

# The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

Free  
independent  
weekly

Read all of the  
MACON COUNTY  
NEWS  
Online  
Free Weekly



themaconcountynews.com

October 14, 2021 • 24 Pages

Volume 39 Number 22

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

www.themaconcountynews.com



The Upbeats were the featured band at last Saturday's Pickin' on the Square in downtown Franklin. This Saturday, Oct. 16, marks the last concert of the season with "Intermission," a band from Alabama. Show starts at 7 p.m. Bring a chair and a blanket.  
Photo by Betsy Gooder

## IN THIS ISSUE



Page 8

FHS band racking up trophies in competitions

## Board of commissioners approves nearly \$9 million in raises for county employees

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

For the last decade, county commissioners in Macon County have struggled to address competitive compensation for county employees. When compared to most Western North Carolina counties, Macon County ranked near the bottom for county salaries, which often led to retention and recruitment issues in various departments.

As of May 12 of this year, Macon County had 50 vacant positions spread across numerous departments. The majority of these vacancies were within priority areas of the operating budget such as health and human services (Public Health, 7; DSS, 11); and Public Safety (EMS, 7; Telecommunications, 1; Sheriff, 12) who provide critical services to Macon County residents. Macon County Manager Derek Roland informed commissioners that as of Tuesday, Macon County reported 47 vacancies across county departments with 21 of those vacancies being in public safety and 18 being in health and human services.



County manager Derek Roland addresses the Board of Commissioners at Tuesday's meeting.

"We are at a point that without something being done, we are looking at having to reduce the services we are able to provide to the citizens of Macon County," Roland said. "We

See PREMIUM page 2



Page 6

Centenarians to be honored for WWII service

828.369.6767  
www.themaconcountynews.com  
maconcountynews@gmail.com

PRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 22  
GOODER PUBLISHING CORP.  
FRANKLIN, NC 28734-3401

SMOKY MOUNTAIN CENTER  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

1028 Georgia Rd • Franklin, NC  
Local 828.524.1598 • Toll Free 866.273.4615  
SmokyMountainArts.com



OCTOBER 23 • 8:00PM



THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE HERITAGE OF  
AMERICA BAND RHYTHM IN BLUE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

OCTOBER 24 • 3:00PM



## PREMIUM

Continued from page 1

are one of the few counties in the state that never stopped any services during COVID19, with some counties still providing a reduction in services. But with the vacancies we have within our emergency services department and the vacancies within the Sheriff's Office, we very well may need to reduce the services and responses possible due to staffing shortage."

In February, Macon County began working with Gallagher Consulting to perform a compensation and classification study. The purpose of the study was to design and implement a market aligned pay structure that would be effective in the recruitment process and maintain internal equity within the organization to aid in retention. The results of the study showed that Macon County's salary ranges for 77 benchmark positions representing all functions in the organization to be an average of 7-9 percent below market levels when compared to a peer group of 22 similar counties and municipalities.

The county set aside \$1.8 million in the fiscal year budget to implement the recommendations from the study once finalized — which was presented to commissioners Tuesday night.

The new county pay scale and classification system that was presented updated position classifications across the board for county positions to make Macon County externally competitive. While the county has completed other pay studies in the past — such as the Springstead Study complete in 2016, the implementation failed to address internal discrepancies such as compensation for years of services. The pay scale Roland presented Tuesday night ensured county salaries will now be internally equitable by placing each position within pay grade dependent on an employee years of service.

Nearly every county employee will see a salary increase ranging from \$1,000 to upwards of \$5,000 depending on position and years of service. The implementation of the new pay study will begin immediately and will be completed within existing funds in the county's budget. While the plan will cost \$1.6 million to implement this year, the full-year

implementation cost is \$2.34 million.

Although Commissioner Josh Young and Commissioner Paul Higdon voted against the budget in June because of the increased funding for county employee raises, both commissioners voted for the final plan Tuesday night, allowing the new pay scale to pass unanimously.

### Premium pay

In addition to the new pay scale for county employees, Roland proposed utilizing the county's \$6.9 million allocation of federal COVID19 relief funding to provide premium pay for all county employees through October 2024.

Western North Carolina counties began receiving another \$156.5 million in American Recovery Plan Act funds, through the Biden administration in September, which was in addition to the \$1.7 billion in CARES Act funding from the

*The Macon County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously for the new pay scale which includes compensation for years of service.*

Trump administration in response to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

Macon County received \$6.9 million in COVID Relief Funds, which come with restrictions on how they can be spent. Jackson County received \$8.5 million, Haywood County received \$12 million, Graham County received \$1.6 million, Clay County received \$2.1 million, Cherokee County received \$5.5 million, and Swain County received \$2.7 million.

The Department of Treasury issued guidance detailing its interpretation and implementation of eligible uses, but the statutory language specifically authorizes use of the funds. Each of the following is a separate allowable use of the funds for the recipient:

- To respond to the pandemic or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism,

travel, and hospitality;

- For premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work (as determined by each recipient government) during the pandemic, providing up to \$13 per hour above regular wages;

- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the pandemic (relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency);

- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure;

The language explicitly prohibits funds from being deposited into a pension fund. States and territories are also prohibited from using the funds to offset, either directly or indirectly, a tax cut made since March 3, 2021.

Each county is responsible for deciding how the funds can be spent. Graham County announced in August, that all full-time county nurses and EMS staff will receive a one-time lump sum bonus of \$25,000. Roland stated that due to state statutory limitations on the function of N.C. governments, the county would be limited on which of the allowable uses can be utilized.

With the strict guidelines associated with the funding, and the need to provide an incentive to address county staffing shortage, Roland made the recommendation to allocate the full \$6.9 million for premium pay for all county employees by providing all part-time and full-time county employees with a \$2 per hour premium pay bonus until October 2024. The premium pay bonuses will be paid out in seven lump sums over the time period it remains in effect.

According to Roland, unlike other counties, Macon County's plan provides employees with premium pay spread out over several years rather than one lump sum. The plan was designed to address the current staffing shortage but also provide retention and recruitment incentives in the years to come.

The premium plan policy was unanimously approved by commissioners and will be retroactive dating back to April 26, 2021.

Streets of Franklin are asking anyone who wants to donate wrapped candy or a monetary donation for:

# MONSTER MASH ON MAIN

SATURDAY, OCT. 30<sup>TH</sup> 4 – 6 PM

Please drop donation off to The Kitchen Sink, Mossy Rock, or the Macon County News. It will be so appreciated by the children of Macon County.

Main Street in Franklin, NC will be closed to traffic for this Halloween event. So, gather up the critters and come on down to the Monster Mash on Main! [thetreetsoffranklinnc@gmail.com](mailto:thetreetsoffranklinnc@gmail.com) or 828-524-2956 for more info.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual PUMPKINFEST

Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Downtown Franklin, NC  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm • Rain or Shine!

- 60 Arts & Crafts Vendors
- 1989 Batmobile Replica + the "Man"
- Street Performers
- FREE Inflatables & Pony Rides
- Costume Parade & Contest

**& MUCH MORE!**

Information:  
828-524-2516  
[TownofFranklinNC.com](http://TownofFranklinNC.com)

Featuring the  
**WORLD FAMOUS PUMPKIN ROLL**



# Jim Tate not seeking re-election

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

Prior to the October meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners, Chairman Jim Tate announced that he will not be seeking re-election this December.

“On Dec. 11, 2011, I had the privilege of being sworn into office as a Macon County Commissioner. Since that day, I have worked extremely hard and I have dedicated countless hours to ensure that our community would be proud of my service with which they had entrusted me,” said Tate. “Macon County has made many, great, calculated strides forward during my time in office; however, as with most things in life, change is inevitable. Thus, I am announcing that I will not be seeking re-election for a fourth term as a Macon County Commissioner.”

Tate has represented the Highlands District over the last 10 years, many of which have been spent as chairman of the board.

“My years of service as a commissioner have been some of the greatest of my life,”



**Jim Tate has represented Highlands on the Macon County Board of Commissioners since December 2011.**

said Tate. “I can’t explain how extremely humbled and blessed that I have been for the leadership opportunity that my fellow citizens have bestowed upon me. More importantly, I have had the honor to meet and work alongside many great people who devote their daily lives for the betterment of our county. And, because of their dedication, we are all truly blessed to be able to call Macon County home. Public service is a calling and one which I have taken very seriously. It has been my honor to represent Macon County as your commissioner.”

Three seats on the Macon County Board of Commissioner will be open for filing in December. The seats, currently held by Gary Shields, Ronnie Beale and Jim Tate, will be up for grabs and have garnered interest from several candidates. Incumbent Gary Shields has announced he plans to seek re-election. At this time, Beale has not made a statement regarding his campaign.

Filing for the Macon County Board of Commissioners opens Dec. 6 and has a filing fee of \$106.26.

# Franklin’s fall calendar filling up fast

Macon County Parks and Recreation Director Seth Adams said this year’s Halloween in the Park will be bigger and better than ever and will be held in a new location.

According to Adams, this year’s Halloween in the Park will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 28, at Parker Meadows Recreation Complex. The main entrance to the park will be closed and vendors will be set up around the walking trail of Parker Meadows. The main parking lot by the playground will be open to the public and to begin the trick or treating trail.

Around 20 vendors have signed on so far to participate, but with the new location, Adams said the space can hold double that. Adams also noted that Biltmore Church will be sponsoring the inflatables and fun zone, which will be set up between the picnic pavilion and the batting cages.

Any business or organization interested in participating may contact Cody Brooks at 828.349.2090.

Residents on Bidwell Street in Franklin are also gearing up for the annual trick or treating event, which is always held on Oct. 31. After a vote by the Franklin Town Council, Bidwell Street will be closed to traffic. Bidwell Street has become known as the “go-to” street for door-to-door trick or treating, with homes

along the street decked from top to bottom for Halloween. Hundreds of trick or treaters and their families participate each year — so much so that candy donations can be made beginning now until Halloween to help homeowners provide treats to everyone who attends.

The Town of Franklin-sponsored Fall event PumpkinFest is scheduled for Oct. 23, and will feature vendors, crafters, and the world famous Pumpkin Roll, along with a special appearance from Batman and the Bat Mobile planned this year.

The Streets of Franklin Heritage Association will be hosting “Monster Mash on Main” on Saturday, Oct. 30, with trick or treating beginning at 3 p.m. The event starts at 3 p.m. with the annual Teal Pumpkin Trick or Treating, which is a special opportunity for families with food allergies or other reasons to not have candy have the opportunity to still enjoy the festivities. Full trick or treating begins at 4 p.m. and will take place at participating merchants.

All Hallow’s Eve— Halloween in Highlands is scheduled for Oct. 31 beginning at 6 p.m. and will run until 8 p.m. along Main Street in Highlands. The event, sponsored by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, will feature trick or treating along Main Street and South 4th Street, music, and dancing.



★ **FREE LOCAL DELIVERY** ★



HARLESON SOFA  
\$899



LARKINHURST SOFA  
\$799



DAYLON SOFA  
\$599

**MACON FURNITURE MART**

560 DEPOT STREET • FRANKLIN, NC (828) 369-8296

[MaconFurnitureMart.com](http://MaconFurnitureMart.com)



# Council candidates speak to the issues facing the town of Franklin

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

One-stop voting for both the Highlands and Franklin Municipal Elections begins today, Thursday, Oct. 14, and will run until Friday, Oct. 30. Residents who live within the Franklin or Highlands city limits will be able to cast their votes during the early voting period or on Election Day scheduled for Nov. 2.

Voters will have two chances to meet with Franklin Town Council candidates over the next week. The first opportunity will be tonight, Thursday, Oct. 14, at the Macon County Public Library from 5 to 7 p.m. The public forum is hosted by the Macon County News and the Smoky Mountain News and will begin with a meet and greet of the candidates followed by a question and answer session moderated by representatives from the newspaper outlets. Then, the community will be hosting a meet and greet for the Town Council candidates on Monday, Oct. 18, at the Lazy Hiker Brewery beginning at 6 p.m. Candidates will be asked questions previously submitted by the public.

In Franklin, the office of the mayor and three council members will appear on the ballot. The seats up for election include the mayor's seat — currently held by Mayor Bob Scott; and town council seats held by David Culpepper, Dinah Mashburn, and the seat left vacant after the death of Barbara McRae. Neither Scott nor Mashburn are seeking re-election. The Franklin Mayor seat is already decided as current Council Member Jack Horton was the only person to file for the seat.

With Horton assuming the position of Mayor after the Nov. 2 election, four council members seats will be up for reelection — however only three will technically be de-



**JimBo Ledford**



**David Culpepper**



**Frances Seay**

ecided by the election. The top three vote-getters in the Franklin election will secure the three seats on the ballot, and while the fourth seat could go to the fourth top vote-getter, that seat will ultimately be filled by an appointee of the newly elected Franklin Town Council.

## JimBo Ledford

JimBo Ledford is the by-product of a Franklin native, twice removed. He was born and raised in the small town of Prineville, Ore., and made his way back to the homeland via West Palm Beach, Fla., where he did a five-year stint learning his trade and meeting the mother of his children.

“Franklin called me home shortly after my now ex-wife and myself got married in 2005 and we made our way to south Franklin (Otto) where we lived and were blessed with three beautiful children that proudly call Franklin home and attempt to contribute to our culture of sports,”

said Ledford. “While living and working in Florida I began what would become a lifelong (so far) career in the trades. I began as a commercial carpenter and quickly evolved into a plumber through the assistance of a job site accident and the necessity to protect myself from the cruelties of being uninsured. Once I was accepted into the plumbers union I quickly rose to the top of my class receiving the apprentice of the year award for each of the three years I attended the union training program and never once having to ‘ride the bench’ at the union hall waiting for a job call.”

