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See Pg.
5,6 & 7

February 13, 2020 • 24 Pages

Volume 37 Number 38

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Weather in the mountains – or in the South for that matter – can be vastly unpredictable and this past week proves it. From torrential rains and mild temperatures late last week, a Saturday morning snowfall and spring flowers blooming, Macon County has experienced a wide spectrum of weather. Forecasters are calling for even more rain in the next few days and with saturated ground and nearly full waterways, residents are advised to be on alert for rising water and potential flooding. For more photos, see page 21.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter and Betsey Gooder

Board hears both sides of ‘Sanctuary’ debate

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

The number of counties in North Carolina deeming themselves as Second Amendment Sanctuary Counties continues to grow with more than half of the counties in North Carolina passing resolutions on the issue.

The Macon County Commissioner Boardroom was standing-room only Tuesday night and was virtually split down the middle in terms of support and opposition for passing a resolution declaring Macon County a Second Amendment Sanctuary County.

Donnie Holden, a former sheriff's office employee, has been spearheading the movement in Macon County and first presented commissioners with a resolution during the January board meeting. Commissioners asked Holden to revise the resolution and re-



Donnie Holden presented a petition to commissioners asking for a resolution to name Macon County a second amendment sanctuary county.

turn in February for further consideration. Holden was joined by dozens of supporters Tuesday night with a revised resolution he had worked with Commissioner Paul Higdon to draft.

Holden told commissioners that a petition encouraging such a resolution had garnered 1,085 signatures, which sits at about 3 percent of the county's total population. Holden noted that while the resolution is somewhat symbolic, he wanted to see Macon officials support it to reaffirm the oath they took when sworn into office.

The resolution states, “The Macon County Board of Commissioners express its intent for Macon County to stand as a Constitutional Rights Protection County for Second Amendment Rights by opposing any efforts

See SANCTUARY page 2

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Town pays \$180K for Maple Street property

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SANCTUARY Continued from page 1

by any entity to restrict these rights. Opposition will include any means available under the U.S. Constitution and the laws of North Carolina including the withholding of funds, direction of county employees, legal action and other means as deemed necessary and legal.”

While more than 50 counties have passed similar resolutions, the more counties that sign on, the less “Second Amendment Sanctuary” wording is used in resolutions and the more “Constitution Rights Protection” verbiage is being used.

Commissioner Higdon as well as Commissioner Gary Shields expressed their concern in using the word “Sanctuary” which has various connotations with which they were not comfortable.

“I don’t like the word Sanctuary because of the connotations associated with it, but if we are talking about holding and protecting the Constitution, I will do that every day of my life,” said Higdon.

A group opposing the resolution attended the meeting dressed in black and wore American flag ribbons on their shirts. Susan Ervin addressed the board on behalf of the group and stated that while those in attendance opposed a Second Amendment resolution, they did not oppose gun ownership, but rather support responsible gun control.

“The proposed ‘sanctuary’ does not make us feel safer,” she said. “There is virtually no chance and very little preference for banning guns in this country and reasonable controls do not mean that onerous restrictions come next.”

Ervin also noted that based on a Federal Court ruling by Supreme Court Judge Anthony Scalia, “The right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited.”

Sheriff Robert Holland also addressed commissioners and encouraged them to take their time considering any resolution and to make sure that whatever decision they make is in the best interest of all residents, and is a legal decision.

Holland presented commissioners with a resolution from the North Carolina Sheriff’s Association on the issue that affirms support of the Constitution as a whole, something Holland said he swore to uphold the same as the commissioners did when he took his Oath of Office.

“Regardless if you pass a resolution or not, I am going to continue to do what I was elected to do and what I put my hand on the greatest book ever written and swore to do, and that is to uphold the Constitution,” Holland said.

Macon County Commissioners have previously debated the need for a resolution when it is purely symbolic and simply states they will continue to do what they promised to do when taking office, however because the issue is driven by residents of Macon County, they said they will spend the month reviewing the proposed resolutions and vote on the matter in March.

Supporters of the resolution were frustrated with another month delay in a vote, however commissioners explained that they needed time to review the presented document, which all but Higdon had not seen prior to Tuesday night’s meeting.

Commission Chair Jim Tate instructed County Manager Derek Roland to work with Chester Jones on the legality of the resolution and to add it to the March agenda for a vote.

Franklin Chamber hosting Leadership Macon seminars

Are you a leader or do aspire to become a more effective leader? The Franklin Chamber of Commerce is announcing Leadership Macon, a program designed to identify and develop current and emerging leaders in the community. It is a program to augment or inspire new ideas for communicating, team building, understanding leadership, diversity, partnerships, and so much more.

The program consists of one day per month beginning April 2 on the first Thursday of the month through Sept. 3. Each one day seminar will be held

at different locations each month. Some areas of focus will be on the history of Macon County, local, regional, and state government. Attendees will also learn about community planning, quality of life, education and media.

According to a statement from the Chamber, “A title or position does not instantly make leaders and as leaders in the 21st Century, we need to utilize all of the available resources at our disposal to have the ability to adapt and overcome obstacles on a daily basis.”

Leadership Macon will attempt to provide those tools, skills, and foundation to ensure effective leadership in the ever changing world.

For additional information or to register, contact the Chamber at (828)524-3161. Registration ends March 5 or when the class fills.



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Town enforcing minimum housing codes; buys Texaco property

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Franklin’s minimum housing code took center stage during the February meeting of the Franklin Town Council last week.

Town leaders voted to withdraw a lawsuit against one property owner and begin the process to file a suit against another — all in regards to the town’s minimum housing code.

The Minimum Housing Code establishes basic requirements for homes located within the city limits. The ordinance is set to ensure the safety of residents as well as offer pro-

tections for neighbors.

The Town of Franklin’s Minimum Housing Ordinance specifically states, “The roofs, flashings, exterior walls, basement walls, floors and all doors and windows exposed to the weather shall be constructed and maintained so as to be weathertight and watertight” all of which were specific complaints filed against the owner of the property located at 373 West Main Street, at the beginning of Bidwell Street.

Concerns were first raised by neighbors in 2017 and a petition was started to draw the town’s attention to the property. A civil law-



The owner of this Bidwell Street property has met the minimum housing code standard of making it “weathertight and watertight.” The town has dropped its lawsuit against the property owner.



This vacant property on Wilkie Street is under consideration by the Town of Franklin to be cited under the Minimum Housing Ordinance. A hearing will determine the next course of action and whether or not the owner plans to clean up the property or face demolition.

suit was filed against the property owner and as part of the process, the property owner, Max Houston, was given a grace period to get the property up to compliance before further action was taken, and Houston did just that.

Town Attorney John Henning Jr. informed board members last week that the lawsuit was dismissed based on Houston’s cooperation.

“The property owner followed up and did what was necessary to bring the dwelling into minimum compliance with the code. It

is not a viable lawsuit anymore as the owner has done enough to the house to pass the Minimum Housing Ordinance,” said Henning.

Now that the property owner has completed the work necessary to meet the Minimum Housing Ordinance requirements, there are no grounds for a lawsuit... at least for now.

The vacant house attracted rodents, and also attracted vagrants who would stay inside the house and on the porches. The owner has now sealed up the roof, windows

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and all openings with plywood.

“The minimum housing code is not going anywhere; we will be able to reinstate a lawsuit again if the conditions of the dwelling don’t meet the ordinance requirements,” said Henning. “Untreated plywood isn’t going to last forever, and we may end up in the same place in a couple of years, and we can restart the process. If it gets down to the point where it is dilapidated, then it may have to come down.”

While the Bidwell house was cleaned up enough to meet the ordinance, a lawsuit against another property located across off Palmer Street was set into motion. The town received several complaints regarding the property located at 18 Wilkie Street last year and initially worked with the property owner to begin cleaning up the property.

“At first the owner worked with us and did clean up a lot of the garbage on the property and removed several of the junk cars, but clean up stopped in November and we haven’t had any communication with the property owner since that time,” said Town Planner Justin Setser.

The home is vacant and has been since last fall and the property owners have given the town little to no indication that they desire to move forward with the clean up process. Setser said the home is completely dilapidated and has a value of less than \$1,000.

If the town receives a complaint from five or more citizens, the town can hold a hearing and allow the owners of the dwellings the opportunity to update the property and meet the town’s code or to demolish the property. The Wilkie Street property will now have a public hearing set and will begin the process to see if it will face demolition.

Town purchases land parcels

The old Texaco property at the corner of Maple Street and West Palmer Street in front of the Franklin Fire and Police Departments officially has a new owner as the town of Franklin voted recently to purchase

the property for \$180,000.

