

The Macon County

# NEWS

& Shopping Guide

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weekly*

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# Macon County librarian has seen many changes over her three-decade tenure

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Karen Wallace has a large stack of books and a reading list “a mile long.” And, since the end of 2022 will mark the end of her more than 30-year career as a librarian, retirement years will afford her time to enjoy reading, as well as other pursuits, such as hiking and traveling.

The native New Englander attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and, other than a stint as a librarian in Louisiana, has resided in the state.

Wallace has not just overseen the Macon County library, but since 2006, has been the Fontana Regional Director, the scope of which includes six libraries in three counties – In Macon, the Macon County Public Library, Hudson Library in Highlands, the Nantahala Community Library; in Jackson County, the Jackson County Public Library and the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library; and in Swain County, the Marianna Black Library.

In Macon County, she has helped oversee the building of the current library in Franklin, the renovation and expansion of the Hudson Library in Highlands, the logistics in play to eventually move the Nantahala library into a new facility, and more.

“There have been a number of building-related projects that I’ve been involved in,” she explained. “Moving the Macon County Library from the [Senior Services] center [on Wayah Street] involved doubling the library space, hiring more staff, and realizing a facility that welcomes people.

This library offers space to gather in the central part, which we call the ‘living room’ ... to relax, to feel comfortable.”

Wallace has also experienced significant technological changes during her almost four decades in library services.

“I’ve worn a lot of hats, and when I first started as a librarian there was no Internet. We used a punch machine to check out books. In 1995, I remember going to training to learn about what the World Wide Web was. Within a year, we had dial-up service in the library.”

Wallace said a highlight of her career has been promoting the library as not only a place to read, learn, and enjoy resources, but also to glean information about how to utilize technology. She pointed out that library staff is trained to help people navigate new devices, which is especially needed after Christmas.

“For me and for the staff, having an opportunity to help bring people together, and to help them find what they’re looking for – that’s always been satisfying,” said Wallace.

The main challenge she has had to face is pushback regarding some resources.

“If I pull any book off of a shelf, someone will have an objection to it,” she said. “Not everyone will approve or value all of what a library offers. And some people don’t agree about what tax dollars should be spent on. But it’s about people’s choice regarding what to read, view, and participate in.”

In early December, Wallace received the 2022 N.C. Public Library Director of the Year Award for her long-time efforts. Although Wallace was “honored,” the timing made the



Macon County Public Library’s regional director, Karen Wallace, is retiring. Abby Hardison (R) began serving as the new librarian in early December.



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achievement bittersweet in that her husband of 38 years, Brett Deal, had just passed away the previous month.

Stepping into Wallace's shoes is Abby Hardison, originally from Georgia, who became the Macon County librarian in mid-December. Having served as a librarian in the eastern part of North Carolina for seven years, Hardison learned about the Macon County library position opening and applied, knowing that she and her husband had the desire to get closer to North Georgia family members. Both Hardison and her husband, Jim, have a history of visiting Franklin as children.

"It just all came together," said Hardison. "I'm incredibly excited about this opportunity and feel very privileged to be in this position. I'm also thrilled to be a part of the community."

Hardison earned her master's in library sciences from East Carolina University. One of her first main tasks will be overseeing the Nantahala Library project – to move the small library adjacent to the Nantahala School into its own facility, a building purchased by Macon County.

"We're hopeful that will happen by mid-2023," said Hardison. "[Macon County] is a vibrant and diverse community, and my priority will be to continue to provide vibrant and diverse materials," she said.

Local clubs and organizations often donate books to the library. Pictured from left is county librarian Karen Wallace, literary chairman of the Macon County Republican Women's Club Grace Johnson, and club president Linda Herman.



*From Our Family to Yours at Christmas*

As we welcome this season of peace and joy, our thoughts turn to the many good folks who have blessed us with their generosity and support. We wish you all the very, merriest season followed by a happy and prosperous year.

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# Appalachian Trail length extended by 8.4 miles

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

The total length of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) typically changes slightly periodically – sometimes annually – due to footpath relocations and more precise measurement techniques. An end-of-2022-approved increase was due to three significant detours/relocations in New York and Maine, and a series of more precise measurements in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Thus, the A.T. was extended from 2,190 miles to 2,198.4 miles.

The national Appalachian Trail Conservancy, for which there is a local group – Franklin A.T. Community Council – reported that the detour was implemented in the spring of 2022 to bypass a dangerous road crossing over the heavily trafficked Palisades Interstate Parkway in New Jersey. Completed in 1937, the A.T. is the longest hiking-only footpath in the world and travels through 14 states along the crests and valleys of the Appalachian Mountain Range, from its southern terminus at Springer Mountain, Ga., to the northern terminus at Katahdin, Me. As a unit of the National Park System, the A.T. is managed under a partnership between public and private sectors led by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Accessible near Franklin off Highway 64 at the Winding Stair pass, more than three million people hike the A.T. annually, and over 3,000 people from the United States and internationally attempt to “thru-hike” the entire footpath in a



A few additional miles were added recently to the Appalachian Trail, which runs through a portion of Macon County, including at Wayah Bald, where there is an accessible fire tower. Photo by Robert Solesbee

single year.

Also new for the A.T. is the opening of a seasonal potable water source at Anthony Wayne Recreation Area in Bear Mountain, N.Y. The route across the Palisades Interstate Parkway overpass is the official A.T. route until a new permanent crossing is developed.

For more information about the A.T. and the local Franklin A.T. Community Council, visit [www.atmile110.com](http://www.atmile110.com).

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## The Greatest Gift of All

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# Panthers winter sports season near mid-point with mixed results

Dan Finnerty - Sports Writer

## Basketball has tough night vs. Pisgah Bears

Three of the four Franklin High School (FHS) basketball squads boast winning records as of mid-December. FHS began its regular season Nov. 29 after numerous scrimmages for both junior varsity and varsity women's and men's teams. On Dec. 16 they hosted Pisgah for the eighth of 20 regular season games, plus a New Year's weekend tournament. The games against the Bears were tough with only the men's varsity team coming out on top, in a hard-fought 77-71 win. Prior to the game against North Henderson on Dec. 20, the current cumulative record stands at 21-9; 6-1 in the 3A Conference 54. Men's varsity, coached by Doug Plemmons and Jay Brooks, lead the way at 8-1 overall followed by the junior varsity (JV) women who hold a 6-1 record and are coached by Bekah and Josh Brooks. Next come the JV men who stand at 5-2, coached by Tres Rogers and Ryan Raby. Last, but not least, the varsity women's team is 3-5 and guided by Scott Hartbarger and Justin Moffitt.

In terms of per game statistics for the varsity teams, senior Tori Ensley leads women's scoring in both points and steals (13.9 and 2 respectively). Junior Avery Moffitt is first in shooting percentage at 45% with sophomore

Cali Queen leading in assists at 2.5, and junior Breonna Carver averaging almost one block in each game she has played. The team leader in rebounds is senior Roslynn McCollum (6).

