



Your Community-Minded Newspaper

YANCEY COMMON

TIMES JOURNAL

Volume 32, Number 44

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Burnsville, North Carolina 50¢

Initial damage assessments from Hurricane Helene total \$53 billion, more than three times greater than Hurricane Florence

Initial damage assessments Less than a month after Hurricane Helene hit Western North Carolina, Governor Roy Cooper shared a state budget recommendation to help rebuild stronger to withstand future storms. Governor Cooper recommends an initial \$3.9 billion package to begin rebuilding critical infrastructure, homes, businesses, schools, and farms damaged during the storm.

“Helene is the deadliest and most damaging storm ever to hit North Carolina,” said Governor Cooper. “This storm left a trail of destruction in our beautiful mountains that we will not soon forget, but I know the people of Western North Carolina are determined to build back better than ever. These initial funds are a good start, but the staggering amount of damage shows we are very much on the front end of this recovery effort.”

Initial damage estimates are \$53 billion, roughly three times Hurricane Florence estimates in 2018 and the largest in state history. A strong recovery will require significant investments by private insurers as well as the federal, state and local governments.

The economic devastation from Hurricane Helene is unparalleled. Thousands of businesses in the region suffered damages leaving business owners and workers suffering. The Governor’s funding package includes \$650 million to address economic losses and physical damage for non-agricultural businesses and non-profit organizations. This would include a revival of the pandemic-era Business Recovery Grant Program, which helped North Carolina’s economy recover faster than the national average. Governor Cooper has already increased unemployment insurance benefits through an executive order with a bipartisan and unanimous vote of the Council of State.

The Governor’s budget recommendation includes \$650 million to address physical damage to residential structures and cost of housing assistance. These investments would jumpstart permanent housing construction in advance of potential federal funds, which can take months or years to be approved.

Critical and high-risk infrastructure was damaged across the region, including water and sewer systems in multiple communities and power generation facilities. Much of this infrastructure is in geographically isolated locations and challenging to reach, slowing restoration of services to communities. The Governor’s funding package includes \$578 million to address the physical damage and cleanup of energy, water, waste clean-up, telecommunications, dams and other infrastructure.

Hurricane Helene severely impacted approximately 5,000 miles of state-maintained roads across the affected area in Western North Carolina, including several major national interstates and critical transportation corridors. The proposed funding package includes \$55 million to address physical damage and state revenue implications of the transportation infrastructure damage.

The funding package includes \$422 million to address physical damage and business disruption for agricultural enterprises. This storm caused significant damage to hundreds

of thousands of acres of agricultural land and hundreds of structures.

As North Carolina is still recovering from other recent natural disasters, Governor Cooper’s proposed budget includes \$420 million for needs related to PTC-8, Tropical Storm Debby, and funds to complete homeowner assistance for Hurricanes Florence and Matthew.

On Friday morning, October 25th North Carolina Governor Cooper signed Senate Bill 743 into law, which allocates more than \$600 million in Helene disaster relief and recovery funds.

“Today I traveled to Green River Cove in Polk County to survey storm damage and meet with local officials and then helped with relief efforts in Asheville alongside First Lady Jill Biden,” said Governor Cooper. “Folks on the ground in western NC are working hard to help communities build back from this storm and get help to those in need. I’m thankful for our federal, state, local and volunteer partners who are pitching in as we continue our recovery efforts.”

Over 1,700 Soldiers and Airmen are working in Western North Carolina. Joint Task Force- North Carolina, the task force led by the North Carolina National Guard is made up of Soldiers and Airmen from 12 different states, two different XVIII Airborne Corps units from Ft. Liberty, a unit from Ft. Campbell’s 101st Airborne Division, and numerous civilian entities are working side-by-side to get the much-needed help to people in Western North Carolina.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is helping to assess water and wastewater plants and dams.

Approximately \$168.4 million in FEMA Individual Assistance funds have been paid so far to Western North Carolina disaster survivors and more than 226,000 people have registered for Individual Assistance. Over 7,100 people have been helped through FEMA’s Transitional Sheltering Assistance. Nearly 5,900 registrations for Small Business Administration Loans have been filed.

More than 1,750 responders from 39 state and local agencies have performed 153 missions supporting the response and recovery efforts through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). This includes public health nurses, emergency management teams supporting local governments, veterinarians, teams with search dogs and more.

Across Western North Carolina, approximately 4,200 customers remain without power, down from a peak of more than 1 million. Overall power outage numbers will fluctuate up and down as power crews temporarily take circuits or substations offline to make repairs and restore additional customers.