Town Manager Summer Woodard informed the board last week that after negotiations, the town was poised to close on the .67 acres located at 196 West Palmer Street for \$180,000, which will come out of the town’s fund balance. Woodard noted that the property, which has little use for any other owner, will be useful for the town for sidewalk and water/sewer line projects as well as to enhance the properties surrounding the parcel, which are the Franklin Fire Department and the Franklin Police Department.

Council member Joe Collins said that he understands it is important for the town to purchase the property for the police and fire departments, but was not pleased with the price.

“I am having a hard time thinking the property is worth the price that we are offering to pay for it,” said Collins. “It is a piece of land that the town uniquely needs for its police and fire departments. I would have a harder time if someone came in and bought it for the same or lesser price. With enough years, I think the sting of paying a few dollars more than I think we should, will go away and for that reason I will be in favor of the purchase.”

While Collins and four other board members voted to purchase the property, Council member David Culpepper voted against the measure, saying that the price was too high for what the property was.

Woodard assured board members that due diligence was completed and any environmental concerns surrounding the underground tanks were solved and the property was deemed safe.

In addition to the old gas station property, the town also voted to purchase .43 acres more or less located at 311 Clyde Street from Jerry Porter, LLC.

The seller sold the property to the town for the tax value at \$26,000. The Clyde Street property adjoins the east Franklin water tower and will allow the town to expand the water capacity for that area.



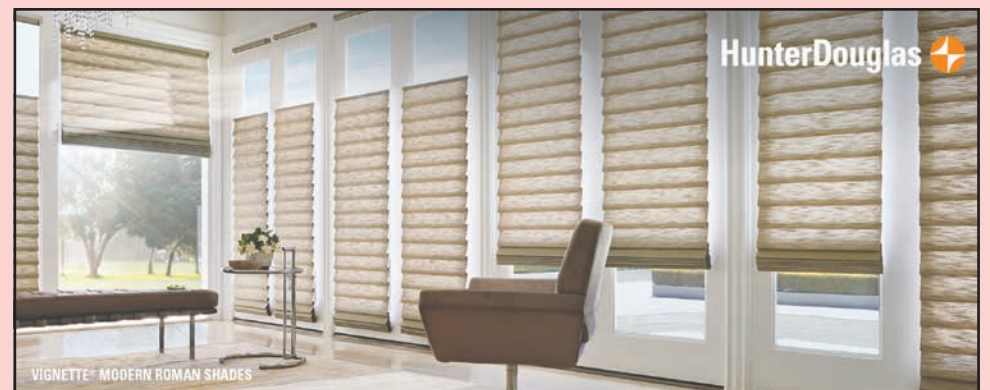
The Town of Franklin is poised to close on the old Texaco property directly in front of the Franklin Fire Department at a cost of \$180,000. According to Town Manager Summer Woodard, the property will be useful for the town for sidewalk and water/sewer line projects as well as to enhance the properties surrounding the parcel. Photos by Vickie Carpenter

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Two Republicans to face off in March 3 primary for NC Senate

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Western North Carolina politicians have been playing a game of musical chairs this election cycle which began when N.C. Senator Jim Davis announced he would be retiring from the State Senate and running for Congress. With Davis' retiring from the Senate, N.C. House of Representatives Kevin Corbin announced he would be running for the Senate, which led to Macon County Commissioner Karl Gillespie announcing his bid for the House.

Corbin, who has served in the House of Representatives since long-time politician Roger West retired, will face an opponent during the March 3 primary election. Jackson County Republican and a new face on the political scene, Dr. Sarah Conway will be seeking her first political office.

Dr. Sarah Conway

Dr. Sarah Conway is a Jackson County Republican who has always had a love of hiking and the outdoors. Having vacationed in North Carolina since childhood, she eventually made it her home.

Conway is retired radiologist who practiced hospital-based diagnostic radiology for more than 20 years.

"We have a narcotics epidemic in Western North Carolina; when I read the statistics, I was compelled to run and use my medical knowledge and experience to try to make a difference," said Dr. Conway. "Right now we have opioid crisis, so a doctor would be a great choice to work on this issue. If we have an agricultural crisis, I would love to see a seasoned farmer or an Ag PhD run for the position."

Representative Kevin Corbin

Representative Kevin Corbin was born and raised in Western North Carolina in Macon County. He is the sixth generation, his kids are seventh, and his grandkids are now the eighth generation to live on the same farm in the Holly Springs community of Macon County. He attended Franklin High School before graduating and attending Appalachian State University where he graduated with honors with a

double major in Business Marketing and Management. Corbin is a member of Holly Springs Baptist Church where he has served as a deacon and also served as music director prior to being elected to the NC House.

Corbin founded Corbin Insurance Agency in Franklin in 1983 and in 2013 started Blue Ridge Insurance Group in upstate South Carolina. He has worked in the insurance industry since 1983 and has earned several professional designations and honors in that field including being in-

olina," said Corbin. "I love the people of this district and want to give the best constituent service possible. In the House, I have been a constant reminder to leadership that we have unique needs here and have sought support and funding for our area. I have been successful in doing so and will continue that in the NC Senate."

What is the biggest challenge facing District 50 and how would you approach it?

Conway: "Our biggest challenge is the opioid epidemic.

My plan is to focus on prevention by creating an educational template which can be used in schools for children as young as 8 or 10 years of age. Young students need to understand the health hazards and ramifications of becoming addicted to these agents. Also, I would like to address mental health by having a mobile mental health unit

which would travel to all seven of my counties, and provide much needed mental health services to individuals who may not have access."

Corbin: "In my last term I co-sponsored the STOP act in the NC House that has begun to slow the opioid epidemic. It was a beginning and there is much work left to be done. We must address mental health issues in our region and I have been a consistent voice for that in the NC House.

"I have worked on many levels to bring high speed internet to far WNC including being a primary author of the FIBER ACT (HB 144). Because of those efforts, we persuaded leadership to begin the GREAT grants which have brought money to our region and have facilitated the hookup of thousands to high speed internet. The work is far from

over. The grants have been \$10 million in 2018, \$15 million in 2019, and now we have \$30 million budgeted for 2020-21. I have requested but not yet received \$100 million from our budget surplus for the same purpose.

"The work is far from over. We need to continue the push for WNC. Additional funding for K-12 public education has been a priority for me and we have had great success in the past four years bringing additional state funding to Macon, Clay, Graham, and Cherokee counties. In this new Senate district, I will do the same adding Swain, Jackson, and Haywood to my radar."



Kevin Corbin



Sarah Conway

ducted into the Hall of Fame with BCBS of NC. Only 23 members have been inducted into that group in the history of the company.

Corbin served 20 years on the Macon County School board, serving 16 years as chairman, followed by serving six years as a county commissioner in Macon County, five years as chairman. In 2016, he was elected to the NC House of Representatives and was re-elected in 2018.

"I believe my experience in local and state government gives me the background to hit the ground running serving the folks in the far western seven counties of North Car-

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What strengths do you have as a candidate?

Conway: "I like to think of myself as a great listener. Great leaders need to be great listeners. Each of my counties has their own unique needs which require attention."

Corbin: "In one word....Experience. Having served in local government, I know the challenges and pitfalls. Now, being an experienced legislator, I know how the system works and will continue to work in the NC Senate for my district. It is about serving and prioritizing the folks and needs of this district."

What is your top priority if elected?

Conway: "Addressing the Opioid Epidemic. Other goals include access to reasonably priced health care; cut spending; and term limits."

Corbin: "Without question, my top priority is constituent service. My office has helped literally hundreds of folks in my four county district with issues with the state of N.C.I have answered every call and have tried my best to address every need. I have had about 90% success in solving issues for my constituents and I will continue the same in the NC Senate. In most cases, I would be the only voice available for the 210,000 folks in this large Senate district. I love WNC and will continue to work hard to make sure our voice is heard."

Conway: "I am running organically. No one asked me to run for this office, but I love the people of Western North Carolina, so I am determined to work hard to make a difference. If I am blessed to be elected, much of the time I will physically be located in Raleigh, but please remember: I am working for you, the people. I am working for the West."

Corbin: "Serving in the NC General Assembly is truly a labor of love for those who attempt it. With an annual salary of \$13,941 it is certainly not for personal gain. The meager per diem of \$104 and the mileage of .26 cents a mile are barely enough to cover expenses back and forth. I come home pretty much every weekend, having only stayed in Raleigh three weekends in my nearly four years of service. My home is WNC, not Raleigh. I come home every week to be with my family and to stay in touch with the people of my district. As long as I enjoy it and can stand the drive back and forth, I am willing to serve if the voters give me that honor."

Early voting begins Thursday, Feb. 13, and will continue until Saturday, Feb. 29, at 3 p.m. Macon County residents can vote at either the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building or in Highlands at the Highlands Civic Center.

