

The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

*Free
independent
weekly*

Distributed in Franklin, Highlands, Otto, Sylvania, Dillsboro, Webster, Cullowhee, Scaly Mountain, N.C.; and Dillard, & Clayton, Ga.



December 5, 2019 • 24 Pages

Volume 37 Number 29

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Franklin Christmas Parade was held Sunday, Dec. 1, under a “bluebird” sky with plenty of sunshine and seasonal temperatures. Hundreds of entries made for a respectable parade with horses, cars, floats, civic clubs, bands and churches meandering down Main Street for the enjoyment of the crowds gathered along the parade route. For more photos, see page 12.

Photo by Ellen Bishop

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I Love My Town promotes love and compassion

Bank merger expected to be complete by summer

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

Customers logging onto their Entegra Bank (formerly Macon Bank) online accounts on Monday were met with an update notice regarding the company’s merger with First Citizens BancShares, Inc. Entegra Financial Corp.

Entegra Bank announced Monday that a letter of agreement (LOA) was signed with the Department of Justice (DOJ) that required three Entegra Branch locations to be sold to a different buyer prior to receiving approval for the merger with First Citizens Bank.

“In connection with obtaining clearance of the transaction from the DOJ, the LOA requires that the parties divest three



The Department of Justice requires that Entegra sell its branch offices in Franklin, Highlands and Sylva prior to the close of the merger with First Citizens Bank.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Entegra Bank branches located in Western North Carolina: Holly Springs (30 Hyatt Road, Franklin, NC), Highlands (473 Carolina Way, Highlands, NC) and Sylva (498 East Main, Sylva, NC) (collectively, the “Divestiture Branches” or the “Divestiture”) and enter into a sale agreement for the Divestiture Branches with a buyer approved by the DOJ (the “Divestiture Buyer”) prior to the close of the Merger,” read the announcement.

Roger Plemmons, CEO of Entegra Bank said on Tuesday that the DOJ selected the branches that had to be sold and it will likely be four or five months before any changes are made as a result of Monday’s

See MERGER page 4

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Mayors Scott and Taylor named Dogwood Award recipients

Attorney General Josh Stein has awarded 22 North Carolinians with the Attorney General's Dogwood Award. These awards are given annually to honor North Carolinians who are dedicated to keeping people safe, healthy, and happy in their communities. Each of the 22 recipients have been working to address issues that make North Carolina safer and stronger, including testing sexual assault kits, fighting addiction, protecting our environment, addressing food insecurity, improving people's health, and facilitating reentry of formerly incarcerated people.

"This year's Dogwood Award winners are working hard in their communities on behalf of their friends and neighbors," said Attorney General Josh Stein. "I applaud their commitment to service and their contributions to our state. I am proud to honor each with a Dogwood Award."

Among the award winners are Franklin Mayor Bob Scott and Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor.

"Mayors Bob Scott and Patrick Taylor

Mayor Taylor provided extremely helpful on-the-ground insight throughout that process. I appreciate their leadership in standing up to protect the people they serve and their health care."

A native of Greenville, S.C., Scott has lived in Franklin since 1967. He is a graduate of Western Carolina University, the FBI National Academy and Palmetto Military Academy, and the South Carolina National Guard's Officer Candidate School. He retired from the Western Carolina University Campus Police Department where he served as executive officer. Scott currently serves as a Director of the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

"I am humbled to receive this award," said Scott. "However, I am receiving it on behalf of the men and women of Franklin, Highlands, and Macon County who stood with Mayor Pat Taylor of Highlands and Barrett Hawks of Highlands and myself, in making sure we were not short changed in the Mission/HCA deal. Also, my heartfelt thanks that General Stein stood with us and listened to



Attorney General Josh Stein is pictured with 17 of the Dogwood Award recipients including Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor.



Attorney General Josh Stein congratulates Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor on receiving the Dogwood Award. Franklin Mayor Bob Scott was also a recipient.

were extremely helpful to my office and me as we worked to negotiate the best deal for health care in western North Carolina," said Attorney General Josh Stein. "My office conducted an extensive review of the Mission/HCA transfer and Mayor Scott and

our concerns."

Taylor has been the mayor of Highlands since 2013. He has also served as a magistrate of the North Carolina 30th Judicial District. Prior to that, he taught art at the high school and collegiate levels. He is also a highly re-

garded potter. Taylor has degrees from Valdosta State University and the University of Georgia.

"It is an honor to be a recipient of a Dogwood Award," said Taylor. "I was a part of the team that advocated for the interest of the small hospitals in outlying service areas during the recent Asset Purchase Agreement between Hospital Corporation of America and Mission Healthcare. Mayor Bob Scott of Franklin and Barrett Hawks of Highlands were important partners in this team effort. I appreciate the leadership and vision of Attorney General Stein and his staff in approving this major purchase with provisions that will insure continued healthcare access to the citizens of Western North Carolina. While there is still work to be done in developing health care access for all, this transaction was an important step and a model for the entire state."

Following is a full list of 2019 Dogwood Award Recipients:

- Dr. Wanda Boone, Together for Resilient Youth, Durham
- Dr. Mark Bowling, Vidant Health, Greenville
- Tom Brewer, President, Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Association of North Carolina, Charlotte
- Sen. Danny Britt, Columbus and Robeson County
- Sec. Mandy Cohen, North Carolina De-

partment of Health and Human Services, Raleigh

- Casey Cooper, Chief Executive Officer, Cherokee Indian Hospital, Cherokee
- Chief Cerelyn "CJ" Davis, Durham Police Department
- Molly Diggins, State Director, Sierra Club, Raleigh
- Officer D.K. Evans, School Resource Officer, Greensboro Police Department
- Randy Evans, Founder and Director, Walking Tall Wilmington
- Dennis Gaddy, Founder and Executive Director, Community Success Initiative, Raleigh
- Chief Gina Hawkins, Fayetteville Police Department
- Sheriff John Ingram, Brunswick County
- Luka Kinard, Student/Speaker on Dangers of E-cigarettes, High Point
- Sheriff Alan Norman, Cleveland County
- Rep. Dennis Riddell, Alamance County
- Mayor Bob Scott, Franklin
- Chief Wayne Scott, Greensboro Police Department
- Mayor Patrick Taylor, Highlands
- Chief Catrina Thompson, Winston-Salem Police Department
- Don Waddell, General Manager, Carolina Hurricanes, Raleigh
- Chief Mike Yaniero, Jacksonville Police Department

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This Saturday, have your gifts wrapped and meet Santa, too

Santa Claus will be stopping in Franklin this Saturday to visit with all the good little boys and girls for the Shop with a Cop Gift Wrapping fundraiser. Santa will be taking pictures for donations of any amount to go to Macon County Sheriff's Office Shop with a Cop Program.

Shop with a Cop provides Christmas to more than 400 children in Macon County who need a little extra holiday cheer. The program has been operating for nearly 25 years and continues to grow each year.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10-2 the Macon County Republican Party will be hosting a gift wrapping fundraiser to raise funds for the program. Volunteers will be on hand with all the supplies to wrap Christmas gifts to make your gifts look perfect under the tree.

The event will feature a special guest appearance by Macon County Safe Kids' mascots, Chase and Marshal from Paw Patrol. They will be teaming up with Santa for some fun holiday photos and to help kids write their letters to Santa. Every letter received during Saturday's event will receive a special personalized letter in the mail from Santa himself in the coming weeks.

Make plans to stop at the Macon County Republican Party Headquarters at the Franklin Flea Market on Highlands Road Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10-2. Another gift wrapping fundraiser for Shop with a Cop will be held at the Macon County Community Building on Dec. 21 from 10-2.

Candidate filing begins for 2020 election

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

Candidates for the 2020 elections have started filing for the upcoming election, as the filing period opened on Monday, Dec. 2, in North Carolina.

