



Holiday Gift Guide

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Friday, December 6th • 6 pm • City Lake

ROCKY MOUNT CHRISTMAS PARADE
Sunday, December 8th • 3 pm • Main Street, Downtown Rocky Mount

WINTER WONDERLAND *Free Event*
Sunday, December 15th • 1 pm
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Register for **PRIZES** at **THESE** locations! Plus your name will be put into a **BIG DRAWING - (2) \$100 Gift Certificates** at the end of the day!

SATURDAY • NOV. 30th
 Participating Locations
 Division Arms • Faith Christian Ministries
 Southern Fireflies • Jody's of Nashville
 Unity Salon & Spa • Madelyn's Flowers & Gifts
 Alice's Beauty Shop • The Nashville Graphic
 The Painted Teacher Boutique
 Piggly Wiggly • Taylor Made Jewelry
 Wendy's Hole in the Wall • Harper's Nursery



SHOP SMALL SATURDAY, NOV. 30
 Holiday Specials Register for Prizes 10am-4pm

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BASKET GIVEAWAY \$600 VALUE
 Bring a NEW unwrapped toy to be registered. One registration per visit. Drawing is Dec. 7

CLEARANCE ITEMS BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

HUGE SELECTION HOLIDAY DECOR HOLIDAY APPAREL GIFTS & MORE!

We Make Christmas Bows ALL SIZES
 Lots of great stocking stuffer ideas!

STOCKING STUFFERS



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VISIT THESE MERCHANTS FOR SATURDAY SPECIALS

Register for **PRIZES** at **THESE** locations!
 Plus your name will be put into a **BIG DRAWING - (2) \$100 Gift Certificates** at the end of the day!

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Division Arms • Faith Christian Ministries
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 Unity Salon & Spa • Madelyn's Flowers & Gifts
 Alice's Beauty Shop • The Nashville Graphic
 The Painted Teacher Boutique
 Piggly Wiggly • Taylor Made Jewelry
 Wendy's Hole in the Wall • Harper's Nursery

SHOP SMALL SATURDAY



Up to 15% off select items in-store

FREE Box of ammo with handgun purchase	FREE Mounting for scope and red dot purchase	FREE LIMITED EDITION Challenge Coin *with \$1,000 or more purchase
--	--	--

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 Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00

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 Second Class: 2-4 pm
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Calendar events must be submitted by 10 a.m. Monday for publication. Items accepted are events sponsored by not-for-profit organizations or free events. Mail to: Community Calendar c/o The Nashville Graphic, 203 W. Washington St. Nashville, NC 27856 or fax (252) 459-3052 or email to news@nashvillegraphic.com. Please include a contact name and phone number.

DECEMBER 2

Nash County Health Department will hold a Community Health Fair on Dec. 2nd to recognize World AIDS Day. Free HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis testing will be offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Mills Church, located at 911 Falls Road in Rocky Mount.

Afternoon Storytime will be held at Harold D. Cooley Library, 114 West Church St., Nashville on Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. geared for ages 2-5, but all ages are welcome. Activities include stories, songs and crafts. For information call 252-459-2106.

DECEMBER 3

Ribbons to Bows will be held Dec. 3 from 1-2 p.m. in the Warner Room at Braswell Memorial Library. Call 252-442-1951, ext. 851 to register. The library is located at 727 N. Grace St., Rocky Mount.

DECEMBER 5

Christmas with Santa performed by Bright Star Touring Theatre will be held at Harold D. Cooley Library, 114 West Church St., Nashville on Dec. 5 at 4:30 p.m. Free admission for all ages. For information call 252-459-2106.

DECEMBER 5 - DECEMBER 8

The Nash County Arts Council presents its annual "A Christmas Carol," directed by Dan Seda, with evening performances on Thursday, Dec. 5, Friday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. closing with a matinee performance on Sunday, December 8 at 2:30 p.m. Doors open 20 minutes prior to showtime. Advance tickets are \$13 General Admission or \$8 Nash Arts members. Cost of admissions will increase to \$15 General or \$10 Members at the door. Reserved seating, group

rates, sponsorships and program ads are also available. Call (252) 459-4734 for more details. This and all future productions will be the traditional version. Nash Arts is located at 100 E. Washington St., Nashville.