As for the men's program, senior Cal Drake is far and away the star player, leading in five categories: Scoring (19.2), shooting percentage (48%), assists (2.3), rebounds (9.8), and blocks (1.8). Senior Parker Cabe leads the way in steals at 3.3 a game.

With plenty of regular season and then conference - and potentially state playoffs remaining, coaches are generally happy with what they have seen from the teams so far this year. Men's varsity Coach Plemmons offers some reasons for his boys' success.

"While individual stats are important ... they practice and play extremely hard, defensively they are holding opponents under 50 points per game on average, and lastly, this

team is very unselfish ... they don't seem to care who receives credit as long as the outcome of the game is on our favor."

Similarly, Hartbarger lauded the effort his varsity women have demonstrated.

"They battled both Cherokee and Rabun County, who are both leading their confer-

ence. I am proud of the girls' effort and steps they are taking; we fought hard against Pisgah and are getting better every game. We have had a string of tough games and playing good teams also."

County Christmas Tournament Dec. 28-30 with specific game times still to be determined. **Update:** Franklin High School closed out its 2022 home basketball schedule Dec. 20, with the men's varsity team winning a thrilling triple overtime win against North Henderson, 96-92. The hard fought victory ended an evening during which all four basketball squads prevailed over their Scarlet Knight opponents. The impressive win leaves the Panthers men first in conference play with North Henderson in third, and West Henderson in second. FHS' next home game, Jan.10 is against the Falcons.

## Swimming program logs last meet of 2022

Dwain and Dina Picou led the FHS swim team to Buncombe County Dec. 16 for the second of three scheduled meets there - this one, a five-team contest at the TCR Invitational. Participating schools included TC Roberson, Asheville, West Henderson, and Smoky Mountain high schools. For the first time this season, the Panthers did not come away with first place - in either men's or women's rankings for a meet. Instead, host TC Roberson took first: 384 points for the women and 347 for the men. The Panthers logged a third-place finish for the women, with 251 points, just behind second place Asheville who



Franklin Panthers compete at a recent swim meet in Buncombe County.

Next up for Panther basketball is the Towns

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**We wish you a happy holiday season!**



finished a close second with 381 points. For the men, FHS finished second with 222. Coaches Dwain and Dina Picou were happy with the overall results, nonetheless.

“TC Roberson and Asheville high schools are both 4A (as compared to FHS being 3A, which is one level lower/smaller school) and are two of the fastest teams in Asheville,” they said. While a few swimmers were missing for different reasons, “we had a good number of our swimmers beat their best times and some of our relays had faster regional qualifying times.”

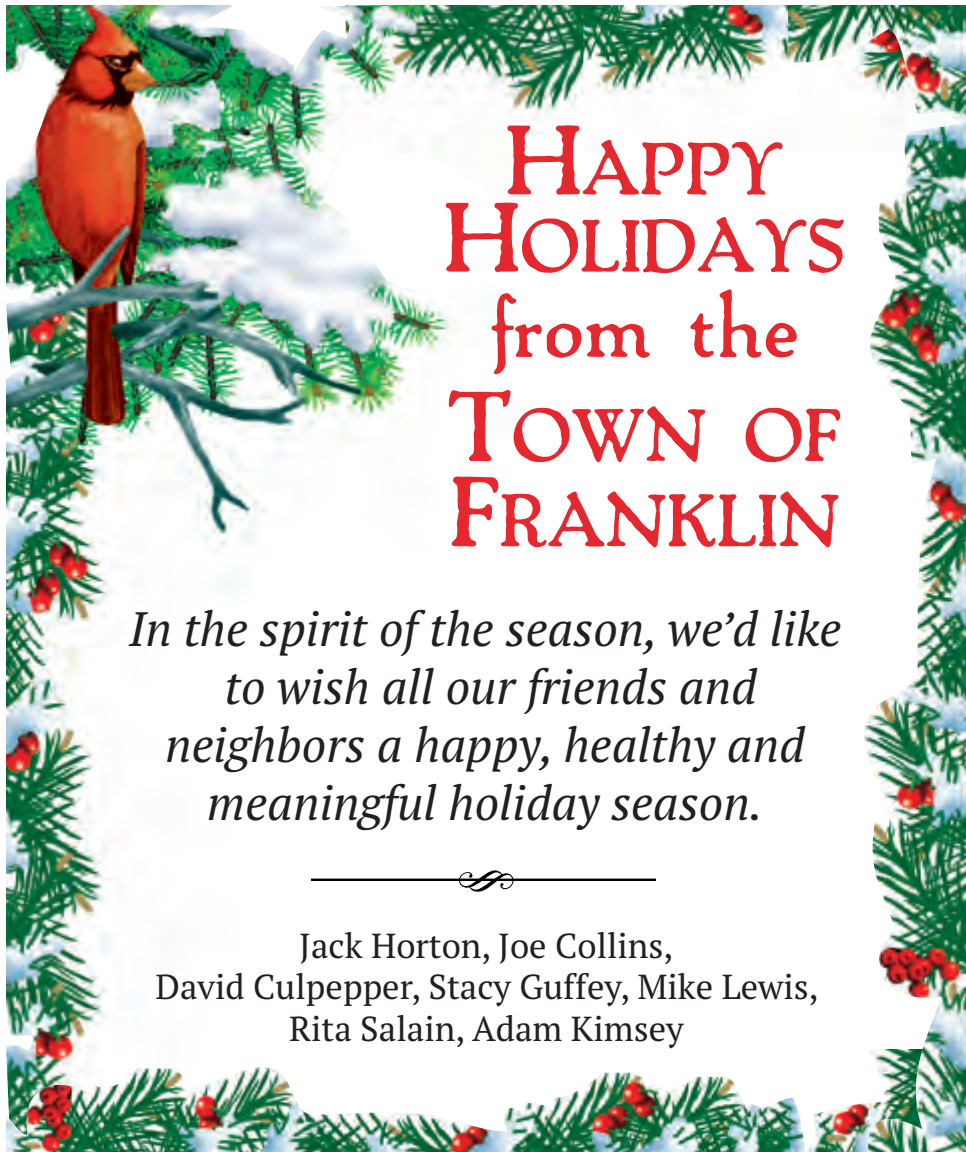
Some individual standouts include senior Clayton Guynn taking first place in both the boys 50- and 100-yard freestyle races, (out of 18 and 9 contenders respectively) and Jose Gomez (junior) coming in third for the boys 100 yard butterfly. On the women’s side, junior Logan Guynn finished third in the girl’s 100 yard breaststroke while Natalie Ballard, also a junior, finished second in both the girl’s 50- and 500-yard freestyle events. Sophomore Zoi Walker came in second for the girls 200 yard individual medley event, which includes butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle swims. In the girls 200 yard freestyle relay, the team of Walker, Kate Phillips, Callie Roper, and Rylee Cassada took first place for the Panthers. Cassada, Phillips, Guynn and Ballard also brought home third place in the girls 400 yard freestyle relay.

The next scheduled meet for FHS swim-

mers is Friday, Jan. 13, 2023. It will again be held at Buncombe County Schools and will consist of six schools competing.