Karl Gillespie, who currently serves on the Macon County Board of Commissioners made his way to the Macon County Board of Elections on Monday shortly after filing opened to file for North Carolina House of Representative District 120. The seat is currently held by Kevin Corbin, who also filed on Monday for North Carolina Senate District 50.

While no challengers have yet to come forward against Gillespie, who announced his intention to run for office a few weeks ago, Corbin is facing at least one opponent, Dr. Sarah Conway, a Jackson County Republican. The two will face off in the 2020 primary election, set for Tuesday, March 3.

Several local attorneys have filed for the District Court Judge seat expected to become vacant when longtime Judge



Macon Commissioner Karl Gillespie officially files to run for N.C. House of Representatives.

Richard Walker retires. Attorney Rich Cassidy, who is based in Macon County, has announced his intention to run for the seat as have Jim Moore and Kaleb Wingate, who are both based in Haywood. Both Moore and Wingate currently serve as defense attorneys and have also both served as assistant district attorneys.

While several statewide elections are on the ballot for 2020, due to ongoing litigation over the drawing of the state's 13 congressional districts, filing for candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives has been postponed. Congressman Mark Meadows currently represents District 11 in the House of Representatives and while his district will likely change slightly whenever final congressional maps are finalized, it will not impact the western counties he represents.

Filing will continue until Friday, Dec. 20. The 2020 primary election will be held in North Carolina on Tuesday, March 3, and the general election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, nationwide.

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MCSO's 'Operation Zero Tolerance'

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

After individuals have their day in court, they are often placed on probation and a portion of their judgement stipulates they must complete an array of various directives such as drug treatment, community service, not associating with other known criminals or meet certain other conditions. North Carolina Probation and Parole officers are tasked with monitoring these individuals and ensuring they comply with the judge's orders following their court appearance. In a county-wide operation, North Carolina DPS Probation, the Macon County Sheriff's Office, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations and Homeland Security teamed up for "Operation Zero Tolerance" which targeted many who have been involved in the sales and/or distribution of narcotics and were fugitives.

The agencies involved conducted searches of residences, made traffic stops, and executed both search and arrest warrants which resulted in capturing 19 suspects for crimes ranging from drug manufacturing to possession of a firearm by a felon.

"I appreciate the efforts of all the organizations involved," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "This operation took several weeks to plan and went off perfectly. With an escape that occurred the previous day, we took the opportu-

nity to include the additional resources. Several suspects arrested provided important information that turned out to be credible and ultimately led to the successful apprehension of escapee Kaitlyn Fitzgibbons."

Individuals arrested during the Nov. 20 operation include:

1. James Homer Taylor – possession of firearm by felon (2), possess stolen firearm, sell/deliver heroin, maintaining a dwelling/place controlled substances. \$27,000 secured bond.

2. Megan Thomas - sell/deliver heroin, maintaining a dwelling/place controlled substances. \$12,000 secured bond.

3. Rita Lynn Webb – sell/deliver heroin. \$10,000 secured bond.

4. Crystal Ledbetter - possess methamphetamine, possess heroin, possess Schedule I controlled substance, possess drug paraphernalia. \$7,000 secured bond.

5. Ian Thomas Spies - possess methamphetamine, possess heroin, possess Schedule I controlled substance, possess drug paraphernalia. \$7,000 secured bond.

6. Ryan Finn - maintaining a dwelling/place for controlled substances. \$3,000 secured bond.

7. Rita Morgan - possess methamphetamine, possess drug paraphernalia. \$3,500

See OPERATION page 8

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Second annual Christmas Carol Singing on the Square set Dec. 24

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

During the holiday season traditions are likely to play a significant part of any celebration.

Leaving milk and cookies for Santa, cooking certain foods such as turkey or ham on Thanksgiving and Christmas, opening gifts on Christmas morning, singing Christmas carols, reading holiday stories and watching holiday movies are traditions that families participate in. This year the Town of Franklin is continuing a new tradition begun last year by a little boy that just wanted the community to come together.

Daniel Candelario is an 11-year-old boy who, after seeing the movie “The Grinch” wished that the town could come together like the Who’s in Whoville did, and sing Christmas carols and hold hands.

Daniel’s wish came true last Christmas Eve when a crowd of more than 200 people gathered at the town square and did just that. Strangers held hands, smiled, and sang Christmas carols. Mayor Bob Scott was so impressed by this event that he promised to make it an annual event for the town of Franklin. So this year, Daniel and his interpreter, Carolanne Elliot, will be at the Town

Square at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve to continue the new tradition, “Christmas Singing on the Square.” Who would have imagined that a young child’s wish would come to fruition and bring the town together, if only for a few hours, on Christmas Eve?

Daniel is a very humble child from a modest home with loving parents and two siblings. Although Daniel is deaf, he enjoys feeling the vibrations of the music. This year Daniel turned 11 and entered fourth grade at East Franklin Elementary School. He attends Cartoogechaye Baptist Church, which he loves, and is very much into sports. Daniel is going to play basketball next year and he loves Stephen Curry, who plays point guard, on the Golden Warriors Basketball Team in San Francisco. This past year, Daniel was on the Macon County Youth Football League as a “Mite” whose team took first place at the championship series. Daniel loves sports of any



Daniel Candelario, 11, wants the community to come together and sing Christmas carols on Christmas Eve.

type. He is very excited for the Christmas Eve singing this year. On his Christmas wish list is sports outfits and memorabilia from the Golden Warriors and Stephen Curry shoes.

Daniel’s wish for this Christmas is for everyone to come to the Town Square on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. to sing and be happy and he wants to hug as many people as he can.

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YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	MILES
2016	Chevrolet	Camaro	27,114	JUST IN!
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	97,171	ANTIQUE
2017	Chevrolet	Corvette	1,649	LIKE NEW!
2016	Chevrolet	Cruze	12,329	MANUAL
2015	Chevrolet	Spark	66,107	SOLD
2016	Dodge	Challenger	18,663	SOLD
1994	Ford	Crown Victoria	74,655	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Ford	Focus RS	42,584	SOLD
2013	Ford	Fusion	110,655	SOLD
2015	Ford	Mustang	56,796	SOLD
2011	MINI	Cooper	91,698	SOLD
2017	Subaru	Forester	24,993	JUST IN!
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,516	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Subaru	Outback	36,193	PERFECT FOR MTN. WINTERS
2014	Toyota	Camry	65,799	SOLD
2018	Toyota	Camry	38,039	JUST IN!
2001	Toyota	Camry Solara	228,066	SOLD
2018	Toyota	Corolla	46,172	SOLD
2007	Nissan	Altima	123,622	SOLD

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	MILES
2009	Buick	Enclave	204,634	SOLD
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	25,106	JUST IN
2014	Chevrolet	Equinox	82,313	LOCAL TRADE
2006	Chevrolet	HHR	166,016	SOLD
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	43,424	ONE OWNER
2018	Chevrolet	Suburban	42,645	LOCAL TRADE
2019	Chevrolet	Suburban	13,010	JUST IN
2015	Chevrolet	Tahoe	122,019	SOLD
2015	Chevrolet	Tahoe	84,089	SOLD
2013	Chevrolet	Tahoe	136,908	LOCAL TRADE
2016	Chevrolet	Tahoe	15,869	LOW MILES
2016	Chevrolet	Tahoe	70,915	LOCAL TRADE
2019	Chevrolet	Traverse	24,459	SOLD
2017	Chevrolet	Trax	57,819	LOCAL TRADE
2014	Dodge	Durango	100,373	SOLD
2017	Dodge	Journey	28,253	SOLD
2006	Ford	Escape	112,757	SOLD
2014	Ford	Escape	161,964	SOLD
2018	Ford	Explorer	37,229	JUST IN
2013	Ford	Explorer	167,270	SOLD
2019	GMC	Acadia	13,433	JUST IN
2014	Hyundai	Santa Fe	99,623	SOLD
2019	Hyundai	Santa Fe	31,168	JUST IN
2018	Hyundai	Santa Fe Sport	39,451	FRESH ON THE LOT
2018	Hyundai	Santa Fe Sport	38,962	FRESH ON THE LOT
2014	Jeep	Cherokee	108,463	LOCAL TRADE
2016	Jeep	Cherokee	70,872	LOCAL TRADE
2007	Jeep	Wrangler	132,737	LOCAL TRADE
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unltd.	16,498	SOLD
2017	Kia	Sportage	24,309	JUST IN
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	35,408	JUST IN
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	6,873	LOW MILES
2017	Nissan	Rogue	26,502	JUST IN
2019	Toyota	Highlander	25,810	SOLD