In recent years Ledford has branched out into the music and entertainment industry by constructing an indoor/outdoor entertainment venue with the hopes of advancing the culture and music scene in Franklin.

“During the Pre-COVID days we held many multi-day events and were well on our way to being a successful business and place of local outreach in our community,” said Ledford. “While being forced to shut down we dove into some construction the venue had been lacking and intend to open again in all our glory.”

Ledford has remained active in the politics of both the town of Franklin and Macon County over the last decade, actively working with the town of Franklin to address issues in which he takes an interest. Ledford, who has also previously run for office in Franklin, says he continues to want to better the town he calls home.

“I am running for town council because I believe Franklin is a wonderful town that is quickly evolving into an even more wonderful town and I’d like to be part of that guiding committee,” said Ledford. “I believe that the town of Franklin is filled with smart, creative individuals that have ideas for the town that would help us progress and I’d like to be a welcoming site to anyone that wishes to present an idea to the Town of Franklin. I believe that the Town of Franklin has very smart, very capable human beings in key positions and I’d also like to be part of that team. I believe that Franklin has some issues but I also believe we have way more going for us than we have against us and I’d like to see if I could help Franklin reach its full potential as the gem of WNC.”

## What do you view as being the greatest issue facing the Town?

“I’m trying to keep my answers as local as possible because this is a local election but I believe the greatest issues facing our town currently is also the greatest issue facing our country and that’s the lack of a labor pool,” said Ledford. “I don’t believe this is an unsolvable problem but I do believe it will take some out of the box thinking from members in our communities that aren’t afraid to band together to try new ideas, implement new programs, restructure some of our current programs and set some new precedences regarding what we will allow to happen to our most valuable commodity, our people.”

## What would be your top three priorities for the Town if elected?

“I’ve had a lot of time to think about this last question and to talk to members of the Town and although I believe things like infrastructure are important I also believe [Town Planner] Nathaniel [Moore] has a vision and a step-by-step plan on how to accomplish these infrastructure

## HOME PROJECT??

WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU

# ReStore

Habitat for Humanity®

ANTIQUES & MEMORABILIA

CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER HABITAT SUPPORTERS

COLLECTIBLES, TOYS & HOBBY ITEMS

ART & DÉCOR

FURNITURE

LIGHTING

KITCHEN & BATH ITEMS

DO-IT-YOURSELF MATERIALS & TOOLS

## 52 West Palmer Street, Franklin

Open 10am to 4pm • Closed Sunday & Tuesday • 828-524-5273



goals and the capability to see them through and that leads me to the answer that my top three priorities for the town would be to A. Find our identity and vision,” said Ledford. “I don’t believe Franklin has a firm grasp, or even a loose grasp on what we want this town to look like as a community. Are we a sports town? Are we an outdoor town? Are we a music town? Are we a tough on crime town? Are we a compassionate town looking for alternative solutions to age old problems? Are we a retirement village? Are we a ghost town? Are we a combination of all or many of these things and if we are how do we accomplish that cohesively? B. A lack of cohesion and cooperation among governing bodies. We are a wet town in a dry county, our town square and central place of gathering is owned by the county and used and maintained by the town, our county commissioners and town counselors often times speak of each other as if they live across the world from each other instead of across the street. I believe that communication and cooperation are key to any successful large venture, like running a town, and I believe that there may be some lines of communication and some relationships that could be mended to allow our town and county to operate more smoothly and I believe forming a cohesive governing body throughout the county is important. C. The lack of a clear plan of action. The Town has all the required government plans but no plan on how to accomplish those plans. I believe that knowing who you are and what you want to accomplish are two of the most important steps to figuring out how you want to do it. I believe we need to discover our identity, form a cohesive governing body throughout our town and county and then develop a step by step plan on how to accomplish our goals as a town and reveal our true identity....whatever that is.”

**David Culpepper**

David Culpepper was born at Angel Community Hospital in 1978. He graduated from Franklin High School in 1996 and from Western Carolina University in 2001 with a BS in Communication/ Public Relations. Culpepper and his wife Charlotte have two children, Ledger, 12, and

Daisy, 9.

Culpepper has owned and operated Architectural Salvage since 2001, which has allowed him to travel the world looking for weird and unusual materials to bring back for distribution to dealers and designers.

Culpepper, who is the only incumbent in the Franklin Town Council race, has served on the board since first being elected in 2017.

“I heard a good saying one time that was basically, ‘be the person you needed when you were younger,’ and that really hit me and I try and work toward that everyday,” Culpepper said when asked why he is seeking re-election. “Along those same lines is, ‘it is a wise person who plants a tree under whose shade they will never sit.’ Those sayings touch on why I’m so passionate in advocating for younger folks and recreational opportunities for them. The same reasons for running the first time; to help make my home town a better place to live, work and play by fostering ideas, and ideals, that will help Franklin be a more livable, walkable town.”

**What do you view as being the greatest issue facing the Town?**

“Identity,” Culpepper said. “We need to realize that catering to tourists and retirees does not promote a healthy, economically feasible town. We need people to want to live, work and play here. We need younger folks, we need a workforce, we need to foster an environment that younger adults want to live in. We need more younger people involved in local politics. We need energy and big ideas. Too much effort is put toward the minutia of the day rather than making the town a more exceptional place. If Franklin is a great place to live, folks will naturally visit, folks will retire here. You literally cannot keep people away from a place that ranks high in livability qualities.”

**What would be your top three priorities for the Town if elected?**

“Foster and help develop the idea of the Bartram Trail running through downtown,” said Culpepper. “Advocate for more outdoor recreation in and near town. Example: designated place for mountain biking on USFS land near

town. Example: continue to advance Whitmire (Sunnyside) as a permanent rec and outdoor gathering space. Expand sidewalk and greenway connectivity to make Franklin a more pedestrian/bike friendly town.”

**Frances Seay**

Frances Seay is a native of Macon County and has owned a home in the city limits for more than 11 years. She has had a successful career in Macon County Schools spanning 32 years with an emphasis in kindergarten. She is also experienced as an event coordinator and fundraiser.

She is interested in serving on the Town Council to address issues that are particular to the town and to assist in planning for a productive future. Her main goals are responsible progression for Franklin, good steward of city resources, social issues improvement, and general advancement of the town. Seay remains active in community organizations, serves as an officer and teacher at church, and enjoys spending time with family and friends. Her hobbies include cooking, watching movies, and anything in which her niece Emily is involved.

“I am running for Town Council because I own a home in the city limits and I am concerned about progress in our town,” Seay. “I was approached to run since the passing of Barbara McRae. I thought about it extensively and I thought that if anyone thought I was the same caliber as Barbara, I would try my best.”

**What do you view as being the greatest issue facing the Town?**

“The greatest issue in the town in my opinion is continued progress in all areas (economic and social),” said Seay. “What would be your top three priorities for the Town if elected?”

“Industrial Growth (e.g. new business, quality jobs),” said Seay. “Social Improvement (e.g. homelessness, crime rate, family entertainment), and Responsible Investment of City Resources (e.g. property value, tax spending).”

*Next week: Town council candidates, Rita Salain and Stacy Guffey speak to the issues.*



**Mountain HomeMinders**  
Peace of Mind In The Mountains

**Peace of Mind in the Mountains**  
HomeWatch and Home Maintenance Services for Seasonal/Absentee Homeowners.  
Proudly serving the communities of Franklin, Highlands, and north Georgia

 Loretta Peake Newton still believes that personal care and attention to your property is what you want.

828-421-4744  
MountainHomeMinders@gmail.com  
MountainHomeMinders.com



**NOW AVAILABLE AT COUNTRYSIDE CHEVROLET**

**WINDOW TINT**  
**YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR SUV**

**3M AUTHORIZED WINDOW FILM DEALER**

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

**THE NEW TINT SHOP**  
71 CAT CREEK RD., FRANKLIN, NC HWY. 441  
**828.524.0734**

**COUNTRYSIDE CHEVROLET**  
FRANKLIN, NC



# Centenarians from Franklin to be honored for service in WWII

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

USCG SPAR WWII Shirley Houston Reagor, who recently turned 101, will be honored in Franklin on Oct. 17 at 1:30 for her service in the military as well as for being the oldest surviving SPAR, which stands for “Semper Paratus, Always Ready.” Reagor, a native of Franklin who currently



Franklin native Shirley Houston Reagor will be honored Oct. 17 via AARP’s Wish of a Lifetime due to her WWII service as a USCG SPAR.

resides in Houston, Texas, joined the Coast Guard in 1943 as a seaman with training and station assignments along the Florida Atlantic Coast.

Reagor’s daughter, Patricia Samsel, facilitated the nomination of her mother for an AARP-sponsored Wish of a Lifetime, granted to people over 65 years of age. Cielito Pascual Jackson

Sergeant Major, USA (Retired), the Texas Ambassador for Women for Military Service for America who also presented Reagor with a Living Legend Proclamation, nominated Reagor. Samsel explained that her mother was considered for three wishes, to visit the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.; to revisit the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, La.; and, to visit her hometown of Franklin, N.C. – which was ranked as her top wish. Reagor was chosen to be a Wish of a Lifetime recipient and for her wish of visiting her hometown to be granted.

Tom Wagenlander, executive director of Wish of a Lifetime, said, “Wish of a Lifetime is thrilled to be a part of bringing Shirley back to her hometown. Shirley answered the call to help her country by joining the Coast Guard and is incredibly deserving of the celebration planned for her in Franklin.”

On Oct. 17, Reagor, as well as first responders, bagpipers, a local honor guard, and more will be at Franklin’s

Memorial Park at a private event, where a brick will be displayed that includes Reagor’s name as well as the following information:

Rosie the Riveter  
1941-1943  
USCG SM  
1st Class  
1943-1946

Another Franklin native, 101-year-old Hazel Duvall McWherter, who worked at a plant that produced Jeeps during the war, will be honored on Oct. 17 as well.

One of Reagor’s two children, Rev. Scott Dugas, a Catholic priest in Mississippi, said of his mother, “She’s remarkable, and this honors not only my mother but my favorite town of Franklin, where my mother grew up.”

Added Samsel, “We [the entire Houston family] deeply love and admire our mother. My mother is a trailblazer, as a WWII veteran and as a ‘Rosie the Riveter,’ and as a working woman in her civic life.”

Wish of a Lifetime will fly Reagor, Rev.



Rosie the Riveter was an allegorical cultural icon of World War II, representing the women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II, many of whom produced munitions and war supplies.

Dugas, Samsel, as well as Samsel’s husband, Jim, to Franklin for the Oct. 17 event.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Women’s Reserve, known as SPAR, was created as the World War II women’s branch of the USCG Reserve. The United States Congress established it and it was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in November 1942. While women at the time worked in factories making ammunition, planted victory

gardens, and trained as nurses, others – like Reagor – decided to take a different route. Thus, SPAR became the authorized branch that accepted women into the reserve as commissioned officers and at the enlisted level for the duration of the war plus six months. The main purpose of SPAR was to release officers and men for sea duty and to replace them with women at shore stations.



## HEALTH INSURANCE SPECIALISTS OPEN ENROLLMENT IS COMING SOON!!!!

Medicare Plans and Part D: October 15 – December 7

> UNDER 65 (Tax Credit Eligible) PLANS: November 1 - December 15  
(For most people, this is the only time of year to enroll or change.)

Changes take effect January 1, 2022

**We Can Help You**  
with a new plan or help you renew your existing plan at no additional cost to you. You only pay the plan premiums.

**We Represent All**  
the major carriers and products available in Macon County and surrounding areas.

**Call Now!**  
We are booking appointments for all Medicare beneficiaries and under 65 customers.



**KEVIN CORBIN**  
**CORBIN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC**  
(828) 524-7799 • thecorbinagency.com







Considered the oldest living SPAR, which stands for Semper Paratus, Always Ready, Shirley Houston Reagor served in World War II.

Shared Samsel, Reagor was first a “Rosie the Riveter,” working at the Timiken, Roller and Ball Bearing Company’s factor in Akron-Canton, Ohio, for two years before joining USCG in September 1943 and eventually being accepted into SPAR.

The qualifying age for officer candidates for SPAR was between 20 and 50; women were also required to have a college degree or two years of college and two years of professional or business experience. To just be enlisted in SPAR, the age was between 20 and 36, and the requirement was to have completed at least two years of high school.

Training initially occurred at the Palm Beach Biltmore Hotel, Palm Beach, Fla. Then in January 1945, the training was transferred from Palm Beach to Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The SPAR members were assigned to every USCG district except Puerto Rico, and served in Hawaii and Alaska as well. SPAR officers served in such capacities as communication, supply and recruitment. Enlisted women performed clerical duties, but also sometimes rigged parachutes and attended to other needs. A select few offi-

cers and enlisted personnel were assigned to work with the Long Range Aid to Navigation at monitoring stations in the U.S. This assignment involved a top-secret radio navigation system developed for ships at sea and long-range aircraft.

Reagor’s role was primarily to “serve at various Coast Guard bases along Florida’s Atlantic coastline in an administrative and logistical capacity,” said Samsel.

During World War II, Reagor was also tasked with boarding a captured Italian submarine to conduct an onboard inventory of the vessel.

Out of the Houston family of seven siblings, four served in the military during World War II, while three others worked in defense plants.

Reagor married Judson Dugas, who served during World War II. After the war, Reagor worked as a medical secretary/assistant for the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans, La.

For Reagor’s 100th birthday in 2020, she was honored by the U.S. Coast Guard Houston-Galveston Sector with a boat drive-by, unit coins, and a letter of appreciation.

## Your Small Business is OUR Business



**Nantahala**  
BANK & TRUST COMPANY

We are here to help your small business grow with **FREE** Business Checking, no charge for cash deposits, Mobile Banking and we offer Remote Deposit Capture.

