

# The Macon County **NEWS**

& Shopping Guide

*Free  
independent  
weekly*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

May the coming season bring tidings of harmony and joy to you and your loved ones. May the new year bring you health, happiness and prosperity.

**The Macon County News will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 - Sunday, Jan. 2**

December 23, 2021 • 24 Pages

Volume 39 Number 32

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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*Unto us a Child is born*



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For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name  
shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The mighty God,  
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

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# Burglar identified and arrested

The Macon County Sheriff's Office has submitted the following release.

On Monday, Dec. 20, Macon County detectives arrested local Fed-Ex driver Gregory Thomas Bufkin, in relation to numerous break-ins in the Highlands/Scaly Mountain area.

During the last several weeks, multiple thefts have been reported in the Highlands area. Detectives with the Macon

County Sheriff's Office have conducted multiple interviews and followed up on several leads which did not result in any arrest or recovery of property. Investigators have also been working closely with the Highlands Police Department during the course of these investigations. On Monday, Dec. 20, a homeowner called Sheriff Holland about seeing a deputy inside her residence on her home surveillance camera and wanted to know what was going on and why a deputy was in her residence. Sheriff Holland contacted the deputy assigned to the Highlands area and learned that the deputy was still inside the residence and was there because someone reported an open door and he was currently searching the home for any intruders. The deputy determined that there was no one in the residence. Later in the day, the same homeowner contacted Sheriff Holland and reported having a man on video earlier in the day on her security camera. The homeowner said the intruder appeared to be wearing shorts and was there for just a brief time and fled when he saw her camera. Investigators were able to identify that individual and were able to quickly locate him at his residence. Investigators were also able to confirm the man seen in the video was a FedEx driver who worked in the Highlands area. Interviews were conducted with the suspect who was identified as Bufkin. Investi-



Gregory Thomas Bufkin

gators seized several pieces of evidence which included multiple pieces of jewelry and two firearms. Some of the items seized were found to be inside Bufkin's work vehicle.

At the time, MCSO was able to tie Bufkin to thefts in at least 11 Breaking and Entering in the Highlands area. However, as of Tuesday night, Sheriff Holland released a statement that said that 12

break-ins were tied to Bufkin and that many items were recovered from his FedEx vehicle and his home in the form of cash, liquor, jewelry and firearms.

This is an on-going investigation and additional charges could be forthcoming.

Additional incidents are expected to be reported in the coming days and weeks as part time residents return to their vacation homes. As with these cases, most of the residences victimized were because they were found to have unlocked doors and open windows.

Bufkin's charges include: Seven counts of Felony Possess Stolen Goods; Seven counts Breaking and Entering; Seven counts Larceny after Breaking and Entering; Six counts Larceny of a Firearm.

At the time of his initial arrest Bufkin was being held at the Macon County Detention Center under a \$180,000 secured bond. Following the discovery of additional stolen items and his link to another break-in, the bond was increased to \$200,000.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Macon County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division (828) 349-2107. Download the Macon County Sheriff's Office App and provide tips anonymously from your cell phone or call the-CRIMESTOPPERS Hotline at (828)349-2600.

# AT YEAR'S END...

Before the Calendar starts anew, we'd like to extend our thanks to each one of you.  
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our many good friends and neighbors.  
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# Border disputes adds \$13 million in property value to Macon County

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

An eight year saga between Macon and Jackson County has finally reached a resolution as the Macon County Board of Commissioners approved a new county border between the two counties. After leadership in both counties debated back and forth for the better part of the last decade, the state of North Carolina finally reached a decision solidifying the border between the two counties where Cashiers meets Highlands.

Macon County Commissioner Chairman Jim Tate first brought the issue to the board's attention in 2013 — when concerns of fire response first arose. Emergency personnel from one county would have to cross into the neighboring county before ending back up in their county of origin. Tate wanted to look at the county line based on the fact that areas in the Highlands and Cashiers areas were landlocked by national forests, and while the only way to access the areas in questions was through Macon County, the county line indicated the homes were in Jackson County. The initial issue was brought up in 2013 after Tate discovered a constituent was being taxed for eight acres in Jackson and five acres in Macon when he only owned 10 acres of property.

Due to geography and other factors, the homes receive services from Macon County,

but pay taxes to Jackson County, meaning such services as law enforcement and emergency management were being provided to Jackson County residents at the expense of Macon County taxpayers.

The issue came down to tax dollars — Macon County had requested about \$160,000 from Jackson County to cover the costs of offering emergency services to residents in the area that are technically located in Jackson County. While Jackson County receives the property tax revenue from these homes, Macon County is burdened with the responsibility of providing emergency services. Since the discussion first began, Jackson County has taken the first step to compensate Macon County. Initially, Jackson County approved a fire tax that generates \$50,000 to the Highlands Fire Department. Jackson County commissioners approved the new fire tax for about 300 properties that are technically located within Jackson County, yet receive fire services from the Highlands Fire Department. The fire tax was expected to generate \$50,000 in revenue that is directly allocated to the Highlands fire department.

Since first learning of the border dispute, Chairman Tate has spent countless hours working with state, Macon and Jackson county leaders to decide on where the county line runs between Cashiers and Highlands. The North

Carolina Department of Public Safety's Emergency Management Division even completed an extensive survey of the Macon County border lines and first issued a preliminary report to the county in 2017. However, the final report was presented to Macon commissioners just last week.

"The county border report from the state used boundary information from information derived from three sources," said County Manager Derek Roland. "It was based on field evidence, ride line information from 2005, and North Carolina Department of Transportation maps."

The maps show where the county's boundaries are based on those three sources. Roland said the final boundary lines were developed after combining all three sources and developing an average and then issued the final boundary line to county officials.

Simply agreeing on the borders between the two counties was easier said than done — as the shift in the boundary line would change where home owners paid their taxes — with hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual tax revenues to consider — county leaders were mindful of the impact the new border would have on the county at large, not just individual homeowners.

Two hundred and nineteen parcels were in question in the dispute, including 17 tax ex-

empt parcels, one belonging to Western Carolina University and 16 to the U.S. Forest Service. While original estimates had Jackson County losing a substantial amount of tax revenues due to a border change, the final maps saw a net change of \$16,000 — revenue Jackson County will lose and Macon County will gain.