Some roads are closed because they are too damaged and dangerous to travel. Other roads still need to be reserved for essential traffic like utility vehicles, construction equipment and supply trucks. However, some parts of the area are open and ready to welcome visitors which is critical for the revival of Western North Carolina’s economy. If you are considering a visit to the area, consult DriveNC.gov for open roads and reach out to the community

and businesses you want to visit to see if they are welcoming visitors back yet.

NCDOT currently has approximately 1,400 employees and 900 pieces of equipment working on thousands of damaged road sites.

Ninety-eight storm-related deaths have been confirmed in North Carolina by the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. This number is expected to rise over the coming days. The North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will continue to confirm numbers twice daily.

On September 27th, Hurricane Helene forever changed the landscape of Western North Carolina. The winds from the apocalyptic storm left a path of destruction, and the forceful flood waters moved rivers, cut mountains, and leveled valleys. Helene caused extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, and natural areas, including the Pisgah National Forest and Mount Mitchell.

Tragically, 12 Yancey County residents are believed to have perished, with 9 recovered and identified. Additionally, local law enforcement has recovered 2 decedents from neighboring Mitchell County.

Over a thousand homes, businesses, and structures were damaged or destroyed, and 3 people remain unaccounted for. As the county and its people begin to heal and reflect on this period, officials, residents, and local businesses focus on recovery, support services, and future preparedness.

“Fall Back” this Sunday morning

It is time to roll those clocks back one hour! Don’t forget to turn back time, one hour, at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, October 27, 2024.

NCDOT recovery efforts after Helene

Following Helene, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has reopened more than 860 roads. While a major feat – there is still work to be done.

There are about 415 road closures; and nearly 7,500 damaged sites – including at least 120 bridges needing to be replaced.

The department awarded an \$8 million contract to stabilize westbound lanes of Interstate 40 in the Pigeon River Gorge and anticipates awarding a contract for permanent repairs soon.

Convenience Centers and Landfill open

The Yancey County landfill is open Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sat 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Yancey County Convenience Centers are open from 7 a.m.- 4 p.m.

BLDI awarded

Bryant’s Land & Development Industries, Inc., a Yancey County-based company, has been awarded the Brush and Debris Cleanup contract for a majority of Yancey County.

The company is looking to hire local Yancey County personnel to work the contract with the vision of helping to get individuals or companies impacted by Helene back to work.

They are looking for CDL



Damage from Helene has turned one section of the Blue Ridge Subdivision of the CSX Corp. rail line in the Poplar Community of Mitchell County into what appears to be more suitable for a roller coaster ride over a commercial train.

Railway repairs are underway for CSX Corp.

Jacksonville-based rail carrier, CSX Corp has made significant progress in the recovery effort from damages incurred by Helene.

Helene tore apart significant portions of the Blue Ridge Subdivision which runs through North Carolina and Tennessee. This Subdivision suffered extensive damage to the railways and the loss of two bridges. Estimates fall at \$200 million for repairs, with no estimated time for reopening this section available.

Crews could be seen working and repairing the railroad tracks running through Spruce Pine on October 22nd. Residents in the Poplar Community of Mitchell County have stated that repairs are underway there as well.



General Election is Tuesday, November 5

The 2024 general election is Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024. Polling places will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Any voter in line at their assigned polling place at 7:30 p.m. will be able to vote.

Registered voters can find their polling place and sample ballot on the ncsbe.gov website.

In-person early voting for the 2024 general election began Thursday, October 17th and ends at 3 p.m. Nov. 2 in all 100 counties. For sites and

BLDI awarded Brush/Debris Cleanup contract

These positions require a valid driver license and valid insurance, a vehicle and/or trailer to transport debris to a designated site, equipment or capability to load the debris on your vehicle, equipment must pass contractor’s inspection along with other requirements.

Interested individuals or companies are instructed to call BLDI at 828-678-9966 to make arrangements for an interview.

Photos and videos have shown the railroad tracks dangling in the air, lying in the river bed or completely gone. Railway beds were the only source out for some residents in the first hours/days after Helene hit. Residents used ATVs to move around and check on neighbors. Looking from the Poplar community back up river toward Murphytown, the tracks have taken on the appearance of a rollercoaster ride, not that of a commercial railway.