Member **FDIC**  
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER  
NMLS# 761977

Holly Springs Baptist Church

# Fall Festival

Sunday October 24th  
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Lunch in fellowship hall followed by family fun & fellowship out in the field

Is it Christmas shopping Time already?!!

You bet! And you can get a good start on discounted **NEW** items at...

## AARC's Outdoor Holiday Sale

Sunday, October 17 • 10AM - 4PM  
at **Compact Cottages** (in front of Tractor Supply)

Benefiting **Appalachian Animal Rescue Center**  
(Macon County Humane Society, Inc.)

All proceeds will go towards AARC veterinary care bills.

Over 100 brand new items available with discounted pre-pricing. Cash & check sales only. No returns.

Appalachian Animal Rescue Center says 'Thank You' to Compact Cottages and all of our supporters! Come see us soon!



# Franklin High School band racking up trophies in competitions

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The Franklin High School (FHS) Band has had a very productive year so far. Buddy Huckabee, FHS Band Director Buddy Huckabee is excited about the band's showing in the various competitions.

"After COVID took an entire year away from us, we came back stronger than ever," he said.

In early September the band was invited to Wake Forest University to take part in the halftime show, which was televised on ESPN.

The show featured "Coming Home, a Tribute to Our Military," a theme which Huckabee said the band will be displaying all season.

"Our hope is to bring our country together," he said.

Their showing in recent competitions have demonstrated just how strong the FHS Band is.

In Douglasville, Ga., near Atlanta, at The Gathering Tournament," the band took 1st place in Percussions, Class 2A; 1st place in Music Performance; 1st

place in Drum Major, class 2A; and 1st place in Overall Band Class. The band also placed 1st in Drum Major of the day, Percussion of the day, and 2nd place Overall out of 12 bands.

On Oct. 2, at the Wolverine Classic Competition with West Forsyth in Cumming, Ga., the tenacity of the band was proven once again. They took 1st Place Colorguard; 1st place Percussion; and 1st place Overall Band. They also received Superior Drum Major ratings and Superior Band Rat-



In the Jaguar Classic Competition in Douglasville, Ga., on Oct. 9, the Franklin High School Marching Panther Regiment received Superior ratings in all categories.



ings.

In the Jaguar Classic Competition near Atlanta on Oct. 9, the band received Superior ratings in all categories including: Colorguard Drum Major, Percussion, and Overall Band – all superior ratings in every category. They received Class AA - 1st place Overall Band, 1st place Percussion, 1st place Colorguard, 1st place Drum Major, 1st place Band. In the overall competition out of 14 bands, FHS took 1st place Overall Drum Major, 2nd place Overall

ings.



The Franklin High School Band performed during the halftime show at Wake Forest in early September. The game and performance was televised on ESPN.




Since 1997

## FAMILY AUTO CARE

Complete Auto Repair Shop





Mon.-Fri. 8-5

(828) 369-2155

976 E. Main St.  
Franklin, NC






NO CREDIT CARD FEES!

NOW HIRING!



FRUSTRATED WITH LOW RATES ON YOUR CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSITS?

## 3% *interest rate*

## GUARANTEED


(Rates subject to change without notice)


• No up-front sales charges or fees!  
• Tax deferred interest! • 100% of your deposits earn interest!

For more information call:

Jeff Cloer

Wayah Insurance Group  
295 E. Palmer St, Franklin, NC  
(828)524-4442 ext. 237  
www.wayah.com





WAYAH INSURANCE GROUP

Trust our Experience, Strength, and Service



## HARVEST CRAFT FAIR

Hand made & BAKE SALE Home made

Saturday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> • 10am - 3pm

CRAFTS & BAKED GOODS

Lunch can be purchased from the Mighty Methodist Men Baked Goods Sales to Benefit KIDS Place

Memorial United Methodist Church  
4668 Old Murphy Rd., Franklin, NC



# Dunkin' Donuts opening first Next Generation restaurant in Franklin

Dunkin' Donuts opened its doors last Thursday at its new location in Franklin at 917 Georgia Road. The new store features Dunkin's new store design, which features innovative technologies to enhance the guest's experience and make their daily Dunkin' run faster and more convenient than ever before.

The new 2,500 square-foot restaurant features indoor seating for 28 guests and plans to employ 25 crew members. The store is open daily from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. With Dunkin's Next Gen restaurant design, the store features a modern atmosphere and innovative technologies, including:

- A Modern Design: The openness, colors,

and materials used in the design help create an approachable, positive, and energetic environment. Just one example of the eye-catching design elements that guests can expect is a front-facing bakery case for an even closer look at our delicious baked goods.

- Premium Pours: Dunkin's signature cold beverages are poured through an innovative tap system, serving a variety of consistently cold sips, such as iced coffee, iced tea, Cold Brew, and Nitro-Infused Cold Brew. Crew members also use top-quality, flavor-maximizing espresso machines to make hand-crafted drinks to order.

- Increased Energy Efficiency: Next Gen restaurants are designed to meet DD Green Achievement™ specifications. Stores that achieve DD Green Achievement status are built with sustainable and efficient elements like LED lighting, high-efficiency mechanical equipment, low-flow faucets, and more. DD Green Achievement restaurants are performing better than designed. On average, they



Dunkin' Donuts in Franklin is located at 917 Georgia Road at the old Bojangles location.

are 33% more energy efficient compared to conventional Dunkin' restaurants.

Including the new Franklin restaurant, Dunkin' franchisee network Ion Donuts Holdings, LLC currently owns and operates 49 Dunkin' locations throughout Georgia and North Carolina.

The store will host a grand opening celebration for guests on Saturday, Oct. 16.

### About Dunkin'

Founded in 1950, Dunkin' is America's favorite all-day, everyday stop for coffee and baked goods. Dunkin' is a market leader in the coffee, donut, bagel and muffin categories. Dunkin' has earned a No. 1 ranking for customer loyalty in the coffee category by Brand Keys for 15 years running. For more information, visit [www.DunkinDonuts.com](http://www.DunkinDonuts.com).

**McGEE DERMATOLOGY CLINIC**  
 General Medical & Surgical Dermatology  
**Thomas P. McGee, Jr., M.D.**  
 ABPS Board Certified in Dermatology  
 41 Macon Center Drive  
 (below Macon Bank headquarters)  
 Franklin, NC 28734  
**(828) 524-DERM/3376**  
*New Patients Welcome!*

**NOW OPEN FRIDAYS**

Same Day Crowns Now Available!

**APPALACHIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATES**

**James F Melzer Jr, DMD**  
**(828) 369-0618** (K-Mart Shopping Center)

Now a member of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC and Delta Dental provider networks

**Gentle Dental Care**

WE OFFER NO INTEREST PAYMENT PLANS WHEN QUALIFIED  
 NOW OFFERING COMPLIMENTARY  
 2813 PHA EXAMS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

- Endodontics
- Cleanings/ Oral Cancer Screening
- Periodontal Services
- Oral Surgery/Extractions
- White Composite Fillings
- Crowns/Bridges/ Implant Crowns
- Partial and Complete Dentures
- Teeth Whitening
- Occlusal Bite Guards

**Welcome**

**Gilberto Robles, MD, FACS**  
 Board-certified General Surgeon  
 Harris Surgical Associates  
 55 Holly Springs Park Dr., Franklin, NC 28734

Specializes in:

- General surgery
- Skin surgery
- Soft tissue surgery
- Colorectal surgery
- Breast surgery
- Gastroenterological surgery
- Hernia surgery
- Laparoscopic surgery

Welcoming new patients  
 Appointments may be made by calling 844.414.DOCS

Medical School: Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, México  
 Residency: Staten Island University Hospital New York, NY

**HARRIS REGIONAL HOSPITAL**  
 A Duke LifePoint Hospital

**MyHarrisRegional.com**

This facility and its affiliates comply with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.  
 ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-828-586-7000.  
 注意:如果您使用繁體中文,您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-828-586-7000.



## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

It was gratifying for the North Carolina Wildlife Commission to designate Highlands as a Bear-Wise community. The BearWise program will not solve all the bear issues in town, but it sure will help. The challenge now that the program is in place, is to continue following the best practices for bear safety.

Among those to thank for making this program possible is Ashley Hobbs, a NC Wildlife biologist who provided important support and assistance in guiding the town and the B.E.A.R. Task Force through the steps of the program. We worked for several years before everything fell into place.

I want to thank the town board for their support of the program. They voted to install bear resistant street cans in the business areas. The board led the way in removing those ugly, shared dumpsters in the business areas. They were magnets for the bears to pillage on a regular basis. Instead, the town converted to roll cart containers that are bear resistant. The only dumpsters remaining are on the property of single businesses. The board also adopted the policy of requiring bear resistant roll carts in residential areas. These roll carts have an added benefit of minimizing the need for our sanitation crews to constantly lift trash cans during daily routes.

I want to thank commissioners Amy Patterson and Marc Hehn for serving on the BearWise and wildlife committee. They were instrumental in developing ordinances prohibiting the feeding of bears and the overfilling of roll carts.

I also want to thank our staff in moving the program forward. Matt Shuler of our IT department was very helpful in developing the BearWise webpage. Our town website now has a BearWise leaf link that provides all the information about the program. It also includes a bear tracking map so visitors can monitor recent bear activity in town.

I also want to thank the B.E.A.R. Task Force led by Cynthia Strain. The task force will provide information to residents concerning bear activity and how to curtail unwanted interactions with bears.

Finally, I want to thank all the residents who are cooperating with the town in addressing the bear issue. I know the use of bear resistant roll carts can be inconvenient, but they are essential to the BearWise program. I also know that the latches on the roll carts can sometimes stick and not secure the lid. A spray can of silicon liquid keeps the latch working.

On another topic, I have received calls that it is time to rescind the downtown mask requirement because COVID rates are going down. I agree that we have seen a marked reduction in cases, especially in the past week. That trend is good news. I will ask the town board to consider the cancellation of the mask policy at the town board meeting next Thursday.

## Letters to the Editor

### Sanctity of human life at serious risk in the U.S.

In a recent letter, a psychotherapist decried the suffering of American mothers who had not aborted unwanted babies, as well as the children that survived the procedure. She lamented the miserable lives that mothers and unwanted children suffer, with happy outcomes being a rarity.

It is a slippery slope from the United States permitting abortions for inconvenient pregnancies to China where abortion became a tool for population control. Their government limited a family to one child. Because Chinese society placed a greater value on male babies, it was a logical choice to kill girls, though despite the sex, any second child was a forced abortion. The simple choice that millions of Chinese families made, the normalizing of abortions, erased the moral barrier of the sanctity of a human life.

Fast forward to today. China has graduated from murdering babies in the womb to murders for organs. They slice, dice, and sell body parts extracted from the religious group known as the Falun Gong. The members neither drink, smoke, nor do drugs to remain pure and recognize the sanctity of a human life. Meantime, the government rakes in \$1 billion annually from their international tourism trade in Fulan Gang body parts.

The horror of their crime is unfathomable. Imagine laying on an operating table while someone slices the cornea from your eye. Their eyes are "highly prized." Customers shopping the slaughter pit come from China, Korea, Japan, Southeast Asia, and from the western world, including the United States and Europe. Tourists visit China and return partially renewed with fresh organs. Need a heart, lung, or kidney? China will slice, dice, and deliver.

Though not as proficient as the Chinese government, Planned Parenthood in the USA has sold body parts of aborted babies. Without confessing their crass standards, the money was too good to pass up. They eschewed the old-fashioned idea of morality and sanctity of life.

The United States has historically placed a premium on the value of life, especially a newly burgeoning life. When we deny an unborn child the right to life in this country, how far are we from selling body parts to the highest bidder?

U.S. citizens are not immune from this horror. If the United States is replaced by China as the preeminent global power, who will stand as a fortress against this monstrous crime against humanity? Americans could be the next victims on the Chinese organ harvesting operation table.

Hit the Chinese in their pocketbook. Boycott "Made in China" along with "Slaughter for organ transplants."

Kathryn van Heyningen – Franklin, N.C.

### Public hearings needed after draft maps released

Right now, politicians in the North Carolina General Assembly are dividing North Carolina into new legislative and congressional districts that could determine who represents us for the next decade.

For too long, our communities have been sliced and diced for partisan advantage. We deserve accurate and accountable representation, and we deserve a say when it comes to drawing the next decade of district lines that will represent our communities.

Right now, legislators who control redistricting are planning only one public hearing in Raleigh following the release of draft maps that could determine our representation for the next decade. This one event will be inaccessible for most North Carolinians – and that is wrong. We deserve better than this. Our zip code should not determine whether or not our voices are heard in this process.

Every North Carolinian deserves to have their voice heard in this process. We need public hearings after draft maps are released that are accessible – both in-person and online – to every North Carolinian regardless of whether they live in a large city, small town, or tribal territory.

I am calling on my representatives and the entire Joint Redistricting Committee to ensure that the public has accessible, safe opportunities to comment on draft maps. Without doing so, there is no way they can claim that this year's process was truly transparent

Jean Wright – Franklin, N.C.

*The Macon County News letters page is a public forum open to a wide variety of opinions as a right guaranteed in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Letters are neither accepted nor rejected based on content. Letters must be signed and contact information provided. Views expressed are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of publisher, editor or staff. Writers are asked to refrain from personal attacks against individuals or businesses.*

**The Macon County NEWS & Shopping Guide**

**The most affordable, effective advertising**

**Nearly 15,000 readers in print & online per week**

**(828) 369-6767**  
26 W. Main Street • Franklin, NC 28734  
maconcountynews@gmail.com

**The Macon County NEWS & Shopping Guide**

26 West Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734  
(828) 369-6767 • FAX: 369-2700

www.themaconcountynews.com

Email: maconcountynews@gmail.com

Deadline for display advertising is Friday at 4 p.m. Classified deadline Monday, 3 p.m.

