

# The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

Free  
independent  
weekly

A Mix of Past & Present

Sponsored by your SoFHA merchants + TDA + TDC

Hometown  
Heritage  
Festival

Saturday,  
July 15  
9am-4pm  
Downtown  
Franklin

July 13, 2023 • 24 Pages

Volume 41 Number 9

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

www.themaconcountynews.com



“Bye Bye Birdie” follows the career of rock star Conrad Birdie (Everett Wright) and his manager’s efforts to keep him famous after Birdie is drafted into the army. This hilarious musical comedy classic presented by the Overlook Theatre Company will stage July 14,15; July 21 and 22 at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m., nightly. For ticket information, visit smoky-mountainarts.com or call (866) 273-4615.

## MCSO deputies recognized for life-saving efforts

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

Two Macon County Commissioner meeting items generating much discussion over the past year, especially during recent budget sessions, were the mobile dental unit known as the “Molar Roller” and the Franklin High School (FHS) project. A side item tied to funding associated with the FHS project is a proposal to combine the new high school with Union Academy. Both issues were addressed at the July 11 meeting, but the evening’s highlight involved a recent emergency situation responded to by the Sheriff’s Department.

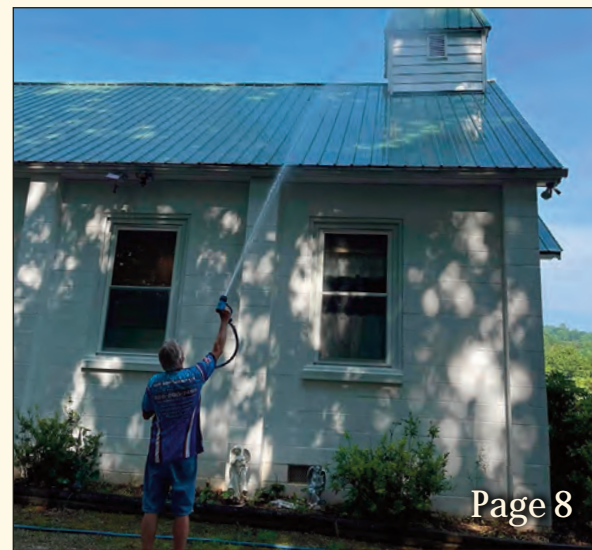
“It is my belief that these two deputies saved David Holland’s life that night. Their quick action and training prevented [him] from bleeding out.”

Sheriff Brent Holbrooks opened the meeting describing a situation two of his deputies encountered in the early morning hours of June 23. At approximately 1 a.m., county dispatch received what he called an “alarming call” concerning an explosion in the Ellijay Community. Macon County Sheriff’s Office, Macon County EMS, and Cullasaja Fire all responded to the call. The first two responders on the scene, deputies Brandon Carter and Daniel Long, encountered David Holland, who had sustained life-threatening injuries, specifically to his hands.

– Sheriff Brent Holbrooks

See COMMISSIONERS page 2

### IN THIS ISSUE



Page 8

Veteran uses skills, business for charitable work



Page 12

Alpaca farming flourishing in Macon County

828.369.6767

www.themaconcountynews.com  
maconcountynews@gmail.com

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

LeAnder's  
Jewelry Mart  
of  
Franklin

38 East Main Street • Franklin, NC  
828.369.9440 • LeandersJewelers.com



20%  
OFF  
Storewide

# COMMISSIONERS Continued from page 1

“Deputies Carter and Long calmly and quickly, without hesitation, immediately worked to apply tourniquets to both of the victim’s arms,” said Sheriff Holbrooks. “It is my belief that these two deputies saved David Holland’s life that night. Their quick action and training prevented [him] from bleeding out.”

With Carter out of town, Holbrooks presented Deputy Long with the Lifesaving Award. Members of the Holland family were in attendance and two of them spoke briefly.

“Losing one brother recently, and really if it wasn’t for [Long and Carter] coming in and doing what they did, he [David] would not be here,” said Donald Holland, a brother. “I wanted you all to know how proud that makes me to be a part of this community. For these boys to go straight into a ‘who knows what,’ they had no idea what they were going into ... the EMS, and the Cullasaja Fire Department are exemplary of what our community’s all about. I couldn’t be prouder of you.”

David Holland’s youngest daughter, Taylor, then spoke.

“To hear Dad talk about that night ... he can actually remember [Long] tightening the tourniquet ... he looked at me and said, ‘They saved my life that night.’” She concluded with “He [David] wanted to sneak out of the hospital tonight and thank Mr. Carter and Mr. Long. It was everything we could do to keep him strapped to the hospital bed. Between EMS and [the deputies], and everyone else that saved Dad’s life that night ... Dad wouldn’t be here and he knows it. On behalf of our family and the Holland clan, we want to say a big thank you.”

## Down to business

Funding for the purchase of a new mobile dental unit was a somewhat heated topic toward the completion of the county budget approval process in June. Macon County Health Department Director Kathy McGaha compiled bids received thus far and Finance Director Melissa Setzer presented information at the meeting summarizing four Requests for Proposal (RFP) that were received by the end of May. A bid from Lifeline Mobile, based out of Columbus, Ohio, was selected from the four submissions reviewed. At \$700,419, the proposal met all requirements in the bid package, and was lower than two other bidders, coming in at \$169,000 lower than the amount approved in the budget. While Technology International, Inc., submitted the lowest proposal, it failed to meet requirements or send qualifying documentation.

After hearing the presentation, MCC board members discussed the proposal. Vice Chairman Josh Young motioned to accept the bid, which was seconded by Commissioner John Shearl and subsequently unanimously approved. As was reported last month, it is expected to take between 18 months and two years for the county to receive and begin utilizing a new unit. In the interim, the Molar Roller will remain mostly situated in one location but can be moved if necessary to accommodate children in some of the more rural areas of the county.

Young commented, “I want to go on record and make sure the students in Nantahala have the same opportunities as every other student in Macon County.”

Little T Broadband Services and Macon County Broadband Committee’s Jeff Lee presented updates tied to the Nantahala Broadband Project. Topics included the South Macon Expansion Project, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rural Opportunity Digital Fund (RDOF) award program, Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technologies (GREAT) awards, and Nantahala Township RFP’s. Regarding the South Macon Expansion Project, Balsam West, in



**Macon County Sheriff Brent Holbrooks recognizes Deputy Daniel Long with a Life Saving Award for his quick action involving a potentially fatal injury. Long was assisted by Deputy Brandon Carter who was out of town at the time of the meeting in which Long was honored.**

partnership with Haywood EMC, constructed a fiber backbone from Franklin to Highlands. Eighteen businesses and 243 residences have connected to the backbone so far. It is an ongoing program but has slowed due to grant money running out. The RDOF is a subsidy program run by the FCC and was won by Charter Communications in 2020. The census blocks included in the program represent approximately 60% of the county’s unserved residents.

According to Lee, a problem is that while Charter is not presently working to build out access to those residents, no other grant or funding can be utilized to do so because of associated legislation. Currently, the company is working in Haywood and Jackson counties and is not expected to start working in Macon County until 2025, with completion targeted for 2028. This schedule adversely affects any other work that might be undertaken in support of county residents. Lee then introduced a potential positive alternative in the GREAT program, which is a subset of the American Rescue Plan Award (ARPA). Frontier won an award associated with GREAT in 2022, which resulted in a contract signed with the county in May, 2023 that includes 2700 locations. Out of the various options, only Balsam West responded to the broadband committee’s full set of requests in the RFP, including a price for fiber installation.

Lee requested approval from the commissioners to put an agreement together with Balsam West. Once an agreement is



**Union Academy Principal Brian Moffitt addresses the Board of Commissioners in support of the proposed Union Academy/Franklin High School merger. The board voted unanimously to more forward with the merger.**

reached, the broadband committee would then request funding from the county for actual implementation of the work. Commissioners voted and unanimously agreed to move forward with negotiating a contract with Balsam West.

## Union/FHS merger

Commissioner Gary Shields introduced discussion on the Franklin High School (FHS) and Union Academy merger proposal, reminding attendees that garnering a \$50-60 million grant for the new FHS project could hinge on the merger. Macon County Schools Superintendent Josh Lynch, Union Academy Principal Brian Moffitt, and Macon County Board of Education member Diedre Breden each spoke on the merits of the merger.

“Macon County Schools are in full support of the merging of Union Academy into FHS and support the project of a ‘school within a school,’” Lynch said. Moffitt followed, “I look at hope, opportunity, and access for our students. I feel that [the merger] provides the greatest amount of access for our students.”

Commissioner Danny Antoine added, “Those kids at Union deserve just as much as any other child. For them not to have the opportunity is absolutely wrong ... moving them over to the new campus, they will have access to everything they

did not have access to [at Union].

Breden noted, “I know that while some of the grant discussions have led to maybe some of the consolidation discussion, but my personal belief is this is what’s in the best interest of our students.”

Following the input and discussion, Shields motioned to continue moving forward with the merger, which was seconded by Antoine and then unanimously approved by the Board.

## New business

Under new business, Macon County Transit (MCT) Director Darlene Asher presented information on ConCPT and 5339(b) grant funding. Asher requested approval for additional ConCPT funding intended to enhance coordination of three or more public transportation grantees to maximize resources and improve public transportation access. The primary goal of the funding is establishing formal relationships between transit systems for long distance routes. MCT seeks to partner with Haywood County to coordinate trips to Asheville and use the grant to also hire a new full-time transit operator to run the route at the cost of \$108,000 for two years, which was being requested from Macon County. After two years, the grant becomes a 50/50 match, meaning MCT would then charge Haywood County a fee for picking up their passengers. The long-term plan is to also include Jackson and possibly Swain counties. Asher’s request to commissioners was for a motion to approve the additional funding and add the full time position to MCT. The board agreed, unanimously, to approve the request.

The second request, for approval for additional 5339(b) grant funding in support of adding solar power capability to the roof of the MCT Awning (bus barn) and some other smaller projects that were left out of the original proposal, was not approved by the board. Solar panels would cost approximately \$180,000 and would be capable of powering all of the Transit building. This would result in a savings of more than \$6,000 a year once the move to an all-electric vehicle environment occurs, which is expected to happen sometime in the future. All the items would cost \$200,000; the grant is an 80/20 arrangement. Macon County’s portion of that cost would be \$40,000, which was MCT’s request. Considering the difficulty in reaching a budget and the fact that this request was not submitted prior to doing so appeared to doom it. Although a motion was made to pass, it was not seconded.

The next regularly scheduled County Commissioner meeting will be held Tuesday, Aug. 8, at the Macon County Courthouse.



# ALTITUDE

— ROOFING & CONTRACTING —

## RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

### *Our Roofing Services Include:*

- ✓ Asphalt Shingles
- ✓ Tile
- ✓ Single Ply
- ✓ Coatings
- ✓ Cedar Shakes
- ✓ Metal
- ✓ Modified
- ✓ ...and more!



**FREE  
ESTIMATES**

*Licensed & Insured*



*Altitude Roofing and Contracting was able to pinpoint exactly the cause of our leak. Prior to Altitude's assessment, several companies came out and were unable to determine the cause of the problem. We are so happy we found Altitude! I would highly recommend Altitude and will definitely use them in the future if we ever have roofing issues. Five stars!*

*- Dee S., Senior Community Manager, Mill Creek Properties*

Serving Western NC, Northern GA, Upstate SC, and Eastern TN.

828.371.7753 - Info@AltitudeRoofing.biz - www.AltitudeRoofing.biz

# Rare Franklin Civil War stamp fetches big bucks at auction house

Deena C. Bouknight  
Contributing Writer

Last month, a stamp that originated in Franklin sold at auction to an unnamed buyer for \$40,000, which was “eight times its start price [\$5,000] and \$10,000 more than when it was last sold at auction [in 1980],” explained Alyssa Baumgardner, marketing manager for the 1940-founded H.R. Harmer Fine Stamp Auctions, one of the oldest philatelic [the study of postage stamps and postal history] auction houses in the country; it is based in New York City.

Baumgardner pointed out that one of H.R. Harmer’s goals is to “focus on telling the stories behind stamps and envelopes and emphasizing their historical significance.” And the stamp that sold on June 21 certainly sports an interesting history. Primarily, it was affixed to an 1862 envelope that was mailed from Franklin to Waynesville during the Civil War.

In the past few years, H.R. Harmer’s has auctioned off an envelope carried by Pony Express to Abraham Lincoln, which sold for \$330,000, and a noteworthy “Blue Boy” stamp of Alexandria, Va., which auctioned for \$1.18 million.