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	MILES
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	1,302	ONE OWNER
2012	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	116,631	SOLD
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	13,412	ONE OWNER
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	29,732	JUST IN
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	40,014	JUST IN
2016	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	51,106	FRESH ON THE LOT
2006	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	210,299	LOCAL TRADE
2002	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	266,707	LOCAL TRADE
2019	Ford	F-150	11,470	LOW MILES
2016	Ford	F-150	54,310	SOLD
2015	Ford	F-250	77,117	SOLD
2017	GMC	Canyon	30,106	DIESEL
2015	GMC	Sierra 1500	54,289	SOLD
2017	GMC	Sierra 3500HD	147,376	FLAT BED
2019	Nissan	Frontier	35,665	JUST IN
2015	RAM	1500	60,512	SOLD
2017	RAM	2500	45,436	JUST IN

MOTORCYCLES

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

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OPERATION

Continued from page 5

- secured bond.
 - 8. Byron Blue - possess methamphetamine, possess drug paraphernalia. \$3,500 secured bond.
 - 9. Travis Zepeda - possess marijuana, possess drug paraphernalia. \$1,500 secured bond.
 - 10. Dustin Hathcock - order for arrest contempt order. No bond.
 - 11. Ashley Vasallo - Order for arrest, three counts of failure to appear. \$5,000 secured bond.
 - 12. Sheldon Bateman - order for arrest, four counts of felony probation violation. \$10,000 secured bond
 - 13. Cameron Lee Holland - possess methamphetamine, simple possession Schedule IV controlled substance, possess drug paraphernalia, possess marijuana. \$4,000 secured bond.
 - 14. Melissa Sue Heard - possess methamphetamine, possess drug paraphernalia, order for arrest, failure to appear. \$3,500 secured bond.
 - 15. Donald Justus - order for arrest, two counts of failure to appear. \$1,000 secured bond.
 - 16. George Bell - possess heroin, simple possession Schedule II controlled substance, possess drug paraphernalia. \$4,000 secured bond.
 - 17. Kaz Heaton - possession of firearm by a felon, possess methamphetamine, possess drug paraphernalia. \$13,000 secured bond.
 - 18. Kelly Walker - order for arrest, two counts of failure to appear. \$1,000 secured bond
 - 19. Melissa Barnes - possess methamphetamine, possess drug paraphernalia. \$3,500 Secured Bond
- While Operation Zero Tolerance saw 19 arrested, three individuals were not captured and are now considered Wanted Fugitives:
- Reyna Garcilita - trafficking heroin, felony parole violations
 - Jeremy Sanders - two counts trafficking heroin, sell/deliver heroin, two counts maintaining a dwelling/place for controlled substances.
 - Shawn Casey - sell/deliver heroin, maintaining a dwelling/place for controlled substances.
 - Anyone having information about the whereabouts of these individuals should contact the Macon County Sheriff's Office.

Dec. 8 concert at FPC to benefit CareNet

Franklin First Presbyterian Church's holiday concert to benefit the Macon County Care Network will be held at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 8, in the church's sanctuary, 26 Church St., in Franklin.

Coordinated by Anne Tauber, minister of music at First Presbyterian, the program features sacred and secular holiday music performed by Mountain Voices (directed by Beverly Barnett and accompanied by Mary Pittman); the Chapel Choir of First Presbyterian; piano and organ solos by Anne Tauber and Frank Armato; and piano duet by Mary Pittman and Anne Tauber. Other performing ensembles are the internationally renowned Onion Mountain Quartet, the Dietz Family featuring yodeling by Ella Ledford, and the musical comedy team of Joe Fortunato and Joe Alexander.

Admission to the concert is free, and the public is invited. A love offering will be taken for Care Net, and donations of canned goods are also welcome. First Presbyterian Church will match all monetary donations up to \$1,000, dollar-for-dollar. This concert raises funds and awareness for the Macon County Care Network as it continues to serve our neighbors in need by providing food and nurturing hope.

The community is invited to come out, enjoy some wonderful holiday music, and give generously to help feed the hungry in Macon County. In addition to the concert, all who attend are invited to join together for a punch, coffee and cookie reception that will follow in Tartan Hall.

Mountain Winds presents holiday concert Dec. 11

The Mountain Winds Community Band will present a concert of holiday favorites on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., in the Coulter Recital Hall on the campus of Western Carolina University. The concert is free and open to the public.

Under the direction of Jon Henson and Bob Buckner, The Mountain Winds was founded in 2009. The group is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year and looks forward to sharing in some holiday cheer with all those who attend. Comprised from members of Jackson and surrounding counties and students from WCU and various high schools in the area the group meets once a week to prepare concerts throughout the year.

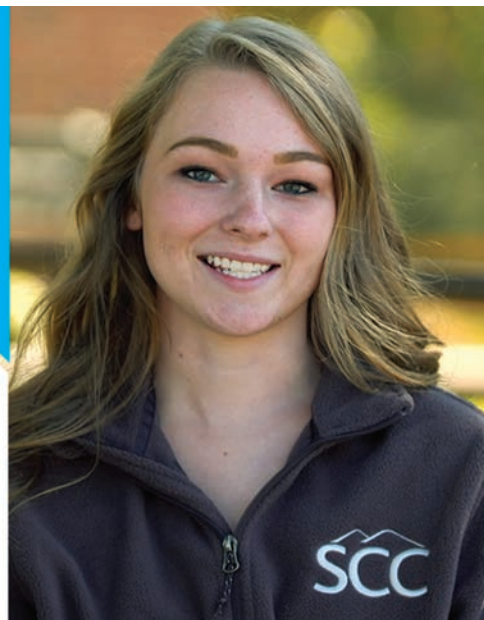
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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Creating a comprehensive plan this coming year that addresses sustainability issues should be a top priority. I support hiring a professional consulting company to guide the planning board, town staff and community stakeholders through this effort, a process that will shape a community vision as a guide for future decisions.

I am aware we live in a rapidly changing, unpredictable world.

Longterm planning may not be possible, but strategic planning to respond to unanticipated events and rapid change is needed. To folks who say they just want to keep Highlands the way it has always been, my response is that's not going to happen. And how exactly has it always been? In the not too distant future major changes beyond our control will impact Highlands. As a community we need to have the mechanisms in place to respond.

The challenge will be to sustain and protect this beautiful natural environment, yet also create an economy that can support the needs of residents. The paradox is that the more we want to build and develop as a means of expanding economic prosperity, the more we risk changing the social and natural environment. How many people can Highlands accommodate and still preserve this spectacular environment?

We may see glimpses of this dynamic already in play. On Black Friday the business district was completely full with no parking spaces available. What action should be taken? Build a huge parking garage like the ones in major cities? If so, how do we address resulting capacity issues? Already on Black Friday our rather small sidewalks were full, too. Do we expand existent spaces and infrastructure in order to have more and more people here? And, what will be the nature of retail stores a decade from now? Already some retail merchants have adopted the tactic of promoting products to potential customers who are simply walking down the sidewalks.