CSX’s famed Clinchfield Railroad covers approximately 44 miles from Erwin, TN to Spruce Pine, NC. The rails set adjacent to the Nolichucky River in what locals know as The Gorge. This narrow scenic valley with the Nolichucky flowing down the middle is a

favorite for boaters and kayakers. Mid-way was the The Wall section, where tracks sat atop a concrete rail bed. Numerous sections of track in the gorge now lie in the river or have been carried completely away.

The Cane River and Toe River join near the Hunt Dale / Murphytown communities. During Helene, these two waterways had already caused record-setting damage and water levels on their own, way before joining forces to become the Nolichucky River. These combined forces hit the Murphytown, Peterson, Poplar communities inflicting damage of unprecedented proportion before heading into The Gorge. Sitting serenely at the mouth of The Nolichucky Gorge is Erwin, TN. The angry water and debris hit this Tennessee town in waves. Water levels rose quickly and without warning as the incredible amount of muddy water hit the outskirts of town with an explosive force.

The rumors came with the passing days after Helene that it would be impossible to rebuild the railroad tracks. But it seems there is yet hope. A long tedious job lies ahead for the CSX, but for many the wait will be worth it. Once again the mountains will be filled with the sound of those engines making the hard pull from Erwin, up through the gorge, and into North Carolina. Many have been the nights of being lulled to sleep by the rhythm of the railcars passing by. (Something we have been told that comes with time.) Or the excitement of a child receiving a ‘waive’ from the train engineer along with the unique sound of the whistle as the engine passes near a crossing.

Any registered voter who needs a photo ID can get one for free from their county board of elections office during the early voting period, which ends on Nov. 2.

Voters in need of assistance may bring an eligible person to help them enter and exit the polling place or to help them complete their ballot according to the voter’s instructions.

Election officials are also available to help voters. Curbside voting is also available for voters unable to enter the voting site.

Yancey County Board of Elections Office is located at 30 East US Hwy 19E By-Pass, Burnsville, NC. Phone 828-682-3950, email: boe@yanceycountync.gov.

Yancey County Board of Elections Director Mary Beth Tipton stated the YCBOE is working with the State Board of Elections and FEMA to help insure that every precinct will be open for voting Election Day.

Main Street Trick or Treat, October 31st on the Town Square in Downtown Burnsville

On Halloween evening, October 31st, everyone is invited to join Downtown Burnsville's 'Trick or Treat' Main Street.

This year's event will be held within the Burnsville Town Square from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evening.

There will be candy, costumes, games and fun for goblins and ghouls of all ages.

Sponsors for this year include Blossman Gas & Appli-

ance, Something Special Gift Shop, Monkey Business Toy Shop, and the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce.

Come to the downtown area, spend time with family, friends and new acquaintances.

As fall is winding down the evening will provide one more opportunity to enjoy the colors of nature before the cooler temperatures descend upon the mountains.

'Trunk or Treat' event on October 31 at the Switzerland Inn, Spruce Pine

This Halloween, in partnership with our friends at Operation Airdrop and The Joel Fund, Switzerland Inn will host a 'Trunk or Treat' event from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, October 31st as a heartfelt token aimed at restoring joy and a slight sense of normalcy for our community's children following the challenges faced in the wake of this natural disaster.

The evening will feature trick-or-treating, pumpkin carving, delicious apple cider, and

hot chocolate.

Free costumes will be available on-site for the kids and Operation Airdrop have generously arranged for trained service dogs to attend, providing comfort and support for those dealing with anxiety, depression, or PTSD.

Let's come together as a community to share some smiles and tears this Halloween. Switzerland Inn is located at 86 High Ridge Road, Little Switzerland in Mitchell County.



NC OSFM Chief Brian Taylor visits Yancey County following Helene

On Saturday, October 19, NC Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Chief Brian Taylor traveled to Yancey County to personally thank and encourage the fire department personnel who have been at the forefront of relief efforts following Tropical Storm Helene's devastation. One of the hardest-hit areas, Pensacola, was Chief Taylor's first stop, arriving by helicopter to show his support and hear from the local responders.

At the Pensacola Fire Station, Chief Taylor met with local fire officials, learning firsthand about their extraordinary efforts to aid the community. In addition to fire protection, the department has set up a pop-up medical clinic, offering much-needed healthcare to storm survivors.

Chief Taylor took time to express his gratitude, emphasizing how critical it is to

support first responders in their work and personal well-being. "The strength and dedication of our fire personnel in Yancey County are truly inspiring," Taylor said. We're here to make sure you have what you need to take care of your community and yourselves as you continue this vital work."