**Betsy Gooder**  
Publisher /Advertising Director

**Teresa S. Tabor**, Copy Editor

**Jay Baird**  
Advertising Representative

**Shana Bilbrey**      **Matt Nelson**  
Graphic Designer      Graphic Designer

**Vickie Carpenter**, Classifieds/Photographer

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

**Deena Bouknight**      **Diane Peltz**  
Contributing Writer      Contributing Writer

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

The publisher assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions of any advertisement or supplement beyond the actual cost of the advertisement or supplement. In no event shall publisher be liable for any consequential damages or any damages in excess of the cost of the advertisement or supplements. The Macon County News and Shopping Guide reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. No brokering of advertising space or supplements will be accepted without prior approval of publisher. Third Class Mailing Privileges Authorized at Franklin, N.C. 28734



### What happened to individual responsibility?

I direct this letter to Franklin's Police Department, Sheriff's Department, the N.C. Department of Transportation and any agency (here or elsewhere) under fire for the state of the state regarding litter, drug use, and homelessness.

Ladies and gentlemen, officers, we must acknowledge that in respect to the afore-mentioned issues, our country is in one mell of a hess. May I assure you however, it is not your fault.

I have been booed by a large group of people only twice in my life. The first time was when I confronted Admiral Elmo Zumwalt in the hangar bay of the USS John F. Kennedy (CVA-67) in 1974, live on CBS, for having (in my opinion) a much too cavalier attitude toward Naval discipline. The second time was on the occasion of my first day of college (Orientation Day) at New Hampshire College in 1982, for suggesting that some people use drugs by choice.

Comments by Franklin Mayor Bob Scott and Capt. Holland made plain something we've known for decades; many homeless persons reject available services in favor of their present lifestyle. To remain homeless in order to use drugs should not be a workable excuse to camp out under our bridges, trash our community, or commit crimes.

America has spent the last 50 years devaluing the importance of taking responsibility for personal behavior. We have minimized the need for accountability, downgraded exceptionalism to the point we no longer differentiate good performance from bad or right from wrong. We refer to this occasionally as the "dumbing down of America." The question we should be asking... was it the intended outcome, or purely inadvertent?

During the time I was in school (1945-1957) my mother rarely, if ever, missed a school open house or an opportu-

nity to speak with my teachers. Almost without exception, my teachers and principals (often one and the same), would express similar concerns. "David is a good student," they would say, "but he could do better."

Over a decade ago, working in a school as a tutor, a principal said to me: "David, don't work so hard, you make me look bad." How did David go from "he could do better" to "don't work so hard?" David hasn't changed... schools have changed, homes have changed, the work place has, our country has. Performance that in 1950 was considered average, is exceptional today.

Once upon a time the stated object of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers (the PTA) was "to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child."

That was a time (sadly long past) when parents actually took an active role in (and responsibility for) the raising of their children. The teacher's obligation was to teach, not to entertain or to release children of perceived boredom, just to educate. For generations they managed to do a pretty good job of that and (please note) absent the participation of social workers and mental health counselors.

I doubt we will ever return to the time when parents were the key element in the rearing of children and teachers challenged and inspired children to excel and together (along with the enduring "village") worked to promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school and community. It has become too easy to simply blame someone else when things go terribly awry as they obviously have over many decades and several generations in the United States.

However, to blame the police, or the courts, or (good grief) NCDOT, is simply outrageously absurd.

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

## Local groups honor police, firefighters, EMS

On Friday, Oct. 8, members of the Knights of Columbus of St. Francis of Assisi Church invited local police, firefighters and Emergency Medical Services to a free lunch.

The event was dubbed "Back the Red, White and Blue BBQ" to correspond with the colors associated with each of the first responder organizations often seen on bumper stickers and flags: red for firefighters, white for EMS and blue for police officers.

The members of local Knights council 8363, and other parishioners of the St. Francis of Assisi Church, were on hand cooking hamburgers and hot dogs.

Then on Monday, Oct. 11, the Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated the founding of their organization through a Day of Service. This year Battle of Sugartown DAR Daughters honored the Franklin Fire Department for outstanding service to the community. All kinds of snacks, cookies, doughnuts and even flag pins were presented to these local heroes. The police department was also invited to share.

"We are so grateful to both of these departments for the service that they provide to our community," said a DAR spokesperson.



The Knights of Columbus served up a barbecue for local law enforcement, fire fighters and EMS in appreciation for their service. Below, the DAR also honored the organizations presenting flag pins and providing cookies and doughnuts.



Come and participate in Franklin's

## TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM

Thursday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> from 5pm - 7pm

Macon County Public Library

Meet & Greet followed by questions submitted by the public.

Hosted by The Macon County News & Smoky Mountain News

## Voter information for Nov. 2 Municipal Election

### Absentee ballots request deadline October 26

Request forms at [www.maconnc.org](http://www.maconnc.org) or [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov) or by calling (828)349-2034 or email [Macon.boe@ncsbe.gov](mailto:Macon.boe@ncsbe.gov).

### Voter Registration Deadline Friday, October 8 at 5 p.m.

Same day registration is possible only during one-stop voting.

### One-Stop Voting - Franklin

October 14 - October 30

Robert C. Carpenter Community Building

Hours Mon-Fri, 8-7:30;

Saturdays, Oct. 16, 23, 30, 8-3

### One-Stop Voting - Highlands

October 14- October 30

Highlands Civic Center, 600 N 4th St.

Hours Mon-Fri, 8-7:30;

Saturdays, Oct. 16, 23, 30, 8-3

### Municipal Election Day

Tuesday, November 2

Voters will cast ballots at Town Hall & Highlands Civic Center.

Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Contact the Macon County Board of Elections at (828)349-2034 or visit [www.maconnc.org/elections](http://www.maconnc.org/elections).



# A walk in the woods teaches much about birds, trees, native plants

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

On Sept. 27, Jack Johnston volunteered his time as a biologist to guide a group of 15 through the path at Tessentee Bottomland Preserve to teach them about the sundry birds, native plants, and trees prominent not only on the Mainspring Conservation Trust property, but throughout many parts of Western North Carolina. Donning binoculars, the group viewed birds up close and learned about the many species of trees and native plants that benefit them.

The property is historic from the predominance of Cherokee life along the Tessentee River, where native rivercane still grows and is harvested by members of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians at Qualla Boundary in



Tessentee Bottomland Preserve is stop #53 on the NC Birding Trail due to its 129 species of birds seen there.

nearby Cherokee County. The property is also where Whipple Carpenter Smart and his family lived and farmed. The farmhouse, out-buildings, silo, and some equipment, in fact, still exist.

Johnston, who has led birding trips in the Amazon as well as groups such as Audubon for many years, encouraged the group to plant or leave as many native plants as possible for birds to enjoy their seeds and pods which provide vitamins and nutrition. Much of Johnston's birding experience was cultivated while working for three years with an ornithologist. He noted varieties of beneficial bird plants such as serviceberry and American beautyberry, which are both edible for humans as well. In addition, any flowering plant in the family Asteraceae, including purple coneflowers, black-eyed susans, bee balm, and more support not only birds but insects and butterflies.

Prominent on the educational hike were native hearts-a-bustin' shrubs, which are covered in showy, bright pinkish-red capsules with conical bumps that vaguely resemble a warty strawberry. In fall, the capsules split open to reveal the bright orange seeds. The bird-loving wingstem plant, in the sunflower family, also lined several paths. And, while many in the group thought that vines growing up trees were mostly poison ivy, and in fact, some were, friendlier vines are trumpet creepers, which feed hummingbirds in spring with their many blooms.

"And winter bluebirds love pokeweed

berries," said Johnston.

Additionally, common trees provide perches, nesting spots, and bugs and sometimes seeds: paw paws, dogwoods, magnolias, black cherry and more.

"Thrush love the black gum tree seeds, but people need to know that in order for a tree to make seeds, there needs to be a male and female tree," said Johnston.

He added, "Birding is big business. People get serious about it and they should. It's something that not only gets people outdoors enjoying nature, but it is also important to understand trends in bird populations. If you go species by species, the bird populations are declining because of changing land use patterns ... loss of space available due to agriculture, timbering, and development; loss of potential food sources in areas sprayed with herbicides; declining insect populations; and, fewer native plants. So homeowners keeping native plants and planting native plants can help birds."

Part of the nature talk included identifying indicators of Tessentee Bottomland woods that were, within the last century, cleared pastures, remnants of black-locust fencing growing into mature pines, and trees spared from being cut for lumber because they served the purpose of stabilizing old dirt roads.

Johnston, a retired nurse, said he continues to volunteer his time promoting environmental awareness because it is "worthwhile." Plus, he said, "Calling attention to the bird species is important education. It also allows people in the community with similar interests to get



Hearts-a-busting  
Photo by Karen Lawrence



Biologist Jack Johnston volunteered his time Sept. 27 to take a group through the grounds at Tessentee Bottomland Preserve to learn about how the landscape changed from farmlands to forest as well as the native birds, plants, and trees that thrive there and in other parts of Macon County.

to know each other. People on walks introduce themselves. They might arrive on a walk not knowing each other and leave having gotten to know each other a bit. Most importantly, people are out of doors and that's always a good thing."

Johnston encourages nature lovers to participate in another upcoming annual educational outing, "Franklin Christmas Bird Count," which will take place sometime in December or January. He explained that different areas in the region are watched annually to determine types and numbers of birds.

## 1/2 PRICE

# RUMMAGE SALE

All proceeds go to Missions Fund



## ONE DAY ONLY!

Saturday, Sept. 23. 9AM - 3PM

Public is invited – Everyone must follow Covid-19 protocol

HICKORY KNOLL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

86 E. Hickory Knoll Road • Franklin, NC



New Handbags!

## MOSSY ROCK

GIFTS • HOME DECOR ACCESSORIES

37 E Main Street • Franklin, NC  
828.369.1612



# Migration Day offers field trip opportunities

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Last year's pandemic concerns temporarily halted a more than decade-long fall program for sixth graders called Migration Day. Held at Tessentee Bottomland Preserve, and overseen by Jennifer Love, Macon County Schools' STEM coordinator, the outdoor nature/science program was back on track for this fall, with field trip opportunities this past week beginning on Oct. 12.

Jason Love, associate director of the Highlands Biological Station, introduced to the first round of students on Oct. 12 the many learning stations at the Tessentee site, which is a Main-spring Conservation Trust property. He started the morning off by asking students if they knew what a "preserve" was and conveyed that it is "set aside for birds, animals, plants, and peo-



Jason Love, associate director at Highlands Biological Station, introduced 6th graders to migration activities on Oct. 12 at Tessentee Bottomland Preserve.



Migration Day for six graders involved participation in several nature and science oriented educational stations as well as an interactive game.

ple."

He told the students that the main educational "stations" focused on monarch butterflies, bird banding, insect evaluation, 18th century explorer and botanist William Bartram, and life cycle of trees and leaf colors. Students split into groups to circulate through the stations as well as to play an interactive game.

Said Debbie Gibbs, who has been teaching sixth graders for 18 years, "I've got some budding scientists and this experience with working in the field with real scientists ... interacting with nature ... enables them to see what real job opportunities might look like. They are able to get some idea of a future profession."

Gibbs, a Mountain View Intermediate teacher, added, "It's so good for students to get out of the classroom and experience learning hands-on and in nature. They aren't immersed in nature very much any more."

**Sophisticut**  
HAIR SALON & DAY SPA  
308 Depot St. Franklin, NC  
(828) 524-2419 or (828) 524-3395

**BLOWOUT SPECIAL**  
\$25 EA. BUY 2, GET 1 FREE  
SCHWARTZKOPH, KERATIN RESTORE SHAMPOO OR COOL BLONDE LITER

STOCK UP FOR GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!**

**WHISTLE STOP DEPOT**

ANTIQUES, SHOPS & RV PARK

Located in the old Cullasaja School off the Highlands Rd.  
145 River Rd., Franklin, NC • (828) 349-1600 [whistlestopantiquesnc.com](http://whistlestopantiquesnc.com)

**YOUR NEXT CHAPTER AWAITS**

**NOVEL ESCAPE**

Visit us for your bookish adventures

1781 Georgia Road, Franklin  
828-369-9059  
Open T-F 10am to 5pm & Sat 10am to 2pm

PRE-LOVED BOOKS & MORE

**VOTE RITA SALAIN**  
for Franklin Town Council

\*\*\*\*\*

Early Voting Begins Oct. 14 • Community Bldg.

- I grew up in Franklin and love this town.
- I think Franklin will benefit from a stronger partnership between the Council and local businesses.
- Franklin needs infrastructure improvements and smart growth strategies.

\*\*\*\*\*

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Rita Salain

**BLACK BEAR PAVING**  
828-349-3390

**Black Bear Paving & Construction, Inc.**  
6456 Sylva Hwy., Franklin, NC 28734  
(828) 349-3390 • NC Contractors # 75898

**Great Company**

**NOW OFFERING Grading & Excavating Equipment Rentals. Call for pricing.**

**WE'RE HIRING**  
Truck Drivers / Paving Laborers (experience helpful but will train)

Paving & Resurfacing • Chip & Seal • Excavating Backhoe  
• Land Clearing • Grading & Road Repair  
Rock & Gravel Hauling • Sewer & Water Sealcoating & Striping



# Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests September 29 - October 10. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

October 4

Kali Foley, was charged with violating a domestic violence protective order. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Jesse Peter Adler, was charged with possession of a firearm by convicted felon and warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Jose Luis Patino Alvarez, was charged with indecent liberties with children and domestic criminal trespass. Jay Wright made the arrest.

October 5

Griffin Chandler Sanders, was charged with trespass, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer and probation violation. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

October 6

Jordan Elizabeth Field, was charged with larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Angel Chavez, was charged with failure to appear. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

October 7

Ronald Lee Wickham, was issued a true bill of indictment and driving while license revoked. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Tyler Elden Deats, was charged with simple assault. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

October 8

Jennifer Lynn Nations, was charged with failure to appear for break or enter a motor vehicle and larceny after break/enter. Mike Langley Sr. made the arrest.