Eighty three Jackson land parcels will lose 68.8 acres with 21 acres coming from one parcel. Thirty eight parcels will gain 12.71 acres from Macon County. That includes 18 parcels of land ranging from .04 to 1.33 acres which had previously been taxed only in Macon. Five houses will go to Macon and one to Jackson. Eighteen homes will be split between both counties, meaning owners will have to pay taxes to both counties. Eight houses were previously taxed only in Jackson County and nine were taxed only in Macon. One home had not been taxed in either. Some of the property owners were already paying taxes in both counties. Now their bills will be adjusted to reflect the home being divided between counties.

Macon County is gaining a little over \$13 million in property values on various land and buildings — while losing \$8.5 million in property values. While the net gain for Macon County is \$4,441,145 in property values — that amounts to nearly \$16,000 in tax revenue.



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Jennifer Stanley  
Stephanie Hall  
Pat Bell  
&  
Pat Tippett

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*...Tis The Season To Be Thankful!*

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warmed as we recall the  
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holiday season followed  
by a simply spectacular  
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# Sewing ministry keeps Christmas spirit alive

Sarah Steeley, on behalf of the ladies of Franklin First Alliance Church, helps keep the spirit of Christmas alive for many. She recently presented Christmas stockings to CarePartners, a Home Care and Hospice Center, that the women of First Alliance Church sewed for their patients. Their sewing ministry, "Dorcas' Daughters," is named in memory and honor of the woman in the Bible that sewed for the poor.

"There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. Acts 9:36 (NLT)

In addition to the Christmas stockings, the ladies sew blankets, wheelchair wraps, hats for newborns and many other items that are needed in the hospital, nursing homes and other facilities where their work is used to bring cheer and comfort to the residents. This ministry also extends to overseas needs as well.



The ladies of First Alliance Church in Franklin participate in a sewing ministry "Dorcas' Daughters," creating Christmas stockings, blankets, wheelchair wraps, hats for newborns and more. This batch of Christmas stockings is going to CarePartners, a home care and hospice center. Pictured are Sarah Steeley (L) and Tiana Hooper MSW, Social Worker.

Steeley says, "To the ladies that do all this work, it's truly a labor of Love."

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Jack Horton, Joe Collins,  
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Rita Salain, Adam Kimsey



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*MCSO names top employees at annual banquet*

Macon County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) employees were recognized Thursday, Dec. 16, at their annual Christmas Dinner for their dedication, hard work and commitment to our community. At left, Cpl. Clay Saunders was named the 2021 MCSO Deputy of the Year. Above, Captain Dereck Jones and Detention Center Staff for Division of the Year; Daniel Crane for 2021 Detention Officer of the Year; Josie Alonso for 2021 Civilian Employee of the Year; Det. Amber Wright for 2021 Detective of the Year; and Officer Scott Nelson 2021 School Resource Officer of the Year.

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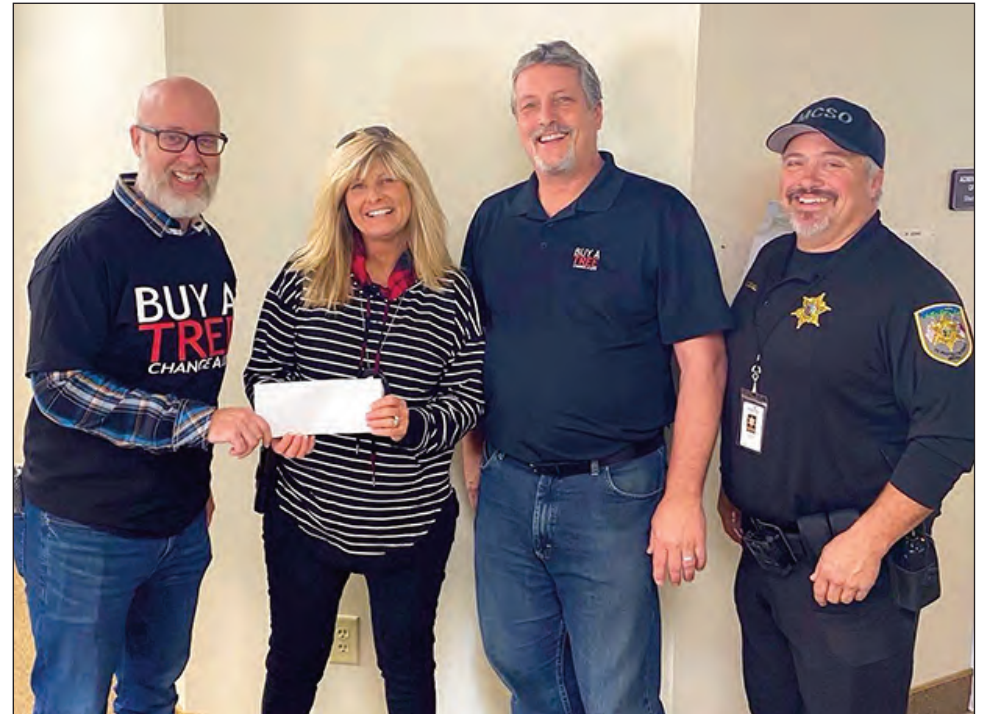
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## Prentiss gives to Shop With a Cop

For the past six years, Prentiss Church has been involved with Buy A Tree. Change a Life., an international campaign to help children "globally and locally." One hundred and eight Christmas trees were purchased from Wishon Farms in Sparta and sold the weekend after Thanksgiving. The first recipient of the Christmas tree sale proceeds is the Macon County Sheriff's office initiative "Shop with a Cop." Prentiss was able to donate \$2,500 which will make sure that under privileged and underserved kids in the community will have a Christmas this year. Last year, Prentiss was able to present a \$10,000 check to South Macon Elementary School for playground equipment for its special needs students. Prentiss Pastor J.D. Woodside set an ambitious goal of \$30,000 with 50% going to local endeavors and 50% helping ministries abroad. The final tally for 2021 was a record-breaking \$33,218.34. Pictured above are Prentiss Pastor J.D. Woodside, Macon County Sheriff's Detective Dani Burrows, Buy a Tree Change a Life site coordinator Randy Stoudemire and MCSO officer Eric Duvall. For more information about Prentiss Church, follow them on Facebook, visit their website at [prentisschurch.com](http://prentisschurch.com) or call (828) 369-3885. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road in Franklin.