**Wrestling update**

In wrestling, the Panthers recently competed in the Great Smoky Mountain Grapple, held at Harrah’s Cherokee Center, Asheville Dec. 16 and 17. The meet included 34 men’s and 23 women’s teams from North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina high schools. On the heels of the recent quad meet here in Franklin, Head Coach Coley Tyler was accentuating the positive. “We cut down on the number of losses by pin on Tuesday (Dec. 13 FHS-hosted meet), which was great to see after all the work and emphasis we have put on that in practice. We did better against every team the second time around, which is a testament to growth and improvement.” “We had six of our nine wrestlers make it to day two on Saturday [at Asheville]. The Panthers’ Abby Carpenter (girls 126-lb. weight class), was again a standout on the team with a first-place finish where she scored 24 team points. Carpenter won three matches, all by falls, over North Henderson (quarterfinal), Rosman (semifinal), and Mitchell (final). FHS rolls into the Christmas break with three more matches this week; one at North Henderson, Dec. 20, and two at Swain Dec. 22 (individual tournament) and Dec. 23 (duals tournament).



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# Town holds appreciation luncheon

At the annual Holiday/Employee Appreciation Luncheon on Dec. 16, the Town of Franklin's council and manager had the opportunity to say thank you to employees for their dedication and commitment to providing services for town citizens and visitors.

The luncheon was held at Fat Buddies. As part of the luncheon, employees collected non-perishable food items to donate to Macon County CareNet. In total, more than 700 items were collected. An Employee of the Year award was presented and door prizes given.



Town Planner Justin Setser (L) presents the Employee of the Year award for 2022 to Gio Hernandez.

Justin Setser, Town Planner/IT Director spoke to Hernandez's character and dedication to the Town.

"Gio is always helpful, committed, and willing to do whatever is needed to get things done. He is an asset to the Town and this award was well deserved," he noted.

Council Members Stacy Guffey, Mike Lewis and Rita Salain attended the luncheon and each thanked all of the employees for providing excellent customer service, for their continued service to the town and the citizens, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### Employee of the Year

The Employee of the Year award is new for the Town and the picture of the recipient will be displayed and name added to a permanent plaque in the Town Hall. The recipient is gifted with their own plaque and a monetary award. The Employee of the Year was Gio Hernandez. Hernandez has worked for the Town for a year and a half, but in that time has made a tremendous impact.



More than 700 food items were collected for CareNet at the Town's Employee Appreciation Luncheon.

# Home For The Holidays

*There's no place we'd rather be,  
Than here in this community —  
To celebrate from beginning to end  
The holiday season with all of our friends!*

*Merry Christmas and many thanks for  
making us feel so welcome here.*

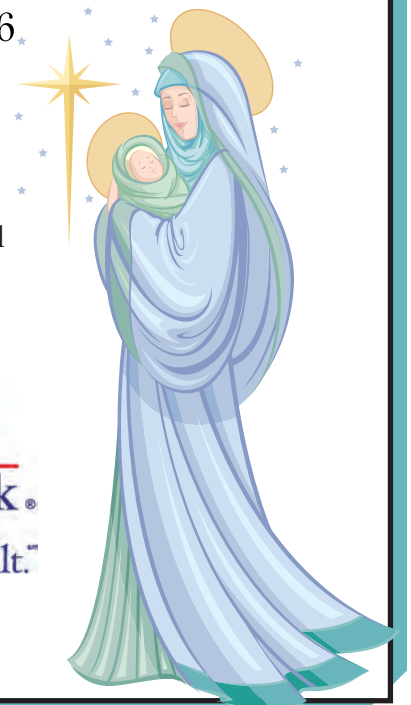
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For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name  
shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The mighty God,  
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

—Isaiah 9:6

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Thank you for being such wonderful  
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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

I know Santa is making his list and checking it twice; and I'm making a list also, a list of things the town will do next year.

First, the board and staff will begin the annual budget development process at the beginning of the next year. Like always the town will address some very big and expensive items.

Second, one huge item on a wish list will be the replacement of the water pre-clarifier tank at the water plant. The tank was built along with the plant back in the 1960s. The tank is on its last leg of service, and a replacement tank will cost somewhere around \$2.5 to 3 million.

This past spring, town staff submitted a grant request to the state for funds to build a new tank, along with a grant to replace waterlines and a water tank on Dog Mountain. The \$3 million grant for the Dog Mountain project was approved; however, the pre-clarifier tank project was not approved. Staff and consulting engineers have resubmitted the grant request for a second round of review. We are hopeful the town will be awarded full or partial funding. An alternative would be for the state to grant an interest free loan, as we have received in the past. Such a government loan is tantamount to receiving free money.

Third, in the budget review process the staff and board will also be funding several more road paving projects based on need and priority. On another positive note, the repaving activity should begin to decrease as the town has been aggressively repaving roads in the past few years.

Fourth, at the beginning of the new year a review of sidewalk projects will be initiated. The proposed sidewalk on NC 106 from the shopping center to Cobb Road will continue to be developed. It is a top item on my wish list for the town. There are a number of potential funding sources that could make this project a reality in a rather fast period. I am excited about creative ways to potentially fund the sidewalk instead of relying on NCDOT prioritization funding that could take years.

Fifth, but not last, on many people's wish list is installation of downtown electric vehicle charging stations. One idea I have is for the town government to transition to is electric town vehicles where feasible. I believe our light duty vehicle fleet could go electric in the near term. In the long run the electric vehicles could become very cost effective from both a maintenance and fueling perspective.

Next year will be a full and busy, but for now let me just say to you Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

## Letters to the Editor

### Excellent care at Franklin's Mission Hospital

A recent accident brought me to the ER in our local Mission Hospital. The whole ER staff was professional and caring, making sure I was comfortable and informed of my treatment.

From the ER, I was transferred to a room on the second floor, where I spent several days. My care was excellent. Dr. Franks and the whole nursing staff were competent, efficient, compassionate and friendly. They answered all of my questions while keeping me up to date of my treatment.

The cafeteria and the serving staff were wonderful, making sure each of my meals were vegetarian and checking with me on my future meals. And, I would like to thank one of the occupational therapists for his involvement with my treatment.

And last, but definitely not least, a shout out to the janitors who work day and night to keep our hospital clean.

All in all, I believe our Franklin Mission Hospital offers excellent care with a knowledgeable and compassionate staff. I am very thankful they were there when I needed them.

Linda Graves – Franklin, N.C.

### Reminder to pray for this country

I just came across this saved [letter] in your paper by Dan Martin of Franklin. Seems like it is time to print it again as things seem to be getting worse. This was in the Macon County News 6-3-202.

### Country has strayed far from basic tenets

The following is a poem by Rev J.H. Boetcker, an early 20th century opponent of organized labor.

#### THE 10 CANNOTS:

1. You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
2. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
3. You cannot help little men by tearing down big men.
4. You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.
5. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.
6. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money.
7. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting hatred.
8. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn.
9. You cannot build character and courage by destroying men's initiative and independence.
10. And you cannot help men permanently by doing for

them what they can and should do for themselves.

