

# The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The second night of Winter Wonderland last Saturday saw much nicer weather than the first. Visitors to downtown Franklin were able to ride in a horse drawn carriage, visit with Olaf the Snowman and rub elbows with The Grinch while looking for bargains in downtown shops. Santa Claus roamed the streets with a willing ear to listen to children's wishes for Christmas. For more photos, see page 13.  
Photo by Betsey Gooder

## Board approves construction of 'sally port'

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

After Kaityln Fitzgibbons was given an active sentence in front of Superior Court Judge Bill Coward in Macon County, before being loaded on the detention center transport van, she was able to escape from a female detention officer and spent nearly 24 hours as a fugitive. Fitzgibbons was swiftly apprehended and received additional felony charges for the escape. After the incident, the urgency grew to further address the security of the Macon County Courthouse and a need for a "sally port" entrance for inmates.

"Since we first started looking at courthouse security, the first recommendation anyone has made is that we needed a sally port," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "It has always been



Macon County Commissioners voted to approve \$37,000 to construct a "sally port," a controlled entryway into and out of the courthouse through which to transport prisoners.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Holland said by constructing a sally port at the courthouse, an inmate will leave the jail in a secured vehicle from a sally port and will not exit the vehicle until safely in the sally port at the courthouse, cutting off access to the outside world.

on the top of our priority list. Knowing the Space Needs Analysis was being conducted, we elected to hold off on the construction while we waited for the outcome of that study. However, with the recent incident, it's not something that can wait any longer."

A sally port is a secure, controlled entryway to a fortification or prison. The Macon County Detention Center has a sally port where transport vans or law enforcement park when transporting inmates to and from the jail. Sheriff

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# Bradley files to run for commissioner

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

Filing for the 2020 election is in full swing, with two seats on the Macon County Board of Commissioners on the ballot. The District II seat currently held by Karl Gillespie will be open, as Gillespie has filed to seek state office for District 120 of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Terry Bradley filed for the District II seat on Tuesday. Bradley has a lifetime career in law enforcement and currently works for the Macon County Sheriff's Office. If elected, Bradley plans to retire to commit full-time to the board of commissioners.

The District III county commissioner seat is also up for election and incumbent Paul Higdon has already filed for re-election. As of press time, no challengers have filed against Higdon.

The deadline for filing for the Board of Commissioners is Friday, Dec. 20 at noon. Those interested must file at the Macon County Board of Elections Office located at the Macon County Courthouse. The filing fee is \$106.26.

Residents who live outside of the city limits of Franklin and Highlands but within Macon County received a letter from the Board of Elections this week regarding the permanent early voting location change from the courthouse to the Robert C Carpenter Building.

The letter was originally mailed in September



**Terry Bradley filed on Tuesday to run for District II commissioners seat currently held by Karl Gillespie who has filed to run for N.C. House of Representatives.**

to the voters inside city limits who were eligible to vote in the Municipal Election on Nov. 5. This week, the same letter was mailed out to the remaining residents.

The primary election will be held in North Carolina on March 3, 2020, with the General Election occurring in November.

# SALLY PORT

Continued from page 1

Sheriff Holland said that since Fitzgibbons' escape, the detention center has transported more than 100 inmates to and from the courthouse, all of which used the same entrance and exit Fitzgibbons took advantage of during her escape. He said if the county waits until the budget planning process, the sheriff's office estimates 600 inmates will have been transported, each of which could be an opportunity for another escape attempt.

"Now that one inmate was able to do it, it is more likely that others may try the same thing," said Sheriff Holland. "We are also extremely lucky that we haven't had a more serious incident behind the courthouse. We transport inmates awaiting trial for murder, for child sex crimes, and other heinous crimes. It's a miracle a friend or family member of a victim hasn't been out back waiting for one of them to enter this courthouse."

Sheriff Holland informed commissioners that he received bids from five companies to construct a sally port behind the courthouse which ranged from

\$37,000 to close to \$60,000. Sheriff Holland recommended the county award the bid to the lowest bidder, which was Franklin Fence. For just under \$38,000 before taxes, Franklin Fence will construct a fence throughout the entirety of the parking lot adjacent to the courthouse. It will have a secured chainlink fence perimeter and door-only accessible by approved individuals.

The fence will be black chainlink, which is required based on the town's building codes. A wood fence was considered for aesthetic purposes, but it would be more difficult to construct and be able to meet the guidelines set forth by the town.

Sheriff Holland said that in the event that commissioners decide to construct a new jail or justice center down the road, which is recommended in the space needs analysis, the fencing could be preserved and moved easily.

On a motion made by Commissioner Gary Shields and seconded by Commissioner Paul Higdon, the board voted to approve the funding for immediate construction of the fencing. The project will be funded out of the county's fund balance as a one-time expenditure. Construction is expected to start immediately and be completed in about two weeks.

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# County presents service awards

Before focusing on regular business Tuesday night during the December meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners, county leaders recognized employees for their dedication to their jobs. Employees who have worked for the county for 10, 15, 20, and 25 years were recognized with plaques as a small token of appreciation. Commissioners Gary Shields and Ronnie Beale presented employees with their service awards.



25 year employees: (L-R) Don Willis, Robert Holland, and Lynn Wright.



20 year employees: Darlene Asher. Not pictured: Heather Belcher, Brian Burnette, David Gray, Tim Holland, and Lou Sharp.

Photos by  
Brittney Lofthouse



15 year employees: (L-R) Cabe, Sherri Hughes, Sharon Hunt, Mike Langley, Donna Murray, Leigh Tabor-Holbrooks; (back row) Joe Breedlove. Not pictured: Robert Young, Randy Brabson, Bob Crisp, and Barbara Kimsey.



10 year employees: (L-R) Jimmy Villard, MaryRita Tyson, Jason Brooks, and Stephanie Nichols. Not pictured: Tracy Giles-Sellino, David Ledbetter, Chris Owen, Kevin Sellers, and Amanda Blanton.

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# Clarification: Bank merger will not close the divestiture branches

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

Entegra Bank announced last week that part of a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the Department of Justice three branches of Entegra Bank will have to be sold. The three branches that will be sold as part of the agreement will be Holly Springs (30 Hyatt Road, Franklin), Highlands (473 Carolina Way, Highlands) and Sylva (498 East Main, Sylva).

While the branches are slated to be sold, they will remain open and operating as banking locations and all currently employees will continue to work at the same location. The three branches will be sold to an approved buyer, who will continue to operate the locations as a bank, just a different bank.

According to Entegra Bank CEO Roger Plemens, current banking customers who want to stay at their branches and switch banks to whomever purchases the three branches will not have to be transitions to First Citizens and then to the new buyer. Instead, the two transitions will occur simultaneously, allowing banking customers to either switch to First Citizens or whatever company purchases the three branches.

The LOA provides that the parties may not exclude any customer relationships from the Divestiture except as expressly agreed with the DOJ. The Parties are also required to preserve, maintain, and continue to operate the branches until the sale. The bank may not

reacquire the branches for five years following the sale. If the parties decide to close any of their branches in any of the counties in which a divestiture branch is located within three years of the close of the merger, any such branch must be sold or leased to a commercial bank.

Plemens said employee retention is an important aspect of the process, as the new buyer would want customers to be greeted with familiar faces, even if the name of the bank changes. Once a buyer is approved, Plemens said that an updated press release



The Entegra Bank branches are slated to be sold prior to the merger with First Citizens. Until the merger, the branches will be open and operating. The agreement calls for the branches to continue to operate as banks even after the merger, but under a different name. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

will be sent out announcing who will be taking over.

First Citizens announced plans to purchase the Macon County-based Entegra bank in April, outbidding SmartFinancial, which had previously made an acquisition proposal.

First Citizens is in every North Carolina and South Carolina county where Entegra has a branch, though its Georgia presence will be a new addition to its network.

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# Habitat of North Carolina puts Jackson County family into home

In just a couple of weeks, John and Landy Savage will be able to move into their new home, after losing their trailer in a fire and spending the past several months living cramped in a camper, thanks to Habitat for Humanity and local sponsors like Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort.

After the fire, Landy and her husband, John, and 16-year-old son, Danny, moved in temporarily with Landy's grandmother, but that house is small and her grandmother already had other folks living with her. Another family member offered a different possibility: a 32-foot camper that he had just bought and was willing to let them use.

"There's not a whole lot of room to move around," says John—a big man—with a chuckle. But the Savages knew what a gift it was to have a roof over their heads, no matter how tight the space.

