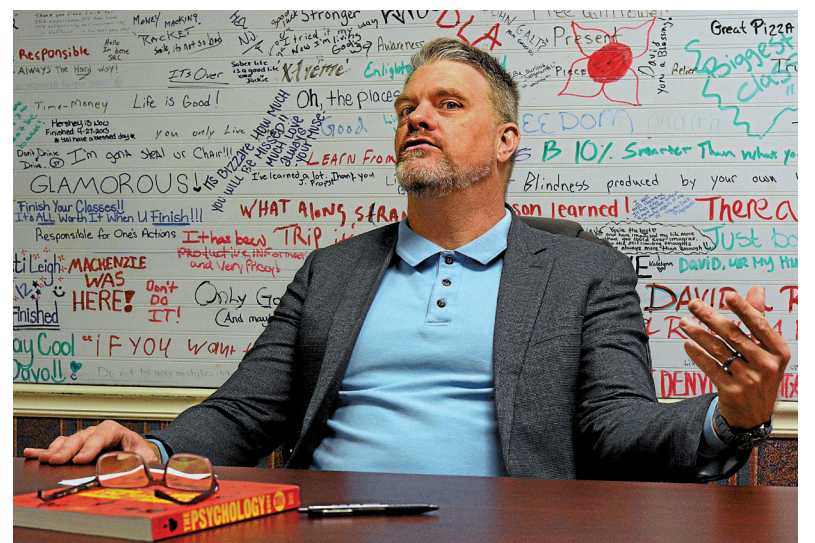
What led to your addiction?

I think generally what leads to addiction is less complicated

than people think. I think as you go along through life, somehow, somehow, you're introduced to some substance, alcohol usually, maybe other drugs.

If you try these things enough times, they start to take on power in your brain. That leads to addiction. I know that's simplistic but that's pretty much what happened to me. I had a loving family. They were prominent in recovery, my mom and dad. How does one sink into the dark depths that I did? You just do a thing you like it and it becomes dominant. The next thing you know it's got you.

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ROBERT C. REED, RECORD

David Lasley, substance abuse counselor, discusses how he took over the family counseling business after recovering from his own struggles with substance abuse. The wall behind him features quotes from his clients. Lasley said he encourages clients to write on the board after completing the recovery program.

Deaths • A7

John 'Cory' Vaughn Jr., 62
Kathy Lynn Owens, 68

Weather

Stray a.m. shower, breezy
High 79 • Low 49
FORECAST • B8

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