Yet, Franklin’s stamp is significant, according to H.R. Harmer’s president and CEO Charles Epting, because of what was happening at the time it was sent. He explained that when the Civil War broke out, the newly-formed Confederate States of America had to set up a postal service separate from the U.S. Postal Service. The Confederate government was not ini-

tially focused on producing postage stamps, as resources were being directed towards establishing the Confederate States’ government, its own currency, and more. Consequently, some southern postmasters began creating their own stamps and

dealer. The envelope was sold to him by a farmer who happened to see his advertisement in *The Southern Almanac* and brought him a bag full of old mail. Dietz bought it for \$25 from the farmer and sold it for \$600.”

He further pointed out that the value of the stamp “cannot be measured in merely monetary terms — it is a key piece of Americana and North Carolina history.”

Before being auctioned off, the historically significant stamp was in the collection of Erivan Haub (1932-2018), who Epting described as a German businessman and philanthropist “with a love for American history who spent decades curating a collection of United States stamps and postal history that documents the rise of America in the 19th century and beyond. Mr. Haub preserved some of the most precious artifacts from America’s past.”

Epting added, “Often, we don’t know where a stamp originated; but what’s fascinating is that we actually know exactly because the gentleman who acquired it wrote an article on it in the 1930s.” The 1934 article, titled “The Story of the Franklin, N.C.,” was published in *Stamp and Cover Collecting*.

“I couldn’t believe it when I found the article,” said Epting. “What a treasure. We are always trying to piece together the story of the stamps. I think the story really helps the value for the collector ... a huge part of the equation. Who owned it, where it came from — the whole back story of the stamp is the romance that appeals to a collector.”



An envelope from the Civil War era bearing a stamp that says Franklin, N.C., was recently sold at a New York auction for \$40,000.

stamped envelopes in lieu of federally issued stamps.

“The Franklin is one of the rare instances where we have a detailed story of how it was discovered by the philatelic community,” offered Epting. “These stories are rarely documented. The Franklin provisional is the only one of its kind. It was acquired in 1899 by August Dietz, a famed stamp collector and

Hospice is about  
*quality of life.*  
*Start the*  
*conversation.*

 CarePartners  
HOSPICE

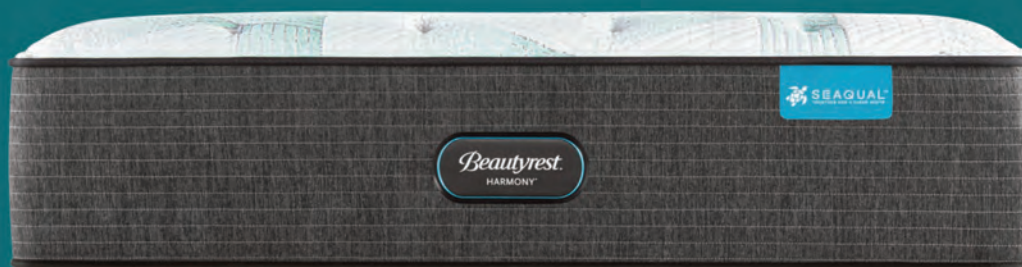
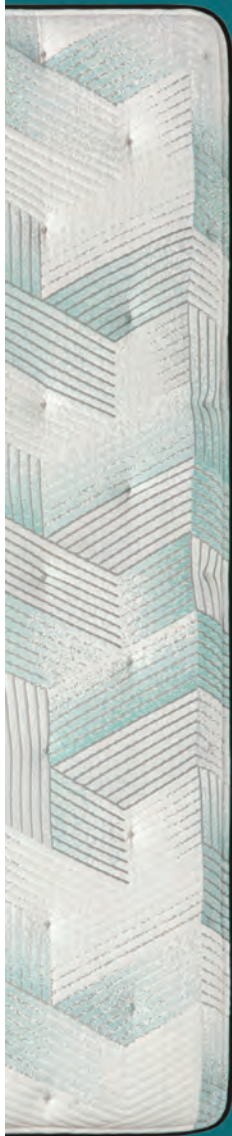
828-255-0231 | [missionhealth.org/hospice](https://missionhealth.org/hospice)

Beautyrest  
HARMONY™

CLOSEOUT

Save \$200

with the purchase of any Beautyrest® Harmony™ mattress\*



CHOOSE FROM  
OUR 2 LEVELS!

Harmony Cayman Series  
Extra Firm, Medium, or Plush

**\$899** QUEEN  
MATTRESS

Harmony Cayman Series  
Medium Pillowtop or Plush Pillowtop

**\$999** QUEEN  
MATTRESS

MACON  
FURNITURE  
MART

560 DEPOT STREET • FRANKLIN, NC  
(828) 369-8296 [MaconFurnitureMart.com](http://MaconFurnitureMart.com)

\*Purchase a Beautyrest® Harmony™ mattress between July 11, 2023 and September 11, 2023 and receive \$200 in mattress savings. See stores for details. These offers may not be applied to previous purchases, cannot be combined with other offers and are available only on qualified purchases made at participating retailers in the 50 United States and District of Columbia while supplies last. Product availability, pricing and offer dates may vary by retail location. Void where prohibited by law. © 2023 Simmons Bedding Company, LLC. All rights reserved.

# TDA discusses member terms and marketing/financial statistics

Dan Finnerty – Contributing Writer

The Town of Franklin Tourism Development Authority (TDA) recently added four new members. To keep consistent change amidst decisions made by and contributions resulting from the group, bylaws dictate certain members will serve three-year terms while others will serve two-year tenures. Because two of the six newly elected members were re-appointed as incumbents, (Josh Drake and Tim Crabtree), they will automatically finish out their three-year terms. With three of four new members serving two-year terms, Yonder's Hannah Edwards volunteered to serve for three years. Normally, the new member receiving the highest number of votes would automatically assume the longer tenure. However, in this year's election, all four new members received the same number of votes.

Rules of Procedure were also discussed at the July 10 meeting, with the main objective being familiarizing new members with their duties and procedures previously adopted in the organization's history. Following occupancy tax approval by the North Carolina legislature in 2004, the Town of Franklin Council established the TDA in March 2008 and directed that occupancy tax would begin on May 1 of that same year. Rules of Procedure were established for the TDA and subsequently

amended in 2013, 2015, and 2022. Future amendments are always on the table as well. Chair Connie Grubermann decided to wait until August to nominate a subset of the TDA to review bylaws for any necessary updates. Member Kevin Covell agreed to lead the bylaws review, once directed.

A regular TDA item of business is financial reports, with this month's reflecting data through May 2023. Items include a 13-month occupancy tax collection comparison, a monthly collections versus expenditures report, and investment account information. May's tax collection was by far the highest on record, at \$19,148.76, indicating that more people are visiting the town. With all encumbrances satisfied, one festival remains that has not yet been paid out, which totals \$1,250. Out of the \$265,000 yearly budget, \$245,443.48 was spent through May. Total net revenue collections were \$175,491.50.

Tribal Vibe Promotions' Mary Guercio pitched to the TDA the third Come Together



Drake Enterprises' Carly Moser provides a marketing report at July 10 TDA meeting.

festival in Franklin – the first since before 2020. The previous two events were held in the gazebo on the town square, with this year's being planned for Altered Frequencies due to larger space and newer facilities that will accommodate 1,000 people. The event purpose is “mental health reset day with focus on removing stigmas that surround mental health issues, addiction and recovery, and depression in a way that can bring out community together to make connections and build networks,” according to Guercio. Entertainers scheduled to perform include Murphy's Heidi Fulton, Interactive Theater of Jeff, who is a mime clown and works with youngsters of all ages, and Andrew Skotchie of the River Rats.

According to Guercio, “Each performer

brings a fan base from an area other than Franklin to the festival.” The exact date for the festival was not revealed, and the TDA will vote on the \$1,500 request for support at its August meeting.

As she has done regularly over the past few months, Drake Enterprises' Carly Moser provided a marketing update for the TDA. Yearly media costs through May totaled \$217,962. Marketing focuses on reaching family vacationers, hiking enthusiasts, and those on trips with recreational vehicles. Email, Facebook/Instagram, YouTube, and other internet options are all in the mix for targeting households and web searches. Using Google analytics, information on how well marketing campaigns perform can be determined more accurately than in past years. For instance, statistics can even be derived from how someone is searching for Franklin area information, such as festivals, restaurants, hiking trails, hotels, restaurants, etc. The analytics can even show how long a searcher spent on a given page or if any action was taken subsequent to an inquiry. Somewhat predictably, most searches on Franklin originate regionally, with North Carolina leading the pack, followed by Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Florida rounding out the top five.

Graham County, of which Robbinsville is the county seat, will have a representative from its TDA speak at the Franklin August TDA meeting to share with the team some different and new strategies it has undertaken, including infrastructure projects.

The next TDA meeting is Monday, Aug. 14, at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall boardroom.

## SCC Macon Campus open house and networking event on July 24

Southwestern Community College officials are inviting the general public to explore the educational and training opportunities available in Franklin with an open house and networking event from 4-6 p.m. on Monday, July 24, at the Macon Campus.

Refreshments and campus tours will be offered along with demonstrations of simulation learning and hands-on labs. In addition, instructors will showcase how they utilize HyFlex technology, which allows online students to view and participate real-time during class sessions.

Networking opportunities will be available with Macon County business, government and nonprofit leaders.

“We're excited to show our Macon County neighbors everything we have to offer here at the Macon Campus,” said Dr. Barbara Putman, SCC's Executive Dean of Instructional Services.

At SCC's Macon Campus, students can pursue an associate in arts degree, an associate in science degree and certificates in business ad-



Calvin Jones (left) receives tutoring assistance from Joan Willis at Southwestern Community College's Groves Center Macon Campus in Franklin.

ministration and Nurse Aide, along with Pre-Health Science pathways.

All attendees to the Open House will have a chance win free meals at three different Macon County restaurants. Enrollment and financial aid assistance is available for anyone interested in taking classes this fall.

For more information or directions, visit [www.SouthwesternCC.edu](http://www.SouthwesternCC.edu) or call 828.306.7017.

 **SHALLER**  
Optical

36 Westgate Plaza • Franklin, NC (828)369-6101

**Shaller Optical is closing July 31**  
Optician is retiring



**ALL FRAMES**  
**1/2 OFF**

**COSTAS & RAYBAN**  
**SUNGLASSES 25%**

Dr. Shaller is not closing his practice. He will continue to see new and existing patients. For appointments, call (828)369-4236

### Sanctuary Relief efforts ongoing in war-torn Ukraine



Loren Kennedy has spent seven months over the past 14 months ministering to the people of war-torn Ukraine. His organization, Sanctuary Relief, along with help from a Ukrainian evangelical church and contributions offered in the U.S., Kennedy has been able to provide food boxes for more than 24,000 people. Each box feeds a family for two weeks, for the cost of \$7. The food is being bought and boxes assembled in Kyiv and Kharkiev, Ukraine, then delivered to small towns that have been bombed and destroyed during Russian occupation. Not only food is distributed but also propane heaters, wood stoves, medical supplies, clothes, shoes and personal necessities for people who have been "broken over a brutal war and deserve to be encouraged by love and gifts." Kennedy is headed back to Ukraine this month for the fifth time and hopes to reach 10,000 more families and to go deeper into previously occupied cities and territories. If you would like to help, visit [www.sanctuaryrelief.com](http://www.sanctuaryrelief.com) or mail to The Sanctuary, PO Box 841, Franklin NC 28744.

**A Mix of Past & Present**  
Sponsored by your SoFHA merchants + TDA + TDC

**Hometown Heritage Festival**  **7.15**  
**9-4**

 artists, farmers' market, food, gem mining, classic & antique cars, musicians & so many fun activities!

**Downtown Franklin, NC**  
[streetsoffranklinNC.org](http://streetsoffranklinNC.org)

 Follow us @sofhaNC for more info



*This month by donation. 100% of proceeds benefit the on going mission of the church.*



**COUNTRY BREAKFAST**

PANCAKES, EGGS, SAUSAGE, BACON, HASH BROWNS, GRITS, BISCUITS AND GRAVY, SWEET ROLLS, COFFEE/JUICE

**SATURDAY, JULY 15**  
**8AM - 10AM**



 **Hickory Knoll** 86 E. Hickory Knoll Rd. • Franklin, NC  
METHODIST CHURCH (828)369-9300

# Veteran uses his business and skills for charitable work in community

Deena C. Bouknight and Dan Finnerty  
Contributing Writers

Bill Hutson, originally from Indiana, moved to Franklin in December 2020 by way of Texas, where he and his wife, Pam, had lived for many years. Following a short stint in the U.S. Army, that included tours at Fort Polk in Louisiana and at Camp Casey in South Korea. Hutson started his company, H&H Softwash, with his wife Pam 30 years ago and offers low pressure washing. As a member of the local 828Vets organization, Hutson also uses his past construction skill in leading projects undertaken by the group to assist local veterans in need. He often mentors while he leads, instructing others in what he refers to as “teachable moments.” His business also offers discounts to all veterans and First Responders.