Afterward, Chief Taylor traveled to the Yancey County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), where he met with the North Carolina Incident Management Team (NC IMT) and several local fire chiefs. He expressed his concern over the overwhelming damage and praised the resilience shown by both the first responders and the community. He reassured them of NC OSFM's full support in the days and weeks to come, emphasizing the importance of additional help for their ongoing recovery.

NC IMT staff shared stories of incredible dedication, noting that several fire chiefs in the room had sustained personal property damage but remained steadfast in serving their neighbors. As Chief Taylor went around the room speaking with each responder, he acknowledged the emotional and mental toll that such disasters can bring and urged everyone to take care of themselves as they continue to care for their community.

"We're all in this together," Taylor said, "and how you've come together for your community is nothing short of remarkable. We will continue to stand with you, ensuring you have the support you need."

Rebecca Eggers-Gryder appointed Chief District Court Judge for District 35

Chief Justice Paul Newby has appointed Yancey County District Court Judge Rebecca Eggers-Gryder to serve as chief district court judge for District Court District 35 (Avery, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga, and Yancey counties) effective January 1, 2025.

Judge Eggers-Gryder will fill the vacancy left by Chief District Court Judge Ted McIntyre, who is running unopposed for superior court judge.

"I am confident that Judge Eggers-Gryder will continue to serve her community well in her new administrative capacity

in Yancey County," said Chief Justice Newby.

Judge Eggers-Gryder has served as a district court judge since 2015 after being appointed by former Governor Pat McCrory and then re-elected in 2016.

She currently leads a Safe Babies Court pilot site in Mitchell and Yancey counties. Eggers-Gryder previously served as a trial lawyer for almost 30 years, and received her undergraduate degree at Appalachian State University and her Juris Doctor at Campbell University School of Law.

Statewide 'Booze It & Lose It' Campaign

If you drink this Halloween, never drive.

The North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program launched the "Halloween Booze It & Lose It" campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of driving while impaired.

Law enforcement officials will increase saturation patrols to take drunk drivers off the roads in all 100 counties Oct.

Yancey Public Library offers services after Helene

Library Hours are currently 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. With hope to resume Saturday hours on November 2.

Wifi, public computers, printing, faxing and scanning services are all available. There is a notary on staff.

Library Conference rooms will be open for new reservations and for those who have already scheduled meetings here November 4.

Resource sharing has resumed after being suspended in the aftermath of Helene. Patrons may now put books on hold and order materials from other libraries in the Cardinal system.

The Wednesday Reader and Ales and Tales book clubs plan to resume in November for any who wish to attend. Watch the newspaper and our Facebook page for updates.

Story Time has resumed at the library. The next one is Thursday October 31 at 11:00 a.m.

28 through Nov. 3.

"Driving under the influence is a choice that can have devastating consequences," said NCGHSP Director Mark Ezzell.

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles reports that 405 people died in alcohol-related crashes in North Carolina in 2023. Of the 1,565 people that died in fatal car crashes last year, 22.4% were alcohol-related crash fatalities.

Lloyd Bailey Building reopens with limited hours

The Lloyd Bailey Building of the Rush Wray Museum Complex will re-open on Wednesday, October 30th at 10 a.m. The new limited hours of operation will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open hours will increase as more volunteers become available.

The current feature exhibit, Digging Up the Past - a visual record of Yancey County archaeology, contains the curated collections of Lawrence Wilson, John Young and Howard Smith plus artifacts from both Cane River School Site Digs in 1989 and 2014 and other local finds including items recovered from the McElroy House Well and grounds. There are also seven other permanent exhibits highlighting area history and the Genealogy Library.

For more information call the Yancey History Association office at 828-678-9587.

MCC supports local recovery efforts after Helene

Since Hurricane Helene hit the region, Mayland Community College (MCC) has been actively engaged in the community's recovery efforts across its three campuses—Mitchell, Avery, and Yancey.

At the Avery Campus, FEMA's Disaster Recovery Center is fully operational, providing seven-day-a-week assistance for disaster applications. The campus also hosts the Small Business Administration (SBA), county services, and USDA teams, ensuring comprehensive support for those affected. Meanwhile, on the Yancey Campus, all outside law enforcement officers were accommodated during the initial recovery phase, with laundry and shower facilities available for officers and the community.