Then one day, Landy's manager at the Harrah's Casino in Cherokee asked her if she'd ever thought about applying for a Habitat home. Habitat for Humanity of North Carolina was trying to find a family in Jackson County to complete one of the final homes in the "Mountains-to-the-Sea Challenge," a project sponsored by the SECU Foundation to build or renovate a home in each of North Carolina's 100 counties. Habitat NC had reached out to Harrah's, since the casino is one of the largest employers in the area. And Landy's manager thought of her. He brought her the application, she filled it out, and within days she was in touch with Habitat NC's executive director, discussing what to look for in an existing home on the market in the area that Habitat NC could purchase, rehab, and then sell to the Savages for a zero-percent-interest mortgage that SECU would then step in to purchase and service. Through this process, SECU re-



Pictured in front of the Savages' new home is (L-R) Jim Schwalm, Senior Vice President, Sylva Branch, SECU; Pastor Lester Hardesty; Chris Brogan, Harrah's; Landy Savage; John Savage; Danny Savage; and Greg Kirkpatrick, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of North Carolina.

turns to Habitat the money invested, freeing up Habitat to reinvest it in more affordable housing.

Landy kept seeing houses listed for sale, but they always had something that made them too difficult to rehab, like a crumbling foundation or an impassable mountain road. Then she saw it. A cute little house with a perfect yard, complete with a fire pit and benches and plenty of space for their outdoor animals.

"The minute I walked in I thought 'This is home,' she said. "It's just a comfortable little house. You walk in and you immediately feel relaxed." Their son is excited to have his own room again, after so many months shar-

ing a 32-ft camper with his parents. He helped his family with their "sweat equity" by painting his bedroom almost completely by himself, and pitching in with the painting in other spaces as well. Anything to get them in the house faster.

When asked what this little house means to them, John didn't have to think at all.

"Home. We have a home," he said immediately.

Landy elaborated.

"We'll have a place to just enjoy being, to relax after a long day at work. We can have family over and our two older daughters can bring our granddaughters to visit."

And so this comfortable house, that invites



John Savage cuts a celebration cake in the family's new kitchen.

those who enter it to relax and feel welcome, will bring the Savages "home" once again.

"A lot of prayers have been answered with this house," mused Landy. "A lot of prayers."

About Habitat for Humanity of N.C.

Founded in 2008 through the efforts of local affiliates, Habitat NCHabitat for Humanity of North Carolina facilitates increased housing production and neighborhood revitalization efforts across the state by providing a central agency to coordinate advocacy activities, provide training and technical support opportunities, aid in disaster recovery and serve as a focal point for disseminating statewide resources.

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# Toys for Tots needs donations

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

Each year, the Local Toys for Tots Programs provides toys to less fortunate children in Western North Carolina. While the operation is headquartered in Franklin, the Toys for Tots Programs serves families in Macon, Jackson, Swain, Haywood, and Rabun counties. Toys for Tots is a program run by volunteer Marines whose mission it is to collect gifts for children around the holidays. The program became an official nonprofit in 1991 and has worked to brighten Christmas for boys and girls ever since.

Last year, the Smoky Mountain Chapter of the Toys for Tots program reached 2,306 children. According to Randy Hughes, coordinator for the local chapter, the group is in desperate need of toys to ensure all the children who have signed up this year receive a special gift.

“We still need 197 toys for 8-12 year old boys; 186 for 8-12 year old girls; 77 toys for 0-2 boys; and 40 for 0-2 year old girls,” said Hughes. “Any help you can do to let the public know is greatly appreciated.”

Suggested donations include games, any building or constructing toys, puzzles, STEM toys, and anything for the 0-2 ages.

Drop-off boxes for new, unwrapped toys are located in several local stores, including at the office of The Macon County News, 26



Toys for Tots coordinator Randy Hughes is pictured with Lynda Taylor who donated books in mid-October just as the collection center opened at the old Walmart shopping center. Toys are still needed.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

W. Main Street. Donations can also be made at the main location in the old Walmart shopping center at Holly Springs Plaza.

Local toy collection campaigns begin in October and last until mid to late December. Toy distribution also takes place mid to late December. Members of the community drop new, unwrapped toys in collection boxes positioned in local businesses. Coordinators pick up the toys and store them in central warehouses where the toys are sorted by age and gender.



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# Resource Fair offers residents an array of information

Diane Peltz  
Contributing Writer

The Macon County Library was host to an inaugural NC Works Community resource fair and mini pop-up market last Friday. A wide range of community resources were available to help folks in need. Whether you were looking for help to quit smoking, peer support for drug treatment, Medicare and Medicaid plans, child care or employment training, an array of representatives were there to offer assistance and advice.



Residents take advantage of the 22 community organizations that were at the Macon County Library last Friday.

Paula Alter, Career Center Manager for the Macon, Jackson and Swain County NCWorks Career Centers explains that this new, collaborative event has been one of her goals since taking on the manager role.

“This is an excellent opportunity for our residents to interact with 22 resource organizations in one convenient location. On the flip side, it will also allow these organizations to interact with each other and become better informed of available services. Our event mantra is ‘Be connected. Feel empowered. Get informed. Leave with hope. There’s no

question that it takes all of us, working in partnership, to help our residents become job ready and overcome potential barriers in keeping a job. If successful, we plan to make this an annual event.”

A special feature was the presence of a Manna Food Bank Pop-Up Market. Those wishing to receive food assistance were asked to enter the library, register with the welcome table to obtain a Macon County Community Passport and visit three additional resources to have their passport validated. According to Alter, “By using the passport, we’re hoping that those needing food assistance will also find

additional and beneficial resources.”

More than 120 people were served through the available community resources and 108 people took advantage of the free food giveaway. Fresh fruits and vegetables were among the many choices as well as drinks, chips and baked goods. Leftover food was donated to Union Academy students and Full Circle Recovery’s homeless program.

Another Pop-Up Market is scheduled at the Macon County Fairgrounds on Monday, Dec. 16, from 2 to 4 p.m.

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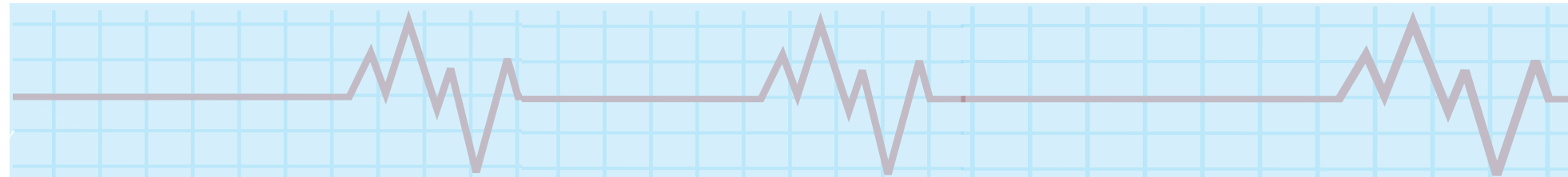
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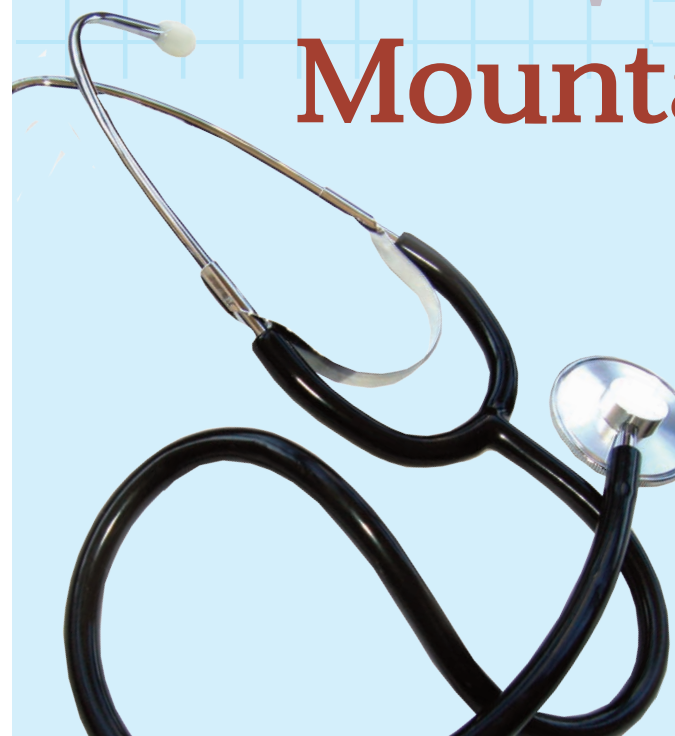
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## What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Our new commissioner, Marc Hehn, and I attended the Essentials of Municipal Government Workshop last week. This workshop was sponsored by the University of North Carolina School of Government and the North Carolina League of Municipalities. It was my third workshop, and for Marc his first.