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Cara Ward
to our staff

CareCredit Financing Available

SAMPLE BALLOT

Sample Ballot - Democratic Party Primary
Macon County, North Carolina
March 3, 2020

D0002

BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS:
A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.
B. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.

FEDERAL OFFICES	US House of Representatives District 11 (You may vote for ONE)	NC Commissioner of Agriculture (You may vote for ONE)
Presidential Preference (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Deval Patrick <input type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders <input type="radio"/> Tom Steyer <input type="radio"/> Elizabeth Warren <input type="radio"/> Marianne Williamson <input type="radio"/> Andrew Yang <input type="radio"/> Michael Bennet <input type="radio"/> Joseph R. Biden <input type="radio"/> Michael R. Bloomberg <input type="radio"/> Cory Booker <input type="radio"/> Pete Buttigieg <input type="radio"/> Julián Castro <input type="radio"/> John K. Delaney <input type="radio"/> Tulsi Gabbard <input type="radio"/> Amy Klobuchar <input type="radio"/> No Preference	<input type="radio"/> Michael O'Shea <input type="radio"/> Phillip G. Price <input type="radio"/> Steve Woodsmall <input type="radio"/> Gina Collias <input type="radio"/> Moe Davis	<input type="radio"/> Walter Smith <input type="radio"/> Jenna Wadsworth <input type="radio"/> Donovan Alexander Watson
	STATE OFFICES	NC Superintendent of Public Instruction (You may vote for ONE)
		<input type="radio"/> Keith A. Sutton
		<input type="radio"/> James Barrett
		<input type="radio"/> Constance (Lav) Johnson
	NC Governor (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Michael Maher
		<input type="radio"/> Jen Mangrum
	<input type="radio"/> Ernest T. Reeves	
	<input type="radio"/> Roy Cooper	NC Treasurer (You may vote for ONE)
		<input type="radio"/> Dimple Ajmera
	NC Lieutenant Governor (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Ronnie Chatterji
		<input type="radio"/> Matt Leatherman
	<input type="radio"/> Allen Thomas	COUNTY OFFICES
	<input type="radio"/> Bill Toole	
	<input type="radio"/> Terry Van Duyn	Board of Commissioners District 2 (You may vote for ONE)
	<input type="radio"/> Chaz Beasley	<input type="radio"/> Betty Cloer Wallace
	<input type="radio"/> Yvonne Lewis Holley	<input type="radio"/> Olga Lampkin
	<input type="radio"/> Ron Newton	
	NC Auditor (You may vote for ONE)	
	<input type="radio"/> Luis A. Toledo	
	<input type="radio"/> Beth A. Wood	
		End of Ballot
US Senate (You may vote for ONE)		
<input type="radio"/> Erica D. Smith		
<input type="radio"/> Steve Swenson		
<input type="radio"/> Cal Cunningham		
<input type="radio"/> Trevor M. Fuller		
<input type="radio"/> Atul Goel		

North Carolina Ballot Style D0002

SAMPLE BALLOT

Sample Ballot - Republican Party Primary
Macon County, North Carolina
March 3, 2020

R0005

BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS:
A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.
B. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.

FEDERAL OFFICES	STATE OFFICES	NC Commissioner of Insurance (You may vote for ONE)
Presidential Preference (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump <input type="radio"/> Joe Walsh <input type="radio"/> Bill Weld <input type="radio"/> No Preference	NC Governor (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Dan Forest <input type="radio"/> Holly Grange	<input type="radio"/> Ronald Pierce <input type="radio"/> Mike Causey
	NC Commissioner of Labor (You may vote for ONE)	
	<input type="radio"/> Chuck Stanley	
	<input type="radio"/> Josh Dobson	
	<input type="radio"/> Pearl Burris Floyd	
US Senate (You may vote for ONE)	NC Lieutenant Governor (You may vote for ONE)	NC Secretary of State (You may vote for ONE)
<input type="radio"/> Thom Tillis	<input type="radio"/> John L. Ritter	<input type="radio"/> E.C. Sykes
<input type="radio"/> Paul Wright	<input type="radio"/> Mark Robinson	<input type="radio"/> Chad Brown
<input type="radio"/> Larry Holmquist	<input type="radio"/> Scott Stone	<input type="radio"/> Michael LaPaglia
<input type="radio"/> Sharon Y. Hudson	<input type="radio"/> Andy Wells	
	<input type="radio"/> Buddy Bengel	NC Superintendent of Public Instruction (You may vote for ONE)
	<input type="radio"/> Deborah Cochran	<input type="radio"/> Catherine Truitt
	<input type="radio"/> Renee Ellmers	<input type="radio"/> Craig Horn
	<input type="radio"/> Greg Gebhardt	
US House of Representatives District 11 (You may vote for ONE)	NC Attorney General (You may vote for ONE)	NC State Senate District 50 (You may vote for ONE)
<input type="radio"/> Joey Osborne	<input type="radio"/> Jim O'Neill	<input type="radio"/> Sarah Conway
<input type="radio"/> Vance Patterson	<input type="radio"/> Sam Hayes	<input type="radio"/> Kevin Corbin
<input type="radio"/> Albert Wiley, Jr.	<input type="radio"/> Christine Mumma	
<input type="radio"/> Chuck Archerd		
<input type="radio"/> Lynda Bennett	NC Auditor (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="radio"/> Matthew Burril	<input type="radio"/> Anthony Wayne (Tony) Street	
<input type="radio"/> Madison Cawthorn	<input type="radio"/> Tim Hoegemeyer	
<input type="radio"/> Jim Davis		
<input type="radio"/> Dan Driscoll		
<input type="radio"/> Steven Fekete, Jr.		
<input type="radio"/> Dillon S. Gentry		
<input type="radio"/> Wayne King		

North Carolina Ballot Style R0005

DISTRICT OFFICES

NC District Court Judge District 30 Seat 6
(You may vote for ONE)

Kaleb Wingate

Mitchell Keith (Mitch) Brewer

Rich Cassidy

Jim Moore

COUNTY OFFICES

Board of Commissioners District 2
(You may vote for ONE)

Bryan Rauers

Josh Young

Terry W. Bradley

End of Ballot

Early voting begins Thursday, Feb. 13, and will continue until Saturday, Feb. 29, at 3 p.m. Macon County residents can vote at either the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building or in Highlands at the Highlands Civic Center. No photo ID is required.

-- VOTE BOTH SIDES --

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Night to Shine



Franklin held its annual Night to Shine event last Sunday. It was originally scheduled for Friday, but due to weather issues, was postponed to Sunday. Night to Shine is a prom designed for special needs people and is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation and local community organizations.

Cartoogechaye Baptist Church spearheaded the event with dozens of volunteers to put on a night to remember for these special folks. Photos by Ellen Randall



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One woman's quest to bring joy to teens

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

Does a McDonald's apple pie taste like a homemade apple pie? That was a question posed by a young Macon County student. A question that might not seem very important except that the student who asked it is experiencing homelessness.

Amanda Shaw, owner of Macon Rentals and manager of "Flavor: a Cookbook Club," heard about this student and immediately knew something had to be done for this child. Shaw decided that she needed to bake an apple pie for her, but not just bake one pie. She decided to seek the help of club members who might be willing to bake a lot of pies.

Shaw had this to say on social media: "I have become more and more aware of the amount of local teenagers without true homes and sofa surfing. I heard a story about a young girl who wondered if McDonalds pies tasted like homemade pies, she never had a homemade pie. ...

"My brain started working. What is something little I could do to bring joy to these teenagers? I'm not a teacher. I am not a social worker or therapist. But I am one heck of an organizer. ...

"This February I am asking for all my willing cookbook club members, friends, and bakers to join me in donating a pie for 'Pies for President's Day.' This year we will start with hosting it for the Union School Academy. My hope is if we have a resounding number of pies we can donate a few to REACH of Macon County and next year branch out from there.

Shaw went on to say that she would like to start with 20 pies and would like folks to drop them off at Macon Rental Co. or bring them to the Cookbook Club meeting on Monday, Feb. 17. The pies will then be served to the students during their lunch period on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

"Can I count on you to help?," the post continued. "Let's 'bake' the world a better place."

This is one small part of one story about students in Macon County who are facing homelessness. Couch surfing, or sofa surfing, as Shaw puts it, is an all too real experience facing students.

Union Academy offers some relief for homeless students

At Union Academy (UA) several students who are currently "couch surfing." These students come to school hungry, have dirty laundry to clean, and need showers. They can get what they need at school during the day. UA has washing machines for students to use between classes. They get free breakfast and lunch and can take a shower at the end of the day with donated soap, shampoo and other toiletries. There is a food pantry with essentials and students can grab a backpack full of supplies upon leaving for the day, no questions asked.

Diane Cotton, principal of Union Academy explains.