DECEMBER 7

The Nashville Chamber of Commerce and Nashville Recreation Department will host the annual Children's Christmas Celebration in downtown Nashville on Dec. 7. Free children's activities will be available from 2-4:30 p.m. Children's Bike Parade begins at 4:30 p.m. followed by the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony; free photos with Santa at 5:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the most spirited parade entries. Parade is for ages 12 and younger, no motorized vehicles allowed. Parade lineup begins at 4 p.m. in the Nash County Courthouse parking lot.

DECEMBER 10

High school equivalence, ABE Reading/Writing will be held Monday - Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. through Dec. 10th at Nash Community College. Call 252-451-8242.

DECEMBER 10-14

Where's Rudy? If you find Rudy the reindeer hiding in the children's section at Harold D. Cooley Library between Dec. 10-14, bring him to the circulation desk to receive a special reward. The library is located at 114 West Church St., Nashville. For information call

252-459-2106.

DECEMBER 11

The Nash County Arts Council will host its monthly acrylic class, led by local artist, Kim Valentine, on Wednesday, Dec. 11th from 6-8:30 p.m. Registration is \$35 general admission or \$30 for Nash Arts members. Supplies will be provided by the artist. This is a beginner level class for ages 16 through adult. This month's theme will be a colorful snowman. Register by Dec. 2nd by visiting nasharts.org or calling (252) 459-4734. Late registration will increase by \$5. Nash Arts is located at 100 E. Washington St., Nashville.

DECEMBER 12

Basic computer skills and keyboarding class will be held from 9 a.m. - 12 noon and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Braswell Memorial Library on Dec. 12. Call 252-442-1951, ext. 851 to register. The library is located at 727 N. Grace St., Rocky Mount.

Storytime with Santa will be held at Harold D. Cooley Library, 114 West Church St., Nashville on Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. For information call 252-459-2106.

DECEMBER 13

The Nash County Arts Council presents a special holiday performance by TolerMusic on Friday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:40 p.m. Advance tickets are \$10 general admission or \$5 for Nash Arts members. Cost of admissions will increase to \$15 general or

\$10 members at the door. TolerMusic (Tim, Connie, Tori, Anna, & Harri) are a Nash County family group who sings a variety of music including Gospel, Pop, Country & Classic Rock. For more information, visit nasharts.org, tolermusic.com, or call (252) 459-4734. Nash Arts is located at 100 E. Washington St., Nashville.

DECEMBER 17

Shopping online safety class will be held Dec. 17 from 2-4 p.m. in the computer lab at Braswell Memorial Library. For more information call 252-442-1951, ext. 85. The library is located at 727 N. Grace St., Rocky Mount.

DECEMBER 18

Gadget guidance featuring technology help with iPhones, laptops, and smartphones will be held Dec. 18th from 2-4 p.m. in the computer lab at Braswell Memorial Library. Call 252-442-1951, ext. 851 to register. The library is located at 727 N. Grace St., Rocky Mount.

DECEMBER 19

The Nash County Arts Council is hosting a barnyard Christmas ornament hand sculpting class, led by artist Regina Pena, on Thursday, December 19th from 6-8:30 p.m. Registration is \$35 general admission or \$30 for Nash Arts members. Supplies will be provided by the artist. This is a beginner friendly class for ages 16 through adult. Register by Dec. 5th by visiting nasharts.org or calling (252) 459-4734. Late registration will increase by \$5. Nash Arts is

located at 100 E. Washington St., Nashville.

DECEMBER 20

Holiday Karaoke will be held on Dec. 20 from 2-4 p.m. in the Warner Room at Braswell Memorial Library. For more information call 252-442-1951, ext. 85. The library is located at 727 N. Grace St., Rocky Mount.

DECEMBER 21

The Nash County Arts Council presents "Home for Christmas" with Chandler James and Meredith Davis Johnson on Saturday, December 21st at 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Advance tickets are \$13 General Admission or \$8 Nash Arts members. Cost of admissions will increase to \$18 General or \$13 Members at the door, provided seating is still available. Last year's event was sold out, so get your tickets early! For more information, visit nasharts.org or call (252) 459-4734. Tickets are also available online through nash-county-arts-council.ticketleap.com.

- ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Northern Nash Class of 1975 will host its 50th reunion April 18-19, 2025. Cost for the two-day event is \$100 per person/\$175 per couple. Deadline to pay is Feb. 28, 2025. A cruise is planned for April 28-May 2, 2025. Contact Milton Hagans 434-426-3528 for two-day event. Contact Donald Davis for cruise information and deadline 404-583-6759.