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas with all sincerity*

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# Best gifts aren't wrapped up in boxes but are held in the heart

**Clint Kendall**  
CEO/CNO Angel  
Medical Center



As my family and I prepare to spend our first Christmas in Franklin, I am mindful of all the gifts I've received from this community since I arrived to serve as CEO/CNO of Angel Medical Center (AMC). Everyone I work with, our new neighbors, and those that I interact with in the community have been so warm to my wife, son, and me, and it means a lot. It's a gift to be embraced like that and we're fortunate to be part of this giving community.

I reflect on the gift giving that happens during December and have to chuckle sometimes. Who hasn't received a sweater you might never see yourself wearing or a gadget that you don't have a use for? Of course we all remember those "perfect" gifts we got that made us think, wow, that person gets me. As I've gotten older though, I realize that whether a gift is a "hit" or not, doesn't matter — the real gift is that the giver remembered you, considered you.

I've also come to realize that my parents gave me the most valuable gifts I've ever received, and they didn't come from any store,

wrapped in paper and ribbon. They gave me their love and guidance, freely, and those gifts have stayed with me through good times and challenging ones. I also see clearly the thread that the examples they set in how they lived their lives are woven into the fabric of mine, particularly when it comes to my passion to care for others and always wanting to make a real difference in healthcare. As I look back, I know that I may not have been as thankful as I could have been to my Mom and Dad because I didn't fully realize then what they were giving me, but I couldn't appreciate it more now.

Our community, patients, and AMC itself are fortunate to receive the caregiving gifts of our exemplary clinical team. Their "all in" investment in quality care means that our patients have access to services that are highly customized, supported by excellent medical technology, skilled hands and always complemented by compassion — the special gift that only a caregiver can provide. This might mean going the extra mile when it comes to listening and answering a patient's questions, providing education about the strategy that their treatment plan is built on, or helping a patient map out things they can do to support their healing after hospitalization or surgery. Our team members don't just consider their patients as their top priorities either; their care extends to the families and loved ones of

every patient as well.

We also know that there are times when our patients and families' needs won't be met exactly as expected, and letting us know this is a gift of sorts too. Once we know what you feel may have been lacking in your care experience, we can set a goal to fill the gap for future patients. This is why we're intent on hearing from patients after they have received our care.

We gather feedback using several different tools, including a standardized survey called the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Providers and Systems (CAPS or HCAPS), discharge phone calls (a verbal Q&A over the phone after a patient returns home), and leader rounding (while in the hospital a leader or myself should stop in to check on your stay and provide an opportunity to ask questions).

These tools serve an important purpose, because they enable us to make changes to how we provide care that equals striving for further excellence. I also encourage patients and families to reach out to me or my office for an opportunity to voice your thoughts on your or a loved one's care. We are happy to follow up with you about any and all issues related to your or a family member's care, and also love hearing about and passing on your stories of great care from our team.

I view every opportunity I have to make improvements here at our hospital seriously, and

consider them gifts too, not unlike those given to me by my family. It is through these opportunities and being open to learning that we can push ourselves to perform at our peak.

We must remember too that although the holiday season is joyous for lots of people, many others struggle to find joy, and the holidays can be uniquely difficult in that way. This season is a time of year when we see a spike in mental health needs, but sadly there is still a stigma around talking about these things out in the open and seeking help.

We can all make an effort to be perceptive about whether our family, friends, and neighbors are struggling with depression during this time, and suspend judgement about mental health issues in general. We can all do little things to help, from simply asking someone how they're doing and really listening, to inviting your neighbor without family close by for a holiday meal.

Everyone here at AMC is excited to greet the New Year because we're that much closer to having a wonderful new building and equipment, which will allow us to provide even more services, procedures, and superior care to our patients. Stay tuned to hear about the latest developments for our new facility.

From our Angel Medical Center family to yours, we wish you Happy Holidays filled with health, rest, and plenty of time with family and friends.

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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

It was a rainy day on Saturday when wreaths were placed on the graves of American veterans. Nevertheless, Phil Potts, Mike Murphy and Derek Taylor had organized this national event for Highlands, Wreaths Across America. American Legion Post 370 assembled a group of veterans, and a commemorative ceremony was held this past Saturday at the Highlands Community Building, followed by the placing of the wreaths at the cemetery.

It was a bittersweet event, a time to think about departed loved ones who served our country. At Christmas I think of veterans and their commitment to service. I remember my first Christmas as a soldier and how I so much cherished a two-week leave at Christmas. I also vividly recall the second Christmas posted in a foreign land and having to be on duty on Christmas Day. Nothing ever changes, there will be thousands of GIs on leave and on duty in distant places during the holiday season. I hope everyone will take a moment to pause and thank them for what they are doing at this moment.

Before the wreath ceremony our American Legion post had a breakfast gathering. I sat down with other veterans and talked about the old times of military service. We are old men now, but as I talked with my friends I was struck by what they had done in service to our nation, and the fact that many of them are very fortunate to still be celebrating any Christmas at all. And what was even more amazing was that some of these old veterans were hobbling around, limping and struggling to place those wreaths on the graves of their comrades, but they made that extra effort to do so.

At that breakfast gathering of old veterans there were many stories of them doing their duty and going that extra mile for our country. There was the Legionnaire that spent six years in a North Vietnamese prison camp. He was eating his breakfast like nothing had ever happened. I sat next to a former U.S. Air Force pilot who had survived over 100 missions over Hanoi. (I can't bring myself to call it Ho Chi Minh City.) This former pilot said during those combat days he smoked five packs of cigarettes a day and tended to shake like a leaf. After hearing accounts of what he did as a pilot, I was in awe of his courage and sacrifice. Flying that many

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Don't blame the state entirely

I promised my readers a few weeks ago that I would explain the devastation at Sherill Dr. on Fulton Road. Today I will do same.

If you travel Fulton Road near 64 east, you've seen the devastation 1/10th mile down Fulton Road from 64 East. It's at Sherill Drive.