We are soooo far from these tenets. Boetcker is also credited with the phrase ..."A man is judged by the company he keeps, and a company is judged by the men it keeps, and the people of Democratic nations are judged by the type and caliber of officers they elect."

Pray for this country.

Mary Wardlow Bermke – Franklin, N.C.

### Nuisance dog ordinance does need to be addressed

In response to the nuisance dog ordinance everything you said is true and definitely needs to be addressed. I've been trying to get something done for years. I've been to meetings and they just look at you like you are stupid. Those corrupt good ole boys that sit on the board have hunting dogs and don't want the ordinance changed because they would have to make their own dogs shut up. I've never seen such a panel of worthless commissioners. Like you said ... their only in it for themselves. We've been dealing with our neighbors' barking dogs for years and can't enjoy our home because of it. It is our right and I wish this would change but you have to make sure they won't be voted back in. If enough of us speak up then maybe they will have to do something. Thanks for speaking out.

Felicia Henderson – Franklin, N.C.



**CORRECTION:** In an article in the Dec. 8 issue of *The Macon County News*, veteran Douglas Keyworth was presented a Quilt of Valor and was said to have been a Korean War veteran. Keyworth is a Vietnam era veteran.

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Contributing Writer      Contributing Writer

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Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year!*

*From  
Jennifer Stanley  
Stephanie Hall  
Pat Bell  
&  
Pat Tippett*



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# Christmas lights at the Hallers



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Saturday, December 24, 6pm

## Carols and Candlelight

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## Holly Springs Baptist Church

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# Merry Christmas

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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. 11 - 18. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



## **Macon County Sheriff's Department**

December 12

Jennifer Lynn Higdon, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, maintaining a place for a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Lieutenant Dereck Jones made the arrest.

William Clay Tucci Caselli, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, identity theft, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer and possession of drug paraphernalia. Lieutenant Dereck Jones made the arrest.

Shawn Patrick Cullins, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Lieutenant Dereck Jones made the arrest.

Matthew Dakota Shuller, was charged with failure to ap-

pear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

December 13

William Clay Tuccicaselli, was charged with failure to appear and larceny. Amber L. Wright made the arrest.

Jessica Lee Gerba, was charged with breaking and entering and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Zachary Robert Downs, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. William R. Younce made the arrest.

Christina Melissa Phillips, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

December 14

James Brooks Ramsey, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Sarah Lynne Wisman, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of a schedule II controlled substance. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Samantha Katurah Phillips, was charged with fugitive from out of state. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

December 15

Alexander Carl Farland, was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen vehicle. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Hailey Madison McCall, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Ronald Lee Wickham, was charged with a true bill of indictment. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

December 17

Hugh Dorsey Barnard IV, was charged with simple as-

sault, assault by strangulation, assault inflicting serious bodily injury and attempted common law robbery. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

Kimberly Marie Cates, was charged with failure to appear for resisting arrest. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

December 18

Kimberly Marie Cates, was charged with offenses committed in jurisdiction. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

## **Franklin Police Department**

December 11

Allen Scott Moore, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, carry concealed weapon, fail to register motor vehicle, failure to display registration plate, no insurance and speeding 64 in 55 mph zone. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

December 12

Denton Eugene Mathis, was charged with communicating threats. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

James Brooks Ramsey, was charged with felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

December 15

John Daniel Oconnor, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and speeding 64 mph in 50 mph zone. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Danelle Kay Jimenez, was charge with possession of drug paraphernalia and resist/obstruct/delay. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas with all sincerity*

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Prosperity

Here's hoping your holiday delivers it all. Merry Christmas!

From the Staff & Board of Directors of the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce



**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Manna Food Bank is now at Bethel United Methodist Church. To reserve a food box, call (828)634-1116 and leave a message with the following information: your first name and last initial; phone number to confirm pick-up time; number of people in your family; if there are allergies in the family; and any specialty items you might need, like diapers, etc. Pick up is at Bethel UMC, 81 Bethel Church Road, off Highlands Road.

Christmas at the Hallers is happening 6 to 9 p.m. nightly thru New Year's, 607 Rabbit Creek Rd., .06 of a mile from 441 N. The displays include 100,000 Christmas lights, 10 lit trees, animated figures including a ferris wheel, a merry-go-round and a skating pond.

Music and Light Show in sync with music is being shown at Wired evenings in December from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Tune your radio to the station shown on the signs to experience a light show with music. Wired is located at 121 Highlands Road (in the Shops at Riverwalk shopping center).

Franklin Seventh Day Adventist is discontinuing its Community Service Outreach Program at 93 Church Street, Suite 203.

Macon County Landfill and Recycling/Convenience Centers will close at noon on Saturday, Dec. 24. All will remain closed on Sunday, Dec. 25. Recycling/convenience centers will also be closed on Sunday, Jan. 1. A normal schedule will be in effect on all other days.

Don't spend Christmas Alone! First Baptist Church Christmas Gathering will be held on Sunday, Dec. 25. A free hot meal will be served from 1 to 3 p.m. or until the food is gone. The church is located at 69 Iotla Street. Winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves will be given away, plus music and a movie. If you would like to help cook or serve, call the FBC office at (828)369-2642.

American Red Cross Blood Drives will be held in Franklin on Tuesday, Dec. 27, at Lowe's, 161 Franklin Plaza, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; and at the Macon County Library, 149 Siler Farm Road, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 30, at Food Lion, 245 Macon Plaza Drive, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling (800)733-2767. All who come to give blood through Jan. 2 will get a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 28, from 4 to 6 p.m. The church is located at 86 E. Hickory Knoll Rd. For more information, call the church at (828)369-9300 or Jannie at (813)305-9433.

Yoga in the Library will be held on Thursday, Dec. 29, 6 to 7 p.m. at the Macon County Public Library. Meet in the Living Room for a slow flow yoga class, moving mindfully through the body with the breath to create a deep sense of calm and relaxation, releasing tension, stress and anxiety. Bring your own mat if possible, and plan to arrive by 5:55 before the doors lock at 6 p.m.

Macon Early College (MEC) is accepting student enrollment applications for the 2023-24 school year. MEC serves grades ninth through 13 and is fully integrated into the Southwestern Community College system. Students have the opportunity to graduate in four or five years with a high school diploma and a two-year Associate's degree with transferable credits to a four-year university. Applications are available at mec.macon.k12.nc.us under the Parent Information tab. The deadline to submit an application for rising 9th graders is Feb. 17, 2023, and for rising 10th and 11th grade students the deadline is March 17, 2023. For more information, call the school at (828)524-2002.

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

Macon Chips, Franklin's Wood Carving Club meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Macon County Public Library and on Thursdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 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.

Girl Scout Daisy and Brownie Volunteers needed for Troop 2996 in Franklin. This is a great opportunity to help 5 to 8 year olds learn and grow. For more information, call Diane Peltz at (828)371-2823 or email dianepeltz1953@gmail.com.