"They take care of each other," said Cotton. "We have therapists on site from Meridian and other agencies to help meet the needs of the UA students." She points out, "at one time we had up to 15 students who were homeless."

Cotton believes that education is of utmost importance for these students so she tries to help set a comfortable learning environment that optimizes the ability of the students to learn, no matter the students' circumstances.

PIT reveals a real problem
Recently Macon County was involved



Franklin resident Amanda Shaw has enlisted the help of fellow bakers to bake pies for Union Academy students to "bring joy to these teenagers."

in the Point In Time (PIT) yearly Census Count for homelessness. Last year the PIT count revealed 91 folks who were experiencing homelessness, including 70 families in Macon County. Carol Arnold, consultant on homelessness for the Macon County School Board, says that there are 41 families in the Macon County School system currently experiencing homelessness. The definition of being homeless is not having a fixed residence. Right now, three families are in campers, 15 in shelters and 22 who are doubled up, that is living in someone else's home. Social workers are sent out to talk to the families to help get them qualified for services. The goal is to get them to a point where they will be able to transition back into a fixed residence, which can be a challenging task due to a variety of issues.

Factors that may lead to being homeless

Many factors can lead to a family or individual to become homeless. The top five causes are, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, poverty, mental illness and lack of needed services, and substance abuse and the lack of needed services. Here in Macon County there are no homeless shelters and very few warming stations, like there are in Asheville and the surrounding counties. The library offers a bit of a reprieve from the cold and rain and the Fitness Center has also allowed folks to take showers there from time to time. Several agencies assist families and individuals in helping to transition back to a fixed residence such as Macon New Beginnings and REACH of Macon County, but many of these families are not easily helped, due to many complicated factors. No Wrong Door is another agency trying to combat the effects of folks being unsheltered. HUD (Housing and Urban Development) offers assistance to those who are unsheltered through their Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. This program offers assistance to individuals and families experiencing homelessness and provides the service needed to help them move into transitional housing and permanent housing, with the goal of long-term stability. For information, visit hudexchange.com.

What can you do to help

In order to assist folks who are in need, whether they are unsheltered, in a shelter, transitional housing or couch surfing, donations are desperately needed. Coats, blankets, unopened toiletries, non-perishable food, tents, and sleeping bags can be donated to several agencies in town. Among those are Western North Carolina Aids Project (WNCAP) at 3261 Georgia Rd.; or No Wrong Door for Support and Recovery at 102 Thomas Heights Road.



The definition of homeless is "not having a fixed residence." Many of the homeless in Macon County live in tents and campers, or "couch surf" going from house to house.



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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 Jan. 27 - Feb. 10. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

February 6

Richard Mark Ellis, 35, of Franklin, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. A secured bond of \$5,179 was set. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Dustin Bo Rodmaker, 38, of Franklin, was charged with fugitive out of state felony. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Tyler Elden Deats, 24, of Franklin, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. A secured bond of \$7,601 was set. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Destiny Paige Jones, 29, of Franklin, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. A secured bond of \$870 was set. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Vicki Lynn Toneges, 59, of Franklin, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set. Stephanie Robbins made the arrest.

Andrew Chimiel, 77, of Franklin, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set. Stephanie Robbins made the arrest.

February 7

Hilario Garcia Agular, 33, of Franklin, was charged with violation of domestic violence protection order. No bond was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

February 10

Shelli Day Lowery, 25, of Bryson City, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, simple possession of a schedule III controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Warren Tyler Harling, 22, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set. Kimberly Osborne made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

February 2

David Medrano Melendez, 35, of Ulco Dr., Franklin, was charged with price substitution. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Officer Holland made the arrest.

February 3

Travis Scott Mason, 37, of N. Blane Branch Rd., Franklin, was charged with failure to register motor vehicle, trafficking heroin, trafficking heroin by transportation, possession with intent to sell/deliver cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a vehicle for use/safe/keeping of controlled substance, child abuse, light bar lighting violation, rear lamps violation, trafficking methamphetamine by transportation, trafficking methamphetamine by possession. A secured bond of \$350,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

February 4

William Pell Hodges, 32, of Harrison Ave., was charged

with trespassing. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set. Officer Norman made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

January 27

Daniel Mitchell Shelton, 31, of Ridge Point, was charged with reckless driving, hit and run property damage, obtain property by false pretenses, insurance fraud. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Thomas Michael Detolve, 53, of Grassy Creek, Tuckasegee, was charged with conspire to commit felony larceny, possession of stolen motor vehicle. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

January 28

Hannah Mikayla Hilton, 21, of Rosemont Rd., was issued an order for arrest for misdemeanor probation violation, felony probation violation, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Gregory Liliias Smith, 29, of Washington Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while intoxicated. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

January 29

Marie Jean Moore, 37, of Snowdrift Lane, was issued a child support purge. A \$2,264 bond was set.

Michael Kevin Monteith, 58, of Fisher Creek, was issued a child support purge. A \$3,759.48 was set.

Timothy Neil Rushing, 42, of Little Cottage Lane, Cashiers, was charged with failure to secure passenger under 16 years of age, driving while license revoked. A \$1,200 bond was set.

Fredrick Henry Riley, 40, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Cornelius Ashe, 98, of Skyland Dr., was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired, fictitious registration. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Michael Kevin Monteith, 58, of Fisher Creek, was charged with probation violation, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$14,759.48 was set.

William Joseph Conner, 29, of Oak Hill Dr., was charged with simple possession of a controlled substance. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Alea Lynne Burke, 21, of Deaver View Rd., Asheville, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. No bond was set.

January 30

Rosalinda Garcia, 42, of Saint James Place, Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for expired no inspection, no operators license. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Aimee Suzette Cook, 41, of Carolina Mountain Way, was charged with failure to appear for cyber stalking. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Kenneth David Groat, 37, of Robin Dr., Grand Blanc, Mich., was charged with statutory rape of a child less than 15. A secured bond of \$400,000 was set.

MacKenzie Lee Mathis, 28, of Redwing Vista, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for property by false pretense, misdemeanor larceny, possession of stolen goods. A secured bond of \$35,000 was set.

Donald Lee Dowdle, 41, of Panther Mountain Rd., Highlands, was charged with no operators license, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, simple possession of schedule VI controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a vehicle for controlled substance, possession

with intent to manufacture sell/deliver a controlled substance, possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

January 31

Aaron Joseph Livingston, 49, of Trinket Lane, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for driving while impaired, use foreign license while driving while license revoked, unsafe tires, driving while license revoked, resisting a public officer, aggressive driving. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set.

Brionna McKenzie Masters, 18, of Quest Ridge, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, felony possession of marijuana. A \$1,000 bond was set.

Charles Robert Bumgarner, 30, of Too how Rd., Whittier, was charged with second degree trespass. No bond was set.

Charles Marty Cathey, 51, of Horizon Trail, Whittier, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

February 1

Walker Joseph Lipp, 29, of Pine Creek Rd., Sapphire was charged with misdemeanor larceny, assault on a female. No bond was set.

Jason Adam Watty, 42, of Bearmeat Lane, Cherokee, was charged with no liability insurance, failure to register motorcycle, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to burn motorcycle headlamp, no motorcycle endorsement, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

February 2

Abundio Hernandez-Yanez, 41, of Lofty Mountain Rd., was charged with resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Crystal Marie Bell, 29, of Old Country Rd., Waynesville, was charged with driving while license revoked, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a vehicle to keep opiates, trafficking opium. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Juliane Bump, 54, of Wake Robin Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with driving while license revoked impaired revocation, simple possession of a schedule III controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

February 3

April Lea Lespier, 37, of Bob Owle Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for first degree trespassing. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Ryan Francis Mangold, 26, of Riverbend Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, felony possession of marijuana, false report to police station, defrauding an innkeeper, injury to personal property, possession of stolen goods/property, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, trespassing, driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$19,600 was set.

Keith Alton Lenart, 38, of McCallister Dr., Clarksville, Tenn., was issued a warrant for arrest for flee to elude arrest with a motor vehicle. No bond was set.

February 4

Timothy Jordan Stephens, 32, of Mills Branch, was charged with failure to appear for driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Tiffany Kaitlyn Johnson, 23, of Wrights Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with, failure to appear for possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, felony probation violation, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of stolen goods/property, misdemeanor larceny, felony probation for violation out of county. A secured bond of \$31,000 was set.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Meetings are held on Tuesday, 7:30 a.m., and Thursday, 12 noon at St. Agnes Episcopal Church, 66 Church St.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:30 p.m., and Sunday at 11 a.m., at First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave.; Thursday, 7 p.m. at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd.; Saturday, 10 a.m., Asbury Methodist Church in Otto. For more information or to speak with a member of A. A., call (828)349-4357 or visit our website www.aawnc80.org.