I attend these workshops because I always learn something new about municipal government. Invariably there are changes to municipal statutes.

Highlands is a member of the UNC School of Government and the N.C. League of Municipalities, organizations that support towns and cities and are important resources and consultants for member municipalities.

Mike Smith, the Dean of the UNC School of Government, was at the workshop. I had the opportunity to thank him personally for the 16 years that I have relied on the school as a critical professional resource. I was a magistrate for 10 years before serving for the past six years as mayor. The School of Government also trains personnel in the state's court and justice system. They have 50 professors on the faculty that specialize in all aspects of North Carolina law and government.

When I was a magistrate Professor Robert Farb headed their criminal justice department. Farb was the definitive expert on all North Carolina criminal statutes and legal procedures. I attended continuing education workshops where Professor Farb would analyze case studies and specific elements of a criminal statute in unbelievable detail. If a magistrate had a question about a current case or charge, Professor Farb and his colleagues were just a phone call away.

That is also the case when it comes to operating a municipal government in North Carolina. Town directors are only a phone call away from consulting with experts in specific fields such as municipal finance, meeting procedures, open records, zoning, or personnel, to name only a few.

I jokingly told Dean Smith that my goal has always been to make good decisions. The last thing a mayor or magistrate wants to be is a case study for the UNC School of Government. He laughed.

At the workshop I also spoke with Rose Vaughn Williams, the legislative representative for the NC League of Municipalities. The league is also a major source of support for towns and cities. Rose informed me that she believes the legislature will take action in the forthcoming short session on short term rentals and on fiber/broadband legislation. Her only caveat was that no one can predict what the NC Legislature will do.

Hope you can join us tonight (Thursday) at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center for the December board meeting. Our new commissioner, Marc Hehn, along with our reelected commissioners Brian Stiehler and John Dotson, will be sworn in. I also want to thank outgoing Commissioner Eric Pierson for his many years of service on the board.

By the way, the newly sworn commissioners will have to take a two hour course on ethics and conflicts of interest put on by the University of North Carolina School of Government.

## Letters to the Editor

### The Curse and its Remedy

When is the last time you heard a sermon on the "curse" from Genesis 3? When our first parents, Adam and Eve sinned, the consequences of their disobedience had a devastating effect not only on them, but on all of creation. These include death, disease, pain, suffering, thorns, pests, etc., not just for humans, but even for the animals that had nothing to do with Adam's tragic choice. Many try to blame God for these effects. But the blame can only be attributed to Adam and to us by extension.

Thankfully, God is rich in mercy toward His creatures. He said to the serpent (the devil), "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head (Jesus will crush Satan's head) and you shall bruise His heel. (Satan will strike His heel)" (Genesis 3:15) The Old Testament contains many references to a coming Messiah, who would restore the entire creation, including the animals, to their original glorious perfection. (Romans 8: 18-23) But it would be 4000 years before these promises were secured in Jesus Christ. And the promised restoration is yet future, some 2000 years after the "last, or second Adam" secured it by paying the penalty for the first Adam's sin. (1 Corinthians 15:45) Because Jesus was born of a virgin, He did not inherit original sin from Adam. He lived a sinless life, and then allowed sinful men to crucify Him, so He could pay the penalty for your sin and mine. By placing your trust in Him, you can have your sinful nature, inherited from Adam, expunged, and have it replaced with Christ's righteousness! "For as by the one man's (Adam's) disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's (Jesus') obedience the many will be made righteous." (Romans 5:19) "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21) In the words of the great hymn writer, Charles Wesley:

"Come, Desire of Nations (Haggai 2:7), come!

Fix in us Thy humble home;

Rise, the woman's conquering seed,

Bruise in us the serpent's head. (Genesis 3:15)

Adam's likeness now efface,

Stamp Thine image in its place:

Second Adam from above,

Reinstate us in Thy love.

Hark! the herald angels sing,

"Glory to the newborn King!"

For those who have been reinstated into the love of God through faith in His Son, Jesus, there will be a glorious restoration, described like this: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I

heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:1-4)

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life (seen first in Genesis 2) with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed (the curse of Genesis 3 finally removed), but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever." (Revelation 22:1-5)

Do I really believe all this? You bet I do! All of the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah were perfectly fulfilled in Jesus. Unlike politicians who make promises they can never keep, God has always kept His promises. That's why I believe Him.

Ed Hill – Franklin, N.C.

### Frightening statement from top law enforcement

In a recent speech announcing the recipients of the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing, Attorney General Barr declared that critics of policing in unspecified communities, "have to start showing, more than they do, the respect and support that law enforcement deserves. And if communities don't give that support and respect, they may find themselves without the police protection they need."

That is the most frightening statement I have ever read from a law enforcement official, and Barr is the top law enforcement official in the country.

His statement is an abdication of the obligation of law enforcement to enforce the law, irrespective of creed, color, or money.

Successful, effective and fair law enforcement is dependent on not only cooperation between the police and the policed, but also on a degree of trust that such enforcement will be fairly applied. Barr is calling for respect be the result of a demand from those who carry badges and guns. A corrupt police force does not deserve respect. And to follow that with a barely veiled threat to withdraw policing if such unearned respect is not given; Only dictatorial or failed states would even contemplate this.

He is a disgrace to the law, a disgrace to his education, and a disgrace to the U.S.

John Barry – Franklin, N.C.

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### Entering expensive phase of disaster correction

Rachel Carson, legendary scientist and writer, made this profound statement in her 1962 classic environmental book "Silent Spring," "We are accustomed to look for the gross and immediate and to ignore all else. Unless this appears promptly and in such obvious form that it cannot be ignored, we deny the existence of hazard." This statement is referring to the hazards of exposure to chemicals used unwisely in/our environment.

To me, a U.S. Navy veteran, this scientific observation can certainly be applied to our current crisis with Russian election meddling. The least expensive phase of almost all crises is prevention (if prevention is at all possible). Since we did not prevent Russian meddling we have entered into the more expensive phase-minimization of damage that has already occurred. This phase is severely complicated by the fact that Donald Trump doesn't just express doubt about the analyses of our intelligence agencies-he steadfastly denies the accuracy of them all. Sadly, he doesn't even propose deterrence to Ukrainian meddling that he himself falsely alleges. Can you show us any patriotism in that?

Thus, Trump has failed to prevent anyone from meddling. And, he continues to refuse to spearhead an effort to minimize the Russian damage that has already occurred. We are, therefore, entering into the most difficult and expensive phase of our disaster-correction.

If our democracy is to survive we must begin vigorous operations to secure our 2020 elections. We must prevent further erosion that Trump has ignored at our peril. This Congress must awaken to the danger that Trump has created by cooperating with Vladimir Putin.

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

### Why we dislike him? Let me count the ways

To the gentlemen who could not understand why so many people dislike Donald J. Trump, please allow me to give just a "few" reasons:

1. Mr. Trump has filed bankruptcy a half dozen times.
2. American banks stopped loaning him money because he would not pay them back.
3. He would not pay contractors who did work for him, forcing many to lose their businesses.
4. Trump University was a fraudulent venture in which he was found guilty and had to pay restitution.
5. Trump Foundation (a charity) was shut down because Trump and his family used many of the funds for personal use.
6. Trump cheated on all three wives and tried to cover up \$130K payments to two women—one a porn star and the other a Playboy Bunny—in 2016 when he was running for president.
7. Trump's own voice is heard saying he can do whatever he wants with women because he's a star, even grabbing their private parts. Later, he claimed the voice was not his, which was a lie.
8. Speaking of lies, Trump has no problem lying if it serves him well. He is known for his litany of lies.

9. Trump said John McCain was not a war hero and after McCain died, Trump continued to disparage him.

10. Trump attacked a Gold Star family who lost a son in the military.

11. Trump attacks our allies and tries to befriend our enemies.

12. Speaking of befriending our enemies, Trump went on the world stage along side Vladimir Putin and dismissed all of America's top security experts who said Russia interfered in our 2016 election.

13. Trump runs the presidency on chaos and brags about making decisions that come from his gut.

14. Trump does not read and does not take advice from top experts, and he brags that he knows more than any of the advisers who are there to help him make decisions.

15. Trump expects loyalty from everyone around him, but he does not reciprocate that loyalty. Read Chris Christie's book "Let Me Finish."

16. Trump's tweets spew hate, division, lies, and they show the world what an out-of-control angry, vengeful person he is.