Uptown Gallery Children and Adult Art Classes and Workshops in acrylic, watercolor, acrylic paint pouring, encaustic, precious metal clay, wire sculpture and glass fusing. Free painting in the classroom Mondays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Membership meeting second Sunday of the month at 3 p.m. The gallery is located at 30 E. Main St. in Franklin. For more information, call (828)349-4607.

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Meetings are held Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd.; Sunday, 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., and Thursday, 12 noon at St. Agnes Episcopal Church on 66 Church St.; Wednesday, 7 p.m. at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd. On-line meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org. To speak with a member of A.A., call (828)349-4357.

Dorothy and John Crawford Senior Center is now offering limited in-person classes at the Robert Carpenter Community Building. A variety of exercise classes and a writing group are offered in the afternoons for adults over 50. For more information, call (828)349-2058.

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.

**CHURCH HAPPENINGS**

Franklin Christian Church Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m. The public is invited to sing Christmas Carols and participate in a great night of fellowship with cookies, pastries, hot chocolate and hot apple cider right after. The church is located at 156 Bellevue Park Road, Franklin.

Holly Springs Baptist Church Christmas Eve Service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. The church choir will present "Wonderful Love." Everyone is invited to attend. No service on Christmas morning. The church is located at 366 Holly Springs Church Road, Franklin.

Spiritual Light Center will host prayer and meditation on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m., followed by a burning bowl ceremony. Christmas Day service, 11 a.m. will feature Christmas caroling in the sanctuary with the Grinch. No service on Jan 1. Yoga starts on Jan 2, 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Free and suitable for all levels. The center is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant.

Grace Presbyterian Church Friday, Dec. 23 at 7 p.m., Christmas Adam Service with lessons, carols, children's moments, candlelight. Christmas Day Service Sunday, Dec. at 11 a.m. The church is located at 360 First Street, Franklin.

"A Community Christmas" Friday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m., at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, 1028 Georgia Road. Celebrate the season with hymns, traditional Christmas songs, worship and inspiration honoring the true meaning of the Christmas. Presented by Cowee Church, Discover Church and local ministries and worship teams. Doors open one hour prior to the service. Free admission.

Email your church events to maconcountynews@gmail.com

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE** ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

S	E	L	L		H	U	T		D	A	N	C	E		
P	R	O	A	S		G	O	T		E	N	A	T	E	
L	A	D	E	N		R	Y	E		L	E	M	O	N	
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**SUDOKU** ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

**DAYLIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

1:00 P.M. Saturday, December 24th

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# Shop With a Cop dishes out Christmas cheer

Shop With A Cop is a program that for more than 25 years has given underprivileged children an opportunity to shop for a Christmas gift for themselves and a loved one. Last weekend, approximately 100 area service-oriented professionals serving in various county departments, including police, sheriff, fire, social services, emergency, forest service, wildlife, and more, paired with 250-300 Macon County children in need. The volunteers picked up the children, took them shopping at Wal-Mart with a \$100 donated gift card, and took them to the high school cafeteria to eat pizza and cookies, where volunteers helped them get their packages wrapped. The children spent time with Santa Claus and had their picture taken, before they returned home.



Alex Courtney & Owen  
 with Master Officer John Cherry and HPD Chief Andrea Holland



Master Officer Matthew Bowman & Isaac



Photos by  
 Ellen Randall &  
 Vickie Carpenter

Hoyt and Cora  
 with FPD Officer Mike Bingham



MCSD Officer Gabe Bingham  
 with Charolette



Doyle & Damen  
 with MCSD Officer Mace



MCSD Officer Troy Burt and Alexander

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Officer Curtis Dowdle and Kathi Dowdle with River & Skylar



Justin, Tripp, Sailor and Knox with Sheriff Brent Holbrooks



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Sadie, Spencer & Santa



Soren and Destiny with FPD Officer Laurie Beegle

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# Christmas wreaths laid at state veterans cemetery

National Wreaths Across America Day is honored each December in coordination with wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose is to remember fallen U.S. veterans, as well as to honor those who serve; and teach the children of this great country the value of freedom.

On Monday, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m., approximately 100 volunteers gathered at the Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain to lay a wreath on each grave in the cemetery. After the wreaths were placed on the graves, a ceremony was conducted at 12 noon in front of the Chapel where the U.S. and the military flags are displayed. Military and ROTC served as the Honor Guard presenting flags. Members of the Revolutionary War Reenactment Unit fired the gun salute, followed by a second gun salute by a military unit. Military veterans and active duty, and ROTC members placed wreaths at each military branch flag. The ceremony concluded with taps.

Jack and Connie Southard participated this year because Jack's brother, William Kent Southard, was buried there, in the Vietnam Section, on Sept. 12, 2022. There are 6,100 veterans buried in the Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery. The volunteers were instructed to place wreaths on every other grave as the group only had just over 3,400 wreaths to place.

After the wreaths were placed, many of the volunteers were in tears because so many graves were with-



Photos by Sharon Southard

out wreaths. Since Jack's brother Kent was buried there in September, at least 20 new graves have appeared in the Vietnam Section. The purchase of a wreath can help making a wreath possible for each grave next year. If wreaths are purchased by Jan. 15, 2023, the wreath manufacturer will donate a wreath. That is getting two for the price of one. To sponsor a wreath for the Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain visit [www.wreath-sacrossamerica.org/nc0010](http://www.wreath-sacrossamerica.org/nc0010), click on "Sponsor," then "Sponsor A Wreath." The wreath that is purchased will be matched by the wreath manufacturer.

Submitted by Connie Southard



## Deaths & Funerals

### James Robert 'Bob' Hunter

James Robert "Bob" Hunter, 82, of Dacula, Ga., passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022.

He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Margaret Evitt Hunter; sons, Neal Hunter (Lisa) and Tony Hunter; four grandchildren, Stephen Hunter, Lindsey Ottaviano, Chase Hunter, Cole Hunter; two great-grandchildren, Jaden Hunter and Ava Ottaviano; eight sisters and brothers, Nancy Tallent, June Jones, Dinah Hunter, Tom Hunter, Frank Hunter, Walter Hunter, Ed Hunter and David Hunter. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Eunice Hunter and sister, Helen Reynolds.



James Robert Hunter

He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force. He graduated from Franklin High School. After high school, he continued to further his education and graduated from The University of Georgia "Go Dawgs." He worked for AT&T for 33 years before going to work for Home Depot until his retirement. Bob and Margaret were members of the Church on Main in Snellville. He was an avid Bulldog fan and in his spare time he loved to fish and hunt, but what he loved the most was spending time with family especially his grandkids.

A funeral service was held on Sunday, Dec. 4, at Tom M. Wages Lawrenceville Chapel, in Lawrenceville, Ga. Interment followed at East Shadowlawn Memorial Gardens.

Condolences may be made at [www.wagesfuneralhome.com](http://www.wagesfuneralhome.com). Tom M. Wages Funeral Service, Lawrenceville, has been entrusted with the arrangements.