Yes, I am a pack-rat, and in the past 20 or 30 years, God has blessed me to sell things now and then that cost me nothing. I hauled them in from businesses that would otherwise pay to dump same at landfill.

A few years ago, I sold \$1,000 worth of sunroom windows in a period of a few weeks. I had hauled them in over a period of years.

We have 1.01 acres of land, and it is covered in stuff. You can go on the internet and see some.

I built a privacy fence on our property near Fulton Road. It hid a lot of stuff, but some controlling, complaining people didn't like it. They are people like that. Those that want to control everything and everybody. We've all met those kind of people. Those kind are filled with anger and bitterness. They've let the sun go down too many times on their wrath. God's word tells us of some. When we let the sun go down on our wrath, that gives the devil a chance to take over our minds. We become angry and bitter.

Yes, maybe I collect too many things, but maybe after I'm dead and gone, some will maybe understand why I done it. Supply and demand keep everything priced.

My privacy fence and stuff on the side of the road was there for many years, then someone complained. Then evidently they got others to complain. That's when Evil began to work. It would take hundreds of words to tell the whole story, so I'll sign off before long. Come to our house, and I'll tell you the rest of the story – the truth.

A few months ago, the state came and took my fence down. It was on the state Right of Way. They destroyed and took hundreds of dollars of stuff also. Of course it was only junk to them.

If you come and see me, I'll tell you what I told them about safety. My stuff was never a traffic hazard or put anyone in danger.

I must close with these words from my heart.

Everyone that complained I want you to know that you are forgiven.

You might think I haven't forgiven all those that caused me pain and suffering but I have.

When you forgive, and leave the consequences to God, you can have Peace.

One may think that I want those to suffer that have done me wrong. You may think I want God to punish them. Wrong. I want people to change and not treat others the way they treated me. That will be pleasing to me and to God.

Jerry Holden – Franklin, N.C.

### Facts, not FOX/GOP farce

Gasoline Prices - Sources: AAA Gas Buddy - NPI (National Petroleum Institute) U.S. Government

Year 1932 National Average Price in 2020 dollars - \$2.539 per gallon

Year 2008 National Average Price - \$3.619 Bush-Cheney, GOP

Year 2015 National Average Price - \$2.439 per gallon Obama-Biden

Year 2016 National Average Price - \$2.169 per gallon Obama-Biden

Year 2020 National Average Price - \$2.639 per gallon Trump-Pence

Year 2021 National Average Price - \$3.359 per gallon Biden-Harris

Year 2021 North Carolina Average Price - \$3.199 per gallon Biden-Harris

Year 2021 South Carolina Average Price - \$3.049 per gallon Biden-Harris

Year 2021 Western North Carolina Average Price - \$2.899 to \$3.149 per gallon

The gasoline price sign FOX/GOP broadcasts on their anti-Biden GOP propaganda show where they yell about Biden's "outrageous gas prices" is for Premium gasoline for \$6.539 per gallon in California where all gasoline carries heavy environmental taxes. Very few vehicles in America burn Premium grade gasoline.

The GOP/FOX wants you to believe their false narrative about GasolineGate and President Biden rather than your own eyes.

With Joe Biden as president, the American economy is booming. 60% of America is vaccinated against the deadly Pandemic Covid. Unemployment is at 4.2%. Millions of jobs are being created. Wages are up. Demand for goods and services is up. Railroads, highways, bridges, airports will be built back to the high American standard. Children and families are being lifted out of poverty.

The Putin/Republican/Trump Cabal of anger and hate have and continue to vote against the betterment of middle Americans and America.

J.B. Tillison – Dillard, Ga.

*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.*

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**Only one view on Meadows' involvement will survive**

On Tuesday evening 14 Dec 2021 the House of Representatives found Mark Meadows (formerly representative for N.C. 11th Congressional District) in contempt of Congress for refusing to comply with a subpoena to testify before the Select Committee investigating the 6 Jan. 2021 insurrection.

Subsequently, the House referred the contempt finding to the Department of Justice for possible criminal charges.

Two opposing views have arisen regarding Mr. Meadows' refusal to comply with a congressional subpoena. To wit: 1.) Mr. Meadows' has intimate knowledge of events surrounding the activities of 6 Jan '21, which knowledge may assist the Select Committee in assessing who was responsible for organizing and inciting the attack on the nation's capitol. Accordingly, the subpoena is warranted.

2.) Mr. Meadows is legally justified in resisting the congressional subpoena based on his invocation of presidential executive privilege. Moreover, the investigation by the Select Committee is politically motivated with the intention of implicating former President Trump. Further, the events of 6 Jan 2021 are nearly a year old and insignificant.

**Only one view will survive.**

If Mr. Meadow eventually invokes his constitutionally protected 5th Amendment privilege which protects one from self incrimination in a criminal proceeding, the following questions arise:

What is being hidden?

Who is being protected?

Why, Mr. Meadows, are you unable to openly testify and freely speak the truth?

The body politic, i.e. all of us, must ask these questions

**TAYLOR**

From previous page

combat missions almost assured that his final number would be up sooner than later. It is a miracle that he is still celebrating Christmas.

There was another old vet that was using a hiking stick as a support as he placed wreaths on graves. He was covered in water, a condition he was very accustomed to in his military service. This man was wearing a hat with the words Seal Group 1. His hat indicated he was one of first members of the distinguished Navy Seal Teams. I suspect he, like the veteran who was a POW and the pilot, all felt fortunate to be celebrating this Christmas in 2021.

This season is a time of anticipation and hope. Anticipation and hope are the cornerstones of faith. As we face yet another possible surge in COVID and face other uncertainties, let our community, like those old veterans, have the hope and anticipation that this next year will be the best yet to come.

and pass judgement on the answers given or withheld.

Milo R. Beran - Franklin, N.C.