17. Trump acts like a mob boss and uses his executive powers for personal gain, i.e. Ukraine.

Putting the conservative agenda aside to answer the gentleman's question, the above is just a small example of why so many people dislike Donald J. Trump. You can say I'm gullible and the above is all fake news – but you would be wrong – and you can also call me "human scum" because that is what Trump calls me.

Carol Mayer – Franklin, N.C.

### Missing medical designation can be costly

I recently had a simple skin procedure at a doctor's office, only to be very surprised months later by an inordinately costly medical bill. After much wrangling with every party involved, a series of dominoes became clear. First, because of missing a simple designation, my insurance treated the procedure as outpatient, rather than office visit. This, in turn, resulted in all charges being out of pocket towards my deductible, rather than co-payment. The missing magic designation that makes all the difference for my insurance? Three words: primary care physician. I had evidently not indicated that, so the office did not submit the bill designating the doctor as my primary care physician, and I paid the price greatly.

I had also found, after requesting the detailed itemized bills from the physician and facility, a discrepancy in the coding, turning a simple skin procedure into a complex – and more costly – one. Out of frustration, I paid the bill shortly after receiving it. But the office manager has agreed to re-bill it with that magic designation, so I hope to one day receive a substantial reimbursement.

I've heard, and can believe, that medical costs are a common factor for bankruptcies in America. I have to wonder how many of those costs have the potential to be reduced – without even taking better care of ourselves.

Jesse Urban – Franklin, N.C.

### Is this what making America great again means?

George Washington led Americans in The Revolutionary War defeating a tyrant, King George III, and giving birth to democracy. Washington presided over the Constitutional Convention creating a new system of government, separating power into legislative, executive and judicial branches. Each branch checks the others to prevent abuse of power. The legislature is given power to impeach and remove corrupt government officials. Asked to be our first president, Washington postponed desired retirement to serve his country again.

In WWII, President Franklin Roosevelt joined Allied nations to defeat aggressive Axis dictators. Although crippled by polio, he joined world leaders coordinating strategies to achieve victory and create lasting peace. Roosevelt inspired creation of the United Nations to promote peaceful solutions to world problems. This reflects his last full measure of devotion. He died just before its first meeting.

In 1962, Soviet Dictator Khrushchev began building missile bases in Cuba, threatening the United States. President John Kennedy ordered a naval blockade around Cuba stopping Soviet ships carrying missile materials. The threat of war ended when the Soviet's dismantled the missiles. Russia also attempted to spread its influence in Western Europe. It occupied East Berlin and acted to gain control of West Berlin. Khrushchev backed down after Kennedy increased our military presence in West Berlin. Kennedy halted Soviet threats, facing down an aggressive dictator.

Donald Trump embraces dictators like Putin, abandoning our democratic allies. He weakens our standing as leader of free world democracies, reducing our support of N.A.T.O. and the United Nations. Presidential candidate Trump voiced acceptance of Russia's seizure of Crimea from Ukraine. Not surprising, some of Ukraine's diplomats spoke out against Trump. Ukraine's government took no position in our 2016 presidential election. Trump and his Republican supporters are promoting the fiction that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in this election.

This narrative was created by Russia, currently under sanctions for interfering in our 2016 election. Sanctions are hurting Russia's economy. Putin and Russia's oligarchs hope to have sanctions lifted by blaming Ukraine. Our entire intelligence community concluded Russia, not Ukraine, interfered in 2016. Russia has invaded Ukraine. Trump sought to withhold legally authorized military aid to Ukraine it desperately needs to fight Russia's aggression. Trump conditioned releasing this aid on Ukraine's President announcing an investigation into Trump's political rival. This is bribery. Trump has committed impeachable acts, violating our Constitution.

Patriotic Americas fought and died, to protect and defend our democracy. Republicans protect and defend Donald Trump, betraying their sworn allegiance to the Constitution. Previous presidents fought dictators, Trump falls in love with them. Is King George III Trump's role model? Is this what "Make America Great Again" means?

Margery Abel – Franklin, N.C.





# FHS band and Macon Middle honors band present 'Mountain Christmas Medleys'

The Franklin High School Band Department along with special guest The Macon Middle School Honors Band presented the 2019 Christmas concert "Mountain Christmas Medleys." The bands played to a full house last Monday night at the Fine Arts Center. The MMS band played some all time holiday favorites including "Last Christmas," which was arranged by MMS Band Director Thomas Graham. The Franklin HS Marching/Concert band played "Christmastime Favorites" and "The Nutcracker Suite." The concert came to a close with a combined holiday sing-a-long which included the audience.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter



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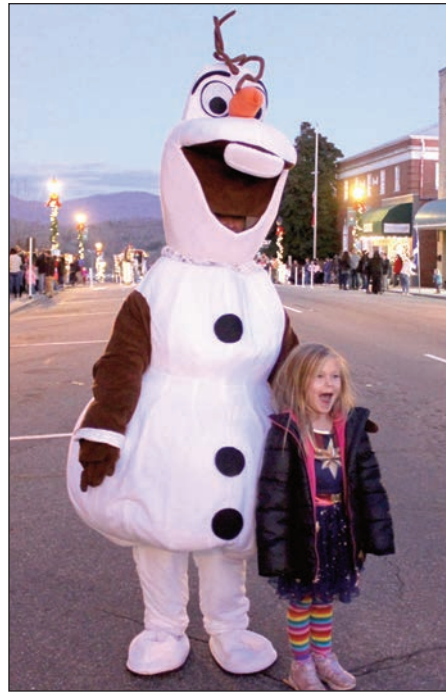
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# Scenes from Winter Wonderland

Photos by Betsey Gooder



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# Arrest Report

*The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests November 13 - December 9. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

## Macon County Sheriff's Department

### December 2

Chance Dakota Holland, 20, of Franklin was charged with failure to appear for failure to apply for new title, littering, expired inspection, operate a vehicle with no insurance, brake stop light equipment violation. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Mike Langley Sr. made the arrest.

### December 3

James Homer Taylor, 58, of Franklin, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Wylene Elizabeth Wall, 31, of Otto, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, fugitive out of state felony. A secured bond of \$18,000 was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Allen Ray Bozeman, 54, of Otto, was charged with possession of heroin, driving while license revoked, expired registration card/tag. A secured bond of \$5,500 was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

### December 5

Selena Renee Nicole Lewis, 22, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, no operators license, failure to maintain lane control. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Austin Lee Connally, 32, of Franklin, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$5000 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

### December 6

Jonathan Wesley Day, 32, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. No bond was set. David F. Head made the arrest.

James Fred Hurst, 45, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Joseph Howard Heard, 60, of Franklin, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. An unsecured bond of \$3,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Christopher Adam Jones, 36, of Otto, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. A secured bond of \$100 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

### December 9

Jennifer Renee Morgan, 18, of Whittier, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation, failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia. Mike Langley Sr. made the arrest.

Preston Michael English, 38, of Clayton, Ga., was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Jamie Thomas Blythe, 46, of Franklin, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

### December 3

Eric Romer Madsen, 59, of Trimont Trail, was charged with assault on a female, sexual battery. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

### December 4

Howard Leo Fregeau, 22, of Treasure Lane, was charged with driving under the influence. An unsecured bond of \$2,000 was set. Officer Pellicer made the arrest.

### December 6

Rebecca Jean Dills, 34, of Belleview Rd., was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, larceny of a firearm, false pretenses. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

### December 8

Brian Keith McConnell, 43, of Windy Gap Rd., was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, no operators license. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

### November 13

Cassandra Chey Fox, 23, of Ferguson Rd., was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Korrina Owle Perez, 18, of A Model Dr., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear on violation of court order. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Matthew Sampson Armachain, 26, of Hayes Lossiah Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting a public officer, identity theft. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

### November 14

Kenneth Wayne Edwards, 49, of Dillsboro Rd., was charged with misdemeanor probation violation. No bond was set.

Erik Sidney Davis, 28, of Thorpe Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a child under 12 years of age, assault on a female, injury to personal property, communicating threats, assault with a deadly weapon. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Sonia Margarita Reyes, 22, of Adam's Creek, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Sarah Marie Arwood, 29, of Ruch Rd., Clyde, was charged with simple assault. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Ariel Marie Fisher, 28, of Molasses Dr., was charged with possession of stolen property, possession of stolen goods/property. No bond was set.

### November 15

Craig Alan Hambrick, 39, of Webster Rd., was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

### November 16

Deanna Christine Johnson, 39, of Walter Ashe Rd., was charged with failure to appear on traffic violation. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Eddie Dwayne Potts, 48, of Cullowhee Mountain Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine, probation violation, felony probation violation, possession of methamphetamine, resist/obstruct/ delay, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession

of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$56,000 was set.