Jonathan Wade Hurst, was charged with child support enforcement contempt, issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction and resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Jeremy A. Burr, was charged with assault on a female, assault on a child under 12 and assault on another person on the premise. Deputy Lydia Bellavance made the arrest.

October 9

Jason Michael Field, was charged with failure to appear. Deputy Lydia Bellavance made the arrest.

October 10

Michael David Wright, was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Christopher Steven Johnson, was charged with assault and battery, injury to personal property and communicating threats. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

David Lee Mathis, was charged with protective order violation. Jay Wright made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

September 30

Jason Jay Spurgeon, 40, was charged with trafficking marijuana by possession, trafficking marijuana by transportation, maintaining a vehicle for use/sale/keeping of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and rear lamps violation. A \$50,000 was set.

October 1

Christina Hope Perez, 41, was charged with simple assault. A \$1,500 bond was set.

Jose Reyes-Gomez, 31, was charged with driving while impaired. A \$500 bond was set.

October 3

Michael Adam Crisp, 28, was charged with failure to appear on probation violation/fugitive from other state. A \$8,200 was set.

Taylor Thomas Earman, 46, was charged with injury to personal property. A \$600 bond was set.

October 5

Nichole Ann Bennett, 43, was charged with identity theft, obtaining property by false pretenses, felony larceny, possessing stolen goods and safecracking. A \$105,000 bond was set.

October 6

Dustin Edward Harvey, 24, was charged with failure to appear for larceny of ginseng. A \$1,500 bond was set.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

September 29

Amber Nicole Simon, 27, of Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear on a felony. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Joshua Herrell Saunooke, 44, of White Water Dr., Swain, was charged with driving while license revoked and possession/displayed altered/fictitious/revoked drivers license. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Zachary Heath Nicholson, 28, of Laurel Knob Rd., Cashiers, was charged with failure to appear for possession of marijuana paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Carolyn Rachael Reed, 24, of Potato Patch Dr., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

October 2

Timothy David Kibel, 37, of Sutton Branch, was issued a child support purge. A bond of \$2,497.19 was set.

October 4

Amber Michelle Bailey, 39, of Mountain River Dr., was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Joshua Isaac Robinson, of Dumplin Flat, was issued a child support purge arrest order. A \$900 bond was set.

Michael Eric Krone, 38, of Bryson City, was charged with communicating threats and misuse of 911 system. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

October 5

Colby Edward Bennett, 27, of Tuckasegee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine and possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

October 6

Michael Scott Frizzell, 24, of Monteith Branch Rd., was charged with failure to appear for child abuse causing serious physical injury. No bond was set.

Leandre Xavier Prospere, 20, of Gristmill Ct., Grovetown, Ga., was charged with communicating threats. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Brock James Kloida, 47, of Marlett Rd., Cullowhee, was issued a fugitive warrant for the state of Colorado for felony possession of marijuana, schedule II controlled substance and felony possession of tetrahydrocannabinols isolated from the resin of marijuana. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Emma Marie Evitt-Harris, 27, of Walter Ashe Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

April Nations, 36, of Bradley Dr., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation and simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Justin Reeves Lambert, 39, of Sunset Farm Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a schedule I controlled substance and possession of a schedule II controlled substance. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

October 7

William Manuel Rodriguez, 27, of Arrowhead Lane, Whittier, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia and felony possession of marijuana. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jason Samuel Missler, 48, of Kimberly Dr., Gainesville, Ga., was charged with failure to appear for simple assault. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Michael Allen Woodson, 43, of Honbuckle Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with public health violation. No bond was set.

**BAHÁ'Í FAITH**  
**LIGHT OF UNITY**

"It is not his to boast who loveth his country,  
but it is his who loveth the world."  
-- Bahá'u'llah

Weekly devotions and discussions in Franklin, open to all. Call 302-383-6835.  
**1-800-228-6483** [www.bahai.us](http://www.bahai.us)  
Franklin • Murphy • Sylva • Waynesville

**MOUNTAIN ROCK WEALTH MANAGEMENT**

**Investing for Retirement?**

*Call Michael Wiercinski*

828.777.5752 175 E. MAIN ST., FRANKLIN, NC

*Paradise Music*

*Strings for Food*

Saturday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> • 10am - ?

Bring in 6 non-perishable cans of food for any set of Curt Mangan strings installed!

292 NE Main St., Franklin, NC 28734 • (828) 369-7227



**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Historic Rickman Store** is now open on Saturdays 10 a.m. til 4 p.m.

**Jackson County NC Branch #54AB NAACP** October Online Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 16, at 10 a.m. The topic for discussion is "How American Rescue Plan Act Funds can best help residents of WNC." Email jcnacp54ab@gmail.com to receive instructions to join online. The public is welcome.

**Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center** next graduation will be Saturday Oct. 16, 10 a.m. at the center, 336 Living Hope Way. Worship, a message from the word and testimony. Please wear a mask coming in and as you leave and when you socialize. For more information about our program go to www.living-hopeway.com or call (828)524-2157.

**Franklin Area Litter Pickup** is planned for Saturday, Oct. 16, at 10 a.m. Meet at the Macon County Republican Party headquarters. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Hosted by the Clay Bryson for Sheriff Campaign.

**Macon County Writers Club** will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 1 p.m., at the library in the big room. Bring your stories. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact jsteeley@dnet.net

**Prentiss Church Food Pantry** will be held on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2 to 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane. For more information, call (828)369-3885.

**Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers** whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the sings. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

**Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Friends of the Library** the Macon County Public Library is displaying a pictorial and written history of the organization through the end of the year. The library is located at 148 Siler Farm Rd., in Franklin.

**Thursday Painters** meets at the Environmental Research Center every Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your own project, a table covering, and a bag lunch. All skill levels and mediums welcome. Contact Pat Mennenger at pm14034@yahoo.com For more information, visit Franklinoptowngallery.com.

**AL-ANON Family Groups** In-person meeting with Covid 19 preventive measures is held each Thursday, noon at First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held on Saturday, 10:15 a.m. ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit or call to speak with a member of AL-ANON at (828)342-6866.

**Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous** In-person meetings with Covid

19 preventive measures are held on Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd.; Sunday at 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave.; Tuesday, 8 a.m., Thursday, noon at St. Agnes Episcopal Church on 66 Church St.; 7 p.m. at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd. On-line meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org. or to speak with a member of A.A., call (828)349-4357.

**Macon Chips, Franklin's Wood Carving Club** meets on Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. inside the Franklin High School Wood Shop just off McCollum Drive. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (828)342-8126.

**Slow Spokes Franklin, a bicycle riding group,** meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m., at Tasse Shelter on Ulco Dr. Join them for a casual ride on the Greenway. For more information, call (828)371-4925.

**Franklin Duplicate Bridge Club** Wednesday afternoon games are held from 1 to 4 p.m. Arrive no later than 12:45 p.m., at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on 441 S. While allowing play without masks, current regulations require all players to be fully vaccinated. For more information, call Larry Noyes at (828)200-9394 or email LarryRNoyes@gmail.com

**Gem & Mineral Museum,** located in the Old Jail on Phillips Street in downtown Franklin is now open Fridays and Saturdays from 12 to 4 p.m., featuring gems and artifacts from North Carolina as well as all over the world.

**Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Community Services** are open on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to help Macon County residents in need with rent, power bill and a fully stocked food pantry. The church is located at 93 Church St., Suite 212. For more information, call (828)369-9000.

**Habitat for Humanity of Macon/Jackson County needs volunteers** to share skills or gain some experience learning new ones. From carpentry to cleaning, marketing to moral support, computer skills, planning and organizing or just plain common sense, the greatest gift you could ever give is time. Any amount is good. Some great times, lasting friendships and rewarding experiences await. Call (828)369-3716 or (828)371-5442.

**Friends of the Greenway FROG Quarters** is now open Wednesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 573 E. Main. Stop by for coffee, a soft drink and a snack, and free internet. Reservations taken for the shelters.

**Macon County Public Health** is currently vaccinating those eligible in all groups. Individuals that want to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, must call Macon County's Vaccine Call Center at (828)524-1500 to register and schedule an appointment. The Call Center is open Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**CHURCH HAPPENINGS**

**Burningtown Baptist Church is hosting a "Fall Festival"** on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 2 to 5 p.m. Fun for kids and adults. Hay rides, games, candy, food and more. The church is located at 446 Burningtown Baptist Church Rd. For more information, call (941)993-8744.

**First Alliance Church** Sunday Service, Oct. 17, at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (for all ages) is at 9:30 a.m. Tony Escalante will be giving a presentation on Envision El Salvador at both services. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church at (828)369-7977.

**Spiritual Light Center** on Sunday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m., Jimmy Landry will share on "Can Creativity Heal?" The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

Holly Springs Baptist Church is hosting a Fall Festival Sunday, Oct. 24, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Lunch in the fellowship hall followed by family fun and fellowship out in the field.

**Memorial United Methodist Church** has joyful worship services in person and on Facebook at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Masks are required for indoor services. Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month. The church is located at 4668 Old Murphy Rd. (across from Loafers Glory). The pastor is Evan W. Hill. For more information, call (828)369-5834.

**Franklin First United Methodist Church Sunday In-person Worship** is held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. or on Facebook at Franklin First United Methodist Church, either live or later on recorded video. They follow COVID-19 health protocols for in-person worship. Plan to arrive early for check in, masks are required. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue in downtown Franklin; senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524-3010 or visit us at <http://www.firstumcfranklin.org>

**Son Rise Ministries** is a non-denominational, full-gospel, Christian fellowship that meets Friday evenings at 7 p.m., Intercessory Prayer is Monday night at 6:30 p.m., Ladies prayer and Bible study is Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m. The church is located at 462 Depot St. For more information, call (828)369-2465 or (828)421-4153.

**Grace Baptist Church** services are held on Sunday, 11 a.m. Frank Rodriguez is the pastor. All are welcome to attend. The church is located at 130 Setser Branch Rd.

**Prentiss Church of God** is holding Sunday worship service in its sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m. Services are also streamed online on the Prentiss Church of God Facebook page. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road. Phone (828)369-3885.

▪ Residential  
▪ Commercial



**Heritage Garage Doors, Inc.**  
Specializing in Custom Garage Doors  
and Automatic Openers  
**Authorized Dealer**  
**Steve Raby** Office (828) 369-5014  
Owner Fax (828) 369-5013

*Kaylee's Closet*  
Faithfully giving to  
foster families

**4462 Highlands Road, Franklin, NC • (828) 371-0992**

**SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

8	1	6	9	2	3	7	4	5
3	9	2	5	4	7	6	8	1
4	5	7	6	1	8	3	2	9
2	4	5	7	9	1	8	3	6
6	3	9	4	8	5	2	1	7
1	7	8	3	6	2	5	9	4
5	2	4	1	3	6	9	7	8
9	6	3	8	7	4	1	5	2
7	8	1	2	5	9	4	6	3

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

H	O	S	E	R	P	M	S	A	K	E	S				
S	T	O	M	A	U	S	A	T	I	N	E	A			
O	N	A	I	R	M	A	R	C	R	O	N	E			
G	I	L	M	O	R	E	G	R	E	T	Z	K	Y		
A	U	L	D	E	R	A	E	R	A	Z	E	T	K		
K	A	R	M	I	C	E	P	E	E	C	R	Y			
C	H	E	E	K	E	D	A	M	L	I	E	N			
I	S	L	E	S	W	A	L	E	A	N	T	I			
T	A	B	S	N	O	E	S	T	R	O	O	P			
S	P	A	H	A	H	N	B	R	U	I	N	S			
G	O	V	K	I	L	O	L	O	F	A	C	E	O	F	
S	T	A	N	L	E	Y	F	A	C	E	O	F	F	F	
A	S	C	I	L	S	K	I	S	T	E	A	L	L	L	
L	U	N	C	H	O	R	C	E	R	I	E	E	R	I	E
A	L	I	A	S	P	A	S	P	A	S	M	O	P	S	S



# Legendary Clint Black returns to Smoky Center

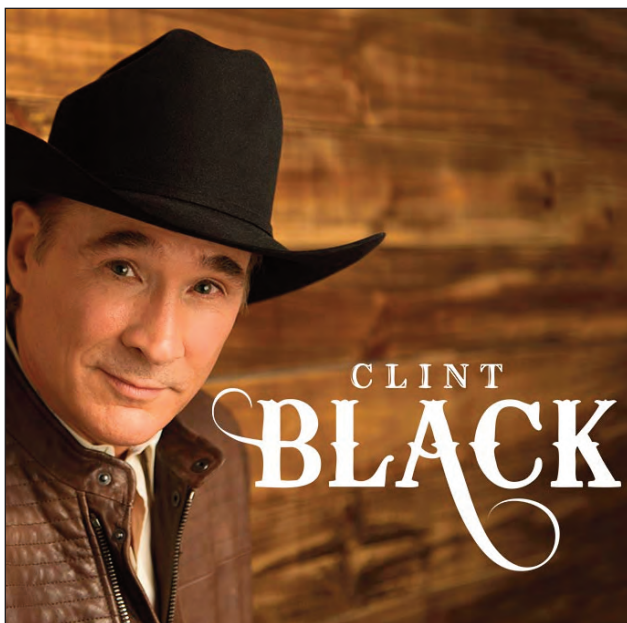
Clint Black is a country music icon. He has sold more than 20 million records, earned 22 number one career singles, received dozens of music industry awards, been honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and has been inducted into the Grand Ole Opry. He is a master of classic country music, and his widespread influence can be felt in the works of many artists today. Black recently released his 14th studio album, "Out of Sane," and has taken his talents back on the road. The Smoky Mountain Center for Performing Arts will welcome Clint Black to its stage on Saturday, Oct. 23. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. A limited number of tickets are still available and start at \$40 each.