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- The Staff of The Macon County News

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# Shop with a Cop

Macon County law enforcement and emergency personnel took part in the annual Shop with a Cop program taking underprivileged and underserved children shopping that might not otherwise have Christmas. The children were given a set amount of money and instructed to buy for themselves and a gift for one other person. Photos by Vickie Carpenter



Brittney and Traylon with Jacob Cook, MCSO



Victoria and Emma with Eryn Sueyklang - Highlands PD



Seth, River and Skyler with Mike Jolly - Highlands PD



Jonathan with Matthew Bowman, Highlands PD



Zyra and Branley with John Dooley and Mickey Carpenter - N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission



Tim Chavis - Franklin FD, Anderson, Eli, Callie, Ethan, Chuck Norton - Franklin FD, Dylan and Chandler Ellenburg - Macon Co. EMS



Eli with Chandler Ellenburg - Macon Co. EMS



Bryan and Michael with Diana and Thomas Parker - Highlands PD



Isaac and Hailey and Leah McCall - Highlands PD



Viola and Faye with Eric Duvall - MCSO





Bob Crawford

# Greetings of the Season

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# Arrest Report

*The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests Dec. 13 - 20. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

December 14

Clinton David May, was issued a warrant for offenses committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Kayleb Chase Bates, was charged with assault on a female and communicating threats. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Rickey Anthony Caldwell, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

December 15

Silvana Lisa Bettencourt, was charged with domestic physical, assault on a government official/employee, rest/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer and communicating threats. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Melissa Ann Burch, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer and warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Deputy Cody Tiger made the arrest.

Frank Jacson Alexander, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Deputy Cody Tiger made the arrest.

Rachel Jewel Umutia, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Brian Weidner, was charged with larceny by an employee and safecracking. Deputy Cody Tiger made the arrest.

December 16

Javier Albarran Jaimes, was charged with trafficking opium or heroin, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana. Deputy Cody Tiger made the arrest.

Derald Frederick Queen, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Lieutenant Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Nikelus Orion Hughes, was charged with assault on a female, communicating threats, injury to personal property and warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

December 17

Richard Dewayne Swafford, was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling place for a controlled substance, carrying a concealed gun, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer, possession of drug paraphernalia, reckless driving with wanton disregard and driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Patrick Joseph Bayles, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Krystal Marie Downing, was charged with possession of stolen motor vehicle. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Holly M. Breedlove, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

December 18

Thomas Tiden Repp, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of a schedule I controlled substance. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Michala Cheyenne Taylor, was charged with driving while license revoked and possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Heidi Johanna Dreml, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

December 19

Kari Huskey Conard, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

December 20

Summer Mae Proveaux, was charged with driving under the influence. Deputy Lydia Bellavance made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

December 13

Tony Dustin Bateman, 31, was charged with destruction/damage/vandalism of property. A \$500 bond was set.

December 15

Daniel Whitfield Reynolds, 56, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. A \$1,500 bond was set.

Justin Johnson Stanfield, 24, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of a schedule I controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

December 16

Jeffery Paul Hooper, 38, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine, larceny and obtain property by false pretense. A \$9,000 bond was set.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

December 13

Terri Nicole McCracken, 38, of Munchkin Dr., was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Steven Douglas Teesateskie, 37, of Sam George Jr. Rd., Cherokee, was charged with driving while license revoked and failure to wear seat belt. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

George Harold Brown, 63, of Indian Mount Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with trespass of real property. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

December 14

Amber Irene Brake, 37, of Bryson St., Bryson City, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Josh Edward Jumper, 35, of Fletcher Hooper Rd., Robinsville, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, simple possession of a schedule III controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

December 15

Dequan Tyrie Payton, 31, of Pary Lane, Arden, was charged with extradition/fugitive from other state. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

December 16

Isaac William Bird, of Teleski Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of open container/consumption alcohol in passenger area, failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, consumption of malt beverage unfortified wine off premises permit and probation violation. A secured bond of \$5,500 was set.

Daren Mark Holloway, 28, of Tory Allen Dr., Bryson City, was charged with second degree trespass. No bond was set.

December 18

Gregory Mark Wood, 52, of Poor Boy Lane, Whittier, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Andrea Dyan Standingdeer, 39, of Enoch Sampson Rd., Cherokee, was charged with school attendance violation. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

December 19

William Manuel Rodriguez, 27, of Arrowhead Lane, Whittier, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Wendy Pearl Brady, 44, of Old River Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer, intoxicated and disruptive and impede traffic. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Fredrick Ervin Campbell, 43, of Glass Shanty Circle, Franklin, was charged with larceny. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Gracie Jalene Green, 41, of Grape Cove Rd., was charged with attempted larceny. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

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# Window paintings popping up all over town

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

The Christmas holiday might be the time to “deck the halls,” but in Franklin it is the windows at retail stores, restaurants, and businesses that are bedecked with colorful holiday scenes.

Using acrylic paint and distinct creativity, various local artists achieve small to large paintings inside or outside of windows to convey holiday cheer to customers and clients. Ali Wilkins, a native of Franklin, said she has been working upwards of 100 hours each week since Thanksgiving to paint windows not just in Franklin, but in Clayton, Ga., and in other towns in neighboring counties to Macon.

“It’s my busiest time,” said Wilkins, who graduated from college in May with a health sciences degree. It was after she was working at Fortify Pi in Clayton, Ga., and was asked to paint the restaurant’s window that she realized a potential career path.

“Other businesses started asking, and painting windows has become my full-time business.” She has painted windows in Franklin at Currahee Brewing Company, Sunset Drive-In, Motor Company Grill, and more.

Wilkins is self-taught and finds inspiration in wrapping papers, greeting cards, books, online sites, etc.

“I’ll screenshot ideas I think might make a good window painting, and I try not to do the same thing for the same client each year,” she said. Generally, half her clients have a specific theme in mind, while the other half give her free rein to artistically express her ideas. She is paid around \$100 to \$400 per window, depending on details and size of window. She can paint at least one window and sometimes two in one day.

“I have always enjoyed art, but I never thought I’d be a professional artist,” said Wilkins. This season, she painted “many woodland animals in winter scenes ... some penguins.”

Her process involves first painting a white background and then topping it with colorful images.

Charles Gandy, a retired Atlanta, Ga., designer who works part-time at Silver Threads Golden Needles, paints the Main



Artist Ali Wilkins has applied her creativity in the form of acrylic paint to various windows in businesses all over town. Above is Motor Co Grill in downtown Franklin. At right, Wilkins has painted several boards outside Currahee Brewing Co.



Street store’s window annually. The annual holiday theme is gleaned from inspiration offered by the store’s owners and employees, but Gandy executes the painting.