Charles Robert Bumbarner, 30, of Bo Cove Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with simple assault, assault on a child under 12, communicating threats. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

### November 17

Thomas Logan Shuler, 22, of Airdale Rd., was charged with damage to personal property. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Tyler Andrew Sutton, 26, of Thornhill Dr., was charged with flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

### November 19

Tony Jay Bryson, 41, of Lamplighter Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Brooke Kay Biddix, 25, of Brave Heart Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jose Martinez Gomez, 33, of Arcadia Way, Glenville, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Larry Allen Watson, 42, of Cheerful Cove Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Joseph Rick Seay, 36, of Heath Rick Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for shoplifting concealment of goods. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Kenneth James Scott, 45, of Second St., Franklin, was charged with fugitive from Georgia that has fled from justice. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Troy Eafred Spears, 74, of Levi Mathis Rd., Whittier, was charged with communicating threats. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Amber Leigh Bird, 24, of Hayfield Dr., was charged with possession of stolen goods/property, larceny after break/enter, break or enter a motor vehicle. No bond was set.

### November 20

Derek Todd Thomas, 57, of Walnut Cove Rd., Tuckaseegee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked/expired registration, driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$1,200 was set.

David Samuel Brady, 42, of Sam Brady Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen goods/property, obtain property by false pretense, resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$7,000 was set.

### November 21

Donna Smith Cormier, 50, of Weyhutta Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for possession/displayed/altered/fictitious/revoked drivers license, driving while license revoked impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Travis Levi Mathis, 26, of Posey Blanton Rd., was charged with failure to appear on a felony. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Marcus Dion Watkins, 39, of Niagara St., Cincinnati, OH, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Amanda Dawn Clawson, 38, of Mill Creek Rd., Cullowhee, was issued a true bill for possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

### November 22

Tarrell Lawshan Williams, 38, of Old Greenville Hwy., Clemson, was charged with larceny of a firearm, assault on a female. No bond was set.



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# Crowds flock to Cowee Christmas

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

A full parking lot and equally packed halls and former classrooms signaled the festivities of the annual Cowee Christmas, which took place Saturday, Dec. 7, at Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center. The daylong event drew families and individuals to peruse hand-made items for purchase, try various handicrafts, listen to music, speak to artisans, peruse hand-made items and enjoy homemade foods.

This is the fifth year for the event, which raises money for the operation of Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center – a local stone structure formerly used as a school from the 1940s until 2012. The facility now serves as an institution of learning in a dif-

ferent capacity, housing equipment to teach pottery, painting, textiles, and more. Plus, there is a toy museum, a Cherokee room, and a genealogy and local research room. Recently, Alarka Expeditions moved into one of the rooms as well and features various books on local history, nature, outdoor pursuits, and more.

Besides raising funds, the main intent of Cowee Christmas is to teach children about local holiday heritage and traditions and to generate community spirit and fellowship, according to organizers.

Wyatt Duvall, 12, said he was in the Christmas spirit and shared that through his skill with the banjo.

“Last year [at Cowee Christmas] was my first time playing here,” said Wyatt, “and I came back this year because it’s fun. I like entertaining people.” Duvall said he had sev-



This is the second year that Wyatt Duvall, 12, has enjoyed playing his banjo for visitors to Cowee Christmas. He has been taking lessons from Tom Estes, of the group Kornbread Kreek, for about four years.



Noah Swope, 6, is assisted with his wooden tic tac toe board by Cowee Christmas volunteer Bruce Brandsma.



The Nikwasi Dulcimer Players provided traditional music for Cowee Christmas.

eral Christmas songs in his repertoire and has been taking lessons for about four years from Tom Estes, of the group Kornbread Kreek. “I like to play at festivals ... all around Franklin. Just wherever people invite me.”

In his second year of volunteering at Cowee Christmas, Bruce Brandsma said he came back because he enjoys “helping people ... kids.” He assisted children like Noah Swope, 6, with making a woodblock tic tac toe game.

“I’ve worked with all kinds of mediums in my lifetime,” said Brandsma, who gave Swope pointers throughout the process of making the small game. “I wanted to try it,” said Swope about choosing the woodblock craft. “I like trying new things. It’s fun.”

Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center is open all year round and offers various classes, events, lectures, and more.



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# Balsam Bee enlivens senses and Christmas spirit

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Before entering the doors of Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center last Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, visitors could smell fragrant Fraser fir and Northern balsam wafting up the sidewalk. Once inside, the smells and sounds and sights of Christmas enlivened senses.

Last year was the first attempt at the Balsam Bee. Its popularity prompted organizer Claire Suminski to offer it two days this year instead of one. On Dec. 3 and 5, the Balsam Bee took place in the auditorium of Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center.

For months, the Suminski family and other volunteers have been grinding up tree trimmings so that the needles could be sifted and stuffed into pillows for sale at the Balsam Bee. Also available for sale were greenery swags with volunteer-made bows, as well as pottery, jewelry, and more. All proceeds support Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center.

Local students, many of whom are New Century Scholars, offered their time, as did Cowee Quilters and seamstresses with the Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild, along with a host of other volunteers made Balsam Bee possible, pointed out Suminski. Music was provided by mu-



Last year's first Balsam Bee was so popular that organizer Claire Suminski decided this year to offer it twice in one week. She pointed out that besides putting everyone who attends in the Christmas spirit because of the fragrance of the Fraser balsam, the Balsam Bee is an opportunity for community fellowship and sales of crafted goods.



New Century Scholars and Macon Middle School students, Lida Lopez, Jackie Rios, and Yuritza Lopez said they enjoyed making bows to attach to greenery swags that could be purchased at the Balsam Bee to raise money for Cowee Heritage Center.

sicians with the Nikwasi Dulcimer Players.

"This annual event is all about strengthening community," she said. "It gives some people a chance to sell their crafts, but it's much more about enjoying time together, sharing the love of God and the reason for this season, and working together."

Last year and this year, soups, cookies and more were offered. However, Suminski said an add-on for this year's Balsam Bee was the Fraser Fir Café, hosted at the on-site facility managed by Jim Kinard, kitchen manager. Tuesday, Dec. 3 included a chili dinner, while Thurs. Dec. 5, offered a low-country shrimp boil and fixings.

"It was really nice," said Suminski. "It was set up like a café with a nice ambiance and waiters and waitresses. Plus, we served non-alcoholic Devil's Foot ginger brew, made in Asheville. We wanted families and friends to be able to come to the Balsam Bee, have dinner, and make an evening out of it."

She encouraged area residents and visitors to check the Cowee School events calendar next holiday season to learn the dates of the 2020 third annual Balsam Bee.



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# Leann Rimes stops in Franklin on Christmas tour

Country music star and Grammy Award winner LeAnn Rimes will be in concert at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, Dec. 13. Her "You and Me and Christmas" tour is sweeping the east coast and features many holiday classics, traditional favorites, and original showstoppers. Show time is set for 7:30 p.m. and tickets start at \$35 each. Premium seating is also available and includes a personal meet and greet with Rimes, an invitation to an exclusive pre-show, an on-site concert host, and various merchandise and commemorative items.

Rimes is a singer, songwriter, actress, and author who rose to stardom at the age of 13. She made her breakthrough into country music in 1996 and earned national acclaim for her similarity to Patsy Cline's vocal style. She soon moved into the country pop genre and won many awards including two Grammys, three Academy of Country Music awards, a Country Music



Association award, 12 Billboard Music awards, and one American Music award. She has released 10 studio albums, three compilation albums, and two greatest hits albums. Some of her hits include, "How Do I Live," "Can't Fight the Moonlight," "Blue," and "One Way Ticket."

Joining Rimes on this leg of her You and Me and Christmas tour is special guest Kalie Shorr, an up and coming country music singer-songwriter whose debut single "Fight Like a Girl" received national attention. Shorr wrote her first song at age 6 and started playing the guitar at 13. She began posting covers of popular songs on YouTube and moved to Nashville when she was 19 to pursue a career in country music. She released her first album, "Open Book," earlier this year.

Rimes's rich and powerful soprano voice and distinctive emotional expression will provide the perfect accompaniment for traditional Christmas favorites such as, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "All I Want for Christmas is You," and "O Holy Night," as well as original favorites such as, "I Miss You Like Christmas," and tour inspiration, "You and Me and Christmas."

To purchase tickets for the "You and Me and Christmas" show, or to find out more information about this or any other show at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, visit [GreatMountainMusic.com](http://GreatMountainMusic.com) or call (828) 273-4615.