Other growth and change issues face Highlands. How will we meet energy demands, especially if the town expands? What form of energy will Highlands use by the end of the decade when the contract with Duke Energy is renegotiated, or will there be other options? How will the town and county manage solid waste disposal and recycling? How will we address workforce issues and related housing concerns? Or, will artificial intelligence and robotics change the entire dynamic of work and labor as we know it today? Please don't tell me that is wild speculation, it isn't. These changes and potential displacements are close at hand.

I look at the current concerns about healthcare and suspect a decade from now there will be major changes in medicine that we didn't see coming. Our fiber optic network could play a key role in delivering new services. The Washington Post just ran a story of remote, experimental cyber surgery being done in rural hospitals. Imagine an appendectomy being done at the Highlands Cashiers Hospital with a surgeon operating from Asheville.

So, as we start a new year, I believe it is imperative that we look toward the future. And by that I mean what lies ahead in just a few years, not just 30 years down. The future has accelerated.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks to business partnerships for memorial upkeep

When we moved here in Macon County, we found a place for our Memorial. As a veteran, I am impressed with the finest veterans memorial I've ever seen.

Here in Franklin with the great help from many businesses, VFW, American Legion, and of course, veterans.

To maintain the memorial, the veterans groups have taken on the task in partnership with the many wonderful businesses in our community. We vets say thank you!

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Bob Crawford – In memory of R. L. Crawford

God bless all of you for your generous help in supporting your community Veterans Memorial. Without your help it would be almost impossible. Well done.

We recommend that our great businesses here in Macon County to come aboard and join your fellow business brothers and sisters and support the continued caring of our memorial. It belongs to all of us.

Your community vets and
William Trapani

Impeachment is the only solution

In the Nov. 26th issue of the MCN, a writer stated; "For the life of me, I just can't understand why so many people don't like President Trump." "Socialist propaganda spewing out of fake news" aside, I can help with that.

To begin, Trump's steady and sprawling maleficence; his gropes, his slurs, tantrums, betrayals, his inane (but often threatening) tweets, government shutdowns, immigrant cages, paying off a porn star to hide the relationship, and the incessant lying (what is the figure?), 3,000 and counting. Not all Americans are comfortable with this kind of behavior.

President Trump has used foreign policy and abused the power of his office to enhance political aims for his own personal benefit. He has promoted Russian propaganda and publicly welcomed interference from an adversarial foreign government in our electoral process.

He has dishonored decorated veterans (past and present) and referred to other veterans who disagree with him (and that would include me) as "human scum." This doesn't always set well with the veteran community (and shouldn't).

More important, Trump has been implicated in multiple

counts of obstruction of justice and witness tampering. He works to undercut witnesses at hearings, tweeting about one of them while she was testifying. In addition, he has ordered people to ignore subpoenas in violation of the Constitution and the law, not to mention his oath of office. The Trump administration has stonewalled Congress in every manner possible to hinder a legal and just investigation it is Congress' duty to pursue, and Republicans are wrongly going along with it.

Most important, Trump has solicited a foreign government to investigate a political opponent in exchange for military aid and (concurrently) instructed subordinates to take directions from his personal lawyer (Rudy Giuliani), regarding that foreign power.

Trump has endeavored to turn vital strongholds of democracy – prosecutors, the judiciary, the Federal Reserve (to name just three) – into obedient servants of his political interests. These are major abuses of power and clearly threaten America's democratic governance.

The Trump administration and the Republican Party have abandoned positions such as support for law and order, fiscal responsibility, science, free trade, ethics in government, defense of allies and standing up to dictators abroad, beliefs that long framed the Republican Party's high ground.

Trump has destroyed so many norms of American life we once took for granted there is no space big enough to list them all, from the denigration of veterans to the adoration of dictators, from abandoning basic dignity we expect from our presidents to telling so many lies fact-checkers can barely keep up.

President Trump (and the GOP) have failed the test of character and the only solution is impeachment and removal of the greatest threat to the United States Constitution ever to come to the Oval Office.

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

Princeton is home!

Thank you to all the people in Franklin. We were helpless without you!

Special thank you to Jan Mc Gee of Macon Traces who was with us 24/7.

The civic minded principal of Macon Middle School, Mr. Scot Maslin.

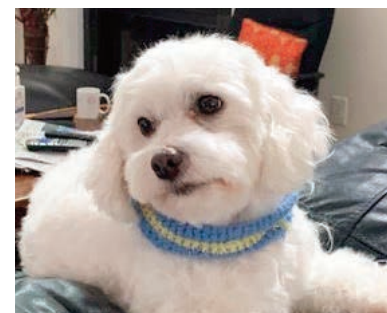
Amanda Seum-Stringer for 24/7 BOLO..

Dyanne Siktar and Pat Cable.

And all the Prayers!

We are touched beyond words!

Michelle Tan
Buford, Ga.



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Deadline for display advertising is Friday at
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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.

The Macon County News letters page is a public forum open to a wide variety of opinions. Letters are neither accepted nor rejected on the basis of the opinions expressed. Writers are asked to refrain from personal attacks against individuals or businesses. Letters are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of the publisher, editor or staff of The Macon County News.

MERGER

Continued from page 1

announcement.

Both banks are in the process of securing approvals from the federal and state bank regulatory agencies. The banks hope to identify an approved buyer for the three identified branches and close the merger between First Citizens and Entegra as soon as practicable, and, following closing of the merger, the divestiture branches will continue to be operated as they are currently being operated until closing of the divestiture, which must occur within 180 days after the closing of the merger.

Plemmons said that any existing Entegra Bank locations will continue to operate under the Entegra Bank for several months after the merger during a transition phase but eventually they will be switched to First Citizens Bank. Plemmons expects the process to be complete by next summer.

On Jan. 15, Entegra originally announced it had entered into an agreement to combine with SmartFinancial Inc. in a strategic merger of equals, in which each share of Entegra common stock would be converted into 1.215 share of SmartFinancial common stock. However, based on the closing price of SmartFinancial's common stock of \$18.40 on Jan. 14, this implied a transaction value of \$22.36 per share, or approximately \$158.2 million. First Citizens Bank then approached Entegra and its advisors with a considerably higher price to acquire the company.

Under the terms of its definitive agreement with SmartFinancial, the board of directors of Entegra exercised its right to enter into discussions with First Citizens Bank. Ultimately, the board determined that the case consideration offer of \$30.18 from First Citizens Bank was a superior proposal to the agreement with SmartFinancial, and pursuant to its fiduciary duties and, as permitted under its agreement with SmartFinancial, entered into an agreement with First Citizens Bank. Under the terms of the First Citizens Bank agreement with Entegra, First Citizens was required to pay a termination fee of \$6.4 million to SmartFinancial on behalf of Entegra, which Entegra was obligated to pay under its agreement with SmartFinancial upon the termination of that agreement by Entegra.

At the end of last year, Entegra reported \$1.6 billion in consolidated assets, \$1.2 billion in deposits and \$1.1 billion in loans. The bank has 18 offices and two loan production offices throughout western North Carolina, upstate South Carolina and north Georgia.

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CHRISTMAS PARADE 2019

Photos by Ellen Bishop and Betsey Gooder



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Matt Harfinger was the male winner of the Ugly Holiday Sweater Dash.

Winter Wonderland

The Town of Franklin kicked off the Christmas season with Winter Wonderland last Saturday. Santa Claus roamed the streets along with The Grinch and Olaf the Snowman. Visitors to downtown were treated to festive displays, carriage and miniature train rides, wagon rides and refreshments offered by Main Street merchants. Winter Wonderland happens again this Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. in downtown Franklin. Photos by Betsy 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 11 - Dec. 1. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

November 18

Brandon Lex Penland, 31, of Franklin, was issued a true bill of indictment for felony larceny, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$6,000 was set. Mike Langley Sr. made the arrest.