Macon County Master Gardener's Association Meeting will be held on Feb. 14, 1 p.m., in the meeting room of the Environmental Resource Center, 1624 Lakeside Dr. Christy Bredenkamp, Macon County's Director of Cooperative Extension, will give information about what she desires to bring to the association and to Macon County. Guests are welcome to attend.

Couples' Movie Night at Franklin Christian Church will be held on Friday, Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m., 156 Belleview Park Rd. The movie will be Fireproof: Never Leave Your Partner Behind. Free movie, popcorn, and drink. Childcare will be available. For more information or to reserve your space, call (828)524-6840 or franklinfirstchristian@gmail.com.

American Legion Valentine's Dance will be held on Saturday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m. The featured band will be Crossfire. Finger foods will be available.

Southeastern Bluegrass Association monthly Bluegrass Jam will be held on Saturday, Feb. 15, 12 noon, at the Whistle Stop Antique Mall, in the Old Cullasaja Elementary School. Bring an instrument and join in or just come sit and listen. All levels of musicians are welcome from beginner to advanced. For more information call, Jay (828)200-1932.

Holly Springs Community Development Association Meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the community building, 2720 Cat Creek Rd. Debbie Reese with the U.S. Census Bureau will be speaking about the 2020 census and the importance to Macon County of being sure every person is counted. Bring a friend and a breakfast dish to share.

Jackson County Branch of the NAACP February Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall of Liberty Baptist Church in Sylva. The 11 a.m. program will be a discussion of "Community Strategies Facing the White Nationalistic Epidemic." The public is welcome to attend.

"Passengers Aloft" is the topic of the Aviation Historical Society program on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 10:30 a.m., at the Macon County Airport, 1241 Airport Rd. This is a mainly audience participation program with passengers, stewardesses, pilots, and others encouraged to tell their favorite passenger stories. There is no charge and the

public is welcome. For more information, call Fred Alexander cell (828)506-5869 or aeroscribbler@gmail.com

Gem Country Republican Women's Club monthly luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 11:30 a.m., at the Factory. Guest speakers will be Beth Corbin, Kerry Rauers, Judy Davis and Janet Gillespie. Learn why these wives believe their husbands are worthy to be elected. And also be informed of legislative updates.

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 15-8 Meeting will be held on Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m., at Grandpa Charlie's Country Cooking in Andrews. If you know a veteran in need, or would like information about joining CVMA, call (828)276-3471 or email cv-manc15.8@gmail.com

AARP expert will talk about ID theft, internet fraud, and more on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 12:30 p.m., at the Crawford Senior Center, 108 Wayah St. Space is limited. For more information or to register, call (828)349-2058.

Mountain Discovery Charter School Now Accepting Applications through March 2020. They are a free public, K-8 charter school is accepting applications for enrollment. They are located in Bryson City, serving students from Swain, Jackson, Macon, Haywood, and Graham counties. They utilizes experiential learning, creativity, and high personal and academic expectations. They foster a love of the natural world through its focus on outdoor education. All students are actively engaged in learning that has value and consequence beyond the classroom. For more information and enrollment, go to www.mountaindiscovery.org

Macon Medication Assistance Program located at the back of the First Baptist Church is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call (828)524-5258.

CarePartners Hospice Support Groups for anyone who has lost loved ones. Facilitated by the Bereavement Staff of CarePartners Hospice, the Women's Support Groups meet the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.; the Men's Support Groups meet the second Monday of the month at 11:30 a.m., at the Sunset Restaurant on Harrison Ave. CarePartners Home Care and Hospice is located at 170 Church St. For more information, call (828)369-4206.

Serving Spoon Serves a Hot Meal on Thursday, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Town's Jaycee Building except on Thanksgiving.

NC Mountain Made at 36 E Main Street, and Charity's Hair Studio, 493 Highlands Road, are collecting nonperishable food items for CareNet.

Volunteer drivers needed at Macon County Senior Services. Mileage will be reimbursed. For more information, call (828) 349-0211.

Mens Teen Challenge Needs Good Quality Lumber for its wood-working Shop. Pick up in Franklin area. To donate, call (828)369-1177.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Oliver Rice and Shakeen Family will be Singing on Sunday, Feb. 16, 5 p.m. at the Ellijay Baptist Church. Everyone is welcome to attend Refreshments will be served after singing.

Macon County Interfaith Coalition will be hosting an interfaith event of Love Stories from six different faiths, how they impact our respective faith groups with questions from the audience. One Heart Choir will be performing. This potluck dinner event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m., at Tartan Hall, First Presbyterian Church in Franklin.

Arise & Shine Women's Recovery Center and Discipleship Program Beginning Planning Stages Presentation will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20, 1 and 6 p.m., at the Son Rise Fellowship, 462 Depot St. Ann Marie McWhite will present the program.

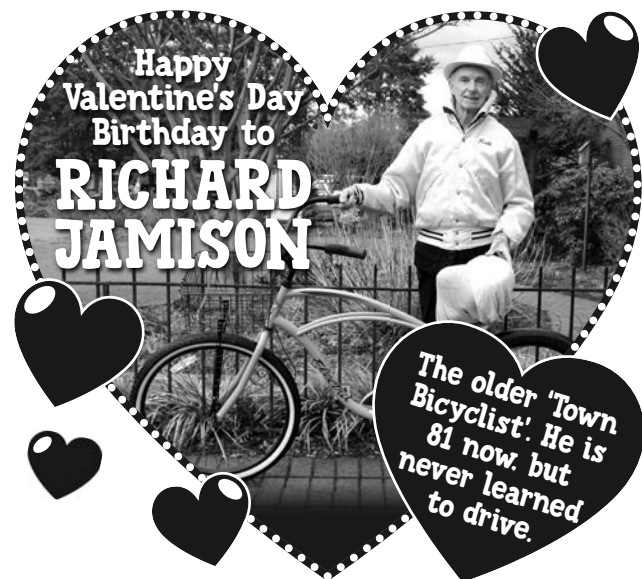
All Saints Episcopal Church holds Rite I Service every Sunday, 8 a.m., at St. Agnes Chapel, 66 Church St.; Rite II Service at 10:15 a.m. with music at St. Agnes Chapel every first and third Sunday; and at St. Cyprian's Chapel, 216 Roller Mill Rd., every second and fourth Sunday. For service times on fifth Sundays, visit www.allsaints-franklin.org or call the church office at (828)524-4910.

St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church Divine Liturgy is held on Sundays, 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour. The church is located at 23 Hickory St., in Murphy. For more information, call Fr. James Blomeley (828)361-1464 snocmurphy@gmail.com

Memorial United Methodist Church Anonymous Call-in Prayer Line. If you need prayer, call (828)369-0707. Leave a message with your prayer request, and the church will be happy to pray for you or whoever you request prayers for. You may also leave a request for a call back if you need one.

First United Methodist Church Sunday Worship Schedule: Contemporary Worship at 8:30 a.m. immediately followed by a Fellowship Breakfast, Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and Traditional Worship at 10:55 a.m. (childcare provided) at First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Ave, Franklin. Call (828) 524-3010 / firstumcfranklin.org

Prentiss Church of God Sunday services include Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.; Worship at 10:30 a.m. On Wednesday, pre-service prayer begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by praise and worship at 7 p.m. Pastor Kevin Chapman invites the community to attend. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road. Phone: (828)369-3885.



SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 21

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 21

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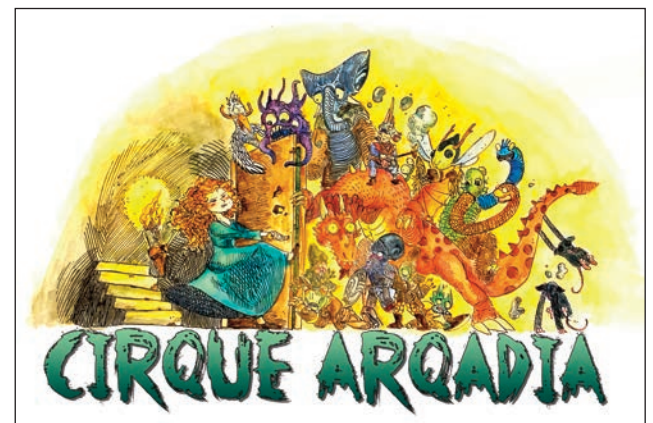
Ledbetters to celebrate 50th anniversary

The family of Charles (Buck) and Margaret Horn Ledbetter will host a 50th wedding anniversary celebration with a drop in reception on Sunday, Feb. 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Franklin Memorial Park located at 488 West Main Street in Franklin. The couple were married on Feb. 28, 1970, in Franklin. No gifts.