“This year, we decided to do a snow globe and there was a lot of talk about what to ‘put’ in the snow globe,” he said. Christmas tree ornaments represent mini skeins of yarns.

Sally Dyar, a past president of and ongoing volunteer for Friends of the Library, has window painted – with her friend of 40 years, Betty Ann Bryant – the organization’s book store on Highlands Road as well as Creative Framing on Depot Street.

“We have fun coming up with something different for the holidays each year. This year, the book store’s window features Santa, an owl, a cat, an elf, the Grinch, and they’re all reading, of course.”

Pinterest is a resource for inspiration for Dyar and Bryant.

“But we look around at everything and pay attention to everything to get ideas,” said Dyar. Christmas trees adorn Creative Framing’s windows.

“It takes us about four to five hours to paint the windows,” said Dyar, who honed her artistic skills while working as a special education teacher. “There are always opportunities to be creative with students in a classroom. You can artsy up any project with kids.”

She also occasionally takes local art classes at sites such as Uptown Gallery to maintain art skills.

“When you paint on glass, you have to think in terms of layers,” said Dyar, “and you have to consider the foreground and background and paint things differently if you’re painting on the outside of windows versus if you’re painting on the inside of windows. We just start painting, but some artists use something like a marker to outline the image or scene before they start painting.”

Window artists consider how paintings will appear from the roadside or sidewalk outside the business as well as when patrons are close to the painting. Images and scenes must be colorful and fairly large, expressed Dyar.

“While painting windows might be challenging, it’s also fun and rewarding,” said Dyar, “... a great way to express creative juices. And there are some really talented artists in this area. I’ve been impressed with some of the windows I’ve seen.”

Even though the Thanksgiving to Christmas holiday is when



Charles Gandy created this snowglobe for Silver Threads and Golden Needles.



Sally Dyar, volunteer for the Friends of the Library bookstore and her friend Betty Bryant painted characters reading books on the store’s windows. Photos by Vickie Carpenter



many businesses sport painted windows, some dedicate window space during various seasons and for other holidays,



such as Valentine's Day and July 4th.

"It seems that as soon as I've finished painting windows for the [Christmas] holidays, there are more windows to paint for other reasons," said



Dyar and Bryant also applied Christmas trees to Creative Framing's doors and windows.

Wilkins. "I have so many requests to paint windows that I have to turn down work."

To clean windows, a mixture of alcohol and water or a product such as Windex is sprayed on the paint and it is scraped and wiped off fairly easily, the artists explained.

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The Overlook Theatre Company held its annual Christmas Celebration Tuesday night at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. The celebration included stories, songs and holiday memories in this gathering of Christmas cheer. Concert goers were invited to sing along with traditional favorites and enjoy new, modern renditions of classic Christmas tunes- all in a beautiful setting of thousands of sparkling lights, a giant glittering Christmas tree, and a few spectacular surprises.

Photos by Betsey Gooder



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# Next book in 'Animal Stories' series released

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

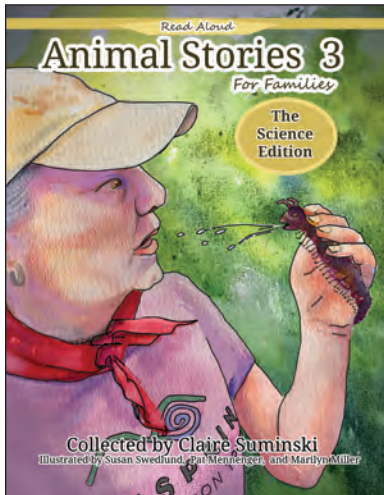
Focused on the philosophy of “sharing family stories and adventures with children to help fuel their love of learning,” the numerous books published locally by Suminski Family Books include the “Cowee Sam” series as well as the more recent “Animal Stories” series. This month, the third installment in the anticipated 17-book “Animal Stories” series was released. Although the “Animal Stories” books are intended for elementary-school-aged children, writer and editor Claire Suminski noted that they are for all ages – anyone who enjoys true, heartwarming narratives about animals.

“Some [Animal Stories] were actually written by contributors, while others are told to me and then I form them into stories,” said Suminski. “The third style is more of an interview, but all are true stories.”

Nine local individuals contributed to “Animal Stories 3 – Science Edition.” Illustrators are Susan Swedlund, Pat Menninger, and Marilyn Miller. An illustration of Sharon Taylor, a former director of Mainspring Conservation Trust, is featured on the cover of “Animal Stories 3 – Science Edition” because she is a contributor who began her story with, “Studying biology made me curious about all forms of life, so much so that one day I picked up a long millipede crawling along a wooded hiking trail.”

Suminski pointed to two main reasons why Suminski Family Books is committed to regularly publishing children’s books.

“Both of my grandmothers passed on stories to their grandchildren,” she said, “and storytelling has been a very valuable tool in many cultures to teach and pass on practical wisdom. Also, we homeschooled our four children, who are all grown now. And during some of those years we did foster care and now I mentor at East Franklin. In all of those situations I have seen how important it is to not only understand the mechanics of reading, but to learn to love to read.”



She wanted to make sure that the “Animal Stories” series is an avenue for both children and adults to share stories. Suminski explained.

“Children and people in general love stories about animals. By sharing these stories, I hope to inspire children to not only read more, but to love to read and to express themselves through writing. It is so much fun to work with the story contributors and illustrators. When everything comes together, it is very exciting for everyone involved.”

Primarily, Suminski views Animal Stories as a way to involve and assist the community at large. “The first \$500 in sales in the Animal Stories series goes to a local nonprofit or school group that is a good match with the book. A donation from the first ‘Animal Stories’ sales went to Appalachian Animal Rescue ... the second to KIDS Place. The first \$500 of Animal Stories 3 is going to Macon County School’s STEM/STEAM Program. I hear a lot of comments from community members saying how much they appreciate that, and I plan to continue doing this because I think that helping dedicated nonprofits succeed helps to strengthen our community.”

Suminski’s personal favorite story in the latest “Animal Stories” book is titled “Max’s Wesser Bald Adventure.” She said it involves her own family.