In reference to 828Vets, Hutson shared, “This is the only veterans group I’ve ever been associated with and I truly believe the reason for that is because this group is made up of some awesome people who really care about the community and the veterans who live here,” said Hutson. “I feel so honored to be a part of this group. 828Vets has made a tremendous impact on this community in the short time it has been around.”

During a recent interview, he shared some of what propels him to provide his skills and time in support of others.

**Q: How/why did you get involved with the monument cleaning process; what are the benefits or personal awards of providing the service?**

**A:** My wife, Pam, and I visited the Fields of the Wood Park in Murphy early in 2022. We weren’t there 10 minutes before we looked at each other and simultaneously said, “Oh, this place needs to be washed!” So, after we walked through the entire park, we discussed it, made a wash plan, and then decided to gift the wash to the park. I contacted Darren Schalk, who is in charge of the park, and set up a meeting. He and I walked the park and talked about what I would clean and how, and then we set a date. I told him I would schedule it for four weeks; he told me it typically took two

to three of his guys nine weeks. I washed it in three weeks. This wash was absolutely free to the park, but was going to come at a tremendous cost to me, so we solicited sponsors to help defray the costs. Some wonderful local businesses jumped right in with us on this project. And, they ride on my truck to this day.

**Q: How long have you been providing charitable work like this?**

**A:** I got my first job when I was 15, I worked in construction, we modeled Ponderosa Steakhouse restaurants, Shell gas stations, and Taco Bells. The owner of the construction company would take me off the job and we’d go to some elderly person’s house and do some various small repairs and he wouldn’t charge them anything. I asked him once why he did it and he told me, “To the world you might be one person; to one person you might be the world.”

So, I guess I started doing charitable work at the age of 15. Fast forward to November 2002, my wife and I get married, and then a month later, on December 20, 2002, we formed Table Talk Foundation for Better Living Inc. (a.k.a. Table Talk Ministries) and began making free home repairs for the elderly and the disabled. Our motto? “To the



Bill and Pam Hutson of H&H Softwash

world you might be one person; To one person you might be the world.” Table Talk now has offices in Indiana and Texas and serves clients in 12 states. So, charitable work just comes naturally to me.

**Q: What has been the most interesting or challenging project you've done so far?**

**A:** The most challenging free wash I’ve ever done would be the World’s Largest Ten Commandments, in Murphy, as I literally had to wear a harness and tie off to wash it. The most interesting is probably a free wash of an old church that had no water available, so they had a fire truck come out and supply my water.

**Q: What kind of responses have you encountered from the public/people stemming from the service you have provided?**

**A:** The response I get from people is very positive and encouraging. We absolutely couldn’t do the charitable work we are doing now in our communities without the support of our

amazing customers! They support our business by using us to clean their homes, businesses, and roofs which in turn provides us with the resources to give back so much. I love that!

**Q: Is there any other charitable work you have performed as part of your business?**

**A:** H&H Softwash provides a free house wash to a low-income veteran every other month. We washed a small church for free, with the aid of the fire truck. We typically do about 20 free washes per year. And when we do a paid wash for our customers, we usually try to find something around their property to wash free as a “bonus wash.” Now that won’t be an entire building, but usually something small like a gazebo or a well house or something like that.



Bill Hutson pressure washes a metal roof on a church.



Bill Hutson took on the task to provide free low pressure washing of the world's largest Ten Commandments display in Murphy.





# PICKIN' ON THE SQUARE



## Free Entertainment Every Other Saturday!

Pickin' on the Square is fun, free entertainment most Saturday nights throughout the summer. Main entertainment starts at approximately 6:00 p.m.

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



We are so excited to have Paradise 56 playing! They are an area favorite and are a fun, high-spirited band that perform a mix of Country, Classic Rock, Blues, and Reggae.

The concert starts at 6:00 p.m. Saturday July 22nd, at the gazebo in downtown Franklin. These concerts are given to you by the town of Franklin free of admission. Bring a friend and see you there!!

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



**Christmas in July**

**25% OFF**  
Christmas Items

**MOSSY ROCK**  
GIFTS • HOME DECOR • ACCESSORIES

37 E Main Street • Franklin, NC  
828.369.1612

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

828.421.0820

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

**Repeats**  
Upscale Consignment

NOW IN OUR 38<sup>TH</sup> YEAR! - AFTER HOURS APPOINTMENTS  
LADIES & CHILDRENS CLOTHING - SHOES & ACCESSORIES

(828) 369-9600  
Mon. - Fri. 10AM-5PM • Sat. 10AM-3PM  
107 Highlands Rd., Franklin, NC

**The Queens' Jewels**  
EXQUISITE GLASSWARE

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

24 E. MAIN STREET • FRANKLIN, NC • 828.369.7300

WHERE'S COWEE SAM?

**A FAMILY-FRIENDLY SCAVENGER HUNT IN DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY A NOVEL ESCAPE, SUMINSKI FAMILY BOOKS, & MAIN ST MERCHANTS

BEGIN AT **NOVEL**

JULY 1 THRU JULY 31

828-369-9059  
60 E Main St. Franklin, NC 28734

**BAHÁ'Í FAITH**

**LIGHT OF UNITY**

"...the fundamental purpose animating the faith of God and his religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race..."  
-- Bahá'u'llah

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

**THE ATTIC**  
Antiques

Re-Imagined Vintage Finds & Ethnic Treasures

268 Palmer Street  
Franklin, NC (REAR)  
(828)349-2900

Decks & Additions      Tractor Service  
Home Remodeling      Driveway Repair  
Flooring      Grading

**KZ CONSTRUCTION**

828-283-0659  
BuildwithKZ@gmail.com

**"Support Local Beekeepers; Buy Local Honey!"**

**MACON COUNTY BEEKEEPERS**  
EST. 1980

Macon County Bee Keepers meet the First Thursday of the Month @ 7pm. Public Welcome.

NC Extension Office  
193 Thomas Heights Rd

**Bryant's Antique Mall**

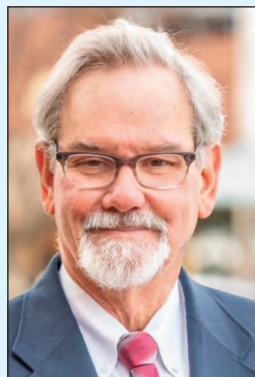
Open:

MON - SAT 10AM - 5PM • SUN 11AM - 5PM

71 E. MAIN ST., FRANKLIN, NC • (828) 524-0280  
[bryantsantiquemall@gmail.com](mailto:bryantsantiquemall@gmail.com)

## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

It is the time of the year when I again get asked this question: Mayor, what are you going to do about the town providing more parking?

My response is always that Highlands has more parking places in the downtown area than almost any town of comparable size in Western Carolina. Heck, we have more parking than a number of towns with much larger populations.

I am constantly urged to lead the way in building a parking garage and pay for it by charging a fee. My response is that we would have to meter the entire town. No one would use the garage if parking were free on Main Street. I cite Blowing Rock, which spent about \$2 million for a 65-space parking garage way off their Main Street. It has been underused.

So, to build a parking garage of any size in Highlands would first require identifying a site close to the downtown. Second, how big would the garage be, 200 spaces, 500 spaces? Then there would be the cost of building the garage and operating it. Who would finance the five or \$10 million project? The Asheville Airport built a 1000-car facility for just under \$20 million. We could anticipate any parking garage costing millions of dollars.

The Highlands Comprehensive Plan does present possible parking platforms in spaces around the business district and extend parking on Main Street from 3rd to 1st Streets. This type of parking is certainly an option in the future, but such a system would not increase parking to a high level as some folks would want.

The fundamental question that the town will have to address in the coming years is how big should the business area be and at what capacity level is sustainable. I submit that we are close to being maxed out in how many people we can accommodate at a given period in the downtown area.

Not only do we face parking and trash issues, but also concerns about traffic management. Cashiers already has a critical traffic issue at the crossroads where on holidays and even at different times during a regular day, traffic is backed up for long distances at all entry points. We are seeing similar patterns emerge in Highlands. The question is whether we can manage

See TAYLOR on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Principle over personalities within Macon Co. GOP

Ernest Benn said, "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies." Recently, the Macon County GOP has been a topic of conversation for anyone who might have an interest in personalities, however, the substance of the Macon GOP has remained solidly conservative during any ups and downs. Of course, we can argue over the definition of social and fiscal conservatism in today's climate, but all things considered, most Republicans in WNC can agree that excessive and intrusive government should be challenged at every opportunity. We love and defend essential liberty and States' rights according to the 10th Amendment. That all individuals are sovereign according to the 9th Amendment and should not be forced to sacrifice our values or hard-earned money for the subjective agendas of government/corporate elites and woke bureaucrats. We honor the entire Constitution, fair and transparent democracy, and free markets in this current chaos America finds itself. In the course of human events where political parties will always have some level of conflict from within, there is far more that unites local Republicans than divides us.

In light of any so-called controversy within the Macon GOP, let it be known that this writer speaks solely for himself and not for the Macon County GOP or any publication. Besides, my opinions don't count for much anyway. In the past few months, multiple individuals from all sides of the conservative spectrum have made accusations only to be labeled by other GOP members from multiple viewpoints. Each of us might have differing interpretations, but all of us share the blame for misunderstandings and alignments based on personalities instead of principles. Unfortunately, that is to be expected in the ugly business of politics as minor internal division is nothing new, especially in a national GOP that is far, far from perfect.

The large turnout and positive conversations at the Macon GOP sponsored July 4 cookout were very encouraging. A fun time was had by all and the many volunteers should be commended for making it happen. It appears that most everyone is ready to be done with the trivial in-fighting in order to now concentrate on defending American ideals from domestic enemies (including but not limited to the Democrat/Communist machine) that plague our society. I would encourage everyone who has been active in the GOP to redouble their efforts. Anyone who values conservatism but has not been involved, should become active now. Conservatives must prove to the political world that we successfully coalesce around principles regardless of personalities. With so much at stake in the upcoming 2024 elections, WNC Republicans can no longer be distracted by media hacks, disingenuous ex-mayors, or anyone else with an axe

to grind. It's time we pursue common goals of real conservatism.

Nevertheless, WNC Republicans can be proud of leaders who are carrying the banner of conservatism. Macon County is especially fortunate to have the likes of Senator Corbin, Representative Gillespie, a conservative majority commissioner's board as well as Sheriff Holbrooks just to name a few who are dedicated to upholding genuine conservatism. These men are on the front lines in today's battle against leftists destroying the fiscal and social fabric of our self-governing republic. Conservatives will continue to disagree on multiple issues as did America's founders, but that is simply democracy in action. It is each of our responsibilities to guard against being unduly influenced by our emotions or egos. Today's voters and magistrates should be solidly grounded in the rule of law seeking intellectual solutions rather than political charades based solely on personalities or associations. Furthermore, there is a very real danger in WNC since this area is a stronghold of conservative voters. This danger is minority liberals realizing they cannot win against Republicans, so they infiltrate the system as a Republican or Unaffiliated in order to weaken the impact of true conservatives and our values. This has been evident in attempts to raid the public treasury or alter social institutions for special interest groups and personal gain in the name of good intentions. There is nothing wrong with vetting any leader, magistrate, or candidate claiming to be conservative or questioning their intentions vs. the official Republican platform. After all, these people answer directly to the voters and should expect to be questioned, praised, or criticized any day of the week.

At the end of the day, conservatives must put our differences aside to defend our families, private property, and our beloved state of North Carolina against a tyrannical government and NGOs [non-government organization] hellbent on controlling America with a corrupted mentality and unconstitutional edicts. With so much orchestrated chaos created by a lying media and federal bureaucracy, conservatives must remain vigilant and properly informed of all fiscal, historical, and social issues rather than simply joining a popularity contest. This approach is key to preserving liberty for future generations. Even though politics will always find trouble everywhere and many times apply the wrong remedies, the local Republican party in Macon Co. must continue to be one vehicle of many to accomplish those goals of defending our WNC and American way of life. May God help us be true conservatives unafraid of speaking out while putting principle over personalities and even principle over party.

Jim Gaston – Franklin, N.C.

Email Letters to the Editor to  
[maconcountynews@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountynews@gmail.com)

The Macon County  
**NEWS**  
& Shopping Guide

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

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

Email: [maconcountynews@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountynews@gmail.com)

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

**Betsey Gooder**  
Publisher /Advertising Director

**Teresa S. Tabor**, Editor

**Jay Baird**  
Advertising Representative

**Shana Bilbrey**      **Emily Hughes**  
Graphic Designer      Graphic Designer

**Vickie Carpenter**, Classifieds/Photographer

**Deena C. Bouknight**  
Contributing Writer

**Dan Finnerty**      **Diane Peltz**  
Contributing Writer      Contributing Writer

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

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

## Second Amendment doesn't guarantee right to bear arms

Terry Swift... I believe you are taking liberties that are not yours to take, sir. In your scathing diatribe (Macon Co. News - June 29) you declared (if I read you correctly) that I, Dave Waldrop, and former mayor Bob Scott no longer believe in the oath we took when we joined the military. Speaking only for myself, I served the United States Navy and the Naval Security Group with honor and distinction under six U.S. presidents (Eisenhower to Carter) with a strong belief in my oath well intact, both then, and now.