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*Our Hearts have been touched*

by the outpouring of love from our friends and neighbors due to the sudden death of our oldest grandson, Trevis Ligon. Perhaps you sent a card, came for a visit, brought food to our home or even made a memorial gift to AARC in his name, our family can not thank you enough. Trevis touched so many lives, he was loved by all. His spirit will live on.

Dr. Tom & Sharon Archer, and Family







# Deaths & Funerals

## Carolyn Jean Loacano

Carolyn Jean Loacano, 56, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, Dec. 16, 2022. She was born July 12, 1966, in Dearborn, Mich., to Linda Kay Chapman Allan and the late John Keith Parris. She was a homemaker and she loved her mountain home in Franklin. She loved nature, gardening, hummingbirds, river watching, and star gazing and was madly in love with her family.

She is survived by her mother, Linda Allan; her husband, Phillip Loacano; daughter, Angela Mikula (Mitch); and grandson, Jackson Mikula; son, Andrew Loacano (Deanna); and granddog Bruce; sister, Karen Johnson (Brian); nephew, Evan Brophy; brother, John Parris (Barb Gaynor); Dawn and Bob Garver, Robin and Cass Gieraltowski, Beverly Guertin, and Teri Craft; our beautiful family on Ellijay and cat "Faith."

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her grandfather, Carl C. Parris of Bryson City.

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

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Loacano family.

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



Carolyn Jean Loacano

## Wenona Cabe Curtis

Wenona Cabe Curtis, 76, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022. She was born Aug. 2, 1946, in Macon County to the late Harvey Cabe and Bonnie Shepard Cabe.

She was retired from the Macon County school system as a bus driver and teacher's assistant. She was of the Christian faith, loved to read and visit the beach, and loved Christmas lights and decorating for the holidays. She enjoyed spending time with her family and was always willing to help others. She loved collecting pictures of her family.

Survivors include her two sons, Joey Curtis (Melissa) of Franklin, and Eric Curtis (Susan) of Orlando, Fla.; four grandchildren, Emilee Higdon (Garrett), Seth Curtis (Sarah), Caleb Curtis, and Joshua (Georgianna); a sister, Deloris Mason (Eddie); and a brother, John Cabe (Joann).

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Loretta McDonald; and a brother, Tommy Cabe.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Thursday, Dec. 22, at 2 p.m., with Eddie Mason and Garrett Higdon officiating.

Burial will be private. The family will receive friends following the service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society, 3380 Chastain Meadows Pkwy NW, Kennesaw, Ga 30333 or online at [give.choa.org](http://give.choa.org).

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

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Curtis family.



Wenona Cabe Curtis

## Otis Denver Watts

Otis Denver Watts, 81, of Franklin and Sylva, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Monday, Dec. 12, 2022.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Glenn William and Alice Blanche Jones Watts. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Faye Frizzell Watts; brothers, Wallace and Terrell Watts; and a sister, Edith Watts Bobo.

He was a United States Army veteran, who faithfully served his country in the Vietnam War. He was a member of the Little Savannah Baptist Church in Sylva, where he formerly taught Sunday School. He was a longstanding member of the Pipefitters Union and the UA. He retired from Southwestern Community College where he initially taught Plumbing and Heating and then went on to create and teach the Welding Program. He often thought he might be one of the "oldest licensed plumbers" in North Carolina. He loved making Bluegrass music, playing the mandolin, and collecting antique cars. Anyone that knew him could always count on him to share one of his many funny stories.

He is survived by his wife, Essie Mae Dills; son, Steven Watts (Michelle) of Sylva; Essie Mae's children, Eddie Dills (Roberta) of Onokama, Mich., and Shari O'Neill (Craig) of Metamora, Mich.; one sister, Mary Sue Watts Richardson of Greenwood, S.C.; seven grandchildren, Shawn Benscoter, Isabella Bonhotel, Tonya Dills, Brandy Tyler, Robert Miljan, Ryan Miljan, and Annie Marshall; numerous great-grandchildren; special niece, Amanda Patterson; special nephew, Thomas Richardson; and many other nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A funeral service was held Sunday, Dec. 18, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Eddie Stillwell officiating. Military honors were provided by VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108.

Burial was in the Stillwell Cemetery in Sylva.

Pallbearers were Shawn Benscoter, Eddie Dills, Craig Baran, Gary Greene, Gregg Buchanan, and Jeff Frizzell.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to VVA Chapter 994, 249 Sloan Road, Franklin, NC 28734 to help with scholarships and disabled veterans.

Online condolences can be left at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com). Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Otis Denver Watts

## Danny Lee Thomas

Danny Lee Thomas, 50, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of Barbara Mae Guffey Thomas and the late Dewey Leon Thomas. In addition to his dad, he was preceded in death by a son, Nathaniel Johnson, and a granddaughter, Brexley Mae. He loved motorcycles, big rigs, and hot rods. He could fix anything.

He is survived by his mother, Barbara Thomas; grandmother, Ruby Collins of Franklin; four children, Danny Thomas Jr., Chastity Guffey (Sasha), McKenzie Bowling (Cody), and Brandon Thomas, all of Franklin; sister, Angie Gravitt of Franklin; numerous grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 6 to 7 p.m., one hour prior to the service. Rev. Darian Cochran will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Macon Funeral Home to help with the funeral expenses or to one's favorite charity.

Online condolences can be left at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com). Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Danny Lee Thomas

## Ronald Cleyborn Holland

Ronald Cleyborn Holland, 75, known as "Ronnie" by his friends and family, went on to Glory on Dec. 14, 2022.

He was born on March 28, 1947, to Kerma Cleyborn and Mavis Young Holland. When he was able, Ronnie and his wife, Sue, could easily be found on Sunday mornings at Prentiss Church. He loved the Lord and liked going to church where he enjoyed the worship and the message. Through the years, he truly cherished the special friendship he had with his pastor, Don Moffitt, who was also his brother-in-law.

He was always ready with a laugh or a joke. He loved to cut up and was usually chuckling about something. He was one of those people who could find humor in almost any situation. He really loved spending time and telling tales with his coffee-drinking buddies in the mornings at either Bojangles or McDonalds.

He liked working outdoors and gardening, especially when it came to raising tomatoes and cucumbers to share with friends. He enjoyed yard work and was very particular about everything being orderly. Not only was he meticulous about his yard, his cars and how he dressed reflected his desire for everything to be neat and tidy.

He worked as a bricklayer for Western Builders for many years. One of his favorite pastimes was reconditioning his 1972 Chevy C-10 pickup with his son, Darrin, putting in lots of hours working on that truck.

His family was in the center of his heart. His wife, children, and grandchildren were very dear to him. His extended family of brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews knew they could count on him to help in any situation in any way he could.

Left with many wonderful memories is his wife, Sue Farmer Holland; his children, Darrin Holland (Kathy) and Sherry Sanders (Ken); his step-daughters, Alicia Thomas (Buddy) and Amanda Houston (Josh); his grandchildren, Amber Chovanic (Dustin), Jamie Holbrooks, Cody Hurst, Payton Houston, and Paislee Houston; his siblings, Janet Holland, Loretta Holland, Phil Holland, Shelby Holland, along with several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his grandson, Brandon Wales; and his siblings, Leroy Holland, Gilbert Holland, Kathy Moffitt, and Michael Holland.