November 19

Thomas Allen Waldrop, 32, of Franklin, was issued warrant service for offenses committed in jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

November 20

Gene Siler Passmore II, 38, of Franklin, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set. Tracy Platt made the arrest.

Cameron Lee Holland, 41, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Jonathan Wade Hurst, 22, of Franklin, was issued warrant service for offenses committed in jurisdiction. No bond was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Dustin Reed Hathcock, 33, of Franklin, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. A secured bond of \$5,364 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Megan Elizabeth Thomas, 34, of Franklin, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$12,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Ryan David Finn, 39, of Franklin, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Gregory Donald Justus, 28, of Clayton, Ga., was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Ian Thomas Spies, 31, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin, felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$7,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Crystal Lucille Ledbetter, 37, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin, felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$7,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Kaz Ryan Heaton, 31, of Franklin, was charged with possession of firearm by a convicted felon, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$13,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

George Lewis Bell, 37, of Franklin, was charged with

possession of heroin, simple possession of schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set. James E. Crawford II made the arrest.

Melissa Sue-Chennault Barnes, 37, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

November 21

Sheldon Trent Bateman, 44, of Tipton, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. James E. Crawford made the arrest.

Storm Tykane Teesateskie, 21, of Franklin, was charged with assault on a government officer/employee, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer/employee. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Bradley Allen Edwards, 28, of Beaver Dam, Wisc., was charged with contributing to delinquency of a juvenile, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Richard Anthony Owens, 62, of Franklin, was charged with felony harboring escapee. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

November 22

Curtis Anthony Milam, 30, of Kings Mountain, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. A secured bond of \$4,500 was set. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Matthew Devon Perkins, 25, of Highlands, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Amanda Dawn Clawson, 38, of Franklin, was issued an indictment. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Kaitlin Sara Fitzgibbons, 27, of Otto, was charged with felony escape local jail, felony probation, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$200,000 was set. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

November 23

Dennis Paul Kramber, 42, of Franklin, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Michelle Janette Ray, 42, of Franklin, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

November 25

Sarah Lynn Webb, 31, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine, issued an order for arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

November 26

Bridget Mae Sanders, 26, of Parsons Way, was issued an order for arrest for injury to real property. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Christopher Lee Rhinehart, 36, of Franklin, was charged with assault on a female, assault on another person in the presence of a minor. No bond was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Amanda Dawn Clawson, 38, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Jacqueline Helena Kidd, 35, of Franklin, was charged with breaking and entering, failure to appear. A secured bond of \$12,000 was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

James Wells Lowrey IV, 36, of Highlands, was charged with domestic violence protective order service, breaking and entering. No bond was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

November 27

Jerry Robbins, 55, of Franklin, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

November 30

James Stephen Ray Gammon, 24, of Cherokee, was charged with driving while impaired. An unsecured bond was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

December 1

Henry Stacey Phillips, 48, of Franklin, was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle, possession of stolen goods/property. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

November 19

Storm Tykane Teesateskie, 21, of Green St., Franklin, was charged with malicious conduct by a prisoner, trespass of real property, simple assault, resisting officers, possession of a schedule 1 controlled substance. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. Officer Kirkland made the arrest.

November 22

Glen Allen O'Neil, 45, of Ledford Meadows Lane, was charged with no operators license, injury to personal property, assault with a deadly weapon. A \$2,000 bond was set.

Terry Michael Atkinson, 60, of Haughton Williams Rd., was charged with rear lamps violation. A \$2,500 bond was set.

November 23

Bruce Zachary McDonald, 31, of Burgess Rd., was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, battery of unborn child. A secured bond of \$120,000 was set. Officer Kirkland made the arrest.

November 26

Krystal Marie Downing, 20, of Hatfield Rd., was charged with trespass of real property, motor vehicle theft. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Officer Kirkland made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

November 11

Rodney Alan Panther, 33, of Long Branch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of stolen motor vehicle, obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

November 12

Sasha Nichol Connor, 32, of Putuna Lane, was issued a governors warrant. No bond was set.

Johnny Ray Arch, 46, of Webster Rd., was charged with simple assault. A secured bond of \$200 was set.

Chasity Lynn Austin, 26, of Homespun Rd., was charged with conspire to commit felony larceny, larceny after break/enter, breaking and entering. An unsecured bond of \$10,000 bond was set.

November 13

Anthony Travis Arrwood, of Saint James Place, Cullowhee, was charged with possession of stolen motor vehicle, motor vehicle theft, breaking and entering of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.



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Andrew Peterson presents 'Behold the Lamb'

For two decades, Andrew Peterson has presented Behold the Lamb of God, a live concert event that tells the story of the coming of Christ. The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts welcomes Peterson on his 20th anniversary tour of Behold the Lamb of God on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$25 each and priority seating is available.



Andrew Peterson

Peterson is a recording artist, songwriter, producer, filmmaker, publisher, and award-winning author. He is known for songs such as, "Be Kind To Yourself," "Is He Worth," and "Don't You Want to Thank Someone." Peterson has received multiple accolades, including three Dove Award nominations.

Behold the Lamb of God has been a passion project for Peterson. He knew he wanted to interweave a collection of songs to tell a larger story, but it wasn't until he attended a Christmas concert with a friend that he realized that story would be told through a collection of Christmas songs and the story would be the birth of Christ. Behold the Lamb of God is a musical celebration of the true meaning of Christmas. It has received rave reviews year after year and often includes special guests.

To purchase tickets or to find out more information about this or any other show at the theater, visit GreatMountainMusic.com or call (828) 273-4615.

Acoustic Christmas Show Dec. 10 at SMCPA

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, Christian music superstar Steven Curtis Chapman will be in concert at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts (SMCPA), performing his Acoustic Christmas show with special guest Jillian Edwards. Showtime is set for 7:30 p.m. and tickets start at \$25 each.

Chapman is a singer, songwriter, record producer, author, actor, and social activist whose mission it is to glorify God in

every endeavor. His music represents his incredible journey and his performances are filled with worship and praise. His career spans more than 30 years and has earned him the honor of most-awarded artist in Christian music history. His accolades include 58 Dove Awards, five Grammy Awards, and an American Music Award. Chapman has released 48 number one singles and ten gold or platinum certified albums. He has sold over 11 million albums and has been recognized as one of the most creative, productive, and fruitful singers in the Christian music genre. Some of his hits include, "I Will Be Here," "Glorious Unfolding," "Do Everything," and "Listen to Our Hearts."

Acoustic Christmas showgoers will hear many Christmas tunes including traditional favorites such as, "Joy to the World" and "We Three Kings," modern-day favorites like, "Let it Snow" and "Christmas Time is Here," and Chapman's original tunes such as, "Christmas Kiss," "Christmas Time Again," and "Christmas in Kentucky."



Steven Curtis Chapman

Joining Chapman on his is Acoustic Christmas Tour is Jillian Edwards, a singer-songwriter who primarily plays indie folk and indie pop music. She has released five albums since first beginning her music career 10 years ago. Her latest album, "Daydream," charted at number six on Billboard's New Artist Chart and number one on iTunes Singer/Songwriter chart. Edwards' musical influences include Alison Krauss, Patty Griffin, and Mindy Smith. Her voice

has been described to have a smoky warmth that is pure and enchanting, a perfect combination for cherished holiday music. The combination of Edwards' raw talent and honest melodies captivates fans each time she graces a stage. Edwards is the wife of Chapman's son, Will Franklin Chapman.

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Discover's I Love My Town Christmas encourages giving, compassion

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Last Sunday, Discover Church hosted its third annual I Love My Town Christmas, which gives people an opportunity to give to mission efforts in Haiti and Honduras, purchase gifts for area foster children and children of incarcerated parents through Angel Tree, and donate to other organizations such as Celebrate Recovery Kids. Lead Pastor Ben Windle spoke to crowds at three services, beginning at 8:30 a.m., about how a recent study showed Americans are 40 percent less compassionate and generous than they were 30 years ago.