RGNS to present 'Cirque Arqadia'

Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School students will bring the original production "Cirque Arqadia" to the Rearden Stage on Feb. 13-15.

"Cirque Arqadia" follows the story of a young girl who finds a secret portal to the land of Arqadia, a magical place with fairies, dragons, and all sorts of magical creatures. Filled with amazing aerials, acrobatics, and flights of fancy, this year's show is sure to dazzle and delight.



Showtimes are Feb. 13-15 at 7:30 p.m., with a special 2:30 p.m. matinee showing on Feb. 15, in the Rearden Theater at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, available online at rabungap.org/cirque.

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MVI plays host to Rob Gudger's 'Wolf Tales'

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

Rob Gudger and his wolves recently paid a visit to the fifth grade students at Mountain View Intermediate School (MVI). Gudger uses his gray wolves in environmental education presentations. The program was made possible with the help of 5th grade teacher Lori Castner who has incorporated the book "Julie of the Wolves" into her English Language Arts class, because a group of students expressed an interest in wolves. The district STEM coordinator, Jennifer Love, worked out the details to get the Bob Gudger's "Wolf Tales" to present to the entire 5th grade.

Gudger has been handling wolves for more than 33 years and wants people to better understand them, because he believes they have been very misunderstood over the years. Wolves have a reputation as being vicious killers, dangerous, and always on the prowl. Some people think of them as basically dogs, just in need of a little taming. Both concepts are wrong, explains Gudger. His presentation provided great insight into this predator as he shared multiple facts about them.

Wolves are a dogs ancestors. Dogs were probably domesticated by accident, when wolves began trailing ancient hunter-gatherers to snack on their garbage. Docile wolves may have been slipped extra food scraps, the theory goes, so they survived better, and passed on their genes. Eventually, these friendly wolves evolved into dogs. The gray wolf lives today in a diverse range of environments, including tundra, mountain areas, woodlands, forests, grasslands and deserts. An estimated 7,000 wolves live in Alaska. About 5,000 gray wolves inhabit the lower 48

states, more in Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Gudger shared other fun facts:

- Wolves do not carry fleas.
- They have 4,500 lbs. of bite force.
- Unlike coyotes, they are timid and scared of people.
- They always stay together in a pack, the oldest wolf at the front of the pack to set the pace.
- Gudger collects the wolves' fur for weavers and spinners to use, as it is thick and warm.

- His wolves eat 10 lbs. each of chicken leg sections, once per week, to mimic how they would eat in the wild.

- He has three wolves in his pack and they are socialized, but not domesticated.

The wolves do not live inside Gudger's Haywood County home, rather, they live outside. They do not come when their names are called, and though they are a part of the canine family, they are different than dogs. When folks ask Gudger if they are trained he explains that they are not trained but they are socialized. "You really can't train wolves" he says. They don't take orders or come when called but they are predictable in their behavior. Gudger has three wolves right now and is planning to get a pup soon. Wolves live to be between 10 and 12 years old.

The students at MVI had the opportunity to pet the wolves and give belly rubs as they left, and some of the teachers even got the opportunity to walk the wolves around. The four girls that consider themselves the "wolf pack" at MVI described their experience interacting with the wolves.

"My emotions were shooting out, I wanted to go up on stage with the handlers," Kaylee Toneges remarked. "We were told not to be too loud. One of the wolves actually licked my hand which means he was welcoming me into the pack."

Olivia Holcomb explained, "I felt very emotional, I touched one and it felt soft, the deeper I felt the softer the fur felt, it was rougher on top."

Keefer also added, "OMG I really wish I had been up there with the handlers, I was trying to make the wolves howl."

Alisa Hamlin says, "I was so excited to get to see and touch the wolves."

"Having the wolves at school gave the students a hands-on learning experience that directly aligned with the ecosystem standards, as it touches on food chains. They are one of the main apex predators (which is an alpha predator at the top of the food chain), they have no natural predators, in the forest and arctic biomes," said Jillian View, MVI Science and Math Teacher.



Students were able to pet the wolves after the presentation.



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Franklin joint choirs headed to Carnegie Hall

Mountain Voices and the First United Methodist Church Chancel choir have been invited to participate in a performance at Carnegie Hall. Mountain Voices Chorus is a mixed voice choir with members from Franklin, Scaly Mountain, Rabun Gap, Clayton and surrounding areas. Directed by Beverly Burnett, the two choirs will join with others choristers around the world to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, a choir of distinction. The resulting choir will perform "The Music of John Rutter" as part of the Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) Concert Series in New York City, Sunday, Feb. 16, in Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall.

"The First United Methodist Church Choir and Mountain Voices received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers as well as the exceptional quality of their audition recording,"

Mountain Voices chorus and the choir of the First United Methodist Church of Franklin have been invited to sing at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Sunday, Feb. 16. The group will spend five days and four nights, Feb. 13-17, rehearsing for the concert and doing a little sight-seeing on the side.

said Dr. Jonathan Griffith, artistic director and principal conductor for DCINY.

The 26 singers will spend five days and four nights, Feb. 13-17, in New York City in preparation for the concert, rehearsing for nine or 10 hours over the five-day period.

"It is quite an honor just to be invited to perform in New York," said Griffith. "These wonderful musicians not only represent a high quality of music and education, but they also become ambassadors for the entire community. This is an event of extreme pride for everybody and deserving of the community's recognition and support."

Valentine's Dance this Friday at library

Waltz, cha-cha, and rock the night away at a Valentine's Day Dance this Friday, Feb. 14, 7 to 9 .m., in the Macon County Public Library's Reading Room. Award-winning C-Square plays favorite vintage love songs, from Sinatra's "I Love All of You" and Elvis' "Love Me Tender," to The Temptations' "My Girl" and The O'Jays' "Love Train," and more, maybe even some Willie Nelson



and Hank Williams.

C-Square is keyboardist/vocalist Lionel Caynon, vocalist/percussionist Mike Contino, and vocalist Bobbie Contino. With a highly danceable hardwood floor and comfortable seating, the Library is a great dance venue. Light refreshments will be provided. Admission is by donation; doors open at 6:40. In case of snow, the dance will be held Friday, March 21. Come stag or drag; just be sure to wear your dancin' shoes!

The Macon County Public Library is at 149 Siler Farm Road in Franklin, with ample parking and handicap access. This event is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County; for information phone 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

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Historic 'folk' dwellings focus of presentation

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Michael Ann Williams, Ph.D., has been teaching folk lore for more than 30 years. Much of what she gleaned about vernacular architecture in the Appalachian Mountains came from oral history accounts. Since the 1980s, she has trudged through wilderness, approached strangers, sat on their porches or by their woodstoves, and listened to the memories of hearth and home. From those experiences, she published not only her doctorate dissertation, but a book called "Homeplace: Social Use and Meaning of the Folk Dwelling in Southwestern North Carolina."

Williams' Jan. 30th day-long, interactive presentation at Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center, was based on "Homeplace," and included readings, a slide presentation, and visits to various historic dwellings throughout Macon County.

Attending the presentation was Williams' husband, David Carpenter, who grew up in the Iotla area. He pointed out that his grandfather, Edgar Carpenter, was an early principal at Cowee School and his father, Ed Carpenter, was a teacher at Cowee School.

"I'm not a native of Western North Carolina," explained Williams. "I grew up in the Washington, D.C., area, but I got my undergraduate degree in anthropology at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania."

Thus began her journey regarding all things historical. Williams worked at a farm museum and became so interested in folk lore and architecture that she eventually obtained her doctorate on the subject, becoming an expert in a field that boasts few experts – especially in the Western North Carolina region, where she gravitated to work and study.

"I quickly discovered the benefits of oral history," she said. "I began to interview people in the 1980s, and that was a time when one could still touch on that turn-of-the [20th] century knowledge," said Williams. Many people living in log and wood-frame homes could still remember a time without modern conveniences.

Williams shared that the kitchen as a separate room or building often did not occur for mountain families until they purchased a cook stove. The kitchen was either in the main room of the house or a separate building or attached room without a door leading through the main house. If separate, locals referred to the house with living room and bedroom(s) as "big house."

"People told me so much about the way they lived, about snow coming through the chinking between the logs, of never

turning away strangers who wandered across their land, of socializing on porches and greeting neighbors who happened to be on their way to or from town," said Williams.

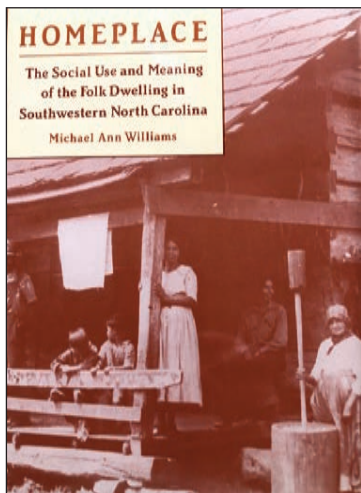
Generally, the single pen log house design, which was the most common in Appalachia, had a loft. "It was unusual for a log home to have a full two stories," said Williams. Visiting strangers who needed a night's stay and a meal before continuing on their way were housed there; or, young people "courting" with someone several miles away were "put up" for a night in this space.