A little over three decades ago, Black released his groundbreaking debut album, "Killin' Time." It produced several number one singles including its title track and, "A Better Man." Since then, some of his most recognized hits have included, "When My Ship Comes In," "A Bad Good-bye," "No Time to Kill," and "Like the Rain." Black has also been featured in several compilations with stars such as Roy Rogers, Wynonna Judd, Martina McBride, Merle Haggard, Alison Krauss, Toby Keith, George Strait, and many others.

Citing country music icons like Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, George Strait, and Merle Haggard as some of his biggest musical influences, Black celebrates his traditional country style. He is a self-taught harmonica, guitar, and bass player and is often seen playing guitar, drums, and harmonica in his live shows.

Black has also made a name for himself in film and television. He has had guest rolls on "Wings," "Nashville Star," and "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," and several other TV shows. He was also a fan favorite on "Celebrity Apprentice" and "Masked Singer" and had roles in the films "Maverick," "Anger Management," and two Flick movies.

In 1990, Black married Lisa Hartman. They share a



The legendary Clint Black will be at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts Saturday, Oct. 23. For ticket information, visit [SmokyMountainArts.com](http://SmokyMountainArts.com) or call (866)273-4615.

daughter and make their home in Nashville. They also share the stage quite often and recorded a hit duet, "When I Said I Do." In addition to his commitment to his music and family, Black is also heavily involved with the Kyle Milliken Foundation which raises money to support families of fallen soldiers.

To purchase tickets to see country music legend Clint Black live in concert at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, or to find out more information about his or any other show at the theater, visit [SmokyMountainArts.com](http://SmokyMountainArts.com) or call (866) 273-4615

# USAF Jazz Band performs in Franklin October 24

The Arts Council and Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts present the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band's dynamic Rhythm in Blue in a free concert Sunday, Oct. 24, at 3 p.m. The program features classic and contemporary jazz and patriotic music performed by a 13-member ensemble of outstanding enlisted professional musicians. Rhythm in Blue takes pride in preserving America's uniquely original art form and is in constant demand, playing for diverse audiences from Maine to South Carolina and making lasting connections with audiences of all ages.

The high level of talent showcased by each member enables Rhythm in Blue to perform an extensive repertoire highlighting instrumental and vocal soloists, delivering exciting and uplifting music to please every palate, inspire patriotism, and tell the Air Force story. At every performance, the band honors our American military veterans for their selfless sacrifice, and shares the message of excellence, courage, and commitment displayed every day by the brave men and women of the US Air Force serving throughout the world. Visit [SmokyMountainArts.com](http://SmokyMountainArts.com) for details or contact your ARTS Council, 828-524-ARTS or [arts4all@dnet.net](mailto:arts4all@dnet.net).



[TheMaconCountyNews.com](http://TheMaconCountyNews.com)

# EATING OUT

YOUR GUIDE TO AREA DINING

WED. & SUN.

SENIOR DAYS - 8 MEALS  
STARTING AT \$5.49

THURS.

KIDS' DAY -  
KIDS MEALS \$1.99  
w/ ADULT MEAL PURCHASE

FRANKLIN BYPASS WALMART

BRING THIS AD IN FOR \$2 OFF

Hours:

Mon - Thurs 11am - 8pm  
Fri & Sat 11am - 9pm  
Closed Sun

263 Holly Springs Plaza  
441 N. Franklin, NC  
(In the old Wal-Mart Plaza)

Delivery 828.369.9999

ROOT + BARREL

KITCHEN AND BAR

Featuring Macon County's Wagyu Beef  
from Providence Farmstead & Slanted  
Window wines from Senamore Vineyards.

828.369.3663

77 East Main St. at the top of town hill  
Downtown Franklin, NC

ROOTANDBARREL.COM

Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 12-8pm • Fri. & Sat. 12-9pm  
Check out our website, Facebook & Instagram

Open 7 Days  
11am-9pm

NOW  
SERVING  
BEER &  
LIQUOR!

LAS  
Margaritas

828-369-2021

24 Iotla St. • Franklin, NC

DOORDASH

Located behind the Courthouse

Mom & Pop's Café

828.349.0508 • 828.342.7303  
3054 Georgia Rd., Franklin, NC  
(Across from Tractor Supply)

9am - 9pm Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

16 oz. Ribeye w/ Baked Potato, Salad,  
& Garlic Bread w/ Free Drink & Dessert

\$15.99 Thurs, Fri, Sat 6pm - 9pm



# PICKIN' ON THE SQUARE



## Free Entertainment Every Saturday!

Pickin' on the Square is fun, free, weekly entertainment most Saturday nights throughout the summer. Main entertainment starts at approximately 7:00 p.m.

For more information call 828-524-2516 Donnie Clay - Coordinator

I would like to thank all of you for a fantastic Summer attendance for all of our great concerts. Thank you to all of the town personnel for all of the help and support, I can't express what that means. Thank you to all of the media for your support, as well. Again, thanks to all of you for your unreal support.

This will be the last concert for Pickin' this year. The band playing will be *Intermission*, based out of Alabama. They try to do a vacation and be here in Franklin this time of year in the Fall. You will enjoy the great variety of music they do. So bring your chairs and come be with us at the gazebo in downtown Franklin. Remember, these concerts are brought to you by the Town of Franklin, free of charge. So see you this Saturday, evening. The concert starts at 7:00 p.m.

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



**6TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY!**

**BRYANT'S ANTIQUE MALL**

Open: MON - SAT 9AM - 5:30PM.  
SUN 11AM - 5:30PM

10114 GEORGIA RD. • OTTO, NC  
(828) 524-0280

**Ultimate Truck Accessories & Golf Cars**

We have a Large Selection of **GAS & ELECTRIC** Golf Carts IN STOCK NOW

**ULTIMATE TRUCK ACCESSORIES** **Rhino Linings**  
NATION'S #1 SPRAYED-IN BED LINER

**Ultimate Truck Accessories & Golf Cars**

555 Wells Grove Rd. | Franklin, NC | 828-349-5255  
ultimatetruckaccessoriesonline.com

Beautiful Women Shop at Diva's

MON-FRI 10-7  
SAT 9-9 • SUN 12-5

**DIVA'S ON MAIN**  
BOUTIQUE • JEWELRY • ACCESSORIES

24 E. MAIN ST.  
 FRANKLIN, NC  
 828.369.7300

**Repeats**  
Upscale Consignment

NOW IN OUR 34TH YEAR - AFTER HOURS APPOINTMENTS  
LADIES & CHILDREN'S CLOTHING - SHOES & ACCESSORIES

(828) 369-9600  
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm, Sat. 10am-3pm  
107 Highlands Rd., Franklin, NC

**Rusted Arrow Market**  
Farm House - Shabby Chic - Antiques  
828.421.0820

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-3pm  
19 East Palmer Street • Franklin, NC  
(across from Wells Fargo Drive Thru Bank)

New Items arriving weekly! **COME SEE US!**

**BUTTERCUP'S TREASURES**

Antiques • Collectibles  
Furniture • Kitchenware  
Jewelry • Tools • And Much More!

828-634-6142 7322 Georgia Rd, Franklin, NC  
Open Thursday - Saturday 10am-4pm

**NOW OFFERING FALL & WINTER CLOTHING**

**\$6 BIG BAG SALE**  
Friday, Oct. 15 & Saturday, Oct. 16

**Arise & Shine Thrift Store**  
Carson Community Bldg.  
3001 Old Murphy Rd.  
(828) 634-0217

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10AM - 4PM

A book is a present you can open again and again

**Books Unlimited**  
60 East Main St. • Franklin, NC  
(828) 369-7942  
suzanne@booksunlimitednc.com

**Unlimited Books for Kids**

www.booksunlimitednc.com

NOW TAKING CONSIGNMENTS - CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

**Smokey Mountain AUCTION CO.** (828) 634-4271

**OPEN**  
10am - 4pm,  
Mon. - Sat.

Bid Online at  
**SmokeyMountainAuctionCo.hibid.com**  
Preview in person at 175 Jim Mann Rd. (Behind new INGLES)  
NCAL Form #10389

**RUST & RELICS**

ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES,  
HANDMADE & MORE

71 E. Main St. • Franklin, NC  
(828) 349-4467

EMAIL: RUSTANDRELICS71@GMAIL.COM FACEBOOK.COM/RUSTANDRELICS71



# FHS Classes of '50 & '51 meet for reunion

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Just five years after the four-year World War II ended in 1945, Americans became embroiled in another war. The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the then Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. The United States cared about affairs in Korea because of the Cold War and the threat of communism, so by July 1950 American troops entered the war on South Korea's behalf.

The Franklin High School (FHS) class of 1950 was just graduating in June, and a draft meant that any male 18 years old and older had to sign up to serve a two-year term.

At a recent 71st reunion at Iotla Baptist Church, four FHS Class of 1950 graduates reminisced about their service during the Korean War: Bill Ray, Jim Conley, George Phillips, and Pete Penland. The only other attendee at the recent reunion was Virginia Wilson.

Jim Conley, was one of those graduates. He served in the Navy during the Korean War.

"I was going to go to college and Daddy said I had a letter from the selective service board. So I joined the Navy. Pete and Bill joined the Navy with me. George had already joined the Air Force. We didn't want to be drafted because we wouldn't have a choice in what we wanted to do during the war."

Penland was assigned to a ship.

"We carried food to Korea and into Japan for soldiers," he said. "We had a mine come close to the ship and after we got passed it, we fired at it and exploded it." When the ship was close enough to shore near Korea, Penland could view fire-power.

Conley and Ray were assigned to a Naval base. Phillips en-



Bill Ray, Jim Conley, George Phillips, and Pete Penland recently reminisced during a 71st class reunion about growing up together in Franklin, graduating from Franklin High School in 1950, and serving during the Korean War. Virginia Wilson (center) was the only other classmate at the reunion.

listed in the Air Force before he finished high school and worked as a cryptographer mostly in Greenland and Newfoundland.

All grew up here and were friends during high school. All but Ray moved back to Macon County. None of the friends were injured during the Korean War, and none decided to make military a career. They served for four years during the war and then got out of the military.

"We always stayed in touch all these years," said Conley. "Sometimes we were a year or two without seeing or talking to each other, but we always knew where each other was and we always ended up getting in touch eventually."

The four men are 90 or close to 90 years old.

"We're old men, I know that," said Phillips. "We all had some fun growing up. And there aren't many of us Korean veterans around anymore."

"During the reunion, which was in conjunction with the class of 1951, we visited, talked to people we've known, and enjoyed a catered meal," said Conley.

"I was friends with Bill Ray since elementary school and got to know the other two guys in high school," said Penland. "It's always good for all of us to get together."

Said Ray, "These men were childhood friends of mind. And, after we enlisted, Pete said one of the happiest days of his life was to meet me again during basic training in San Diego."

About the recent 71st reunion, at which the four friends were photographed, Ray added, "It's humbling for us to still be able to get together all these years later. You don't see four Korean War veterans in one place in one shot today because we are getting so scarce."



Franklin High School Class of 1951 pictured (L-R) are Ted Stamey, Ann Teague Nandrea, George Phillips, Emily Faye Parker Crawford, Betty Norton Thomas, Mary Sue Potts Waldrop, Carolyn Northstein Pruett and Nell Baldwin Hubbell. Photos by Ellen Randall



## Deaths & Funerals

### William (Bill) Bickley Miller, MD

William (Bill) Bickley Miller, MD, 85, passed away on Oct. 7, 2021, in Highlands, N.C. He was born in Detroit, Mich., on April 8, 1936, the eldest of Dr. Spencer and Helen Miller's children.

In 1962, he graduated from the University of Cincinnati Medical School. That same year, he married the love of his life, Carole Ann Miller. During the early years of their marriage, he completed his Radiology residency at the University of Cincinnati followed by Fellowships in Body Imaging and Nuclear Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. In addition to his medical training, he also served his country as a Captain in the Army Reserve during the Vietnam War.

Following his medical training, he spent three years in private practice with his father in Portsmouth, Ohio, before moving his family to North Palm Beach, Fla. He dedicated 35 years of his career to the Radiology Department at St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach, Fla. He proudly served as Chief of Radiology at St. Mary's Hospital as well as joined the Radiology Department at Good Samaritan Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Carole Miller; and their three children, Paige Miller (Lauren Morovich), Michelle Miller Masters, and Dr. Jeffrey Miller (Anita Miller); as well as six grandchildren, PFC William Masters, Michael Masters, Megan Masters, Athan Miller, Jackson Miller and Caroline Miller; a sister, Susan Hafer; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he enjoyed time with his family and friends. His passion for golf was unmatched. During a round of golf or at the practice areas, he was always eager to ask for advice about his game as well as share tips, especially with putting. He was so proud to have played so many of the bucket list of golf courses including Augusta National, Chicago Golf Club, Kapalua Golf Course, Pebble Beach, St. Andrews, and many more. One of his fondest memories was when he and his son had the privilege of playing with Tom Lehman in the 2012 Ryder Cup Captain's Challenge at Medinah Country Club, where they finished first.

Outside of golf, he enjoyed listening to music, reading books, solving puzzles, travelling all over the world, supporting his favorite sports teams, and his devotion to watching movies on Netflix.

For the last 20 years, Bill and Carole enjoyed their time at their summer residence in Highlands Falls Country Club in Highlands.

He was one of a kind and will be sorely missed by family and friends.

The family plans to host a Celebration of Life Party in Bill's honor in the coming months with details to be provided.

Memorial gifts may be made online in Bill's memory to the First Tee at: <https://firsttee.org/donate>.

### Wendy Lee Bryson

Wendy Lee Bryson, 62 of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021.