Leann Rimes is stopping off in Franklin on her "You and Me and Christmas" tour Friday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m., at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. For ticket information, visit [greatmountainmusic.com](http://greatmountainmusic.com) or call (828) 273-4615.



## Deaths & Funerals

### Martha 'Jane' Woodlee

Martha "Jane" Woodlee, 70, of Mountain Home, NC., passed away on Monday, Dec. 9, 2019.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of Lucille H. Phillips and the late Bill Phillips. She was a member of Biltmore Church of Christ. She had a deep faith in God and was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband, Richard Woodlee; two daughters, Christi Butman (Sean) of Eagle Point, Ore. and Andrea Avery (Michael) of Kernersville, N.C.; one sister, Suzi Cabe (Larry) of Franklin; five grandchildren, Trace Cooper, Ben Cooper, Sydney Cooper, Meredith Avery and Aaron Avery and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Woodlawn Cemetery. Rev. Radford Penland officiated.

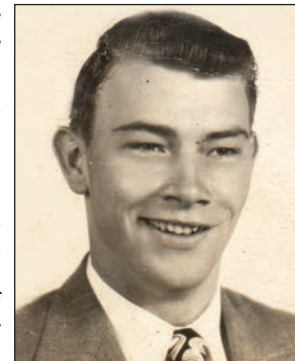
Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

### Charles Andrew Conley Jr.

Charles Andrew Conley Jr., 89, of Franklin, passed away Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Charles Conley Sr. and Lois Garner Conley. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Kathleen Yonce Conley. He graduated from Mars Hill College with a business degree; was a U.S. Army veteran; former owner of Conley Motor Company; former board of directors at First Union Bank and former member of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church. He enjoyed golfing, watching sports and spending time with his family.



Charles Conley Jr.

He is survived by two daughters, Gail Conley Schlott (Joe) of Summerville, S.C. and Jane Conley Hall (Chris) of Tybee Island, Ga.; sister, Sue Conley Moore of Franklin; brother, Jim Conley of Franklin; four grandchildren, Monica Schrader (Matt), Whitney Schlott, Jordan Hall and Carley Hall; six great grandchildren, Chase, Payton, Tinsley, Gavin, Blakely and Avery, all of whom he loved dearly; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A gathering of friends and family will be held on Friday, Dec. 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Macon Funeral Home.

Memorial donations can be made to Macon New Beginnings, 131 Franklin Plaza Drive, # 228, Franklin, NC 28734 or a Hospice of one's choice.

Condolences can be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

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# Deaths & Funerals

## Tommy McCoy

Tommy McCoy, 84, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Verlin and Fern Martin McCoy. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sisters, Tava Arvey and Bitty Jo Nichols and a brother, Rozell McCoy. He was a cattle farmer and avid gardener. He was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church and attended Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Eoline Nicholson McCoy; son, Terry McCoy and wife Susie of Franklin; niece, Kimberly Walker; sister, Ann Bowen; grandsons, James McCoy (Melanie) and Joshua McCoy (Kevin); several other nieces and nephews and his loyal companion, Major.

A memorial service was held Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Vic Greene, Rev. Janet Greene and James McCoy will officiate.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church (perpetual care fund), 1999 Clarks Chapel Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences can be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).



Tommy McCoy

## Margaret Anne Axe Siek

Margaret Anne Axe Siek, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019. She was born Sept. 3, 1932, to the late Harold and Anna Arthur Axe of Bicknell, Ind. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Harold Axe Jr. and John William "Bill" Axe; a sister, Barbara "Barb" Tolbert, brother-in-law, Robert "Bob" Tolbert and sister-in-law, Loretta Axe (wife of Bill).

She was of the Protestant faith. She was a homemaker, enjoyed playing bridge and was an avid tennis fan. She was a high school cheerleader, attended Indiana University, was a member of Tri Kappa sorority, Alpha Phi sorority and loved Hoosier basketball. She was also a member of the Clearwater, Fla., Junior Women's Club.

She is survived by a daughter, Beth Siek, of Tampa, Fla.; a son, George Siek Jr. and his wife Alicja of Lake Wylie, S.C.; a son Daniel Siek and his wife Trese of Franklin, and eight grandchildren, Jena Siek, Brittany Siek, Jordan Siek, Mackenzie Siek, Abbey Siek, Garrett, Siek, Mackenzie Sanders and Dakkota Siek.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of BryantGrant Funeral Home with Rev. Terry Tolbert officiating.

BryantGrant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Siek family. Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).



Margaret Siek

## Walter 'John' Watson

Walter "John" Watson, 79, of Highlands, N.C., passed away on Friday, Dec. 6, 2019.

Born in New Rochelle, N.Y., he was the son of the late Walter LeRoy Watson and Mary M. McKinney Watson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Linda Watson. He was a U.S. Navy veteran.

He is survived by three children, Mark Watson of Mount Tox-away, Terry Watson of Highlands, and Joanna Watson of Franklin; three grandchildren, William Watson, Andrew Watson and Heather Watson Felder; three great grandchildren, Chloe Isabelle Watson, Grady Felder and Greer Felder and two nephews, David Ginn and Danny Ginn.

A graveside service was held Sunday, Dec. 8, at Highlands Memorial Park. Rev. Randy Lucas officiated.

Pallbearers were Mark Watson, Terry Watson, Andrew Watson, Rance Jones, Keen Jones and George Schmidt.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Highlands Memorial Park or Fidelia Eckerd Nursing Center, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

## Robert James Anglin

Robert James Anglin, 38, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2019.

Born in Atlanta, Ga., he was the son of Thomas Patric and Gale Anglin. Through hard work and perseverance, Robert earned his Eagle Scout honor, which is the highest rank obtainable in the Boy Scouts of America Program. He proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was an avid TV watcher, loved cooking and was Baptist by faith.



Robert James Anglin

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Hayley Elizabeth Hollis; four children, Tyler Nicole Anglin of Clinton, Utah, Raven Zoe Anglin, Cyrus Robert Anglin and Parker Anthony Pruitt, all of Bryson City, N.C.; three step children, Irelyn Hollis, Ivy Brinson and Isabella Hollis all of Zebulon, Ga.

A gathering of family and friends will be held from 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Disability Partners, 525 Mineral Springs Drive, Sylva, NC 28779.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

## Joyce Henson

Joyce Henson, 79, of Franklin, N.C., passed away peacefully on Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, at Skyland Care Center.

Born in Glensville, N.C., she was the daughter of the late Gordon and Faye Broome Jennings. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Sabrina Henson Garner and her sister, Bernice Rice. She was a well-loved hairdresser for over 50 years and was a beloved friend to many. She accepted Christ at an early age and continued her walk with him for over 70 years.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Marshall Henson; her sister, Vivian J. Cleaveland of Sylva; nieces, Raylene Bryson (Randy), Janessa Wright-Crawford (Stacy), Teesie Crebs (Bill), Pat Villarreal (Felix), Angie Biller (Glen), Sabrina Rogers; nephews, Jimmy Cleaveland (Lisa), Rob Henson (Patsy), Charlie Henson and Brandon Henson; special friend, Connie Smith and many special great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Charles Dean will officiate. A special prayer will be given by Rev. Steve Reeves. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

The family would like to especially thank the staff, caregivers, and therapists at Skyland Care Center for the loving care they gave Joyce.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Joyce's memory, to Skyland Care Center - Activities Department. Condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

## Nancy Bild Wiley

Nancy Bild Wiley, 80, died Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019, at her home in Franklin, N.C. She was born April 12, 1939, in Miami, Fla., to the late Charles Everett Bild and Helen Albertus Bild. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Edward Wiley, and a sister, Barbara Bild Forsyth.

She had been a part of the Franklin community her whole life, beginning with summer family trips to the mountains in childhood. She was married to Robert Edward Wiley for 53 years until his death in 2014. They raised a family and lived around the world, first during his service in the U.S. Army and later with his career at the Coca-Cola Co. While at Coke, they lived in the Philippines, Venezuela, and Ireland, and she relished being an expat.

Upon retirement from Coke, Nancy and Bob built and settled into their dream home in Franklin on the land her father had purchased in the 1930s. She was an astute observer of nature and a skilled gardener, cultivating an enviable home garden and collection of orchids. Her affinity for orchids began in her Miami childhood and went with her throughout her life, including to her homes overseas. She and Bob grew zinnias in their meadow and spent Saturday mornings at the Franklin Farmers' Market selling their flowers and visiting with friends. She also provided weekly floral arrangements for the altar at her beloved Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, where she has been a faithful and active member since relocating to Franklin permanently.

She is survived by her two sons, Edward Robert Wiley (Sarah) of Atlanta, Ga., and Charles Hammond Wiley (Suzan) of Marietta, Ga., and two grandsons, Bob Wiley of Chapel Hill, N.C., and Sam Wiley, of Atlanta, Ga.