If there was any element of veracity to be found in your letter, Mr. Swift, you made a very strong case for the adoption of a word-limit for letters to the editor.

And may I suggest that before criticizing other writers, Mr. Swift, you employ your own advice and research an issue before proclaiming your opinion as carved-in-stone universal truth.

The late U.S. Senator from New York (Daniel Patrick Moynahan) was fond of saying - "We are all entitled to our own opinions but not to our own facts."

And the facts regarding the Second Amendment are these: The Second Amendment was originally adopted so that Congress could not disarm a state militia, thus the Second Amendment prohibits only the national government from limiting the right to carry weapons. At its heart was the preservation of the "citizen-soldier"; however, it does not guarantee a citizens' right to keep and bear arms free from government restriction. Because the Supreme Court has never found the Second Amendment to be within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause, each state has the authority to limit its citizens' rights to keep and bear arms.

The right to bear arms can be restricted, each state imposing its own limits or controls: waiting periods, age requirements, gun-locking devices, storage policies, registration or licensing, even banning certain weapons like "Saturday night specials" that can be easily concealed.

Those are the basic facts ladies and gentlemen. Now, over and above the hyperbole, common sense must be added. We are the only industrialized nation on the planet that accepts the slaughter of its children as somehow "normal," a cost of freedom. Granted, I wasn't there (I'm old but I knew not the founders). However, I'm hard-pressed to believe our present condition is what they had in mind when the Second Amendment was written.

When applied to life in the 21st century the wording of the Second Amendment becomes a little more vague and more and more subject to interpretation. Add profit and greed to the mix and, well, it is unlikely the gun control debate will be settled anytime soon.

David L. Snell - Franklin, N.C.

### Complacency will be our downfall

A memory has always haunted me. It was a Holocaust photo of a Jewish father holding tightly in his arms, his beautiful three-year-old daughter. Their embrace would be their last, because a Nazi soldier was about to execute them both. The innocent of innocence... finding death for only being Jewish... and nothing else. How is it we as human be-

ings can be so cruel against those who are most innocent? I, myself, have been guilty of faulty judgments and not knowing everything, but should have taken the time in understanding a different point of view, or clearing up what prejudice I might have had.

But as life moves forward, we see things clearer with the sincerity of drawing ever closer to the Divine God, which asks of us to seek goodness, justice, kindness, and mostly forgiveness, but not just for us, but towards others as well. Which all comes from the Divine, for where else do we find these things? We all say we want this, yet we seem to stumble and find again our many failures and that of humanity's past. The protection and guarding of truth, equality, freedoms and the innocent are instilled within all of us, but yet seem hard to find - because of us. Many in Germany's past grew complacent with the force of Nazism having full control of every part of life, education was of main focus, with indoctrination of innocent children and the state was never to be in question. Even the church and the religious became weak and complacent in their religious thinking, and went along, to get along.

Today, this holds true to many aspects of life. We seek what we want whether by force, manipulation, or false accusations, and for most, if you can just get by, then voices are quieted and complacency finds its home. This has become more clear now than ever before. If Germany hadn't invaded other countries it would be doubtful if anyone would have come to the rescue of the Holocaust victims. My heart is in concern of us allowing leadership and some social groups wanting to take over our children and country.

To me I see somewhat the same patterns of what took place in Germany and elsewhere, that governments become so big and answer to no one, and only works for power and dominance. Why is it that nations cannot be governed by the trust of people, instead the people governed for power? America hasn't always gotten it right, but has been the most free nation our world has ever known, where "We the People" and Divine directions could once be spoken freely. All this is due to the source and direction of where human value finds itself. Our human spirit wants the same values as our Divine creator. Justice, truth, kindness, forgiveness and everything Good. This is the essence of the Divine. This is what we seek, if only we would be willing to accept the essence or bedrock of where all goodness comes?

Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard - deni.shepard828@gmail.com.

*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.*

## TAYLOR

Continued from  
page 10

higher and higher traffic loads in Highlands. Yes, we may be able to improve some aspects of traffic flow, but increasing capacity will have its limitations.

I don't see much that can be done to increase traffic capacity on US 64 from Cashiers to Highlands short of blasting parts of the mountains away like was done near Lake Toxaway a few years ago. The Gorge Road cannot be improved to any significant level to increase capacity. The US Forest Service even now restricts NCDOT from trimming back trees on the road because of bat habitats, so widening the road is off the table.

NC 106 has similar restrictions, and current improvement plans are scheduled for around 2035 or even 2040.

The town could ask NCDOT to revive a 1990s plan to build a bypass from US 64 near the new fire department that would come out on 64 near the recreation department. I, for one, and many of my fellow citizens would definitely oppose such a plan, a notion that has been done to address downtown traffic in so many other towns.

With new economic growth comes many additional challenges. In the coming months and years, our community will have to grapple with these pressing issues. Do we save Highlands as a small village community, or do we transform it into a mini-Atlanta of the mountains? At the risk of being accused of having tunnel vision, I fall on the village side.

## Balsam West awarded GREAT grants to expand broadband

Across North Carolina, 25,825 households and 862 businesses in 33 counties will get high-speed internet thanks to nearly \$80 million in additional Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grants. The N.C. Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) Broadband Infrastructure Office awarded GREAT grants to deploy broadband infrastructure. Among the 33 counties awarded GREAT grants were Jackson County: Balsam West; Macon County: Balsam West; and Swain County: Cherokee Cablevision, Inc.

These latest grant awards add to the more than \$269 million total awarded in 2022 to connect 117,405 households and businesses. The GREAT grant program is a competitive program that provides matching grants to internet service providers that may partner with individual North Carolina counties to expand high-speed internet service to unserved areas of the state.

As part of the federally-funded GREAT grant eligibility requirements, all internet service provider applicants must participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to offer eligible low-income households a \$30 per month discount on high-speed internet service, or provide access to a comparable low-cost program. Learn more about \$30 per month reliable, high-speed internet packages offered by internet service providers at [getinternet.gov](http://getinternet.gov).

NCDIT has now awarded all of the \$350 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding available for the GREAT grant program, a process that included reviewing a total of 104 eligible applications in 58 counties.

Grants are being awarded to the highest-scoring internet provider that applied in each county based on the number of households and businesses they propose to serve, the average cost to serve those locations, and the speeds offered, among other criteria required by law.

The division plans to make additional awards to remaining counties using additional federal funds later this month.

For more information, visit [www.ncbroadband.gov](http://www.ncbroadband.gov)

The Macon County  
**NEWS**  
& Shopping Guide  
(828) 369-6767  
26 W. Main St. • Franklin, NC  
[maconcountynews@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountynews@gmail.com)



**SUBSCRIBE  
FOR ONLY**  
**\$29.00 PER YEAR**  
*Includes Tax*

# Raising ‘fascinating’ alpacas flourishing in Macon County

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

While cows and horses grazing in fields are a commonplace sight while driving throughout Macon County, less ordinary is a pasture full of alpacas. Yet, the long-necked, fleece-laden animals are being raised by an increasing number of individuals. One reason is because many people find them to be quiet, adorable, and fascinating creatures; another is that their fleece brings income. However, long-term alpaca owners – including Liza McArthur of Alpacas of Merritt Farm in Otto – counsel newbies that much more is involved than just placing alpacas on a grassy field.

In fact, Alpaca Owners Association (AOA), Inc. offers an “Alpaca Owners Guide” that is filled with information about everything from nutrition to behaviors to shearing, selling fleece, and breeding.

At one time, McArthur owned 78 head of alpacas, which are part of the camelids animal kingdom family and are smaller than llamas. She started off with five back in 2000 – four females and one male. The retired police officer had always been interested in

working with fiber, and owning her own alpacas would give her an opportunity to not only acquire plenty of yarn for projects, but also to sell it to other spinners, knitters, and fiber artists.

She learned quickly that she did not need to have a male alpaca early on because its focus on mating was not only a distraction, but she was also not ready to establish a breeding program. Yet, she immediately began reading everything she could get her hands on about alpacas. She attended alpaca conferences, lectures, discussion groups, and networking sessions locally and at universities specializing in alpaca pro-



Liza McArthur has pared back her alpaca herd from 78 to just five which she shears, and then sends the fleece off to be spun into natural yarn.

grams.

Eventually, McArthur became knowledgeable enough to begin a breeding pro-

gram, and she joined AOA, which provided ongoing, helpful information. She helped start the Carolina Alpaca Breeders Association, aligned with AOA, but

offering regional assistance. Additionally, she showed her registered alpacas, which achieved ribbons in various categories focusing on the animal’s characteristics, including their fleece.

For the last 23 years, McArthur has taken a sustainability approach to raising alpacas on her 10 and one-half acres.

“All of the fleece is used,” she said. “I even use the discarded fleece in my garden to naturally keep out weeds. And their manure is turned into compost.”

Plus, she has raised alpacas with the approach that a healthy, happy herd results in the finest fleece – shiny,



Liza McArthur keeps track of how much fleece she has sheared off each alpaca, and she keeps the different types of fleece in bags until she has enough to send to a fiber mill. Each animal’s fleece weight is documented, and the resulting yarn is spun into items such as rugs (above photo).

**Macon Program for Progress**  
*Healthy Opportunities Plot*

**Do you have NC Medicaid Managed Care?**

Medicaid can help cover food boxes, home repairs, and other essential needs.

To find out more, you can call us at:  
828-634-6640 or  
HOP Hotline 828-278-9900

[www.mppnhc.org](http://www.mppnhc.org)



## ESTATE SALE

685 Peeks Creek Road • Franklin, NC – Off Highlands Rd. before Buck Creek

**2 DAYS! MUST SEE TO BELIEVE!**

**Thursday, July 20 & Friday, July 21 • 8am - 3pm**

Large 10x30 Tent full of Furniture • Two Sheds full of Vintage Collectibles • True Antiques  
Craftsman’s Hand Made Items • Vintage Jewelry • 10x14 Metal Storage Shed for Sale  
Tools, Household, 100’s Box Lots • Lamps, Books, Wall Art, Décor • Large Unique Kitchen Island  
Desk, Bookcases, Trunks • Coffee Table and End Table  
Credenzas, Rocking Chairs • Yard Art • Work Tables for Shop • Antique Side Chairs

**EVERYTHING MUST GO!**

**Bring your Truck! Cash, Credit & Debit Cards Accepted.**

durable, and super-soft to the touch. She makes sure the alpacas are fed quality feed and hay, have their toes trimmed properly, wormed when needed, vaccinated annually and sheared each May.

The two main breeds of alpacas are huacaya and suri, and McArthur has always owned the latter. “Suri have silky, long tendrils, while huacaya have fleece that is more crimped, like sheep’s wool. And when you see the suris running in a field with their fleece waving, it’s such a beautiful sight.”

An adult alpaca weighing about 150 pounds will produce between 2.5 to 10 pounds of fleece (fiber), depending on the type of alpaca, and it takes the skilled McArthur around 10 minutes to shear one of her alpacas. She collects hundreds of pounds of fleece before she sends it off to a fiber mill. Often, she has it spun into natural yarn, or the mill might add color or glitter to some yarns. The weight and thickness of the yarn depends on what is requested. With thicker yarn, for example, McArthur has woven durable, soft rugs.

Currently, McArthur owns only five alpacas, babies that she has raised, and she no longer breeds. In fact, she has only males, with the youngest being 14. Alpacas live to be 20-plus years old if they are well cared for.

She has pared back because she has been raising her 13-year-old granddaughter, Eleanor, who is a student at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School and a dancer with the local Dance Arts Co-Op. McArthur plans to homeschool her granddaughter for the 2024-25 school year,

so she has brought her alpaca herd down to a more manageable level to free up time.

“We both love them [the alpacas] because they’re darn cute,” said McArthur. “Eleanor and I work as a team. She is a great help and does a good job around the farm when she’s not dancing.”

McArthur expressed that although raising alpacas has many rewards, including their interaction, curiosity, and child-friendliness, keeping them safe from predatory dogs and coyotes is challenging – and she has experienced losses. Plus, alpacas are herd animals and do not thrive alone.

Visiting the meticulously organized and cleaned alpacas of Merritt Farm barn just a few weeks after her “boys” were sheared, McArthur calls each by name: J.D., with white fleece; Jackson, with brown fleece; Remington Steele, with both gray and white fleece; Dooley, considered a rose gray; and, Blaze, a beige color. As she enters the barn with a visitor, the alpacas’ eyes widen and their necks stretch to observe the stranger’s intrusion; but McArthur said when she and/or her granddaughter are in the barn and pasture, the alpacas interact with them in a friendly but respectful way – because of the time and attention taken with the animals since birth.