She was born in San Antonio, Texas, to the late Winfield and Roberta Lane Prentice. In addition to her parents, she was preceded by her husband, Larry Bryson.

She was of the Baptist faith. She enjoyed nature and loved watching birds, horseback riding and hiking.

She is survived by her children, Ron Bryson, and Kelly Bryson; and siblings, Wanda, Joe, Robin, Roxanne, Randy, Wanita, Rory, and Rusty; and three grandchildren, Gary, Anthony, and Parker.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneral-home.com](http://www.maconfuneral-home.com).

## CORNERSTONE MEMORIALS



DOYLE YORK, Owner

Located at Rabun Flea Market

(706) 746-2548

(706) 746-9977

Please Call For Appointment

(706) 746-2837

134 Market Circle • Rabun Gap, GA 30568



Moffitt Family  
FUNERAL CARE

David  
Moffitt  
OWNER/FUNERAL  
DIRECTOR

Because Funeral Care  
Shouldn't Cost So Much

828-634-1966

668 Highlands Road • Franklin, NC



### Ami Lynn Hammer

Ami Lynn Hammer, 50, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, October 4, 2021.

She was born in Orlando, Fla., to Edward Farmer and Patricia Taylor Farmer.

She attended Cartoogechaye Baptist Church. She was an animal lover and was active in animal rescue.

She is survived by her mother, Patricia Farmer; and daughters, Meagan Hammer, Lauryl Edmonds, and Katherine Hammler.

The family will receive friends and loved ones Friday, Oct. 15, from 2 to 3 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m., with Rev. Carson Gibson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Ami Lynn Hammer

### Ben Lamar 'Oz' Welch

Ben Lamar "Oz" Welch, 59, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, Oct. 4, 2021.

He was born in Macon County to the late Claude and Christine Huggins Welch. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Gary Welch.

He was a talented wood craftsman, specializing in cabinetry. He enjoyed cooking, storytelling and never met a stranger. He loved spending time with family.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Debbie Fouts Welch; children, Justin Welch (Maggie), Zachery Welch (Beisha), Courtney Turner (Chris), Shannon Welch; siblings, Dale Welch (Tava) and Claudine McCracken; grandchildren, Lexi, Seth, Lilli, Charlie, Marie, Jasmine, Wyatt, and Zander; and several nieces and nephews.

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

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

### Patricia Louise Roten Henderson

Patricia Louise Roten Henderson, 84, went home to be with Jesus on Thursday, Oct 7, 2021.

Born in Macon County, "Patsy" was the daughter of the late Elmer Edgar and Ira Edna Holbrook Roten. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Sammy Edwin Henderson; and sisters, Maxine McClure, Jane Ledford, Martha Schulties, Mary Sue Murray and Kathryn Cruse.

She was a devoted mother, wife and grandmother. She loved going to church, sewing, tending to her flower gardens, crafts, football games, and home building/remodeling projects, taking much of her inspiration from her favorite channel, HGTV. She was one of a kind and could operate power tools better than most men!

She is survived by her daughters, Kathy Seay (Daniel) and Karen Sanders (Kevin) of Franklin; siblings, Bill Roten, Tommy Roten and Linda Griffin; grandchildren, Ashley Sanders, Autumn Johnson, and Stephanie Simons; great grandchildren, Aidan Holland and Alaric Simons; and numerous nieces and nephews.

No services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Prentiss Baptist Church, C/O Beverly Ledford, 1220 Belle Dowdle Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Condolences can be made at [maconfuneralhome.com](http://maconfuneralhome.com).



Patricia Henderson

### Ronald Stuart Rold II

Ronald Stuart Rold II, 64, passed from this life on Oct. 10, 2021. He was born on May 25, 1957, in Dade County, Florida, the son of Doug and Norma Rold. His life ended unexpectedly while he was working at home.

He was a United States Navy veteran who proudly served on a nuclear submarine.

As a result of being hit by a drunk driver, he lost both of his legs as a young man and had been in a wheelchair for the past 32 years. However, he never let his disability slow him down or define him. He had a real zest for life and for figuring out how to do things. He loved all kinds of cars, especially hot rods. He enjoyed fishing and listening to anything featuring a saxophone. His musical choices ranged from CCR all the way to jazz.

He was intelligent and knew how to repair almost anything. He had been the proud owner of Franklin's Best Power Tool Repair for the last five years. His knowledge spanned from taxes to tools and many subjects in between.

He had a gentle spirit about him and made friends easily. A part of his life that was missing after losing his beloved German Shepherd, Lola, had recently been filled by a stray cat that he named Milton, never knowing if Milton was male or female.

His greatest love was his daughter, Maili. They spoke daily about happenings and even the most mundane things. After Milton's arrival, he had also happily become part of their conversations.

He is survived by his daughter, Maili Atkinson (Terry) of Franklin, N.C.; his grandchildren, Kylie Cope of Plant City, Fla., and Thailer Carver of Franklin; his siblings, Jamie Rold, April Moore, and Georgia Roper, also of Franklin; and his best friend, Rich Tilley. He was preceded in death by his parents.

No public services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Ron's family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com).



Ronald Stuart Rold II

### Myron Henry Abernathy

Myron Henry Abernathy, born on Jan. 13, 1950, to Henry D. and Marvene Geneva Burell Abernathy, passed from this life on Oct. 5, 2021.

He possessed a gentle spirit along with a big personality. Some might have accused him of being headstrong, and he probably would have agreed with them. He had a way, however, of relating to children that brought out how tender-hearted he could be and let them know they were his favorite kind of people. His own children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren benefited with having him in their lives to entertain, comfort, and love.

He had many talents. He was a great storyteller and enjoyed having an audience. He was also very musical and could play multiple instruments, his favorite being the guitar. He was creative and a craftsman when it came to woodworking. He had the ability to make something from nothing. He was just great with his hands.

He is survived by his children, Ryan H. Shuman (Diane) and Nathan E. Shuman (Johanna) both of Jefferson, Ga.; his siblings, Martha Ann Gasper of Buford, Ga., Glen Abernathy of Hoschton, Ga., and Loretta Thornton of Lawrenceville, Ga.; his eight grandchildren and his eight great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents.

No public services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the Abernathy family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com).



Myron Henry Abernathy

### Mike Kennemore

Mike Kennemore, 64, of Highlands, N.C., passed away on Monday, Oct. 4, 2021.

He was born in South Carolina to the late Harley and Margie McCallister Kennemore.

He was an avid reader and one of Clemson Tigers' biggest fans.

He is survived by his former wife, Leigh Anne Wilson; daughter, Ahzah Kennemore; grandson, Brantley McCall; and sisters, Dianne Owens and Judy Bryant.

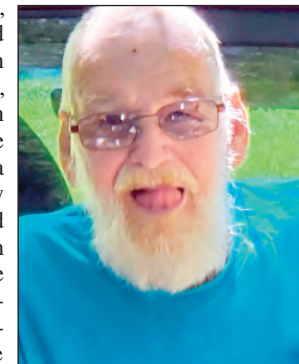
A private service will be held at a later date.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home will be making the arrangements.

### James 'Jim' Edward Swafford

James "Jim" Edward Swafford, 74, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Oct. 3, 2021. He was born May 25, 1947, in Macon County, North Carolina, to Emma Jean Bryant Swafford and the late James Robert Swafford. He was a construction builder and masonry worker. He was a family man and enjoyed spending time with them and his animals but would take the time to go play bingo or hunt ginseng. He was a prankster and enjoyed making people laugh. He served in the Marines and completed two tours in Korea and Vietnam. He attended Burningtown Church of God.



James Edward Swafford

He is survived by his mother, Emma Jean Swafford; his wife, Ellen Diane Rowland Swafford; three daughters, Jasmine Schrichten (Ron), Rene Glass (Bill) and Ellen Swafford; five grandchildren, Nicole Armstrong (Andrew), Thomas Slease, Dalton Schrichten, Brandi East (Eran) and Matthew Glass; two great-grandchildren, Ansley Armstrong and Axton Armstrong; four brothers, Rick Swafford, Sandy Swafford, Louis Swafford and Eddie Swafford; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Friday, Oct. 8, at the Bryant Grant Funeral Home Chapel with Pastors Ronnie Branson, Louis Swafford, Donald Bates and Matthew Glass officiating.

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

### Sandra Jean Stockton

Sandra Jean Stockton, 77, of Highlands, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021.

She was born in Oak Park, Ill., to the late Frank and Sarah Donald Stockton. Her father was in the military resulting in her growing up in multiple locations. As an adult she lived in Toronto, Canada, for many years and later in Maryland. She moved to Highlands in 2012 to live with her sister, Vivian.

She worked as a teacher's aide until her retirement but her true passion was art. She trained as a potter but was also very skilled in other art mediums winning various awards for her work over the years.

She is survived by her son, Christopher O'Conner in Toronto; siblings, Vivian Brewer, Frank Stockton, and Joanne Lackey; and several nieces and nephews. Another sister, Linda Stockton died in 2020.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Four Seasons Hospice: Four Seasons Development Office 571 South Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



View obituaries online at  
[themaconcountynews.com](http://themaconcountynews.com)



## Kyle Larson wins battle royal at Charlotte ROVAL, advances

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

CONCORD, N.C. – Sunday's Bank of America ROVAL 400 featured a frequent winner, a couple of unlikely heroes and occasional villainy.

Kyle Larson took the checkered flag after 109 laps at the Charlotte Motor Speedway Road Course to win for the seventh time this season and advance to the Round of 8 in the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs.

Larson won for the third time on a road course—the most ever in series history in a single season—in a race that featured the violent renewal of the Bristol-born rivalry between Kevin Harvick and Chase Elliott.

And Larson's victory was no stress-free Sunday drive. Car chief Jesse Saunders and hauler driver Steven Legendre changed the battery and alternator belt on Larson's No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet under caution and kept him on the lead lap at the end of Stage 2, after the voltage dropped and put Larson in danger of elimination from the Playoff.

"It wasn't looking too good," Larson said of the electrical problems that beset his car. "Thankfully, everybody on our 5 car did a great job of staying calm. (Crew chief) Cliff (Daniels), as always, did a great job of communicating with me what was going on, getting the battery changed, the alternator—whatever was going on to get our battery running.

"I knew I was going to have some sketchy moments. I had to work my way through traffic, stay calm, and we had some good restarts there at the end... It was just a fun race there and a lot of craziness all day long."

The victory was Larson's first at the Charlotte Road Course and the 13th of his career.

Harvick failed to advance from the Round of 12 for the first time since the inception of the elimination format in 2014. His race ended in the SAFER barrier on Lap 99 after he locked up the left front tire on his No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford and shot straight into the wall.

"I just pushed it in there too hard and I got the tire locked up and I couldn't stop it," Harvick said. "I felt like I needed to go get a couple spots back that I had lost, and I got the left front locked up, and I couldn't get it to turn."

"Karma," Elliott's spotter, Eddie D'Hondt, said on the radio with understandable satisfaction, given that Harvick had spun Elliott into the wall in Turn 8 to jeopardize the reigning Cup champion's chances of advancing to the next round.

But Elliott did advance after recovering to finish 12th, joining Larson, Denny Hamlin, Joey Logano, Ryan Blaney, Kyle Busch, Brad Keselowski and Martin Truex Jr. in the Round of 8.



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, celebrates after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Bank of America ROVAL 400 at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Oct. 10, 2021 in Concord, N.C. Photos by Brian Lawdermilk/Getty Images

race—after Harvick had run Elliott into the outside wall and cut a tire on the No. 9 Chevrolet.

Asked whether his intent was payback for the Bristol race, Harvick said, "Sometimes real life teaches you good lessons."

Chris Buescher finished third on Sunday—his first top five of the season. Kyle Busch was fourth, followed by Hamlin, Matt DiBenedetto, Logano, Bell, Blaney and Bowman.

Notes: Larson is the first driver since Kasey Kahne in 2006 to win both the Coca-Cola 600 in May and the fall race at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Kahne won both races on the 1.5-mile oval. The ROVAL became the venue for the fall race in 2018... Larson enters the Round of 8 as the No. 1 seed with 4,065 points, 35 more than second-place Hamlin... The victory was Hendrick Motorsports' 36th at Charlotte Motor Speedway, including the oval and ROVAL events and the NASCAR All-Star Race... Team Penske is the last organization with all off its Playoff drivers still eligible for the championship—Keselowski, Logano and Blaney.

AJ Allmendinger streaks to third straight NASCAR Xfinity win at Charlotte Road Course

CONCORD, N.C. – AJ Allmendinger stayed undefeated at the Charlotte Motor Speedway Road Course.



**Gooder**  
GRAFIX

AWARDS & ENGRAVING  
IMPRINTED APPAREL  
SIGNS

gooderorders@gmail.com  
1021 East Main St. • Franklin, NC

Guy & Alicia Gooder  
828-349-4097



**SQUID'S**  
Small Engine  
Repair & Sales

Pick Up & Delivery Available.

**828-342-5135**  
867 HIGHLANDS RD. • FRANKLIN, NC  
in the Flea Market, on the curve

Decks & Additions	Tractor Service
Home Remodeling	Driveway Repair
Flooring	Grading



**KZ CONSTRUCTION**

**828-283-0659**  
BuildwithKZ@gmail.com





AJ Allmendinger, driver of the #16 Hyperice Chevrolet, celebrates after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Drive for the Cure 250 presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Oct. 9, 2021, in Concord, N.C.

The driver of the No. 16 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet won his third straight race at the 2.28-mile, 17-turn Roval and achieved several milestones in the process.

With his overtime victory in the Drive for the Cure 250 presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, Allmendinger clinched a spot in the Round of 8 in the NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoffs. He won for the fifth time this season and the 10th time in his career.

Winning for the sixth time on a road course, Allmendinger broke a tie with race runner-up Austin Cindric for most-ever Xfinity road course victories.