Graveside services were held Sunday, Dec. 18, at Hodgin Family Cemetery with Revs. Don Moffitt and Tim Hayes officiating.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfunerals.com](http://www.moffittfunerals.com).



Ronald Holland

## Teresa Norris Balcom

Teresa Norris Balcom, 59, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022.

She was the daughter of Evelyn Holt Norris and the late LT Norris. She loved spending time with her grandkids.

She was preceded in death by her father, and stepdaughter, Anastasia Scheufele.

She is survived by her mother; husband, Jon Balcom Jr.; sons, Alex Hurst and Kevin Hurst, both of Franklin; daughter, Toni Gregory, of Franklin; brothers, Ricky Norris, Tim Norris and Jackie Norris; sister, Della Wilson; numerous grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life was held Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Steve Reeves officiated.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Teresa Norris Balcom



# NASCAR celebrates 75 years of stock car racing this December

## NASCAR Wire Service

Dec. 14, is one of the most significant dates in NASCAR's history.

On December 14, 1947, Bill France Sr. gathered 35 of the most influential figures in racing at Daytona's Streamline Hotel to share his vision of a more prosperous future for their beloved sport.

As 'Big Bill' set the foundation of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing into motion that day, he was quoted as telling the group:

*"Stock car racing has got distinct possibilities for Sunday shows and we do not know how big it can be if it's handled properly... It can go the same way as big car racing (Indianapolis), I believe stock car racing can become a nationally recognized sport by having a National Point Standing. Stock car racing as we've been running it is not, in my opinion, the answer... We must try to get track owners and promoters interested in building stock car racing up. We are all interested in one thing — that is improving the present conditions. The answer lies in our group right here today to do it."*

In the last 75 years, NASCAR has expanded globally, with series in the U.S., Mexico, Canada, Brazil and Europe, and has produced some of the best drivers in motorsports.

## NASCAR History

Since its inception as the Strictly Stock Division, what is now the NASCAR Cup Series has evolved into one of the most popular sports in the world. In the beginning, the race cars were driven off the street and onto the track, but as safety technology advanced, changes were made to cars, as the racing machines of today are more complicated and technological than ever. NASCAR has grown with the series from the small organization formed



A series of three meetings convened in 1947 at the Streamline Hotel to establish criteria for professional stock car racing, leading to the formation of NASCAR.

on the sands of Daytona Beach to a thriving sport.

## Key milestones in the history of NASCAR

– DECEMBER 14, 1947 – Bill France Sr. organizes a meeting at the Streamline Hotel in Daytona Beach, Fla., to discuss the future of stock car racing. NASCAR, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, is conceived.

– FEBRUARY 15, 1948 – NASCAR runs its first race in Daytona Beach at the beach road course. Red Byron wins in a Ford.

– JUNE 19, 1949 – The first NASCAR "Strictly Stock" (current NASCAR Cup Series) race is held at Charlotte (N.C.) Fairgrounds Speedway. Jim Roper wins the race, Bob Flock wins the first pole and Sara Christian, who finishes 14th, is credited as the first woman to race in NASCAR's premier division.

– OCTOBER 16, 1949 – Red Byron wins the first NASCAR Strictly Stock championship. In 1959, Jim France, son of Bill France Sr., joins the staff at International Speedway Corporation (ISC). He worked in all phases of operation in his early years of the company and moved up to serve as vice chairman/executive vice president of NASCAR before ultimately being named Chairman.

– FEBRUARY 22, 1959 – The high-banked 2.5-mile Daytona International Speedway hosts the first Daytona 500. More than 41,000 fans are in attendance for the inaugural event in which the winner isn't decided until 61 hours after the checkered flag flies, as the result of a dramatic photo finish. Lee Petty is declared the winner by two feet after conclusive evidence from a newsreel is reviewed by Bill France Sr.

– DECEMBER 1, 1963 – Wendell Scott becomes the first African-American to win a race in NASCAR's premier series, beating Buck

Baker at Jacksonville (Fla.) Speedway. In 1970, Lesa France Kennedy, daughter of Bill France Jr., joins the staff at International Speedway Corporation (ISC). Instrumental in the growth of ISC and the advancement of motorsports, she has moved up to serve as vice chairperson of NASCAR and vice chairperson of the Board of Directors for ISC.



– JANUARY 10, 1972 – The founder of NASCAR, Bill France Sr., hands over the reins of leadership to his son Bill France Jr., who becomes the second president in NASCAR's history.

– FEBRUARY 20, 1977 – Janet Guthrie becomes the first woman to compete in the Daytona 500. She qualifies 39th and finishes 12th.

– FEBRUARY 18, 1979 – CBS presents the first live flag-to-flag coverage of a 500-mile NASCAR event with the Daytona 500, a show not soon to be forgotten as Richard Petty avoids an incident between Cale Yarborough and Donnie Allison on the last lap to win the race. With Petty racing by to take the checkered flag, Yarborough, Donnie Allison and Bobby Allison are involved in a fight in the infield grass, between Turns 3 and 4.

– NOVEMBER 18, 1979 – Richard Petty wins his record seventh series championship.

– JULY 4, 1984 – Richard Petty earns his 200th win in the Firecracker 400 at Daytona International Speedway, setting a mark that has yet to be challenged.

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– NOVEMBER 15, 1992 – One of the most significant races in NASCAR history, the 1992 season finale at Atlanta Motor Speedway. It is Richard Petty’s last race and Jeff Gordon’s first in NASCAR premier series competition. Five drivers are eligible to win the title as the race began. Driver-owner Alan Kulwicki ends up leading one more lap than Bill Elliott, to earn the five-point bonus for leading the most laps – and win the championship by 10 points.

– AUGUST 6, 1994 – The series schedule expands to include the famed 2.5-mile Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Jeff Gordon claims the win in the first Brickyard 400.

– OCTOBER 23, 1994 – Dale Earnhardt joins Richard Petty as the second driver in series history to win seven NASCAR series championships clinching the title at Rockingham, N.C.

– JANUARY 2003 – NASCAR unveils the NASCAR Research and Development Center in Concord, N.C.

– 2004 – NASCAR begins its first season under the banner of Nextel, with the series becoming known as the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup (now the NASCAR Cup) Series. A new format is implemented to determine the series champion and is known as the Chase for the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup (now NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs).

– MAY 23, 2010 – The inaugural NASCAR Hall of Fame class is inducted in Charlotte, N.C.: Bill France Sr., Bill France Jr., Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt and Junior Johnson.

– FEBRUARY 17, 2013 – Danica Patrick makes history by winning the Busch Pole Award for the 2013 Daytona 500, becoming the first female to win a pole in NASCAR premier series history.

– JANUARY 30, 2014 – NASCAR Chairman Brian France announces championship format change, virtually guaranteeing a berth in the NASCAR playoffs for each race winner. Key among the changes is a ‘Championship 4’ finale where the highest finisher among the four eligible drivers at Homestead-Miami Speedway would be crowned champion.