“This is your chance to show compassion ... to act,” he said. “Acting is more than a click or a share. My hope is that I Love My Town Christmas will start a culture of giving and compassion in your homes and in your communities.”

Jordan Myers, who is obtaining her master's degree in social work, volunteered to help at an information table through all three services at Discover Church. She explained why.

“When I was in foster care I got a big black trash bag full of things I wanted and needed. So this is important so that kids get something that they want. It makes them feel loved,” said Myers.

Marcia Pyatt and her husband, Danny, have been taking medical teams to Honduras since 2004. “We take medical supplies to run clinics in different areas of Honduras. This is the third year we've had a Honduras tree. Money raised will go to buy medical supplies for the November 2020 medical trip, which anyone in the community can participate in. Anyone who feels led to go ... medical specialists or anyone who is non-medical.

God chooses our teams, we don't.”

As she hosted an information table and donation tree on Dec. 1 she said, “I think I Love My Town is a wonderful opportunity for our church to enable people to be involved with shar-

Hornsby, a native of Franklin, has been a missionary in Honduras' capital since 2013. She explained that all donations from the tree will help equip children in need with school supplies, sports equipment, bus fares, and after-school meals.

This is the first year I Love My Town Christmas has included a Haiti tree. Donations assist HIS Home for Children in Haiti, as well as multiple efforts through Love Him Love Them. A mission team, led by Discover Church, visits Haiti each spring to take clothing and other supplies and to assist where needed at HIS Home for Children and in other areas.

Windle said I Love My Town Christmas involves partnering with many.

“There are 289 children represented here today,” he said on December 1. “Places like Huddle House donated gifts for six children. This is a community event, not just a Discover event. There are plenty of needs to go around.”

Rachel Marshall, who organized I Love My Town Christmas with Julie Adams, said Coweeta Lab sponsored a child as well. “This year involves the most foster children we've had, but also the most support. But even the tags that don't get taken, we purchase gifts for them so that no child goes without.”

Marshall said that anyone who is interested in assisting foster children in Macon County can donate for ongoing efforts through Discover Church, and Windle added that future Christmas donations to Discover – for missions and other efforts – simply need to be specified on checks or in the comment box through online giving.

Discover Church also hosts an I Love My Town in the spring, during which time targeted needs are met with action. Such projects in the past have included landscaping, painting, general clean up, construction, meals, and more at area charities, schools, and organizations in need.




Attendees to I Love My Town Christmas at Discover Church selected “ornament” tags from various trees, including this one for Haiti missions, to learn how to give. Tags on the “Foster Macon” tree included specific foster children's wants and needs so that attendees could shop for them and return the packages to the church.

ing love at Christmas ... a lot of people would not have an opportunity to give, to know where or how to give.”

Also responsible for decorating a mission tree was Macon Middle School teacher Annie Hornsby, whose daughter Molly



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Deaths & Funerals

Carl Edward Neely

Carl Edward Neely, 78, of Warwoman Road, Clayton, Ga., died Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Habersham County Medical Center.

Born in Clayton Ga., Oct. 14, 1941, he was the son of the late Philo and Maybelle Chastain Neely. He was a rock mason and a member of the Blue Valley Baptist Church and a member of the North Georgia Coon Club and Macon County Coon Club.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Dale Neely and one brother, William Neely.

He is survived by two sons, Vaughn Neely of Highlands, N.C., and Terry Neely of Clayton; one daughter, Denise Zachary (Ben) of Highlands; one brother, Crawford Neely of Clayton; one sister, Katheryn Vanughn of Winder, Ga.; six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Macedonia Baptist Church at 2 p.m., with Rev. Zane Talley and Rev. Marty Kilby officiating. Burial will follow at Clear Creek Cemetery. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 12 noon to 2 p.m., at the church.

The family asks in lieu of flowers memorials may be made in his memory to Hunter Funeral Home to aid funeral experience, at PO Box 653, Clayton, GA 30525

Hunter Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

An on-line obituary and register is available at www.hunterfuneralhome.com.

Elden Eugene Adameit

Elden Eugene Adameit, 96, died Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019.

Born in Raritan Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey, he was the son of the late Aimee and William Adameit.

He attended Leonardo DaVinci High School, and shortly thereafter joined the Army Air Corps in January 1943, training as an Aerial Photographer. He took part in the June 6, 1944, D-Day assault at Normandy Beach, France during WWII. He was awarded the Distinguished Unit Badge, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal and WWII Victory Medal during his service.

After his military service, he trained as a millwright and lived in Virginia, New Jersey, and eventually moved to Florida where he joined ECI/Raytheon Corp, having retired in 1985. He soon relocated to North Carolina where he spent the majority of his retirement years.

Notably, he was a 68 year member of the Masonic fraternity, including Scottish Rite, Shiners, York Rite, and Royal Arch Masons. He was most recently awarded the Knights of the York Cross of Honour (KYCH) in 2018 at age 95.

He loved music, travel and learning in general. The day before left this world, he was found perusing the Internet. People were drawn to his keen sense of humor, sharp memory and kindness. He was a master story-teller and oh, how we will miss those tales.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 25 years, Lucy Merle (nee Bradley) Adameit; son, James (Kathy) Adameit; daughters, Pamela (Harry) Mann and Mary (Donald) Crissey; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, at 11 a.m., in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home. Visitation will be held Friday evening, Dec. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home. Burial will be private.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Adameit family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com.



Elden Eugene Adameit

Sheryl 'Elaine' Tillman

Sheryl "Elaine" Tillman, 71, of Franklin, N.C., passed away peacefully at her home, Nov. 23, 2019, due to ovarian cancer, with her family by her side.

A native of Tampa, Fla., she was the daughter of the late William "Bud" and Margaret McRae Martin. She graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1966 and retired from GTE/Verizon in 2002. She was a dedicated wife and mother first and foremost; she treasured her husband and children and embraced every moment with them. She especially loved her role as Granny. She had a vivacious personality and always made people around her laugh. She made friends everywhere she went. They lived together in Tampa, Fla., for 41 years before relocating to Franklin, NC in 2012.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Kenneth Tillman; her three daughters, Kelli Pepper (Stacy) of Tampa, Fla.; Kasey Green (James) of New Kent, Va., and Kourtney Geary (Michael) of New Kent, Va.; sister, Janice Fewell (Robert); brother, William "Russell" Martin (Patty); seven grandchildren, Dustin and Josie Pepper, Kagan Jones, Copelin and Madison Green, Lillian Rogers, Axel Geary and her many nephews and nieces. All of whom she loved and touched deeply.

Graveside service was held Sunday, Dec. 1, at Sunset Memory Gardens Cemetery, 11005 N US Highway 301, Thonotosassa, Fla.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society, <http://www.cancer.org/>.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the local arrangements.

Jeffery Alan Wood

Jeffery Alan Wood, 56, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019.

Born in Thomasville, N.C., he was the son of Edgar Robert Wood (Karen) and the late Florene Annette Moore Wood. He had a love for music and cars and painted cars for a living; he had several cars that were featured in Show Car Magazine. In his free time, he loved spending time outdoors hunting and fishing.

In addition to his father and stepmother, he is survived by his wife, Tammy Sue Harris; three sons, Jeffery Alan Wood II (Danyle) of Franklin, Brent Alan Wood of Franklin and Mitch Alan Wood of Otto; three brothers, William O. Wood of Trinity, N.C., Walter "Toby" Wood of Otto and Bobby Wood of Vero Beach, Fla.; five grandchildren, Colten, Connor, Brent, Ebony and Casen Wood.

Graveside service was held Saturday, Nov. 30, at Tellico Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Steve Reeves officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Macon Funeral Home, 261 Iotla Street, Franklin, NC 28734, to help with funeral expenses.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be left for the family at www.maconfuneral-home.com.