Allmendinger, who worked his way forward from the 14th starting position, took the lead for good on Lap 48 when Ty Gibbs suffered brake problems, blew the chicane on the backstretch and had to come to a full stop before continuing.

From that point, Allmendinger stretched his lead to 8.8 seconds before a caution for Tommy Joe Martins' wreck on Lap 64 sent the race to overtime.

After the subsequent restart on Lap 67, Allmendinger pulled away again and beat Cindric to the finish line by 3.192 seconds.

Cindric, the defending series champion, already had clinched a spot in the Round of 8. Third-place finisher Daniel Hemric joined him, along with Justin Haley (fourth Saturday), Brandon Jones (fifth), Noah Gragson (sixth),

with, obviously, because of all the rain.

"Once we got the lead, the (car) was stupid-fast."

As the final run progressed, Cindric didn't have the pace to keep up with Allmendinger.

"I feel like this has honestly been one of my weakest road courses for probably exactly what you saw—the rear tires fall off way too much," Cindric said. "I felt like I was driving a skid-pad car after about 10 laps."

"I feel a little bit lucky and a bit fortunate, honestly. I didn't get moved or put in the wall, so either way we had a fast car. I think we set a fast lap time and got a good finish, so that sets us up well for Texas. I just wish we could have taken advantage of getting a Playoff point."

Instead, it was Hemric who added to his Playoff point total by winning the first two stages of the race. Allmendinger gained five additional Playoff points for the victory.

The race featured six lead changes among five drivers, with Allmendinger leading the final 21 circuits. There were seven cautions for 13 laps, the fourth of which also caused a brief stoppage when the brakes failed on the No. 07 Chevrolet of Josh Bilicki, with the car plowing through the backstretch chicane and dislodging pieces of curbing in its path.

Track workers had to remove the exposed bolts that had held the curbing in place before the race could continue.

- Replacement Windows
- Storm Windows
- Under Deck Roof Systems
- Mobile Home Roof Over
- Screen Rooms
- Sun & Vinyl Rooms
- Patios
- Awnings
- Carports
- Retractable Awnings
- Retractable Screens

**Bill's ALUMINUM PRODUCTS INC.** Install yourself, or professional installation available  
 (828) 524-8074 | 3791 Highlands Rd. • Franklin, NC

## Hunter's Automotive

- Tires
- Radiators
- Brakes
- Air Conditioning
- Batteries
- Shocks
- Towing
- Motors Replaced

Walter Hunter, Owner  
 584 Depot Street • Franklin, NC  
**(828) 369-2431**

Visit Us Online →

- Area News Coverage
- Additional Content
- Photo Galleries
- Classifieds



[themaconcountynews.com](http://themaconcountynews.com)

**HIGHLANDER ROOFING SERVICES INC.** 828-524-7773  
[highlandernc.com](http://highlandernc.com)

*Franklin, NC - Five Day Forecast*

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
81°/59° 9%	79°/61° 9%	71°/46° 51%	66°/41° 14%	68°/42° 12%

**We are now a Gravely Dealer!**

**Equipment Sales, Repair & Rental.**  
**Pickup & Delivery Available**

Hours: M-F 8AM-5PM Sat 8AM-12PM  
**MACON RENTAL CO.** SINCE 1978  
 537 W. Main Street • Franklin, NC  
 828-524-8911 • [maconrentalco.com](http://maconrentalco.com)







# The Classifieds

## Services

**CAROLINA PAINTING & Remodeling,** Pressure Washing, Painting, Home Repairs, 28 Years Experience in WNC. Cell (828)371-9754.

**GUTTER & DOWNSPOUT** Cleaning and Repair. New Installation, Leaf Guards. No Job Too Small, Free Estimates. (828)524-5475.

**DAVID CHEEK'S WELL PUMPS** Sales Service & Installation of Pumps and Iron Removal Systems. For All Your Water Needs. (828)369-5176.

**HYDROSEEDING & SOD LAWNS** Now Is The Time! Ron's Hydroseeding. (828)524-3976.

**HANDYMAN HOME REPAIRS** Carpentry, Pressure Washing, Gutter Cleaning, Decks, Drywall, Painting, Electrical/Plumbing, Repairs of any kind. 40 Years, Fast/Reasonable/Reliable. (828)332-7247.

**FREE LAWN CARE** Estimates, \$5. Off With Ad, Yard Clean Up & Care, Mulch/Fertilizer, Pressure Washing, Gutters Cleaned. No Yard Too Large or Too Small. Bob (828)342-5273.

**SHUTTLE CAR** Service to Airports, Bus & Train. (305)216-7234 or (954)650-3851.

**NEW CREATIONS Landscaping LLC.** Landscaping Projects, Cleanup, Annual Color, Mulch, Pine Straw, Aerating, Fertilizing, Hardscapes, Steps, Retaining Walls, Grading, Gravel, Design, Grounds Maintenance and Much More! Licensed & Insured, Free Estimates (828)524-6959.

**EXPERIENCED LOCAL LADY** Will provide Elderly Companionship/Sitting, Day Shift. Will assist with daily living skills. Errands shopping, medications, light housework. No heavy lifting. Reference provided. Own Transportation. (828)200-1505.

**DIESCHER ELECTRIC** Professional service. Reasonable rates. NC Licensed and fully insured. 20+ years experience. (845)807-1326.

**PROFESSIONAL KNIFE** and scissor sharpening Mon-Sat. Kitchen Sink Inc. 72 E. Main Street, Franklin (828)524-2956.

**GRADING, FINISH GRADING** Hydroseed, Driveways, Roads, Hauling, Land Clearing, Chipper. Install Septic Systems, Retaining Walls, Rock Work, Boulders, Patio, Perez. (828)524-8650, (828)347-6793 Excellent References.

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

**SQUID'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR & Service,** 867 Highlands Rd., by Franklin Flea Market. (828)342-5135.

**GIBSON'S PAINTING & Home Repairs,** 30 Years Experience, Insured, Satisfaction Guaranteed, Interior and Exterior Painting, Pressure Washing. Free Estimates, Beat Any Price. (828)200-7549.

## Help Wanted

**BECOME A TEACHER** at Great Beginnings Preschool and receive Free Childcare! Full-time and Part-time Teachers Needed. Pay based on Education and Experience. Degree preferred but not required. Go to Mygreatbeginnings.org for application. Please return applications to Great Beginnings C/O Betsy Shepherd. For more information (828)369-2411.

**OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA** Highlands NC. Catering & Conference Services Mgr, Sales Mgr, Asst F&B Mgr, Banquet Server, Host, Server, Busser, Bartender, Sous Chef, Cook, Asst Pastry Chef, Dishwasher, Reservations, Front Desk Supervisor, Front Desk, Bellman, Night Audit, Housekeeping, Laundry, Cosmetologist, Spa Attendant, Massage Therapist, Spin Instructor, Graphic Designer, Banquet Supervisor, Estate Concierge Apply online: www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers

**NEED CULTURED STONE** Layer, Must Have Transportation & Phone! cell# (828)200-4478.

**THRIFT STORE STOCKER** Part-time, Must be Able to Lift 60lbs. Apply in Person for Details at AARC Thrift Store, 1507 Old Murphy Rd. Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-2pm.

**COMPANION HEALTH CARE** is looking for compassionate and caring individuals to work in homes. CNAs and PCAs part-time, flexible hours. If you enjoy caring for others, contact Heather (828)524-6444.

## Community Fundraisers

**REACH FOR BARGAINS** in Heritage Hollow, open Tues.-Sat. 10am-3pm. Benefits Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. Information call (828)369-2040.

**HUGE INDOOR YARD SALE** Saturday, 8am-2pm Coon Club Building, 3056 Wide Horizon Dr, Franklin, Furniture, Clothing, Household Items, and More! Mask required. Benefits scholarships for women through P.E.O./Chapter CL, Franklin.

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

## Rentals

**CUSTOM BUILT HOME** 2BD/1.5BA Country Living at Its Best. Great Views, Cowee Community, Central Heat/Air, No Pets. Great for adult couple. \$950/monthly, First/Last/Security, with References. Lease Agreement Required. (828)371-7760.

**RV/CAMPER LOT** Short distance to town. \$325/month. 6-month minimum. Includes water, sewer, and trash. Text your email address to (828)346-1200 for all the details.

**LOCAL RETIRED** Educated Gentleman Open to Finding a Private Room to Rent. Doesn't Smoke, Drink and Doesn't have a pet. Close in to Franklin Preferred. (404)838-1704.

## Animals

**3 HENS** of varying breeds for sale. Price negotiable. Must be willing to come pick up. I live within Franklin city limits. Call (704)574-3801 for details.

**VOLUNTEERS & DOG WALKERS** Needed at Macon County Animal Services. 18 years and older. Call Debbie (941)266-7084.

## Auctions

**SMOKEY MOUNTAIN AUCTION CO.** online bidding, SmokeyMountainAuctionCo.hibid.com preview in person, 175 Jim Mann Rd. Open 10am-4pm Mon-Sat NCAL 10389 (828)634-4271.

## Misc. For Sale

**MILITARY SURPLUS** w/C Pants/Shirts, Jackets, Military Boots On Sale. Cold Weather Clothing, Field Gear, Sleep Bags, Packs, Bags. (828)349-3140.

**FARMERS MARKET** Fall Season 8-12, every Saturday. Please Come Out and Support Your Local Farmers Market. Vegetables, Honey, Fresh Chicken, Artisan Breads, Pastries, Preserves, Handcrafted Soaps, Eggs, Large Assortment of Cookies. 200 Block East Palmer.

## Garage & Yard Sales

**ENORMOUS LAST SALE** of the year! Lots of new items added! Thursday and Friday 8-4, and Saturday 8-2. Lots of antiques, Christmas decor, music, dishes, tools, books, lines, house decor and lots more. 35 Holland Drive.

**HUGE INDOOR YARD SALE** Saturday, 8am-2pm Coon Club Building, 3056 Wide Horizon Dr, Franklin, Furniture, Clothing, Household Items, and More! Mask required. Benefits scholarships for women through P.E.O./Chapter CL, Franklin.

## Wanted

**BUYING WILD GINSENG** Every Day 12pm-9pm, Best Price Paid. Large Amounts Welcome. Call Ricky Teem (828)371-1802 or (828)524-7748.

# RV AWNING REPAIR & INSTALLATION



## FABRIC, PARTS & COMPLETE ASSEMBLIES

**Anclin** RV • TRUCK & TRAILER  
In Otto since 1998  
9957 Georgia Rd. Otto, NC  
828-349-4500

## Felix's Tree Expert, LLC

For All Your Tree Needs!

- Complete Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Firewood Delivery/Mulch

Accepting All Major Credit Cards

Insured & Reliable • Call Us Today for FREE ESTIMATES  
**(828) 200-1052**

TreeServiceFranklinNC.com

# APPALACHIAN ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER

**(828) 524-4588**  
P.O. Box 81 • 851 Lake Emory Road  
Franklin, NC 28734

## SHELTER WISH LIST

- Cat Litter • Rice
- Laundry Detergent
- Low Sodium Vegetables (No Corn)
- Low Sodium Beef or Chicken Broth
- Canned Dog & Puppy Food
- Canned Cat Food

## The Honeymoon Cottage

SEASONAL RENTAL ONLY  
Week, Day, Month.  
Lake Front, Franklin, NC  
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath.  
Close to Town.  
1-770-757-7500



# CHEVROLET. AMERICA'S FASTEST-GROWING FULL-LINE BRAND.

BASED ON RETAIL SEGMENT SHARE GAINS, 2020.

**WE NOW OFFER WINDOW TINT SERVICE!**



SERV-PRO SANITIZES OUR ENTIRE DEALERSHIP USING EPA APPROVED HOSPITAL GRADE CLEANING SOLUTIONS ADHERING TO CDC GUIDELINES

## NEW SILVERADOS

FROM \$37,900



## NEW TRAILBLAZERS

FROM \$24,000



## NEW EQUINOXS

FROM \$24,900



PRE-OWNED INVENTORY

2012 HONDA PILOT EX



V6, AWD with leather interior, power sunroof, 1 owner, clean CARFAX, local trade in!!

2016 DODGE CHARGER RT



V8 Hemi with automatic transmission, full power group including power windows, locks, mirrors, tilt, cruise and so much more for ONLY \$29,995

2017 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE



V6, 4x4, fully loaded with power moonroof, navigation, power leather seats, power liftgate and remote start!!

2020 CHEVROLET COLORADO Z71



Crew cab, leather, navigation, heated seats and remote start, 1 local owner with no accidents. Save thousands!!!!

2018 GMC SIERRA



Crew cab, 4x4, SLT with leather, power sunroof, heated/cooled memory seats, spray in bedliner, towing package, navigation and more!

2021 CHEVROLET CORVETTE



Convertible, mid engine supercar with only 199 miles!! Black with red leather. Fully, fully loaded!!

2018 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT



1 local owner with only 5,829 miles on this fully equipped full size sedan with power windows, locks, mirrors, power seats and keyless entry!!

2019 CHEVROLET BLAZER RS AWD



V6 automatic transmission, remote start, heated seats, 1 local owner with only 30,194 miles!! Save thousands!!

2018 NISSAN FRONTIER



Pro 4x4 crew cab, off road beast with factory navigation, full power, heated seats with dual climate control, trailer, and tow package! Save thousands! ONLY \$34,995

2020 CADILLAC ESCALADE



4x4 with the Premium Luxury Package!! Too many options to list here. Come check it out!!



**COUNTRYSIDE CHEVROLET**  
FRANKLIN, NC



**YOUR HOMETOWN DEALER**

FIND NEW ROADS™



71 CAT CREEK RD., FRANKLIN, NC 28734 - HWY. 441 • 828.524.0734 • WWW.COUNTRYSIDECHEVY.COM