For more information about Merritt Farm, raising alpacas, or finding products made with alpaca fleece, visit Alpacas of Merritt Farm on Facebook or email McArthur at alpaca-sofmerrittfarm@gmail.com.



Jackson, the freshly shorn Alpaca, gazes intently at the camera with characteristic curiosity.

**8AM-NOON EVERY SATURDAY**  
**FRANKLIN FARMERS TAILGATE MARKET**  
 Please come out & support your local Farmer's Market!  
**200 BLOCK EAST PALMER ST. • FRANKLIN, NC**

**FRUSTRATED WITH LOW INTEREST RATES AND STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY?**

**5.45%\* interest rate GUARANTEED FOR FIVE YEARS**

•Tax deferred interest! • 100% of your deposits earn interest!

For more information call:  
**Jeff Cloer**  
 Wayah Insurance Group  
 295 E. Palmer St, Franklin, NC  
 (828) 524-4442 ext. 237  
 www.wayah.com

\*Rate shown applies to five year multi-year guarantee fixed annuity. Rate is effective 3/7/2023 and is subject to change without notice. Other terms and rates available. Not FDIC insured.

**WAYAH INSURANCE GROUP**  
 Trust our Experience, Strength, and Service

Visit Us Online at [TheMaconCountyNews.com](http://TheMaconCountyNews.com)

**CAROLINA JUNCTION POWER EQUIPMENT, INC.**

Husqvarna BRP Can-am ECHO STIHL

**Open: M-F 8am-6pm**  
 (828) 369-9655 • 461 Highlands Rd, Franklin, NC

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

Paving & Resurfacing • Excavating  
 Grading & Road Repair  
 Sewer & Water • Retaining Walls  
 Equipment Rental  
 Specializing in Seal Coating

facebook

# Arrest Report

*The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests June 30 - July 9. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



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

### **June 30**

Michael Anthony Roland, 22, was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a stolen motor vehicle and failure to appear. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

Tyler Elden Deats, 27, was charged with true bill of indictment. Costin Jiglaun made the arrest.

Danelle Kay Jimenez, 36, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

### **July 1**

Jennifer Marie Gerba, 43, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny and injury to personal property. Robert Young made the arrest.

### **July 2**

Wesley Burgess Young, 41, was charged with trespass. Sergeant Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Joshua Shane Anderson, 32, was charged with assault on a female. Matthew D. Long made the arrest.

Damian Quinn Dutton, 27, was charged with failure to appear. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

### **July 5**

Marvin Bradford Grant, 59, was charged with statutory sexual offense with a child by an adult.

Henry Stacey Phillips, 52, was charged with failure to appear. Sergeant Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

### **July 6**

Henry Stacey Phillips, 52, was charged with possession of stolen goods, obtain property by false pretense, injury to real property, injury to personal property, breaking and entering and larceny after breaking and entering. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

Britany McCall, 19, was charged with failure to appear. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

Wesley Preston Crone, 34, was charged with aid and abet larceny, felony aid and abet, receive stolen goods/property, felony conspiracy and driving while license revoked. Detective Darrell J. Brooks made the arrest.

Keith Allen Cowart, 55, was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Detective Darrell J. Brooks made the arrest.

Briana Kaitlin Dewey, 26, was charged with failure to appear. Caleb G. McConnell made the arrest.

Amando Thomas Virata, 44, was charged with failure to appear. Caleb G. McConnell made the arrest.

Jeffery Scott Johnson, 52, was charged with failure to appear. Deputy Jacob P. Ledford made the arrest.

### **July 7**

Fredrick Ervin Campbell III, 44, was charged with true bill of indictment. Costin Jiglaun made the arrest.

### **July 8**

Franklin George Hill, 52, was charged with failure to appear. Hunter K. Jamison made the arrest.

Matthew Adams, 34, was charged with assault on a female. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Michael Patrick Rockett, 52, was charged with injury to personal property. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Jacqueline Helena Kidd, 38, was charged with second degree trespass and breaking and entering. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

Daniel Mark-Zacharias Adler, 35, was charged with second degree trespassing and breaking and entering. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

Heather Lea Lucas, 37, was charged with second degree trespassing and breaking and entering. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

### **July 9**

Gregory Dylan Odonoghue, 31, was charged with assault by strangulation, assault on a female, injury to personal property and interfere with emergency communication. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Morgan Corissa Cowart, 28, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine and misdemeanor child abuse. Eric Duvall made the arrest.

## **Franklin Police Department**

### **July 4**

Erin Lynn Eastburn, 41, was charged with injury to property and resist/obstruct/delay. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

### **July 5**

Terry Lynn Choppy, 47, was charged with second degree trespass. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

### **July 6**

Logan McKenna Otter, 28, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense, financial card theft and possession of stolen property. J.M. Norman made the arrest.

Daniel Edward William Stanfield, 29, was issued a warrant for arrest. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

### **July 9**

Hailey Madison McCall, 20, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of a schedule II controlled substance, maintain a dwelling for use/keeping of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Nikelus Orion Hughes, 22, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

## **Jackson County Sheriff's Department**

### **June 28**

Devon Chase Beck, 19, of Hiwassiee, Ga., was charged with resist/obstruct/delay, maintaining a vehicle to store/sell a controlled substance, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and possession of synthetic cannabinoid. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Jollison Ruth Griffin, 34, of Social Circle, Ga., was charged with failure to appear on a felony, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine and possession of a stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of

\$30,000 was set.

### **June 29**

Christian Chandler Bonin, 24, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Douglas Milton Hughes, 64, of Glenville, was charged with being intoxicated and disruptive. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Michael Thad Schrader, 53, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Joseph William Ferro Grier, 40, of Sylva, was charged with trespass of real property, injury to personal property and breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Matthew Douglas Rowe, 35, of Sylva, was charged with trespass of real property, injury to personal property and breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

### **June 30**

John Curtis Carr, 40, of Sylva, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Tori Ann Rockhold, 46, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jason Richard Holleran, 41, of Whittier, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Orlando Mandoza Muniz, 22, of Tuckasegee, was charged with failure to appear for burning personal property. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Johnny Lee Frady, 65, of Cashiers, was charged with making harassing phone calls and communicating threats. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Joseph William Ferro Grier, 39, of Sylva, was charged with second degree trespass and breaking or entering. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Adam Warren-David Evitt, 34, of Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine out of Georgia. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

### **July 1**

Garrett Kelly Nations, 27, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for simple assault. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Alejandro Ortiz Jimenez, 26, of Cashiers, was charged with no operators license and driving while impaired. No bond was set.

Levi Agasga Swearegin, 27, of Whittier, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Nicholas Ryan Fry, 24, of Hendersonville, was charged with trespass of real property. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

### **July 2**

Tyler Kyle Smith, 31, of Sylva, was charged with, failure to appear for driving while impaired, possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$22,500 was set.

Joseph William Ferro Grier, 40, of Sylva, was charged with first degree trespass. No bond was set.

Fae Seraphine Kane, 43, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny and drug/narcotic violations. A secured bond of \$11,000 was set.

Leslie Codi Smith, 34, of Sylva, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

Jamie Rae Worley, 34, of Sylva, was charged with driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.



## "RATTLED: Conserving Rattlesnakes in Appalachia" now showing at Highlands Nature Center

Get ready to embark on a journey into the heart of the Appalachian wilderness. Produced by The Orianne Society, this film promises to captivate audiences with its breathtaking footage and profound exploration of the critical conservation efforts surrounding Timber Rattlesnakes. "RATTLED" sheds light on their natural history, ecology, and vital role in the delicate Appalachian ecosystem.



From dense forests to rocky mountain sides, the film transports audiences to the very places where these fascinating creatures thrive, unraveling their secrets, debunking common myths and revealing the biggest threats to the species and the landscapes they depend on. "RATTLED: Conserving Rattlesnakes in Appalachia" is a call to action, imploring viewers to recognize the urgent need to conserve and protect these mesmerizing creatures.

Don't miss the opportunity to join the adventure. "RATTLED: Conserving Rattlesnakes in Appalachia" will have two showings at the Nature Center at Highlands Biological Station on July 16 at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. After each show, stay to meet our educational animals, learn how to stay safe in snake country, and have all your snake questions answered by venomous snake expert and CEO of The Orianne Society, Dr. Chris Jenkins.

The Orianne Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of reptiles, amphibians and the ecosystems they inhabit through inventory, monitoring, land protection and management, on-the-ground conservation action, and education. One of its primary goals within education is increasing the public's knowledge about snakes and decreasing fear and persecution.

Learn more at [www.orianne.org](http://www.orianne.org).

## Bird in Hand takes stage at Concerts on Creek

The 14th season of Concerts on the Creek continues on Friday, July 14 with a performance by Bird in Hand from 7-9 p.m. at the Bridge Park stage in Sylva.

The road less traveled has always been the way for husband and wife duo Bird in Hand. Bryan and Megan Thurman call the Smoky Mountains of Western North Carolina home and the region is directly reflected in their music. Bird in Hand is upbeat and new while still rooted in the traditions of American folk.

The two have played all over the Appalachian region as well as across the country, and share an on-stage chemistry that demands attention. They need to be seen live to understand the meaning of 'Appalachian Thunder Folk.'

Concerts on the Creek are held every Friday night from 7-9 p.m. at the Bridge Park in Sylva, from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. These events are FREE but donations are encouraged. Dogs must be on a leash. No smoking, vaping, coolers or tents are allowed. There will be food trucks on site for this event.

These concerts are organized and produced by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Sylva and the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, call the chamber at 828-586-2155, visit <https://www.mountainlovers.com/concerts-on-the-creek/> or Concerts on the Creek's Facebook page.



Husband and wife duo Bryan and Megan Thurman are Bird in Hand.

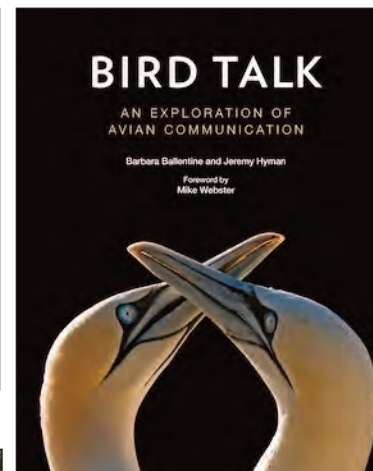
## Zahner Lecture Series at HBS continues with 'Bird Talk: An Exploration of Avian Communication'

The Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) is delighted to announce its upcoming Zahner Conservation Lecture featuring evolutionary biologist Dr. Barbara Ballentine of Western Carolina University. This lecture, titled "Bird Talk: An Exploration of Avian Communication", will delve into the fascinating world of how birds employ acoustic, visual, and olfactory signals in their social interactions for successful reproduction and survival.



Dr. Barbara Ballentine

Dr. Ballentine is an Associate Professor at Western Carolina University. Her research combines integrative and experimental approaches, conducted both in the field and laboratory, to unravel the mechanisms un-



derlying phenotypic variation in birds. Dr. Ballentine's expertise extends beyond her research. She is co-author of the book "Bird Talk: An Exploration of Avian Communication," which provides a captivating exploration of how birds communicate with one another. The book draws on insights from evolutionary biology,

neuroscience, and ecology, offering a comprehensive and accessible overview of avian communication and its vital role in the survival and reproductive success of different bird species.

This Zahner Lecture, generously sponsored by Miriam & Vernon Skiles and Mary Todd & Jimmy Davis, will take place on Thursday, July 20th from 6 to 7 PM at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road). The program is open to the public and admission is free of charge. A small reception will follow. The lecture promises to be an enlightening experience for bird enthusiasts, nature lovers, and the general public alike.

All are invited to participate in HBF's free Zahner lectures which will be held at the Highlands Nature Center on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. through August 10th. To preview HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, please visit [www.highlandsbiological.org](http://www.highlandsbiological.org). The Highlands Nature Center is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

# EATING OUT

## YOUR GUIDE TO AREA DINING

THE WAIT IS OVER!  
WE ARE NOW OPEN

At Our New Location  
38 Palmer St Circle - Franklin, NC  
Downtown Beside The Old Ingles

Hours

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

Delivery 828.369.9999



# July 4th Celebration at Mill Creek



The Mill Creek Country Club annual 4th of July celebration included the 13th Annual July 4th Golf Cart Parade and a resident pot-luck dinner at the home of Glenn and Mary Hill. The parade of 19 patriotically decorated carts wound through the golf homes for judging and viewing by the residents, according to Vicki Ditmeyer, Parade Chairman pictured (at left) with Uncle Sam, (Jason Hedrick). Winners were announced at the "Fling" dinner by the judges Joe and Kim Aguirre. Winners were: Stacy and Jeff Brown - Most Original (below right); Belinda and Jim Oliver - Best Overall (below left); and Betty Merrill - Most Patriotic (above).