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Christmas in Bailey

Annual Tree Lighting • Friday, Dec 6th at 6 pm

Entertainment will be provided by Southern Nash High School, Miss Sweetpotato 2024, Smanatha McKeel and Miss North Carolina Volunteer 2025, Kate White.

Santa will be on hand for the kids following the performances.
Hot Chocolate and Cookies will be provided by Rudy's Truck and Trailer.

Saturday, Dec 7th

Craft vendor fair 10 am to 4 pm featuring a variety of local artists and boutiques.
Food trucks will be available along with our local boy scout troop serving plates and the fire dept serving hotdogs.

Parade begins at 2 pm along Main Street
Grand Marshal will be Timothy Stamatias.
Timothy is 3 years old and is currently diagnosed with leukemia.

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Former Nashville Graphic reporter, editor, wins national award for opinion writing

Rocky Mount native Clifton Barnes, who was a reporter and editor at *The Nashville Graphic* in the 1980s, has won a national award for Editorial & Advocacy writing.

Writing for CapitalSportsNC, Barnes won an Award of Excellence from the DC area-based Communications Concepts through its 2024 Awards for Publication Excellence (APEX) competition.

Barnes, a UNC-Chapel Hill journalism and political science grad who lives in Cary, was one of seven winners nationally in the category.

The opinion piece - titled "Media Unfairly Criticizes Hahn, Longtime Voice of N.C. State Athletics, Who Announces Retirement" - can be found online at capitalsportsnc.com/?p=1824855.

Barnes came to the defense of N.C. State athletics play-by-play announcer Gary Hahn, who was heavily criticized for an offhand comment he made regarding illegal immigration.

"Nobody in the main-

stream media came to Hahn's defense, just the opposite as a matter of fact," Barnes said. "In light of the unfairness of the situation and the fact that I have studied the issue of immigration since the 1990s and knew that what he stated was simply factual, I felt compelled to speak up. As I said in the editorial, he deserved better than that."

One judge wrote, "The author lays out all the facts surrounding a politically charged situation surrounding a longtime sportscaster's retirement, while also expressing his opinion."

Another judge wrote, "The author presents a thoughtful and thorough reporting of the issue and lets the readers make their decision on how they feel about the situation."

Although Barnes has twice won awards for column writing, this is the

first time Barnes has won an award for editorial writing in the APEX competition. This is the 14th year in a row that he has won at least one award in the APEX national competition, including awards for sports-related articles, law-related articles, business-related articles, opinion pieces, social media and website development.

Barnes has won nearly 100 awards over the years from various organizations including the N.C. Press Association, the National Association of Bar Executives, the N.C. Society of Historians, the Carolinas Association of Business Communicators and the National Newspaper Association.

Barnes served as director of communications for the N.C. Bar Association for 15 years and, before that, was a newspaper writer and editor. He wrote for the *Nashville Graphic* while still in high school and came back to the newspaper after college to serve as sports editor and, later, feature page editor as

well.

Today, Barnes is a freelance writer, editor and webmaster who owns several websites, including one that chronicles each UNC basketball game.

Barnes, a 1978 graduate of Rocky Mount Senior High, is known for spear-heading movements to get a highway marker for Kay Kyser in Rocky Mount and a yearly Hometown Spirit Award in Cary. Also in 2024, Barnes held a Kay Kyser tribute event at the Braswell Library in Rocky Mount which featured video clips and in-person comments from Kyser's daughter Kimberly.

Along with his wife Andrea, he has raised their 18-year-old son Will, who is a freshman at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee. Barnes is the son of W.C. (deceased) and Lorraine Barnes of Atlantic Beach. Born in Greenville and raised in Rocky Mount, Barnes has many family members in Rocky Mount, Tarboro and Greenville.



BARNES



PFC Desmond Sykes II, 18, of Rocky Mount graduated from United States Marine Corps boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island on Nov. 1, 2024. PFC Sykes successfully completed 13 weeks of intensive basic training at Parris Island as one of 81 recruits in Training Platoon 2072. Following ten days home on leave he will report to Camp Geiger for one month at Military Combat Training. He then will report to his Military Occupation Specialty school. From there he will be assigned his duty station. PFC Sykes II is a second generation Marine following the footsteps of his father.

His family is very proud of him and all others who choose to serve their country. Contributed photo

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DECEMBER 6
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