– NOVEMBER 20, 2016 – Jimmie Johnson makes history with his record-tying seventh NASCAR premier series title; joining NASCAR Hall of Famers Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt as the series leaders with seven championships.

– DECEMBER 1, 2016 – NASCAR and Monster Energy announce a multi-year agreement for the premier series entitlement as well as the prestigious annual NASCAR All-Star Race. Monster Energy, began its tenure as naming rights partner on Jan. 1, 2017, will become only the third company to serve as the entitlement sponsor in NASCAR premier series history, following RJ Reynolds and Sprint/Nextel.

– 2017 – NASCAR introduces a new three-stage format of racing across all three national series racing. On the eve of Daytona Speedweeks, Kennedy unveils a flagship tenant, Bass Pro Shops, at ISC’s ONE DAYTONA, a 300,000-square foot premier mixed-use and entertainment destination across the street from Daytona.

– APRIL 27, 2018 – In a move designed to strengthen a relationship that dates back more than 60 years, NASCAR announces the acquisition of the Automobile Racing Club of America. Both NASCAR and ARCA, a Midwest-based sanctioning body for stock car auto racing, share a long history: ARCA founder John Marcum raced against Bill

France Sr. and worked as a NASCAR official. More recently, the series has provided a valuable platform for talented drivers looking to make it to NASCAR’s national series.

– 2018 – Jim France, who joined ISC in 1959, assumes the role of NASCAR Chairman and CEO. He was elected to the ISC board in 1970 and has served as the company’s secretary, assistant treasurer, vice president, chief operating officer, executive vice president and president. He grew up in the early years of stock car racing, living and learning every detail of the sport from his own experiences, and from his father Bill France Sr., the founder and first president of NASCAR, and brother Bill Jr., NASCAR’s former president, chairman and CEO.



Nov. 20, 2016, Jimmie Johnson makes history with his record-tying seventh NASCAR premier series title; joining NASCAR Hall of Famers Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt as the series leaders with seven championships.

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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT  
CROSSWORD

THEME:  
VACATION DESTINATIONS

ACROSS

- 1. Walt Whitman's dooryard plant
- 6. Bag, † Paris
- 9. Sound of astonishment
- 13. Smell of baking bread, e.g.
- 14. Self-importance
- 15. Ma Bell, e.g.
- 16. List of Catholic saints
- 17. Bobbsey twin
- 18. Donor's bequest
- 19. \*Country to see Stonehenge
- 21. \*Country to see Neuschwanstein Castle
- 23. Tokyo, in the olden days
- 24. Way off freeway
- 25. Gremlin or pixie
- 28. Assistant
- 30. Crunches alternative (2 words)
- 35. Mountain lake
- 37. Thailand, pre-1939
- 39. Parlor piece
- 40. \*Maldives continent
- 41. Plaudit and pomp
- 43. Unadulterated
- 44. Child-eating daemon, Greek mythology
- 46. Red carpet purse
- 47. Pelvic bones
- 48. Gives way under force
- 50. Like acne-prone skin
- 52. Pose a question
- 53. Letter opener
- 55. Morse code dash
- 57. \*Grand Canyon state
- 61. \*Broadway state
- 65. Loaded

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- 66. Marbled bread
  - 68. Bad car
  - 69. South Pacific sailboats
  - 70. "\_\_\_ Milk?"
  - 71. Related on mother's side
  - 72. Unload on eBay
  - 73. Gilligan's home
  - 74. Tap, e.g.
- DOWN
- 1. Spike, as in punch
  - 2. Iraq's neighbor
  - 3. Like a maxi skirt
  - 4. Soap plant
  - 5. \*One of two countries to see Niagara Falls
  - 6. Mail a package
  - 7. Agha, alt. sp.
  - 8. Gloria Estefan's hit
  - 9. Disease-causing organism
  - 10. One of algae
  - 11. Diagnostic test
  - 12. One-trick ungulate?
  - 15. Sluggish
  - 20. \_\_\_-canceling earbuds
  - 22. Ambulance squad, acr.
  - 24. RE/MAX agent, e.g.
  - 25. \*Amalfi Coast country
  - 26. Kenyan tribesman
  - 27. Amazon "club"
  - 29. Vegas cube
  - 31. Cone-shaped quarters
  - 32. Throat dangler
  - 33. \*Mona Lisa city
  - 34. Go stealthily
  - 36. Nervous biting victim
  - 38. \*Haleakal, island
  - 42. Accent mark
  - 45. Software plug-ins
  - 49. Barack Obama, pre-pres.
  - 51. Wailed
  - 54. Frustration, in a comic book
  - 56. Laughing African predator
  - 57. \*Swiss or Italian skiing destination
  - 58. Steak option
  - 59. "White Wedding" Billy
  - 60. Eagerness
  - 61. Post-deductions amount
  - 62. Yemen's neighbor
  - 63. College cadet program
  - 64. ACL location
  - 67. Uncle Sam wanted this

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**POSITION AVAILABLE** Program Administrative Assistant Disability Partners is seeking an individual with two years' experience in office administration including proficient experience with Microsoft Office, accuracy and ability to meet deadlines a must, be a team player with personality to work with all levels of management in a fast-paced work environment. Confidentiality, verbal and written communication a high priority. People with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Applications are available on our website: disabilitypartners.org or at 525 Mineral Springs Drive, Sylva NC 28779 between 9am and 4pm. Please call Philana Griffin at (828)631-1167 for more information.

**HOME CARE PARTNERS** Want a flexible work schedule with benefits? Mon-Fri. No nights or weekends. Full and Part-time positions. Help someone remain independent in their home rather than be institutionalized. A lot of people need a little help and you could be that someone who cares. Up to \$12.50 per hour. Call Home Care Partners (828)586-1570 or (828)507-6065. Applications available at 525 Mineral Springs Drive, Sylva.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** Franklin is Seeking Part-time Director of Music and Worship. Call Page McCurry (828)360-4503.

### Rentals

**COZY LAKEFRONT** Cottage, 1BD/1BA, Fully furnished. Easy Access Franklin. Ideal corporate rental. Seasonal. Call for price. Sarah Miller, Diva's (770)757-7500.

**POSITION AVAILABLE** Community Inclusion Specialist Disability Partners is seeking an outgoing individual who can assist people with disabilities to reach their desired level of independence through many specialized services. Must have high school diploma or equivalent, be a self-starter with organizational skills, excellent written and communication skills, knowledge of Microsoft Office and data base operations. Work experience and education will be considered. Benefits include vacation, sick, holidays, dental, life, vision and health insurance along with 401K. Join our team and make a difference. Applications available at Disability Partners, 525 Mineral Springs Drive, Sylva or on our website: disabilitypartners.org. Call Chuck Oaks for more information (828)631-1167.

### Animals

**SHIH-POO PUPPIES** Four cute girls, two sweet boys. Shots current. \$200 each. (828)200-5101.

**ADOPT A PET AARC** Animal Shelter, 851 Lake Emory Rd., Franklin. Call for an Appointment. (828)524-4588.

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



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