**SWEET OPHELIA'S**  
Antiques, Furniture, Plants & Gifts  
**50% OFF EVERYTHING! LOTS OF NEW ARRIVALS!**  
(828)524-2419 304 Depot St. • Franklin, NC  
(located next door to Sophisticat)

**TUXEDOS**  
We Fit Everyone  
**DIVA'S ON MAIN**  
BOUTIQUE • JEWELRY • ACCESSORIES  
24 E. MAIN ST. • FRANKLIN, NC  
828.369.7300

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!**  
**WHISTLE STOP DEPOT**  
ANTIQUES, SHOPS & RV PARK  
Located in the old Cullasaja School off the Highlands Rd.  
145 River Rd., Franklin, NC • (828) 349-1600 whistlestopantiquesnc.com

## Arts Council seeks submissions to 'River of Love'

The Arts Council of Macon County will accept submissions of original works through Dec. 1, 2023, from Macon County writers and visual artists age 18 and older, for "River of Words," the second edition of the Council's Three Rivers Review series. The three rivers of the title are the Cullasaja, Little Tennessee, and Nantahala, rivers that come together in Macon County and are representative of all the county's areas, people and culture.

Written submissions of up to 2,000 words of creative fiction or non-fiction, in any genre, should reflect love in its varied forms. Visual arts submissions of individual pieces of black and white art in keeping with the theme will be placed among written works throughout the publication. Writers and visual artists are limited to one submission. The work's title, submitter's name, street and email address, and phone number, with a 200-maximum word bio must accompany all submissions. There is no entry fee.

Complete guidelines and instructions are at [www.artscouncilofmacon.org](http://www.artscouncilofmacon.org). Submit works by email or mail to The Arts Council, PO Box 726, Franklin, NC 28744. Refer questions to the Council, 828-524-ARTS, or email [arts4all@dnet.net](mailto:arts4all@dnet.net).

## Cable Branch Cemetery Decoration Sunday Aug. 6

In cooperation with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the North Shore Cemetery Association will be hosting a decoration for the Cable Branch Cemetery on Sunday, Aug. 6, with the first boat shuttle leaving at 9 a.m. and the last leaving at 10 a.m. from the Cable Cove Boating Access Area off of NC 28 near Fontana Village. Participants are asked to wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for hiking and outdoor activities and to bring foul weather gear as decorations are held rain or shine. Bring your own lunch, snacks, and drinks or a dish or two to share with those who pot-luck. Lunch will be at the picnic tables.

Cable Branch Cemetery is a 1-mile hike from Fontana Lake with the first ½-mile being upon an old road and the last ½-mile being a steep side trail and can be slick when wet. Assistance will be given to those with mobility issues as weather conditions allow. Pets are not allowed. Service animals must have papers and be vested.

Check Facebook/NorthShoreCemeteryDecorations for any changes and to message for help with accessibility needs.

**OPEN WED-SUN 10AM-6PM**  
*A Stocked Catch Out Pond with Rainbow, Brook, Brown and even Golden Trout.*  
• KID FRIENDLY! • WE HAVE FISHING RODS AND BAIT  
We can clean your catch and pack on ice

**TELICO**  
**TROUT FISHING**  
NO LICENSE, NO LIMIT  
828-349-9034  
4175 Tellico Rd  
Franklin, NC  
TELLICOTROUT.COM



**Buttercups**  
KEEPS ME GOING  
7322 Georgia Road • Franklin, NC  
**ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES**  
Furniture • Housewares  
Linens • Pottery • Glassware  
and much more at  
awesome prices!

**OPEN THUR-SAT**  
**10AM-4PM**

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

**Bill's ALUMINUM PRODUCTS INC.** *Install yourself, or professional installation available*

**(828) 524-8074** | 3791 Highlands Rd. • Franklin, NC

**HIGHLANDER** 828-524-7773  
ROOFING SERVICES INC. highlandernc.com

**Franklin, NC - Five Day Forecast**

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
85°/67°	87°/66°	87°/66°	86°/65°	85°/65°
60%	45%	45%	50%	60%

**SEVERAL HOMES READY FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY**

**GEMSTONE VILLAGE**  
55 and over Active Adult Community  
Platted Subdivision off Prentiss Bridge Road  
with Internet, City Water and Sewer



**NOW AVAILABLE -**  
**2 BR/2 BA homes starting at \$175,500**  
**3 BR/2 BA homes starting at \$180,000**  
**MANUFACTURED HOMES + LAND**

**CALL 828-200-4168**

Gemstone VillageNC.com  
Email: sales@gemstonevillagenc.com  
Manufactured Home Dealer License No. 47699

# Retiree turned inventor seeking investors

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

Narelle Kirkland has been a resident of Franklin since 2001. Kirkland is originally from Philadelphia, Pa., and moved to Franklin as a result of 9/11, for fear that another attack might take place at the Statue of Liberty or Independence Hall. She chose Franklin because she wanted to become a hiker, which she did. Kirkland section-hiked the Appalachian Trail eventually ending up in Maine. Kirkland graduated from Yale with a BA in Economics, then attended Boston University earning a law degree and ultimately passing the Bar Exam. Kirkland was an avid rower and earned five national championships in rowing. Kirkland worked for the Forest Service for a year, after retiring from law; helped repair the sidewalks and pathways near the Greenway; and has worked for GruntWorx, a division of Drake Enterprises for a year.

Kirkland filmed a video back in 2005, titled “The Thread of Life is Thin!” depicting the disaster off Peeks Creek, a river tributary of the Cullasaja River. The Peeks Creek Housing Community sits along Peeks Creek near the bottom of Fishhawk Mountain, about a quarter mile above the Cullasaja River. A massive rock, earth and water debris flow, spawned by hurricane Francis and Ivan destroyed 15 homes in a matter of seconds, killing five people and seriously injuring several more. The Macon County Library houses the film.



Narelle Kirkland demonstrates the Bicycle Chest Rest designed to relieve stress on the neck, back and arms while riding. A provisional patent has been obtained for the device.

stored it anywhere as it is weather resistant and will not rust.

## A Safe and Comfortable Bicycle

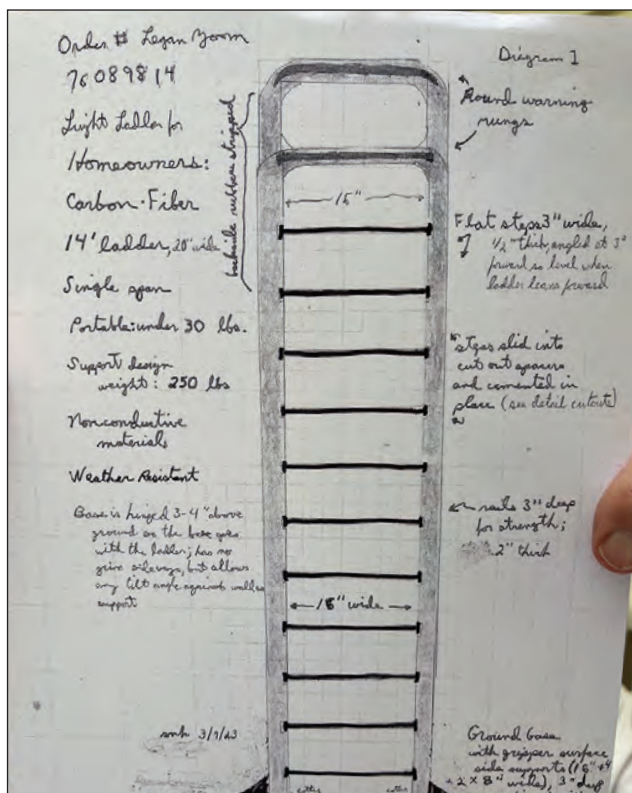
Another project that Kirkland has been working on is a bicycle chest rest. While it may not be new, Kirkland said it is certainly better. This chest rest allows for relieving strain on the neck, back and arms while riding. A bicycle. This chest rest is foam rubber with a carbon fiber stem. It is light and simple to manage. The key design features include that while you are riding, the chest rest can swing out of the way. This makes the bike an easy mount and dismount. Most competitive bikes require a wrench while the bike is stationary to assemble or disassemble such mechanism. This one is made of 90% carbon and can be mounted on the stem or fork tube by anyone. There is simplicity of use for any rider. In the event of a crash, the chest rest separates, to avoid injury to the body. Kirkland has built a prototype bicycle.

## Faster and Safer Go Kart

Go Karts use rack and pinion steering to turn. This means that when the front wheel turns the back wheel follows. Kirkland’s Go Kart is designed with cross direct steering. This enables quick response turns, but it is currently made of wood and steel which make it heavy and so it needs to be made from carbon fiber. This type of go kart is stable and the width of the axle and lower seat makes for reduced likelihood of flipping over. A prototype of the go kart has also been constructed.

## Investors Wanted

Since Kirkland has already obtained provisional patents, investors are needed that can help obtain a non-provisional patent. A non provisional patent is more costly and can take two to three years to finalize. Kirkland has been working with patent attorneys from a law firm in Asheville. Anyone with an interest in partnering with Kirkland to take the inventions to the next step, can call (828)524-0261 or email narellekirkland@gmail.com. All the necessary research has been done and now a partner is required.



Narelle Kirkland’s “Safer Ladder” is made from carbon fiber and includes rubber strips for better traction; an anti-skid mechanism and a longer length.

## A Safer Ladder

Today, Kirkland is delving into several creative projects, having more time to channel ingenuity as a retiree. Kirkland has several inventions in the frying pan and has obtained provisional patents for them. One invention is a Home Owner Ladder. But, how can a ladder be a new invention? Well, Kirkland has improved on the ladder, making it safer and easier to carry. The ladder is 14 feet high as opposed to most 12 foot ladders, and the back of the top three rungs have rubber strips for better traction. It can support weights of 250 lbs. The bottom has an anti-skid mechanism hinged so it lies flat with horizontal gripping claws. The ladder is made from carbon fiber which makes it very light and easy to handle. It can also be



# Deaths & Funerals

## Errol 'Pete' Wentworth Harkness

Errol "Pete" Wentworth Harkness, 85, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, July 9, 2023.

He was born in Garden City, Kan., to the late Claude and Thelma Coen Harkness. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Sharen Siegel; and granddaughter Shannon. He has lived in Franklin since 2017 and was of the Methodist faith. He loved woodworking and farming. In 1958, he founded Silvertip Skydiving, in Missoula, Mon. He served our country in the 82nd Airborne.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Jeanne Thompson; son, Michael Robert Harkness (Maria) of Altamont, Fla.; daughters, Kathleen Thelma McGrath (Eric) of Sugarhill, Ga., Karen Robbins (Eddie) of Franklin; brother, Gregory Harkness of Towner, Colo.; seven grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home on Saturday, July 29, at 4 p.m. The family will receive friends 3:30 to 4 p.m., 30 minutes prior to the service. Military honors will be conducted by the VFW Post #7339 and American Legion Post #108.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Disabled Veterans or American Diabetes Association.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

## LeRoy Miller

LeRoy Miller, 97, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, June 2, 2023.

He was born in Proctor, W.Va., to the late Louis W. and Audra Miller. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Patsy; brother, Robert Miller; son-in-law, David L. Wiley; and grandson, David L. Wiley Jr.

He graduated from Magnolia High School in 1942, then graduated from West Virginia University with a Bachelors in mechanical engineering. He worked in the aircraft industry, chemical industry, and the space industry. He attended Louisa Chapel United Methodist Church. He was a World War II veteran who served in the Navy Air Corp. He was a member of the Masons, Shriners, and the American Legion. He played in the senior games and called Bingo at the Senior Center.

He is survived by his daughters, Dorothy "Dot" Wiley, Marilyn "Sue" Miller; son, Herbert Miller (Susie), all of New Martinsville, W.Va.; son, Richard Miller (Sherry) of Lynchburg, Va.; three granddaughters; three grandsons; a niece; a great granddaughter; a great grandson; and a great granddaughter on the way.

A celebration of life was held Saturday, July 8, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. Military honors were conducted by American Legion Post 108 and VFW Post 7339. Masonic rights were conducted by the Junaluska Lodge #145.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Errol Harkness



LeRoy Miller

## Kathryn Patterson Vinson Taylor

Our precious loving mother, Kathryn (Catherine) Patterson Vinson Taylor, peacefully went to be with her Lord on July 3, 2023, at Highlands Cashiers Hospital where she was lovingly cared for.

She was preceded in death by her parents, A.C. & Edna James Patterson; her husbands, Hoyt Vinson and Walter Taylor; and her beloved son, Tom Vinson.