"We wouldn't think of opening our homes up to strangers," said Williams, "or of all sleeping together in the same room, which was also commonplace. But we can't apply 21st century notions to the past. The culture was different and that was familiar and comfortable at the time."

Other distinct aspects of mountain folk dwellings include few, or no windows – as "windows weaken a structure;" shutter doors instead of glass for windows since glass was an extra expense; and metal roofs to replace cedar shingle or wood board roofs in the earliest part of the 20th century.

"There was usually a combination of practical and cultural reasons for why and how people lived in their homes," she said.

Williams has found that one of the most endearing aspects



A group attending Michael Ann Williams' presentation at Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center visited a historic homeplace in Oak Grove Community.

of accumulating oral history about historic folk dwellings is that "People talk about their homeplace with great emotion ... some would cry."

Many of the homes Williams studied have fallen into disrepair, and many more continue to be abandoned and neglected. She said a main reason is inheritance conflict. When an inhabitant or owner of a folk dwelling dies, family members often cannot agree on what should happen to the home and/or cannot afford to restore and maintain it.

At least a dozen attendees to Williams' presentation carpooled to several sites to view first-hand existing folk dwellings.

All of the sales of Williams' book, "Homeplace: The Social Use and Meaning of the Folk Dwelling in Southwestern North Carolina" are donated to Mainspring Conservation Trust. Anyone interested in purchasing a book can inquire at Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center. And, individuals who missed Williams' January presentation on "Homeplace" can check out Cowee School's website to learn of her spring talk on the subject.



One of many historic homes visited as part of a Jan. 30th, day-long interactive presentation by Michael Ann Williams included this one in the Tellico community.



Deaths & Funerals

Annie Mae Passmore Carver

Annie Mae Passmore Carver, 90, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, Feb. 10, 2020. She was born Jan. 28, 1930, in Macon County to the late Jake and Layla Wilson Passmore. She retired from Clayton Manufacturing and was a Baptist by faith. She liked gardening and sewing.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew Nelson Carver; a son, Furman Nelson Carver; a sister, Ruth Carver; and a brother, Don Passmore.

She is survived by two daughters, Elaine Carver of Franklin, and Kathy Norris (Ricky) of Franklin; a son, Freddie Allison Carver of Franklin; three sisters, Gertha Fowler, Dorothy Sharpe and Ruby Higgins, all of Asheville, N.C.; a brother, Grady Passmore of Franklin; seven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Rev. Gene Hawkins officiating. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery.

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



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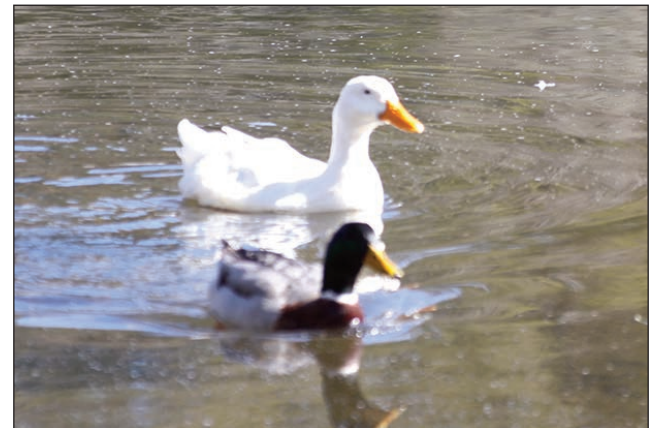
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Ricky Stenhouse Jr. streaks to pole for Daytona 500

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – With a blistering lap at 194.582 mph on Sunday at Daytona International Speedway, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. broke the Hendrick Motorsports monopoly on Daytona 500 pole positions—sort of.

In his first competitive trip in the No. 47 JTG Daugherty Racing Chevrolet, Stenhouse covered the 2.5-mile distance in 46.253 mph to lock himself into the top starting spot for next Sunday's Great American Race (2:30 p.m. ET on FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

Admittedly, Stenhouse had a Hendrick engine under the hood of his Camaro as he streaked to the third NASCAR Cup Series Busch Pole Award of his career and his first at Daytona. And, true, enough, Hendrick Motorsports drivers—Alex Bowman, Chase Elliott and Jimmie Johnson—posted the next three fastest laps, with Bowman securing second starting spot for next Sunday's season opener with a lap at 194.363 mph (46.305 seconds).

In winning the third pole for his new organization, and its first on an oval, Stenhouse broke a streak of five straight poles for Hendrick drivers. What didn't end was the string of eight straight Daytona 500 poles for Chevrolet, dating to Danica Patrick's only career top starting spot in 2013.

With superspeedway specialist Brian Pattie working his magic as Stenhouse's crew chief, the No. 47 JTG Daugherty machine was sleek enough and strong enough to eclipse William Byron's 2019 pole-winning speed of 194.305 mph, the same speed Elliott matched with the third-fastest lap on Sunday.

"It's cool," Stenhouse said. "I'm just thankful for the opportunity to be here and bring guys with me like Brian and Mike (Kelley, whose wind-tunnel work was crucial to the effort). They've been working hard, they've are in my corner and they've been behind me throughout my career."

"The Hendrick horsepower was amazing. Obviously, we've got quite a few Hendrick cars lined up behind us. Our Camaro was really strong. The wind started picking up down the back straightaway – a little headwind."

After leaving Roush Fenway Racing at the end of last season, Stenhouse and his team accomplished the No. 1 priority set during the offseason.

"That was our goal coming down here," Stenhouse said. "Pattie was working really hard in the offseason toward that goal. We cut bodies off and put them back on – so this goes out

to the whole shop.

"Anytime you can start the season off with a new organization and see all the work they put in – guys in the shop that I don't even know are working late nights. All for benefit of me to come down here and jump in this car and run fast.

"This goes to a lot of people who work behind the scenes for me to come out and drive. It's a cool way to start Speedweeks."

The only other driver to lock up a specific starting spot for the Daytona 500, Bowman will take the green flag from the front row for the third straight time in NASCAR's most prestigious race. Bowman's finishes, however, haven't matched his starts.

"My friends call me 'Bad-Luck Bowman,'" said the driver of the No. 88 Chevrolet, whose best finish in the Daytona 500 is 11th, posted last year. "Superspeedway racing—everybody wants to say it's all about luck. It's really not. It's how you position yourself throughout the day.

"Sometimes luck gets involved in it, and you get caught up in somebody else's mess, or something happens right in front of you or whatever, but it's really about how you position yourself and what you do throughout the day and what positions you put yourself in.

"I would love to be a super lucky person. Obviously, I'm pretty lucky to get to drive race cars for a living. Sometimes I think situations could go better for me, but I think it's more

about the situations you put yourself in."

At the other end of the qualifying spectrum, Justin Haley and Brendan Gaughan claimed to the first two starting spots available to non-chartered cars by posting the 31st and 33rd fastest laps, respectively. The remaining two positions in the 40-car field will be filled by the running of the Bluegreen Vacation Duels 150-mile qualifying races on Thursday.

Those two races (7 p.m. ET on FS1, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) will also determine the starting order for next Sunday's race.

Johnson was fourth in Sunday's time trials as he begins his final season of full-time Cup racing. Defending Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin posted the fifth-fastest lap, tops among Toyota drivers, followed by Joe Gibbs Racing teammate and defending NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Busch. Aric Almirola had the seventh-best lap in the fastest Ford.

William Byron, Sunoco Rookie of the Year contender Christopher Bell and Erik Jones completed the top 10.



Ricky Stenhouse Jr., driver of the #47 Kroger Chevrolet, poses with the Busch Pole Award after qualifying for the NASCAR Cup Series 62nd Annual Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 9, in Daytona Beach, Florida.