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Deaths & Funerals

Mary 'Betty' Peek McCall

Mary "Betty" Peek McCall, 90, went home to be with the Lord Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019. She was born June 3, 1929, in Macon County to the late John Peek and Ella Keener Peek. She was married to the late Algie McCall who preceded her in 2016. She enjoyed working in her flower garden; She was of the Baptist faith; and she worked for Van Raalte Hosiery Plant for many years as an office clerk. Later she worked for the Macon County School System as a lunch room supervisor from where she retired.



Mary 'Betty' Peek McCall

Survivors include her son, Dale McCall and his wife, Donna of Franklin, N.C.; a granddaughter, Amber McCall of Franklin; a special cousin, Elaine Long of Franklin; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; a daughter, Beverly McCall; and a brother, Furman Peek.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, Nov. 27, in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with the Rev. Mark Bishop officiating. Burial followed in the Sugar Fork Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bobby Peek, Elbert McConnell, Brandon Hatch, Keith Brown, Roland Hogsed, and Billy Blackwell.

Online condolences can be sent to www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the McCall family.

Gavin James Bryan Johnson

Gavin James Bryan Johnson, 21 of Franklin, N.C., passed away Nov. 20, 2019. He was born in Jackson County, North Carolina on July 24, 1998, to Samuel Johnson and Michelle Provencal. He had a love of fishing and playing video games. He had a big heart and would do anything for anyone. He loved hanging out and talking with people of the older generation.

He is survived by his parents, Sam Johnson and Holly Henry of Franklin and parents, Michelle Provencal and Michelle Bailey of Donalds, S.C.; two sisters, Rylee Johnson and Bryce Henry; paternal grandparents, JC Johnson (Penny) and Frankie Beck (Butch); maternal grandparents, Joyce Hendrickson (Robert); his lifelong friend, Joshua Henry and his fishing buddies, Jared, Christopher and George; many aunts, uncles and cousins. Gavin is preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Roland Rogers.

He leaves a void in our hearts that can never be filled but the memories we have will forever be cherished. Gavin has given life to six other people through organ donation.

A celebration of life for Gavin will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, at 1 p.m., at Lake Glenville Public Beach. The family requests that everyone wear your favorite casual outfit in loving memory of Gavin.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Johnson family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



Gavin Johnson

Kenneth Vance Holden

Kenneth Vance Holden, 77, left his tired and worn out body to join his Savior and family on Nov. 15, 2019.

He was the son of Coburn George Holden and Beulah Bessie McCoy Holden.

He graduated at Franklin High and played football all four years. He had one of the most brilliant minds that God ever gave anyone. Later, he went to Kentucky, and passed the MENSA test. He retired at 62 to care for his sick wife, Donna. She passed 10 years ago and Kenneth lived alone in St. Petersburg, Fla. He was a good, hard-working provider, loving husband and loving dad.

Still pressing on are his only son, Troy Holden; his oldest sister, Katherine Teem, his baby sister Linda Peterson, and his little brother, Jerry.

He has many surviving nieces and nephews, like Michael Teem of Robbinsville and the gospel spreading singing White Sisters of Franklin. He went home from the VA hospital in St. Petersburg.

His body was buried on Dec. 4, at in the Sarasota National Cemetery.

He loved God, his son Jesus and America as much as anyone ever has.



Kenneth Vance Holden

Sandra Logan Reid

Sandra Logan Reid, 81 of Marianna, Fla., passed away on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, at her home. She had been a resident of Marianna for a year and half. She previously resided in North Carolina and Miami. She owned a ceramic business and enjoyed selling her art work at craft shows. She loved raising her family and cooking. She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Reid.

She is survived by her daughters, Debbie Reid of Eureka Springs, Ark., Donna Guarnieri of Springhill, Tenn., Dawn Jackson of Naples, Fla., DeEllen Reid of Marianna, and Dana Weseman of Vestal, N.Y.; a son, Donald Reid of High Springs, Fla.; sister, Sharyn Hall of Texas; 12 grandchildren; and 13 great grandchildren.

Memorialization will be cremation.

Flowers may be sent to the home of Sandra Reid, 4940 Jasmine Drive, Marianna, FL 32446)

Marianna Chapel Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Expressions of sympathy may be submitted online at www.mariannachapelhome.com.

Neal Russell Riendeau

Neal Russell Riendeau, 71, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Born in Brockton, Mass., he was the son of the late Russell and Martha Riendeau. He was a retired USAF veteran; member of the American Legion Post 108 where he served as 2nd vice commander; member of the VFW/American Legion Honor Guard for many years; a member of the committee that was instrumental in the construction of the Veterans Memorial Park and was chairman of the VFW/American Legion Christmas cheer program for local and needy veterans. He worked for Lowe's for many years and was a woodworker, cabinet maker and enjoyed gardening.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Susan Gabris Riendeau; daughter, Erica Dawn Owen and husband Ryan of Riceville, Tenn.; and two grandchildren, Riley Owen and Kaylee Owen.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Neal Russell Riendeau

Marjorie Tibitha Webb

Marjorie Tibitha Webb, 82, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019. She was born Feb. 6, 1937, in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late Sarge and Effie Henry Gibson. She was married to Joe Ed Webb who died in 2008. She was a homemaker and attended Highlands Assembly of God Church. She loved people, loved her grandchildren, loved her snuff and loved going ginseng hunting with her husband Joe.

She is survived by four daughters, Mary Sue Gilpin (Jack) and Ann Gilpin both of Brooksville, Fla., May McNeal (Ronnie) of Webster, Fla. and Linda Webb of Hendersonville, N.C.; four sons, Albert Webb, Charles Webb (Pam) and Benny Webb (Cathy) all of Hendersonville, N.C., and Doug Webb of Brooksville, Fla.; many grandchildren, great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by two sisters, Doris Webb and Myrtle McCall and three brothers, Jack, Gene and Edward Gibson.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, Dec. 4, at Horsecove Cemetery, with Rev. Randy Reed officiating.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Webb family. Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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JTG Daugherty Racing announces 2020 driver, crew chief lineup

Staff reports from NASCAR.com

HARRISBURG, N.C. (December 2, 2019) – JTG Daugherty Racing announced the official driver, car number and crew chief lineup for the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series season. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. will take over the No. 47 Chevrolet, adding crew chief Brian Pattie to the organization. Ryan Preece will be at the helm of the No. 37 Chevrolet with crew chief Trent Owens.

Pattie joins JTG Daugherty Racing from Roush Fenway Racing where he was the crew chief with Ricky Stenhouse Jr. the past three seasons. A crew chief in the NASCAR Cup Series for 16 years, he has six wins with three drivers, two of which were with Stenhouse Jr.

“We’re really looking forward to welcoming Brian Pattie to JTG Daugherty Racing,” team owner Tad Geschickter said. “With Brian’s veteran experience and knowledge at NASCAR’s premier level, we know he is going to be a great asset to the organization and work well with Ricky Stenhouse Jr.”

“I’m very grateful to have Brian join me at JTG Daugherty Racing next season,” Stenhouse Jr. said. “Working together the past several seasons, our relationship away from the track has really developed and I know that will speed up the process of getting familiar and plugged into the team as quick as possible. He knows what I’m looking for and I know what he expects from me. This team is a great fit for both of us, and we’re looking forward to contributing to the success JTG Daugherty Racing has been building.”

Owens enters his fourth year as the crew chief on the No. 37 car in 2020. He led the team to four top-10 finishes and 12 top-15 finishes in 2019, improving the team’s average finishing position from 21.0 to 17.8. Previously, he worked at Richard Petty Motorsports from 2014 through 2016, where he earned his first NASCAR Cup Series win with Aric Almirola at Daytona International Speedway in 2014.