Born June 11, 1925, she was raised in Tessentee, N.C. and graduated from Franklin High School in Franklin, N.C. After graduating in 1945, she went to work in Oak Ridge, Tenn., for Tennessee Eastman as part of the Manhattan Project. Upon leaving Oak Ridge, she returned to Tessentee and married Hoyt Vinson. In 1948, they moved to Highlands, N.C., and began their family. Upon Hoyt's death in 1964, she continued to raise her three children. In 1973, she married Walter Taylor and welcomed his two daughters into her family.

During her life, she worked at various occupations including nurse's aide, property management, and family caregiving while selflessly providing for her children. Upon her retirement, she enjoyed volunteering for the Highlands Emergency Council, supporting the Scottish Tartan's Museum, attending JOY Group at Highlands United Methodist Church, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. She was known for her green beans, chocolate pound cake, fried apple pies, and deep-dish apple pie. "Mamaw" dearly loved her family, especially her grandchildren and her Lord. Always active in her church, she was the oldest living member of Highlands First Baptist Church.

She is survived by her brother, James (Hilda) Patterson; daughters, Margaret Bryson, Sandy Vinson, Dianne Taylor, Melinda (Paul) Musumarra; and daughter-in-law, Karen Vinson. She was a loving and proud grandmother to Josh (Carrie) Bryson, Elizabeth (Michael) Baker, Mark (Rachiel) Musumarra, Barbara (Ryan) Childress; and great grandchildren, Maddie Coen, Emmie Wedge, Madeline Baker, and Harrison Baker. She is also survived by many loved nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dryman's Chapel Church, First Baptist Church of Highlands, and Highlands United Methodist Church JOY Group.

The family would like to thank Dr. Patti Wheeler for years of compassionate and loving care, Ms. Delores Jones, and Ms. Willean Stiwinter for their caring friendship.

A funeral service was held Monday, July 10, at the Bryant-Grant Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Karen Radcliffe of St. John's UMC, Fort Mill, S.C., and Dr. Mark Ford of First Baptist Church, Highlands officiating. Burial followed at the Wright Cemetery.

Pallbearers were grandsons, Josh Bryson, Mark Musumarra, Michael Baker, and Ryan Childress; son-in-law Paul Musumarra; and special family friend, Buddy Miller.

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

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



Kathryn Taylor

## Joanna Solomon Seaman

Joanna Solomon Seaman, 88, of Franklin, N.C., passed away July 3, 2023.

She was born in Waycross, Ga., to the late Julian and Mamie Lee Miller Solomon. She attended Zoe College in Jacksonville, Fla., graduating with a PHD, Doctor of Divinity. She loved planting, dogs, the Bible, designing, art, antiques, agriculture, reading, and writing.

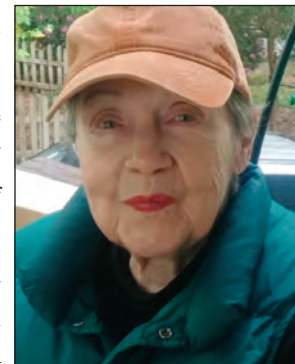
She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Henry A. (Buddy) Seaman, Jr.

She is survived by her daughter, Jan McRae; son, Andy Seaman (Penni) of Dandridge, Tenn.; and one grandson, Jesse Solomon (Dr. Katie Solomon).

Honoring her request, no services will be held.

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

Macon Funeral Home handling the arrangements.



Joanna Solomon Seaman

## Sherry Loretta Walker

Sherry Loretta Walker, 61, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Saturday, July 1, 2023.

She was born to the late Ronald and Frances Overstreet Walker. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Brian Walker.

She was a Disabled Veteran life member of three different chapters and American Legion. She loved animals. She viewed "nature as her religion and the world as her church."

She is survived by her sister, Shawn Walker of Jonestown, Pa.; brother, Brad Walker and wife Fiona Walker of Yarraville, Victoria, Australia; stepfather, Neil "Ginge" Larsson of Mocksville, N.C.; and foster brother, Michael Levine of Mooresville, N.C.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, July 13, at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m., one hour prior to the service. Burial will be in the WNC State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to A Man with A Horse Charity, <https://sites.google.com/manwithahorse.org/manwithahorseproject/home>.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Sherry Loretta Walker

View obituaries  
online at

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

## CORNERSTONE MEMORIALS



DOYLE YORK, Owner

Located at Rabun Flea Market

(706) 746-2548

(706) 746-9977

Please Call For Appointment

(706) 746-2837

134 Market Circle • Rabun Gap, GA 30568



Moffitt Family  
FUNERAL CARE

David  
Moffitt  
OWNER/FUNERAL  
DIRECTOR

Because Funeral Care  
Shouldn't Cost So Much

828-634-1966

668 Highlands Road • Franklin, NC

## William Byron overcomes adversity for Atlanta victory

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

Neither an early spin nor damage to his No. 24 Chevrolet could prevent William Byron from winning Sunday night's rain-shortened Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

With a storm approaching the 1.54-mile track, Byron surged past AJ Allmendinger into the lead on Lap 167 and remained out from until an accident in Turn 3 involving Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ryan Preece and Bubba Wallace caused the seventh caution of the evening on Lap 178.

With Byron out front, the NASCAR Cup Series cars circled the track until the rain arrived and began falling more heavily. NASCAR brought the cars to pit road and red-flagged the race at 9:47 p.m. after 185 laps were complete.

With severe weather moving into the area, the sanctioning body called the race and made Byron the first four-time winner in the series this season. The victory was Byron's second at Atlanta and the eighth of his career.

Daniel Suárez was second when NASCAR called the race, with Allmendinger running third. Michael McDowell and Kyle Busch completed the top five.

Crew chief Rudy Fugle called Byron to pit road on Lap 125 under caution for a pileup in Turn 2 that damaged the cars of Erik Jones, Ross Chastain, Corey LaJoie, Tyler Reddick, Martin Truex Jr. and Ty Gibbs.

That enabled Byron to restart fourth on Lap 165 after roughly half the field (cars that had not pitted since Lap 95) came to pit road on Lap 161. Two laps later, Byron had the lead.

Byron hardly looked like a winner after spinning through the grass on Lap 80 and losing a lap getting to pit road. But the 25-year-old from Charlotte, N.C., regained the lost circuit as the beneficiary under caution for Kyle Larson's spin on Lap 92.

"It's cool, man," Byron said. "We went through so much throughout the night—spinning through the infield, destroyed the bottom of the car dragging it around the apron trying to stay on the lead lap. At that point, you just don't have the grip, so I was real edgy back in traffic, but Rudy made a good call to pit there and then stay out."

"Once we got towards the front, it was OK. We could make the right decisions, block OK, and I got the lead from AJ and was able to manage the run. Just a crazy night."

The race was a boon not only for Byron, who leads the Playoff standings, but for winless drivers around the Playoff bubble. First, there was no new winner in the series to reduce the number of spots available on points.

Moreover, Suárez, Allmendinger and McDowell improved their chances with top-five finishes. Those three drivers all gained ground on Chase Elliott, who is trying to qualify for the Playoffs despite missing seven of the 19 races this season.

Elliott wasn't a factor on Sunday night, failing to earn any stage points and finishing 13th.

Despite his early struggles, Byron was pleased that handling played such an important part in the racing on the recently repaved racing surface.

"It was awesome—that's all you can ask for on a superspeedway," Byron said. "We want handling to matter. We want to be able to drive the things. I felt like the first stage was really fun. I was able to make some moves on the bottom."

"And you're lifting every corner, so it's different than a 550 (horsepower) old-style race. It's more packed up, but still handling matters, and guys can make aggressive moves... I'm thankful for the whole team and just staying in it, 'cause we were a lap down, and it could have been over."

The race started with team owner Richard Childress driv-



William Byron, driver of the #24 Axalta Chevrolet, celebrates with Jeff Gordon, vice chairman of Hendrick Motorsports (L) and Byron's crew chief, (R) Ryan "Rudy" Fugle in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart at Atlanta Motor Speedway on July 9, 2023, in Hampton, Ga.

Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images



ing pace laps in the No. 29 Chevrolet that launched Kevin Harvick's career with an Atlanta win after Dale Earnhardt's death in 2001. It wasn't Harvick's night, however. After a late spin, he finished 30th in his final run at Atlanta. Harvick is retiring from Cup racing at the end of the season.

### John Hunter Nemechek seizes overtime win at Atlanta Motor Speedway in NASCAR Xfinity Series

HAMPTON, Ga.—Grabbing the lead on an overtime restart as Saturday night's Alcoso Uniforms 250 went six laps past its posted distance, John Hunter Nemechek streaked to his third NASCAR Xfinity Series victory of the season.

The only time Nemechek led was during the overtime, after a push from Daniel Hemric powered him into the lead on the final restart.

Nemechek won for the first time at Atlanta Motor Speedway and for the fifth time in his career, finishing .245 seconds ahead of Hemric. Cole Custer came home third, followed by Kaulig Racing's Justin Haley, who held the lead for the final restart.

At the start of the race, Nemechek's car suffered from handling issues, particularly in traffic. But his team made the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota progressively better as the race unfolded.

"I got a huge push from the 11 (Hemric) there, so thanks to Daniel for giving me that huge push," Nemechek said. "Early on, if you had said we would have won the race, I

definitely would have told you that wasn't going to be the case.

"We didn't have the fastest car tonight, but I'm really proud of this 20 team... Man, this is special. I don't know if the track changed a ton. We just had to make our car better all night. It came down to an overtime finish, and luckily, we were able to execute on that restart."

Kaulig drivers Haley and Chandler Smith were running 1-2 when Austin Hill spun in Turn 4 on Lap 161 to cause the eighth caution and send the race to overtime. Haley chose the outside lane for the restart, with Nemechek to his inside and Smith behind him.

But Haley didn't get the push he needed as Smith faded back through the field. Haley, who led 80 straight laps from the green-flag start of the final stage, dipped below Hemric on the final lap, rather than pushing his teammate, saying later that he was running out of fuel.

Hill's late spin and an earlier pileup on the backstretch eliminated a handful of potential contenders for the win.

A massive wreck on Lap 88, involving 10 cars, ruined the chances of Stage 2 winner Sheldon Creed and the competitive car of Ryan Sieg, who had led twice for 15 laps.

In the middle of the pack after a Lap 87 restart, the Ford of Riley Herbst slowed with a tire down. Brandon Jones, running behind Herbst, took evasive action, but in moving down the track, Jones' Chevrolet turned Sieg's Ford nose-first into the outside wall.

Creed, who had an issue getting fuel into his Chevrolet under caution at the end of Stage 2, had to return to pit road and restarted near the back of the field. Collected in the Lap 88 wreck, Creed exited the race.

Joining Creed on the sidelines were Herbst, Sieg, Jones and Anthony Alfredo.

"We did everything right," said Sieg, bemoaning his ill

fortune after a mandatory trip to the infield care center. “It just sucks to be on this side of it. We’ve been fast in all of four of these (Atlanta) races.”

**Corey Heim triumphs in wild NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series race at Mid-Ohio**

Corey Heim started on the pole and finished with his second victory of the year in Saturday’s O’Reilly Auto Parts 150 NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series race at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

What happened between the green flag and checkered flag was pure chaos.

In a race that started in a deluge and ended in bright sunshine, cars were spinning like tops on a skittles board and landing in gravel traps that required tow trucks to pull them to freedom.

Teammates collided at the front of the field, and frequent contact between trucks produced 10 cautions for 23 of the 67 laps and stretched the race from a projected 2 hours 17 minutes to nearly four hours.

we were the fastest truck in practice, qualified on the pole, of course, and came here and won the race. It’s just awesome. Hats off to everybody.”

Smith had to start from rear of the field after his team made repairs to the transmission in his No. 38 Ford. He sustained minor damage to the truck while charging forward through heavy traffic.

“Yeah, brutal to finish second here again,” Smith said. “Such a fun road course. Our (truck) lacked turn, especially on the right-handers, all day long and struggled in first gear. Some things to improve on, but I just felt like we needed a little bit more.”

“I don’t know how much our damage here was slowing us down,



Corey Heim, driver of the #11 Safelite Toyota, and crew celebrate in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series O’Reilly Auto Parts 150 at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course on July 08, 2023 in Lexington, Ohio.

Photo by Meg Oliphant/Getty Images



John Hunter Nemechek, driver of the #20 Mobil 1 Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series AlSCO Uniforms 250 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on July 08, 2023 in Hampton, Ga.

Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

But in the end, the best truck won. Heim powered his No. 11 TRICON Garage Toyota past Ty Majeski on Lap 42 and held the top spot for the final 26 laps to claim his first-ever road course victory at the 2.258-mile, 13-turn circuit.

Heim beat reigning series champion Zane Smith to the finish line by .947 seconds, as Smith had to settle for the runner-up spot for the second straight year.

“It’s just unbelievable,” Heim said. “We came here with high expectations. I felt like I did a good job last year of staying up front, but I put in the work to go from being a third-place truck to a winning truck...”