“We went hiking to Wesser Bald and my dad lost his beloved dog, Max. It was getting dark and after calling and searching, to no avail, we had to head home. At that point, my dad did something that he said would help Max to not worry and would ensure that we could find him in the daylight. That next morning, we headed back up the trail and ... well, you will have to read the book to find out what happened!”

The next book in the “Animal Stories series - The Farm Edition” – is due to be published in 2022. Suminski Family Books are available at Books Unlimited, Smoky Mountain Host visitors center, and in other venues throughout Macon County.



## Jerry Lee ‘Biggin’ Dalton

Jerry Lee “Biggin” Dalton, 62, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021.

Born on Jan. 16, 1959, he was the son of the late Furman Russell and Vivian Marvita Dalton. He was a fabulous husband and father and a loving Gramps to six wonderful grandchildren. He loved riding motorcycles, watching NASCAR, hunting, and camping. He also took great pride in and spent many hours mowing and maintaining Highlands Country Club.



Jerry Lee Dalton

Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Teresa Dalton; three daughters, Heather Tejada and husband Pablo, Stephanie James and husband Thomas and Lauren Dalton; six grandchildren Hayden and Emeri Tejada, Henry and Avery James, Troy Keener and Tilly Dalton; and one niece and two nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, two brothers and two sisters.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 11 a.m., at Clear Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Jim Kinard officiating.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home is serving the Dalton family.

## Linda Lou Wyatt Marble

Linda Lou Wyatt Marble, 70, of Franklin, N.C., died on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Ivan Hillard and Ruth Stiltner Wyatt. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by five siblings, Rhonda, Pat, Barbara, Sandra, and Sheridan. She loved spending time with her family and loved her three precious dogs.



Linda Lou Marble

She is survived by one daughter, Shirley Bradley (Brent) of Franklin; sister, Diane Passmore; and two brothers, Larry Wyatt and Gary Wyatt, all of Franklin; five grandchildren; several great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life was held Tuesday, Dec. 21, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Steve Reeves officiated.

The family will have a private burial at Mt. Moriah cemetery at a later date.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



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# Deaths & Funerals

## Janet Clouse

Janet Clouse, 64 of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Dec. 14, 2021.

She was born in Lee County, North Carolina, to Kenneth Thigpen and the late Dorothy Thigpen.

She was married to Norris Clouse for 34 years. They had two children, Stacey Jenkins and Brandon (Kimberly) Clouse. She was a member of Watauga Baptist Church, a member of Mountain Valley Fire Department, and Chairman of the Board of Directors and she loved to teach CPR.

She loved working with children and had 28 little ones that lovingly called her Granny.

She is survived by her husband, Norris Clouse; children, Stacey Jenkins and Brandon Clouse; grandchildren, Katie, Bailey, Jacob and Alivia; father, Kenneth Thigpen; siblings Debbie Thigpen, Mark (Libby) Thigpen and Mike (Bonnie) Thigpen; and several nieces and nephews.

A service was held Sunday, Dec. 19, at Watauga Baptist Church with Pastors Wesley Price and Davis Hooper officiating. Burial followed at Watauga Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Brandon Crone, Travis Waldroop, Delbert Clouse, Jeremy Brendle, Jacob Clouse, James Cloyes, Mitchell Bishop, Ryan Dunn, and Calvin Mashburn.

Honorary pallbearers were members of the Mountain Valley Fire Department.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

## Linda McVicar Murphy

Linda McVicar Murphy, 74, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021.

She was born in Linden, N.J., to the late William McVicar and Virginia Kopf Reed. She was a realtor for 20 years, and a Macon County resident for 22 years.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, William Murphy; son, Raymond Murphy of Hope Sound, Fla.; siblings, Amy Whitesell and Romayne Wooldridge; grandchild, William Raymond Murphy; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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

## Frances Taylor Martin

Frances (Fran) Taylor Martin, 76, retired nurse and beloved mother and grandmother, died on Dec. 9, 2021, in Raleigh.

She was born in 1945, in Franklin. She graduated from Franklin High School in 1964. She was a student athlete at FHS, playing basketball all four years, lettering in the sport she loved, and serving as co-captain of the team.

In her desire to help others, especially those who were vulnerable, she completed Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute's Practical Nursing program in 1965. Later in her career while working as a full-time LPN, she resumed her pursuit of higher education and earned an Associate in Applied Science degree in Nursing from the University of the State of New York in 1994, to gain the role and title of Registered Nurse (RN). She worked as a nurse for nearly 40 years before retiring in 2005.

She began her nursing career as a public-school nurse, but spent most of her time caring for others at a large hospital (Eastside Medical Center) in Georgia, which she made her home state in 1984. Her patients often wrote heartfelt letters of gratitude to her before leaving the hospital to thank her for the compassion, encouragement and understanding she showed them, and for making them laugh. (She always loved to "cut up.") She would even offer help to her patients outside of her role as their nurse if she knew they needed it and believed she could make a difference. One of many examples is when she learned an elderly patient who had lost his wife was struggling to keep his garden and began to stop by his home after long shifts at work to weed, water and maintain it for him.

She was proud to be a nurse, but nowhere near as proud as she was to be a mother. Becoming a mother was her greatest wish and proudest achievement, bar none. She adopted her daughter, Sherry, in 1970, bringing the baby girl home from foster care and giving her a name and a family. And like these stories sometimes go, just two years later she was infinitely blessed with another precious baby – a little boy who she was miraculously able to carry and birth on her own. Despite being born prematurely, her son, Chad, thrived. She loved her children unconditionally and her faith and confidence in them was unwavering and inspiring.

Her children were her greatest love, but other things that brought her joy were dogs, bowling, cross stitching and college sports, especially basketball and football. She was a member of bowling teams and leagues in Franklin and Georgia. She also played mom to three toy poodles over the last four decades, Sundance, Smokey and Bella, and they were spoiled rotten. She took them everywhere with her. And Fran was a die-hard Georgia Bulldogs fan, often cross-stitching in her recliner or on the couch with a poodle in her lap in front of a game on T.V. She never missed one if it was televised and attended more than one in Sanford Stadium in Athens. She would pull for other teams in unity with friends and family she loved – as long as they were not playing against the Dawgs! She enjoyed watching football so much that she would sometimes attend local high school games near her home to cheer from the bleachers.