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME:
U.S. PRESIDENTS

ACROSS

1. Frenzied
5. Between fathers and sons?
8. Not fake news
12. Black-tie occasion
13. Pupil's place
14. Whatchamacallit
15. Similar
16. Nessie's lake
17. Poet T.S.
18. *He called his residence the White House
20. Dashing style
21. Opposite of cathode
22. No-goodnik
23. Same as Danzig
26. Inside information, pl.
30. Antonym of keep
31. Data input device
34. ____ Madrid Club de F'tbol
35. Anomie, alt. sp.
37. Stupid person
38. First M in MGM
39. Narcotics agent, for short
40. Jennifer Lopez' 2019 movie swindle
42. Band aid
43. Hiked the Inca Trail, e.g.
45. Threat, two words
47. H+, e.g.
48. "Fences" actress Davis
50. Long forearm bone
52. *His epitaph doesn't mention his presidency
56. Abracadabra, e.g.
57. *First Lady of the US for only one month
58. Milano moolah
59. *Where JFK's "Honey Fitz" spent time
60. Two of a kind, pl.
61. Winglike
62. Ring-around-the-rosy flower
63. "C' ____ la vie!"
64. *President during Mexican-American War

DOWN

1. Petri dish filler
2. Kind of shark
3. Assortment
4. Dorothy Gale, e.g.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
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5. Gordon Gekko: " ____ is good"	27. Prenatal	54. Face-to-face exam
6. Bridal path	28. Orwell's animals' turf, pl.	55. Police informer
7. "Hey, over here!"	29. North face, e.g.	56. Tree juice
8. *He installed library at the White House	32. "You had" or "you would"	
9. Marco Polo's destination	33. Baryshnikov's step	
10. "Oh ____!"	36. *First president to campaign by telephone	
11. Little squirt	38. Dixon of "The Walking Dead"	
13. Conjure up	40. Farm layer	
14. "Faster!" to a horse	41. Body scrubbers	
19. Glorify	44. Bear Down Under	
22. *Announce presidential ____	46. Hearing organ cover	
23. *He established Yellowstone as 1st national park	48. Second planet from the Sun	
24. 1/100 of a rial	49. " ____ me, then who?"	
25. "I love you" or "J' ____"	50. Machinating	
26. *Only one to hold position in Executive and Judicial branches	51. Not more	
	52. Green gem	
	53. Storage cylinder	

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The Classifieds

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Help Wanted

CNA/PCA NEEDED Apply in person at Grandview Manor Care Center or call Hannah. (828)524-4425, ext. 207.

OLD EDWARDS Hospitality has the following positions open: Restaurant Four65: Part-time servers, full-time Hostess, AM/PM Sous Chef, Cook and Utility, Dishwashers needed (Full-time year round, and seasonal). Banquet Bar Supervisor. Assistant Inn Manager for Half Mile Farm. Old Edwards: Front Desk, Bellmen, Front Desk Supervisors, Spa attendants & concierge, Housekeepers, Laundry, Experienced servers & server assistants, Reservationist. Full-Time On-Site Graphic Design and Layout Professional. Graphic Artist Full-time Temporary. Maintenance Engineer. Please send resume in pdf format to pturnbull@oldedwardsinn.com or apply online at www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers

COMPANION HEALTH CARE Now Hiring: CNA's and Experienced Caregivers Needed for in Home Care. Call (828)524-6444.

Wanted

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

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FRESH GEORGIA PECANS Last Chance till Next Nov. Saturday, Feb. 15, 12-4pm. In Front of VFW across from Ace.

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

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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 45 Macon Center Dr., 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.

4-H PLANT SALE Macon County 4-H. Orders will be taken through Thursday, March 13. Apple Trees, Cherry Trees, Blackberry, Blueberry, Raspberry and Strawberry plants, Grapes, Peach Trees, Pear Trees and Plum Trees, Bee Food Seed Pack. (828)349-2046.

BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER Saturday, Feb. 15, 8am-10am, Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Gravy, Grits, Eggs and Biscuits, Fruit. Hickory Knoll Church, 86E Hickory Knoll Rd. Proceeds Benefit New Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNITY DINNER Feb. 15, 5-7pm. Memorial United Methodist Church. Mexican Soup, Potato Soup, Corn Bread or Bread, Dessert and Drink. Donations Only. Benefits Missions. Information call (828)369-5834.

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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TILE-TILE-TILE-TILE Floors, Backsplash, Custom Showers. 38 Years Experience Call for Free Estimates (828)369-2209.

PIANO INSTRUCTION Bill Grimmert, bill@grmt.net (404)641-1801 (text message, or voice mail). Master of Music Degree in Piano Pedagogy, Member Music Teachers National Association.

CRANE BROS. WELL Drilling, 6" Drilled Wells for Farms Homes and Industries, Free Estimates. 248 Crane Circle, Franklin. (828)524-4976.

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CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2016	Chevrolet	Camaro	27,114	PRICE DROP!
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	9,016	LOCAL TRADE!
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	97,171	CLASSIC!
2017	Chevrolet	Corvette	16,113	LOCAL TRADE!
2013	Chevrolet	Impala	118,535	LOCAL TRADE! \$6,360
2011	Chevrolet	Malibu	75,216	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Chevrolet	Malibu	19,222	LOCAL TRADE!
2012	Chevrolet	Volt	85,273	LOCAL TRADE!
1994	Ford	Crown Victoria	74,655	SOLD!
2013	Ford	Fusion	110,655	SOLD!
2003	Kia	Rio		\$1,000
2005	Mazda	Mazda3	206,231	SOLD!
2019	Nissan	Altima	37,599	JUST IN!
2019	Nissan	Maxima	11,499	LOCAL TRADE!
2019	Nissan	Sentra	39,701	JUST IN!
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,516	SOLD!
2009	Subaru	Impreza	112,770	\$6,000
2018	Subaru	Legacy	39,087	JUST IN!
2017	Subaru	Outback	71,294	JUST IN!
2019	Toyota	Corolla	42,189	PRICE DROP!

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	40,020	LOCAL TRADE!
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	136,375	SOLD!
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	139,498	SOLD!
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	149,055	\$17,480
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	109,316	LOCAL TRADE!
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	78,342	\$23,400
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	109,215	JUST IN!
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	68,435	LOCAL TRADE! FRESH ON THE LOT
2006	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	210,299	\$10,000 DIESEL!
2002	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	266,707	SOLD!
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	29,423	LOCAL TRADE! DIESEL!
2001	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	168,903	SOLD!
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500HD	93,281	LOCAL TRADE! DUALY! DIESEL-
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	15,542	LOCAL TRADE!
2016	Ford	F-150	54,317	SOLD!
2019	Ford	F-150	35,396	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	Ford	Ranger	25,747	JUST IN!
2012	GMC	Sierra 1500	135,306	LOCAL TRADE! \$18,960
2017	GMC	Sierra 3500HD	147,376	FLAT BED DIESEL! PRICE DROPPED!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	26,497	JUST IN!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	27,911	JUST IN!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	22,199	JUST IN!
2003	Toyota	Tundra	230,992	\$7,960!

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	15,585	PRICE REDUCED!
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	13,485	PRICE REDUCED!
2006	Chevrolet	HHR	166,016	\$5,000
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	43,424	MUST GO! PRICE REDUCED!
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	18,363	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	19,524	DEAL PENDING!
2010	Chevrolet	Traverse	131,529	\$7,500
2017	Chevrolet	Trax	61,185	SOLD!
2019	Dodge	Durango	23,521	JUST IN!
2018	Dodge	Journey	38,351	THIRD ROW! ROOM FOR THE WHOLE FAM!
2018	Ford	Edge	37,096	LOADED WITH OPTIONS!
2019	Ford	Expedition Max	43,285	THIRD ROW! ROOM FOR THE WHOLE FAM!
2013	Ford	Explorer	100,483	SOLD!
2019	GMC	Acadia	13,433	PRICE REDUCED!
2011	GMC	Acadia	163,390	SOLD!
2017	Honda	Pilot	30,865	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	INFINITI	QX30	37,689	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2016	Jeep	Cherokee	70,872	SOLD!
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	15,693	JUST IN!
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	45,316	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2007	Jeep	Wrangler	132,742	LOCAL TRADE! \$11,999
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unlimited	4,489	A MUST SEE!
2018	Kia	Soul	38,511	PRICED TO SELL!
2018	Kia	Soul	38,969	PRICED TO SELL!
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	35,408	PRICE REDUCED!
2018	Nissan	Murano	38,296	JUST IN!
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	38,162	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2018	Nissan	Rogue	43,271	JUST IN!
2018	Nissan	Rogue Sport	38,403	JUST IN!
2018	Toyota	RAV4	41,686	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Toyota	RAV4	32,712	JUST IN!

MOTORCYCLES

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2002	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ROAD KING	3,261	LET'S MAKE A DEAL!
2007	HARLEY DAVIDSON	SCREAMING EAGLE	20,600	ALL MOTORCYCLES MUST GO!
1997	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ULTRA CLASSIC	26,160	PERFECT TIME OF YEAR!
2017	KAWASAKI	VERSYS-X 300	2,863	LOW MILES! ALL LOCAL TRADES!

VANS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	23,899	A GREAT FAMILY VEHICLE!
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	40,916	LOADED WITH OPTIONS!
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan	41,978	YOUR FAMILY NEEDS THIS!
2005	Honda	Odyssey	153,093	SOLD!