Ricky Stenhouse Jr. will take over the No. 47 Chevrolet for JTG Daugherty Racing.

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PRO RACING THIS WEEK

Racing News, Stats & Trivia

This Week's Racing News

NASCAR is considering adding temporary tracks in city centers or sports stadium parking lots to the season as soon as 2021

Along with its signature oval tracks, NASCAR currently competes on two road courses (Sonoma Raceway and Watkins Glen International) and a so-called “roval” set up in the infield of Charlotte Motor Speedway. NASCAR is aiming to add 8 new markets by 2022, which would likely require the elimination of several current events. Possible scenarios include teaming up with IndyCar at one of its street-racing venues, like Long Beach, Calif., where sports cars and the Stadium Super Trucks series also compete. Formula One is currently in discussions to hold a race in the parking lots and access roads outside Hard Rock Stadium in Florida, and all of the top metro areas in the United States have a facility that presents a similar opportunity for NASCAR.

All-Time Top Driver's Bio

Lee Petty

Born: March 14, 1914
Cup wins: 54
Cup top-tens: 332
Cup championships: 3

Lee Petty was one of the pioneers of NASCAR, and one of its first superstars. Petty was thirty-five years old before he started racing. His NASCAR career began at NASCAR's first race at the three-quarter mile long dirt track, Charlotte Speedway. He finished in the Top 5 in season points for NASCAR's first eleven seasons and won the NASCAR Championship on three occasions. In the first race at Daytona International Speedway, Petty battled with Johnny Beauchamp during the final laps of the race. Petty, Beauchamp, and Joe Weatherly drove side by side by side across the finish line at the final lap for a photo finish. It took NASCAR founder Bill France, Sr. three days to decide the winner. In the end, with the help of the national newsreel, Petty was officially declared the winner. Lee is the father of Richard Petty, who would become NASCAR's all-time race winner.

Racing History

December 14, 1954 - Alan Kulwicki was born on this date in Greenfield, Wis. Nicknamed “Special K” and the “Polish Prince”, Kulwicki was an American NASCAR Cup Series driver. Despite starting with meager equipment and finances, he earned the 1986 NASCAR Rookie of the Year award over drivers racing for well-funded teams. He won the Cup Series Championship in 1992.

Racing Trivia

How many victories did Alan Kulwicki have in 1992 when he won the Cup Series Championship?

a) 1

b) 2

c) 3

d) 4

ANSWER: (b) Alan Kulwicki won two races on his way to the 1992 Cup Series Championship.

“Trent is a veteran at our organization leading the charge on the No. 37 car for the past three seasons,” Geschickter said. “He elevated a young driver in his second year in the series to consistently running in the top 15, and we have high expectations that he will be a great fit with Ryan Preece next year in his sophomore season.”

“I’m really looking forward to working with Trent Owens this upcoming season,” Preece said. “Our teams worked closely together in 2019. It was impressive to see what he’s done with the No. 37 team the last three years. I really want to continue building on that and bringing both cars into the top 15 regularly next year.”

The 2020 NASCAR Cup Series season kicks off at Daytona International Speedway for the Daytona 500 on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 2:30 p.m. ET on FOX and SiriusXM Channel 90.

Stewart-Haas Racing reveals crew chief lineup for 2020 NASCAR Cup Series teams

KANNAPOLIS, N.C. — Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR) has announced the 2020 crew chief lineup for its four NASCAR Cup Series teams.

The most notable change is the promotion of crew chief Mike Shiplett to the No. 41 team. SHR brings Shiplett up from its NASCAR Xfinity Series program where he spent the 2019 season guiding Cole Custer to a career-high seven wins and six poles with a runner-up finish in the championship standings. Shiplett will be paired with Custer again in 2020 as the 21-year-old Custer runs for rookie-of-the-year honors.

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Crew chiefs John Klausmeier and Mike “Buga” Bugarewicz will swap teams, with Klausmeier going to the No. 14 team of Clint Bowyer and Bugarewicz going to the No. 10 team of Aric Almirola.

Klausmeier has been the No. 10 crew chief since 2018, where he and Almirola combined for 29 top-10 finishes, highlighted by a victory on Oct. 14, 2018 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway. The duo made the NASCAR Playoffs in each of their two seasons together, with Almirola finishing a career-best fifth in the 2018 championship.

Bugarewicz has led the No. 14 team since 2016, where he was Tony Stewart’s crew chief for his last NASCAR season before being paired with Bowyer in 2017. Bugarewicz helped Stewart secure his 49th and final NASCAR Cup Series victory at Sonoma (Calif.) Raceway and continued winning with Bowyer, securing two victories in 2018 — March 26 at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway and June 10 at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn — as part of a three-year stint that garnered 47 top 10s and two appearances in the NASCAR Playoffs.

Rodney Childers returns as Kevin Harvick’s crew chief with the No. 4 team for the seventh straight year. Since joining forces in 2014, Childers and Harvick have combined to produce 26 victories, 25 poles, 106 top-five finishes and 153 top 10s. They have led 9,608 laps and made the Championship 4 five times in the last six years. They won the 2014 NASCAR Cup Series title and have finished runner-up twice, to 2015 champion Kyle Busch and to 2018 champion Joey Logano.

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- 9. Exclamation of contempt
- 13. Start with a clean one?
- 14. Lennon's lady
- 15. Editing command
- 16. Feudal lord's property
- 17. Dunce
- 18. *Ayn Rand's "____ Shrugged"
- 19. *Record-breaking Oscar-winner
- 21. *TV's Jim Anderson
- 23. Immeasurable period
- 24. Editor's oversight
- 25. Fugitive's get-away
- 28. Vegas cube
- 30. Even smaller
- 35. "Rock of ____"
- 37. Cleopatra's necklace
- 39. Saddam Hussein's Islam
- 40. Surrender
- 41. Young Atlantic cod
- 43. Eastern ____
- 44. Work the dough
- 46. Diamond Head island
- 47. Quarterback's downfall
- 48. Pollen producer
- 50. Charged particles
- 52. *"____ must I be a teenager in love?"
- 53. Sound of pain or pleasure

- 55. Us, in Mexico
- 57. *Levittown, e.g.
- 60. *Like one born in '50s
- 63. Like a private circle
- 64. Highest card in "War"
- 66. Sea near Australia
- 68. "The ____ Runner," pl.
- 69. *Cuban syllable
- 70. Musician's exercise
- 71. Heroic poem
- 72. Boy toy
- 73. Sterilize

DOWN

- 1. Cigar residue
- 2. Blister
- 3. New Haven Ivy
- 4. Kidney problem
- 5. Modus operandi
- 6. Point of entry
- 7. *Crick/Watson/Franklin discovery
- 8. Toffee, alt. sp.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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71						72				73				

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- 9. Trodden track
- 10. "Cast Away" setting
- 11. *"A ____ Is Born" with Judy Garland
- 12. "For ____ a jolly ..."
- 15. Jamaican vernacular
- 20. Yards and miles, e.g.
- 22. Address abbreviation
- 24. T in ATV
- 25. *Source of immortal Hela cells
- 26. *Occupation of Ian Fleming's protagonist
- 27. Mythological princess of Colchis
- 29. *Fashion designer who made a comeback in 1954
- 31. Small pieces
- 32. *Rose to Jackie
- 33. Methuselah's father
- 34. *Tenant of Fred Mertz
- 36. Clothing line
- 38. Type of salmon
- 42. "Beats me!"
- 45. Formal objections, in court
- 49. And not
- 51. Like Santa after coming down the chimney
- 54. Taken follower
- 56. Inflict a blow
- 57. Barber shop sound
- 58. To, in the olden days
- 59. Swarm members
- 60. Pinto or black
- 61. Outback birds
- 62. Was a passenger
- 63. *"We'll take ____ to Washington"
- 65. *Guevara's nickname
- 67. Tyrannosaurus follower

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