She was the personification of strength, perseverance and resilience. In addition to unconditional love and her faith in them, it's her greatest gift to her children. Having witnessed her overcome seemingly insurmountable odds and unfathomable hardships time and again, they know what is truly valuable during life on Earth and how to fight for it, over and over again, with everything you have in you. Fran would simply want to be remembered by friends and family as a "good person" – honest, hardworking like her mother, caring and capable.

She is survived by her two children, Sherry Bradley Melton (Ken) of Garner and Chad Edwin Bradley (Abby) of Lebanon, Tenn., and three grandchildren, Abigail Renee Melton, Raegan Taylor Bradley and Barrett Mac Bradley, who called her "Nanny Fran" and "Nanny Boo."

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, her children ask that donations be considered in her name to the Eastern North Carolina or Western Carolina Chapters of the Alzheimer's Association.



Frances Taylor Martin

## Russell Jernee Falkner

Russell Jernee Falkner, 62, of Franklin, N.C., formerly of Robbinsville, N.C., died on Wednesday, December 8, 2021.

Born in Neptune, N.J., he was the son of the late George A. Falkner Jr. and the late Joan Helen Post Falkner. He loved working with the EBC, counseling others on how to start up their business. He enjoyed white water rafting, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his sister, Deborah Wright (Robert E. Wright III) of Sevierville, Tenn.; two nephews, and three great nephews.

No services are planned.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to American Cancer Society, 615 Oak St B, Gainesville, GA 30501 or St. Jude Children's Hospital at <https://www.stjude.org/donate>.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

## Julie Baldwin Reitmeier

Julie Baldwin Reitmeier, 81, passed away on December 4, 2021. A Celebration of Julie's Life will be held April 15, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at Holly Springs Baptist Church, Franklin, NC, with visitation one hour prior to service.

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

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



Julie Baldwin Reitmeier

## Emily Osborne Cooper

Emily Osborne Cooper, 39, passed away December 18, 2021. No public services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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

## Shirley May Grant Wall

Shirley May Grant Wall, 72, passed from this life on Dec. 18, 2021.

She was born on Sept. 18, 1949, to James Garfield and Blanche Church Grant. She was a strong woman who loved the Lord and managed to raise three children, one of which had cerebral palsy, as a single parent. She was feisty and stubborn in the way that only a beloved matriarch can get away with being. Her strong faith and the love she had for her family was apparent in the way she lived her life.

She spent most of her career as a manager in a five star restaurant. She was known for her motivation and efficiency. In her down time she enjoyed gardening, and her flowers proved she had the knack of a gardener along with the gift of a green thumb. As a child of the '50s and '60s, she liked the music of that era. She also loved to read, mysteries being her favorite genre. She was a dog lover and doted on Rascal, Pippie, Raven and Big.

She is survived by her children, Brian Wall of Avon Park, Fla., Tracy L. Jones of Franklin, N.C., and Crystal Green (Bobby) also of Franklin; her grandchildren, Joshua Wall, Casey Jones, Sgt. Brandon Yokley, Brandi Perry, Nicholas Hennequin, and Grayson Jones; 10 great-grandchildren; her brother, Rev. Robert Lee Grant (Georgina) of Statesville, N.C.; and her very dear friend of many years, Mark Lockwood. She was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings, Patricia Grant and Charlie Grant.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Statesville at a later date.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



Shirley May Grant Wall



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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: Winter Fun

### ACROSS

1. Rope fiber
5. Mai \_\_\_\_\_
8. Russia's Terrible one, e.g.
12. "What \_\_\_\_\_ Happened to Baby Jane?"
13. Tattled
14. Actress Reed
15. Internet share-able
16. Inwardly
17. Black tropical hardwood
18. \*Winged impression in winter
20. Home of the Hawkeyes
21. Investigative report
22. Chicken or this?
23. Not dense
26. Early-day supercontinent
30. Afternoon shut-eye
31. Even though
34. Picture on a coat
35. Anti-seniors sentiment
37. Jean of Dadaism
38. Crewneck alternative
39. Half-man, half-goat
40. Arm cover
42. Victoria Beckham \_\_\_\_\_ Adams
43. Lacking sense of moral standards
45. Flying high
47. Often part of disguise
48. Queen-like
50. Wood file
52. \* \_\_\_\_\_ Plunge
56. Secret stash
57. Damien's prediction
58. Not at work
59. Opposite of cation

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|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60. Abbreviated seconds</li> <li>61. Precedes stated rank</li> <li>62. Moon pull</li> <li>63. *Like toddy or cocoa</li> <li>64. Trans-Siberian Railroad city</li> </ol> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shortens pants</li> <li>2. Like fair share</li> <li>3. Short for memorandum</li> <li>4. Antebellum</li> <li>5. Polynesian kingdom</li> <li>6. Ten-pin establishment</li> <li>7. Bucolic poem</li> <li>8. *Ride on runners</li> <li>9. *Winter building material</li> <li>10. Tolstoy's Karenina</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. R&amp;B Charles</li> <li>13. *Glittery decor</li> <li>14. Condescend</li> <li>19. Indian black tea</li> <li>22. Nibble</li> <li>23. Big mess</li> <li>24. Like a Druid, e.g.</li> <li>25. Celery, technically</li> <li>26. *Snowman's corn cob accessory</li> <li>27. Are not</li> <li>28. Wedding singer, e.g.</li> <li>29. Questioned</li> <li>32. *Snow _____, ammunition</li> <li>33. *"But I heard him exclaim, _____ he drove out of sight..."</li> <li>36. *Winter walking aid</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38. Type of consonant</li> <li>40. Actors' grp.</li> <li>41. a.k.a. strict vegetarians</li> <li>44. Mature, as in fruit</li> <li>46. Like Silas of "The Da Vinci Code"</li> <li>48. Young Montague</li> <li>49. Decide at the polls</li> <li>50. Jasmine of "Aladdin"</li> <li>51. Turns blue litmus red</li> <li>52. #42 Across, once</li> <li>53. Cheese from Netherlands</li> <li>54. Contributions to the poor</li> <li>55. Stink to high heaven</li> <li>56. *Arctic _____, snowmobile brand</li> </ol> |
|--|---|---|



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