“This thing was good ever since we unloaded. I felt like



but those things happen when you start in the back. Frustrating to finish second again, but our road course program has been outstanding.”

Winless drivers immediately above and below the Playoff

bubble remained closely bunched, with Stewart Friesen finishing fourth, Matt Crafton sixth, Matt DiBenedetto eighth and Nick Sanchez ninth.

Two races remain before the Truck Series Playoff field is set at Richmond.

Ben Rhodes won the first stage, and ThorSport Racing teammate Majeski took the second, but their two Fords collided and slid off-course on Lap 43 while running second and third behind Heim. Rhodes recovered to finish fifth, and Majeski salvaged a seventh-place result.

Christian Eckes, a two-time winner this year, ran a solid race and came home third behind Smith.

Established 1960

## FRANKLIN BODY SHOP

Longest Operating Body Shop in Franklin and Macon County

Insurance Repairs • Frame Straightening  
Custom Color Matching  
Factory Direct Parts  
Auto Detailing  
Window Tinting

Expert Body Repair • Auto Glass  
24 Hour Towing • Large Well Equipped Facilities

7 Body Men / Technicians and  
3 Expert Painters Ready to Serve You

56 Mill Street • Franklin, NC • (828) 524-7494

The Macon County

# NEWS

& Shopping Guide

The most affordable, effective advertising

(828) 369-6767 • 26 W. Main Street • Franklin, NC 28734

TheMaconCountyNews.com

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: IDIOMS

### ACROSS

- 1. Nebraska city on Missouri River
- 6. Not her
- 9. Eamhardt of racing fame
- 13. Sea near Australia
- 14. Slippery when cold
- 15. Printer cartridge contents
- 16. \*Title of this puzzle, sing.
- 17. Congressional title, abbr.
- 18. Title holder
- 19. \*Run around in these and not make progress
- 21. \*Cut these to skip steps
- 23. He had
- 24. Nicholas II, e.g.
- 25. Jack-in-the-Box restraint
- 28. Subway in U.K.
- 30. What washing machine does
- 35. Egyptian goddess of love
- 37. Crescent point
- 39. Hot rod sticker, e.g.
- 40. Org. in Brussels
- 41. Impede
- 43. Parks or Luxemburg
- 44. \_\_\_\_'s, once Canada's famous department store
- 46. \*One of these in beans lacks importance
- 47. Barrel-counting org.
- 48. Nova \_\_\_\_, Canada
- 50. Mess up
- 52. Bugling ungulate
- 53. Modeling material
- 55. Robinson in "The Graduate"
- 57. \*Resting on these stops one from trying
- 61. \*No use crying over this milk
- 65. Money in the bank, e.g.
- 66. Certain frat house letters

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12		
13						14				15					
16						17				18					
19						20			21	22					
			23					24							
25	26	27			28			29		30		31	32	33	34
35			36			37			38		39				
40						41				42		43			
44					45			46				47			
48						49		50			51		52		
					53			54			55		56		
57	58	59	60							61			62	63	64
65								66	67			68			
69								70				71			
72								73				74			



**SWITCH & GET**  
**\$25**

**Off First Month of New Service!**  
USE PROMO CODE: **GZ590**



**Consumer Cellular**

**CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913**

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

- 68. Little dear
- 69. Like a disreputable neighborhood
- 70. College assessment test, acr.
- 71. Fairy-tale oil lamp dweller
- 72. Hawaiian tuber
- 73. "Oui" in English
- 74. The Three Musketeers' swords
- 8. Synchronizes, for short
- 9. Pillow filler
- 10. "Green Gables" character
- 11. Suggestive look
- 12. Blunders
- 15. Full of tribulations
- 20. Derive
- 22. Dinghy propeller
- 24. Bear witness
- 25. \*Read between these for real meaning
- 26. Writer Asimov
- 27. Likewise
- 29. \*Don't beat around it
- 31. Claudius' successor
- 32. Breadth
- 33. Oil holder
- 34. \*Cut one some of this and don't be critical
- 36. Dirt on Santa's suit?
- 38. Gallup's inquiry
- 42. Like Raphael's cherubs
- 45. Polite social behavior
- 49. How many of the President's men?
- 51. \*Cross it when you get to it
- 54. Investigative report
- 56. Count sheep
- 57. Bringing up the rear, adj.
- 58. Between ports
- 59. Consumer
- 60. Overhaul
- 61. Tennis scoring term, pl.
- 62. Pool path
- 63. Great Lake
- 64. Henna and such
- 67. \*One up your sleeve gives advantage

## HAULING

- DIRT
- GRAVEL
- MULCH



Otto • Dillard  
Franklin

(828) 371-2432

# PETS OF THE WEEK

Macon County Animal Services,  
Open M-F by appointment only, call  
(828) 349-2106.

Pictures of Lost and Available Pets,  
[www.facebook.com/maconcountyanimalservices](http://www.facebook.com/maconcountyanimalservices)



Jackson is a 9 month old Labrador mix. He knows basic commands, and keeps his kennel clean.

Ivy is a grey long haired cat around 3 years old, spayed. She's very loving and get along with other cats.



# SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

Call today and receive a  
**FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SPECIAL OFFER

SAFE STEP  
WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last! No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082185 N5CB 8082999 0083445

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

© StatePoint Media

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

# The Classifieds

## Services

**THE DUCT GUY HVAC** Ductwork & Dry Vent Cleaning. Window & Pressure Washing. FREE Estimates. Insured & Experienced! Call (828)342-5540.

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

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

**CLEANING PACKING ORGANIZING** Property Checks, Watering & Other Household Services. Great References. Mountain Area Property Services (828)550-4585.

**GUTTER & DOWNSPOUT** Cleaning and Repair. New Installation, Leaf Guards. No Job Too Small, Free Estimates. Call Rick Hall (828)371-3566.

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

**FREE ESTIMATES** Rain Gutter Clean Out. Yard Clean Up & Care, Mulch. Pressure Cleaning. No Yard Too Large or Too Small. Bob (828)342-5273.

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

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

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

**MURPHY'S PAINTING CO.** Interior and Exterior Painting, Sheetrock repair, wallpaper removal, Log Homes, Decks, Insured. Free estimates. (828)332-0525, (828)421-8600.

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

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

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

**ASHE PAINT, STAIN,** Pressure Washing, Gutter Cleaning, Quality Guaranteed, Affordable, Dependable Service, Residential/Commercial, Exterior/Interior, Log Homes & Decks. (828)506-1641.

**MELTON'S ROOFING** Gutter Cleaning and Chimney Sweeping. Give Us a Call at cell# (828)421-6712 With All Your Roof and Gutter Needs.

**FRANKLIN OTTER WASH** Exterior pressure washing, decks and RV's you name it. I can bring my own water and your estimate is free! For any questions call (828)200-5298. We're happy to help!

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

## Garage & Yard Sales

**ESTATE SALE** Saturday, 7/15, 8am-2pm, Rain or Shine, Variety of Household Items Plus More! 35 Holland Dr.

**FRIDAY, JULY 14,** 815 Pete McCoy Rd, 8am-noon, rain or shine. Kid stuff, furniture, antiques, household items, and more!

## Misc. For Sale

**\$1 DVD's,** DVD Box Sets, Golf Clubs, Bags, Balls & More. Uncle Bill's Flea Market Booth 44B.

**B & M MILITARY SURPLUS** GI Boot, OCP Scorpion Multi-Cam Marpat Camo, Nets, Ammo Can's, Uniforms, Vests, Packs Field Gear, GI Wool Blankets. 3 Day Assault Pack, W/C Poncho Liner/Woobie. We Buy, Trade All Types Military Clothing, Field Gear. Open Mon.-Fri., 9-6 Sat 9-5, 329 Bennett Ridge Rd., Franklin, NC, (828)349-3140.

## Animals

**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.

**LOOKING FOR A LOVING** Pet or Lost Pet. Macon County Animal Services, Open M-F by appointment call (828)349-2106. Pictures of Lost and Available Pets, www.facebook.com/maconanimal

## Notices

**NOTICE OF ASSERTION OF LIEN** Franklin Mini Storage, 5762 Georgia Hwy, Franklin, N.C, 28734 has possessory lien on the goods stored in the prospective units listed below. All items of personal property are being sold pursuant to the assertion of the lien on Saturday July 22,2023 at 10am in order to collect the amounts due. The sale will take place at 5762 Georgia Hwy, Franklin, N.C. Jennifer Ellington-A5, Jacob Searcy-A6, Angela Selig-A11, Susan Klocke-A15, Neil Moore-A16, Mellisa Byers-A17, Cliff Cook-A20, Ashley Davis- A22, Jeff Baker-A23, Brandon Cates-A24, Tina Konat-b/c14, Linda Pauli-b16 Laura Koster-b/c17, Hark Solar-d14, Nicholas Hennequin-d15, Richard Ellis-f4, Matthew Levan -f5, Robin Dowling-G5, Daniel Rodriguez-G9, Jessica Smith-G11, Vella Rhinehart- G12, Lee Plouffe-H9, George Konat-J2, Belinda McGuire-LM1, Scott Vinson-M9, Robin Swaby N5-N8, Ellen Herron-N7. For information call (828)349-4019.

## Motor Vehicles

**1981 PUCH MOPED** Maxie \$400 with Book (828)371-7987.

## Boats & Campers

**REDUCED! 2005 FLEET- WOOD** Terra 32S, 42K miles, new tires, new Seatcraft recliners, 50-inch TV in living room, 24-inch in bedroom, new floors, lots of updates. \$27,500, call for more info. (828)371-7284.

**14' TRACKER JON BOAT** 17' Trailer, 9.8 Tohatsu Motor. Mint condition. Seats, paddles, life jackets. \$3,000.00 O.B.O. (828)524-5078.

## Community Fundraisers

**BINGO** American Legion Hall, 614 W. Main St., Every Wednesday. New Hours Early Bird 4:30 to 5:30. Regular Session 5:30, Snack Bar Available.

**APPALACHIAN ANIMAL** Rescue Thrift Store, Open Tuesday thru Saturday, 9am-4pm, 1521 Old Murphy Rd., (828)369-3046.

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

**REACH FOR BARGAINS** in Heritage Hollow, open Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, Benefits Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. Information call (828)369-2040.

## Real Estate

**OPEN HOUSE** Sunday 11-2. Newly renovated 3 bedroom/3 bath townhouse, 55+ community, \$289,900. 93 Horizon Drive #13. Photos on Zillow.com (352)396-5307.

**RV/TINY HOME LOTS** for sale. \$40k-\$50k/ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and septic run to each lot. Located in Franklin, NC. (828)200-0161. Go to our web site for directions and more info. www.TinyMountainEstates.com

## Rentals

**COZY LAKEFRONT** Cottages, 2 Separate Units, 1 free standing and 1 lower duplex. 1BD/1BA, Fully furnished. Close to Town, No pets, Easy Access Franklin. Ideal corporate rental. Suitable for 1 to 2 persons, Seasonal, not permanent. Call for price. Sarah Miller, Diva's (770)757-7500.

## Commercial Rentals

**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT** Depot St., \$350 monthly, Includes Water & Electric, (828)421-7332. Leave a message.

**OFFICE FOR RENT** Large 2 room suite in Franklin, Courthouse Plaza Building. Rent includes power, heat and air. \$695/month. Call (828)524-7799.

## Help Wanted

**PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER** Officer Organizer Needed, 2 Days a week, Local Franklin Business. Call Sarah at Diva's (770)757-7500.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** position available, must be knowledgeable of the 7 western counties of NC. in order to give out visitor information. Sales experience needed as well. Fun job! Contact: martha@vis-itsmokies.org (828)369-9606.

**TORTOISESHELL/ PERSIAN**  
Six Weeks Old  
Bushy Tail, Adorable  
\$50  
(828) 524-0261



## TRAILER RENTALS



**6X10 DUMP**






**5X10 OR 6X12**

### CALL FOR AVAILABILITY



9957 Georgia Rd.  
Otto, NC  
**828-349-4500**

In Otto since 1998

## Felix's Tree Expert, LLC

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



Accepting All Major Credit Cards

Insured & Reliable • Call Us Today for FREE ESTIMATES

**(828) 200-1052**

**TreeServiceFranklinNC.com**



Since 1997

# FAMILY AUTO CARE

Complete Auto Repair Shop

Thank you to all of our customers for another successful year of business!




**Mon. - Fri. 8-5**

**(828) 369-2155**

976 E. Main St.  
Franklin, NC

**NO CREDIT CARD FEES!**



# SMOKY MOUNTAIN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



## BYEBYE BIRDIE

A MUSICAL COMEDY

SPONSORED BY  
 ANGEL  
MEDICAL CENTER

JULY 14, 15, 21, 22



JULY 29



AUGUST 4

## CLAY WALKER



AUGUST 25

And so much more! Find out at  
**SmokyMountainArts.com**

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