A celebration of life will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 11 a.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4688 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. Rev. Fred Balke of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the Franklin Garden Club ([yacks1963@gmail.com](mailto:yacks1963@gmail.com)) or the Mainspring Conservation Trust (<https://www.mainspringconserves.org/about/>).

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Wiley family. Online condolences at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

## Karen Ruth Talley McCall

Karen Ruth Talley McCall, 52, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019. She was born Jan. 7, 1967, in Jackson County, N.C. to the late Gordon and Lorene Wilson Talley. She loved her grandkids and enjoyed her pets. She liked going on walks and seeing the wild flowers. She was employed at the Wade Hampton Golf Club and was a member of Shortoff Baptist Church.



Karen Talley McCall

She is survived by her daughter Jenna McCall (Anthony Rice) of Cashiers; a sister Pamela Talley; three grandchildren, Jayden Bryant, Addisyn Bryant and Ryker Rice. She is preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Shortoff Baptist Church in Highlands. Burial followed in Highlands Memorial Park.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the McCall family. Online condolences can be made online at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com)

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### Men's groups gives to homeless veterans

For the last six years the men's group at First Presbyterian Church have been raising money to help homeless veterans in Western North Carolina and especially in Macon County. This year, they had booths at area festivals, Sunday luncheons at church and placed almost 100 collection containers at area businesses for the Help Homeless Veterans Week. Through the efforts of so many people and businesses, the group was able to make a donation in the amount of \$9,000 to Brandon Wilson, Managing Director ABCCM - Veterans Services of the Carolinas. Pictured are (front row, L-R) Al Griseck, Royce Browder, Ned Kraft, Brandon Wilson - ABCCM, Joe Boyd, Russ Rankin; (back row, L to R) Gary Shields - veteran and Macon County Commissioner, Jeff Stevens, Lew Mesta, Tom Fagg, Jim Geary, Ray Heckeler and Neal Keenum.

### SCC fall commencement set for Dec. 18

Southwestern Community College's fall commencement will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 18, in Myers Auditorium in the Balsam Building on SCC's Jackson Campus. Around 100 students will receive their degrees, diplomas and certificates.

David Jons, SCC Spanish Instructor and the college's 2019 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching award, will serve as the featured speaker. He was selected as a finalist for the 2020 N.C. Community College System Excellence in Teaching award.

Since 2013, Jons has been teaching Spanish and Latino culture to his students through real life experiences. Outside of textbook teachings, his students learn through inter-

acting at a "store" or singing in Spanish while Jons plays the guitar. Other times, students prepare food from the Spanish-speaking world, discuss the ingredients and process while others gather for a sample.

Jons serves on several college committees and has provided international cultural experiences by leading student trips to Costa Rica, the United Kingdom and Italy. He has served as a Spanish-English translator and interpreter for the Town of Sylva, Good Samaritan Clinic, Vecinos and Pisgah Legal Services.

For more information about SCC, visit [www.southwesterncc.edu](http://www.southwesterncc.edu) or call 828.339.4000.

### Dr. Rivers Woodward of Franklin wins an award for excellence in patient care

Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) Asheville Family Medicine third year resident, Rivers Woodward, MD, of Franklin is one of 12 Family Medicine residents selected nationwide to receive the American Association of Family Practitioners' excellence in Graduate Medical Education Award for exemplary patient care, interpersonal relationships with patients, physicians and faculty, and demonstrated leadership and community involvement.



Dr. Rivers Woodward

Dr. Woodward has designed and implemented a rural health careers pipeline program for high school students in two rural counties in western North Carolina. Following residency, Dr. Woodward plans to practice full-spectrum family medicine in rural western North Carolina. He also hopes to build capital and experience to create an innovative low-overhead clinical community center that can provide healthcare to multi-generational rural families and address food insecurity and loneliness.



### Quilt raffle proceeds go to CVFD

The Cowee Quilters of Cowee Community, Franklin, has announced that Sally and Fred Sager of Franklin are the winners of the 2019 quilt raffle. The drawing was held at the Autumn Leaves Craft Show. The purpose of the year-long quilt raffle was to raise money for the Cowee Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD). Accepting the \$2,000 check from Frankabelle Scruggs is Chief Dustin Pendergrass. Also pictured are Phil Scruggs, treasurer; Scott Vance, firefighter, and Cowee quilters, Christine, Chloe, Billie Lynn and Judi.

### Gem Society gives to STEM education



The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin presented a \$300 check to Nantahala School 4th grade science teacher Jenny McMahan for the purchase of teaching aids as part of the Society's Mini-Grant Program. Each year the Gem & Mineral Society allocates money for grants to teachers of science curriculum for needed materials and/or equipment. Shown here are from left, Jennifer Love, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) coordinator for Macon County Schools; Jenny McMahan County Teacher Nantahala School; and Al Pribble, Gem & Mineral Society Scholarship Chairman.

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STATEPOINT  
CROSSWORD

THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ACROSS

- 1. Taken where?
- 6. Vegas bandit's body part
- 9. Titan's Venus or Collier's Godiva
- 13. Indian metropolis
- 14. Flapper's neckwear
- 15. E-cigarette output
- 16. Galsworthy's "The Forsyte \_\_\_\_\_," pl.
- 17. Bovine hangout
- 18. UV light absorber
- 19. \*Scrooge's late partner
- 21. \*December 26th, a.k.a. \_\_\_\_\_ Day
- 23. Ideas worth spreading, acr.
- 24. Great deal
- 25. \*Like Santa's suit
- 28. "\_\_\_\_\_ Las Vegas," Presley song
- 30. 1/100th of a ruble
- 35. Pupil's place
- 37. \*Sleigh bell sound
- 39. Fairytale dust-sprinkler
- 40. German Mrs.
- 41. Chose between competitors
- 43. Type of ballistic missile, acr.
- 44. Not a gregarious one
- 46. Castaway's home
- 47. Fungal spore sacs
- 48. Pencil end, often
- 50. \_\_\_\_\_-a-Sketch
- 52. Summer color
- 53. Cuckoo
- 55. "\_\_\_\_\_ the ramparts..."
- 57. \*Santa's call
- 60. \*Welcoming holiday decor
- 63. Bird of prey's hunting tool
- 64. 16th birthday gift?
- 66. Engages the services
- 68. Skirt shape
- 69. Beehive State native
- 70. Bikini, e.g.
- 71. Bibliophile's concern, sing.
- 72. D.C. bigwig
- 73. Australian Aboriginal's war club

DOWN

- 1. \*Do holiday ones start earlier every year?
- 2. Show pleasure
- 3. Aquarium organism
- 4. Navigational aid
- 5. \*Hanukkah month
- 6. Competently
- 7. Wade's 1973 opponent
- 8. Not yes, nor no
- 9. Like Hitler's Germany
- 10. Second word in fairytale
- 11. \*Ding follower in "Wonderful Christmastime"
- 12. \*But I heard him exclaim, \_\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight..."
- 15. Public opinion, in Great Britain
- 20. Changes to a manuscript
- 22. Sturdy tree
- 24. Telephone part
- 25. \*Ralphie's wish
- 26. Trial's partner
- 27. Late Princess of Wales
- 29. IV+IV
- 31. Type of cotton fiber
- 32. Exit plus s
- 33. Around
- 34. \*Macaulay's famous character
- 36. Takes to court
- 38. \*Hanukkah gift
- 42. "Magnolia" ware
- 45. Not in its original form
- 49. Pep rally syllable
- 51. TV variety show classic
- 54. Concentrate
- 56. Yogurt-based dip
- 57. \*Manger's glow
- 58. Dish of stewed meat
- 59. "\_\_\_\_\_ if you..." on a bumper sticker
- 60. Small songbird
- 61. Trampled
- 62. In custody
- 63. Coca Cola's first diet drink
- 65. \*What Whos did to roast
- 67. Silvester Stallone's nickname

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71						72				73				

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**Old Edwards Hospitality is offering the following positions:**

Immediate Full-Time On-Site Graphic Design and Layout Professional needed to join marketing department of Old Edwards Hospitality Group in Highlands, North Carolina. At least two years of print layout and design required. Keen eye for design, detail-oriented and proficiency in formatting for scannable content a must. Experience in CRM, email marketing, website updating and/or social media is a plus. Must have high integrity, sense of humor, consistently positive nature, interpersonal skills and work well as part of a close team. Full benefits. Possible subsidized housing. Position is 100% onsite in Highlands, NC, no exceptions. Please provide cover letter, resume and samples. References will be required.

Full-Time Temporary Marketing Position in Highlands, North Carolina  
Old Edwards Hospitality Group is seeking a marketing professional and graphic designer experienced in page layout and ad creation for both print and digital to fill a six-month position between approximately March 1 and September 31, 2020. At least two years of professional layout and design required. This position designs billboards, newspaper and magazine ads, digital ads and more for a high-end luxury brand. Some experience in website updating—required to learn—required (content management, not coding). Must have high integrity, sense of humor, consistently positive nature, interpersonal skills and work well as part of a close team. Position is 100% onsite in Highlands, NC, no exceptions. There is a possibility that this position could become permanent. Please provide cover letter, resume and samples. References will be required.

OLD EDWARDS Hospitality has the following positions open:  
Restaurant Four65: Part-time servers, full-time Hostess, AM/PM Sous Chef, Cook and Utility/Dishwasher needed.  
Old Edwards: Front Desk, Bellmen, Front Desk Supervisors, Spa attendants & concierge, Housekeepers, Laundry, Experienced servers & server assistants, Reservationist, Accounts Payable Specialist, Graphic Artists (Full-time and Full-time Temporary).

Please send resume in pdf format to [pturnbull@oldedwardsinn.com](mailto:pturnbull@oldedwardsinn.com) or apply online at [www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers](http://www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers)



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HILLBLAZER PROPERTY Maintenance/Management: Pressure Washing, Repairs, Painting, Debris Removed, Insured, Property Inspections, Monitoring (828)371-6844 US Navy Veteran Retired.

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# The Classifieds

## Rentals

**1BD/1BA SMALL CABIN** Big Yard, Perfect for single or couple. 3 miles from Town. Woodsy Setting. \$500/monthly, \$500/security. (828)371-6844.

**STUDIO APARTMENT** Close to town, \$550/monthly, \$350 Security Deposit, Water, Garbage Included. No Pets. Non-smoking (828)371-6844.

**COZY 2BD MOBILE** Furnished, W/D, Private, Garage Attached. Sewage included. (No Pets, Non-smoking). \$700/monthly, First/Last/Security Deposit Required, (828)342-4897.

**UNIQUE RENTAL HOME** in Ridgecrest Heights - Main house: 3BD/2BA, stackable washer - dryer, and an attached 1br, 1 bath 2 story Apt. With washer/dryer. \$1400 per month, \$1,400 security deposit, Electric is metered to the 3/2. 3/2 Tenant could rent Apt. for at least \$600+ includes utilities. Available 12/15. One year lease. (828)371-6844.

## Real Estate

**FOR SALE BY OWNER** 12.71 Acres, Stream, 4 acres grass then woods, Long Range Views, Good Road, Will Divide. (828)421-4582.

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**WANTED TO BUY** U.S. and Foreign Coins. Call Dan (828)421-1616. Any Quantity, Coins Also For Sale.

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**SHIH TZU/POMERANIAN** puppy. Cute sweet natured boy. 12 weeks old. All shots current. \$250. (828)200-5101.

## Garage & Yard Sales

**YARD SALE** Saturday, Dec. 14, from 8am-3pm. at the Coon Club, off Wide Horizon Drive. Don't Miss it!

## Misc. For Sale

**FARMERS MARKET** Winter Season 10am-Noon, every Saturday. Produce, honey, trout, artisan breads, pastries, roasted coffee beans, preserves, handcrafted soaps, eggs, peonies, lamb, microgreens. 200 Block East Palmer.

## Community Fundraisers

**REACH FOR BARGAINS** in Heritage Hollow is open Mon.-Sat. 10am to 4pm. Proceeds benefit Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. For More Information call 369-2040.

**CARENET THRIFT STORE** 268 E. Palmer St., Franklin, Hours, Monday through Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm. 100% of proceeds benefit the Mission of CareNet to help bridge the gap during times of crisis for families in Macon County. (828)349-9064.

**HABITAT RE-STORE** 56 W Palmer St., Franklin. Furniture, Lighting, Plumbing, Building Materials, Doors & Windows, Appliances & More! Hours 10am-4pm Mon.-Sat. (828)524-5273. Hours for the Sylva Re-Store, 1315 W. Main St. are Mon.-Sat., 10am-4pm, (828)586-1800.

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## PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

### CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2016	Chevrolet	Camaro	27,114	JUST IN!
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	97,171	CLASSIC!
2017	Chevrolet	Corvette	1,649	LOCAL TRADE!
2016	Chevrolet	Cruze	12,329	MANUAL!
2000	Chevrolet	Impala	183,000	JUST TRADED IN!
2015	Chevrolet	Spark	66,107	LOCAL TRADE!
2016	Dodge	Challenger	18,663	LOCAL TRADE!
1994	Ford	Crown Victoria	74,655	JUST TRADED IN!
2017	Ford	Focus RS	42,584	SOLD!
2013	Ford	Fusion	110,655	SOLD!
2015	Ford	Mustang	56,796	SOLD!
2007	Nissan	Altima	123,622	LOCAL TRADE!
2011	MINI	Cooper	91,698	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Subaru	Forester	24,993	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,516	SOLD!
2017	Subaru	Outback	36,193	JUST IN!
2014	Toyota	Camry	65,799	SOLD!
2018	Toyota	Camry	38,045	JUST IN!
2001	Toyota	Camry Solara	228,066	SOLD!
2018	Toyota	Corolla	46,172	FRESH ON THE LOT!

### TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	1,303	LOCAL TRADE!
2012	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	116,631	LOCAL TRADE!
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	13,412	LOCAL TRADE!
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	29,732	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	40,014	LOCAL TRADE!
2016	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	51,106	LOCAL TRADE!
2011	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	111,595	LOCAL TRADE!
2006	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	210,299	LOCAL TRADE!
2002	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	266,707	LOCAL TRADE!
2016	Ford	F-150	54,310	LOCAL TRADE!
2009	Ford	F-150	134,186	SOLD!
2015	Ford	F-250	77,117	SOLD!
2015	GMC	Sierra 1500	54,289	SOLD!
2017	GMC	Sierra 3500HD	147,376	FLAT BED!
2017	GMC	Canyon	30,106	DIESEL!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	35,665	JUST IN!
2015	RAM	1500	60,512	MUST SEE!
2017	RAM	2500	45,436	JUST IN!
2006	Ford	Ranger	175,980	SOLD!

### SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	25,106	PRICE REDUCED!
2014	Chevrolet	Equinox	82,313	LOCAL TRADE!
2006	Chevrolet	HHR	166,016	SOLD!
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	43,424	SOLD!
2019	Chevrolet	Suburban	13,010	LOCAL TRADE!
2015	Chevrolet	Tahoe	122,019	PRICE REDUCED!
2015	Chevrolet	Tahoe	84,089	PRICE REDUCED!
2013	Chevrolet	Tahoe	136,908	PRICE REDUCED!
2016	Chevrolet	Tahoe	15,869	LOW MILES!
2016	Chevrolet	Tahoe	70,915	JUST IN!
2019	Chevrolet	Traverse	24,465	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Chevrolet	Trax	57,819	LOCAL TRADE!
2014	Dodge	Durango	100,373	SOLD!
2017	Dodge	Journey	28,253	PRICE REDUCED!
2014	Ford	Escape	161,964	SOLD!
2018	Ford	Explorer	37,229	LOCAL TRADE!
2013	Ford	Explorer	167,270	SOLD!
2019	GMC	Acadia	13,433	PRICE REDUCED!
2014	Hyundai	Santa Fe	99,623	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	Hyundai	Santa Fe	31,168	JUST IN!
2018	Hyundai	Santa Fe Sport	39,451	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2014	Jeep	Cherokee	108,463	PRICE REDUCED!
2016	Jeep	Cherokee	70,872	LOCAL TRADE!
2007	Jeep	Wrangler	132,742	LOCAL TRADE! MANUAL!
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unlimited	6,498	LOW MILES!
2013	Kia	Sorento	91,873	SOLD!
2017	Kia	Sportage	24,309	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	35,408	THIRD ROW SEATING!
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	6,873	MUST SEE!
2017	Nissan	Rogue	26,502	LOCAL TRADE!
2019	Toyota	Highlander	25,810	PRICE REDUCED!

### MOTORCYCLES

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2002	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ROAD KING	3,261	LOCAL TRADE!
2007	HARLEY DAVIDSON	SCREAMING EAGLE	20,600	LOCAL TRADE!
1997	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ULTRA CLASSIC	26,160	LOCAL TRADE!

### BUS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2006	Ford	E-450 Cutaway	79,793	PERFECT FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION! SEATS 25!