The Mitchell Campus is serving as a hub for various recovery operations. They are currently hosting a mobile medical unit set up by the NC Department of Health and Human Services. The Sam Center has been repurposed as a storage facility for essential supplies. During the initial stages of Duke Power's restoration efforts, the Mitchell campus parking lot was used for staging.

In addition, the Blue Ridge Boutique Hotel housed 31 out-

of-state linemen assisting in power restoration efforts. The SBA's Disaster Recovery Team is currently set up in the Learning Resource Center for Entrepreneurs, offering critical assistance to local business owners.

MCC employees have demonstrated extraordinary dedication by volunteering across the community. The college allows staff to devote a portion of their workweek to these efforts while still being compensated. Additionally, Mayland's Student Services team has created a respite room for college employees, providing a space to recharge.

Recognizing the significant impact on students, Mayland has established a dedicated webpage featuring a comprehensive list of resources to address mental health, food insecurity, healthcare, unemployment, shelter, veterinary care, and more. Emergency funds have also been allocated for students who have experienced loss or displacement, ensuring they can continue their education.

Dr. John Boyd, President of Mayland Community College, and other administrators have been regularly attending community meetings to assess ongoing needs. "Our thoughts

are with the community during this trying time," says Dr. Boyd. "At Mayland, we're committed to offering any support we can to those affected by the storm, whether it's through education, resources, or simply being there for our neighbors."

For more information on available resources, visit www.mayland.edu/hurricane-helene-relief-resources-for-students.

DAV Meeting November 2

We will be having a DAV meeting Nov. 2nd covering a small amount of current information and then just a venting session. Lunch will be served during venting. This will entail all of us supporting one another. There is also a \$500 DAV time limited program through the VA. The is for lost fridge and freezer food or other damage. I will provide the form for you to fill out.

This form will be scanned and emailed to the address stated on form. Please contact Susan L. Peek at 284-9301 if unable to attend the meeting.

Meeting located at 1748 W. Hwy 193 Riverside Baptist Church, Burnsville for Jerry and 8 Robertson St., Burnsville for Susan.

History Assoc. postpones 2024 annual meeting

Due to the unprecedented and wide-spread gaps in phone, e-mail, internet and postal services, the Yancey History Association Board of Directors has agreed to postpone the Annual Open Meeting and Election of Officers until 2025.

Nominations for President and Secretary can still be made through the YHA office at 3 Academy Stret in Burnsville or by e-mail at yhmuseum@frontier.com attention 2024 Nominations Committee. For more information contact the YHA office at 828-678-9587.



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Elect BRANDI BUCKNER YOUNG

Unaffiliated Candidate for County Commissioner

The Change We Need. The Voice We Deserve.

Transparency, Accountability, Fairness



- Advocating for solutions to high property taxes and addressing discrepancies.
- Advocating for fair and responsible conduct in all county business, ensuring all actions abide by laws and statutes.
- Dedicated to supporting real solutions for drug addiction recovery and mental health rehabilitation.
- Dedicated to supporting our local farmers and their contribution to our community.
- Ensuring all county employees are treated with respect, regardless of differing views.
- Dedicated to upholding the Constitution for all and support the rights of every citizen.

I'm running for county commissioner out of a deep commitment to Yancey County. I want to be a voice for the people and make a real difference in this community I'm blessed to call "home." Running as an unaffiliated candidate lets me keep the focus where it belongs – on the people, not politics.

Four weeks ago, Hurricane Helene changed our county forever. Many of our neighbors are struggling without power, heat, or even a roof over their heads. Since the storm hit, I've volunteered every day, working to bring relief through essential supplies. Although I'm still running to represent this county, you won't see me campaigning at the Board of Elections or seeking a photo op. Instead, I'm where I'm most needed right now – helping our neighbors who've lost everything and ensuring that supplies reach those preparing to face winter without the basics.

Many of us take for granted a warm home, a hot shower, and a soft bed, but countless families in Yancey County no longer have these comforts. My heart is heavy for our community, yet my spirit is strong. I've witnessed God's hand in these difficult times, along with miracles that are helping us pull through. While I wish I could be at the polls to shake your hand, this mission is more urgent. Though my campaign signs may be torn down across the county, fixing them isn't my priority when so many homes lie in ruins.

I'm deeply grateful for the support, encouragement, and kindness you've shown since I started my campaign for county commissioner. Win or lose, I'm committed to Yancey County for the long haul. Together, we'll rebuild our county – step by step.

Paid for by the Committee To Elect Brandi Buckner Young

YANCEY COMMON TIMES JOURNAL

22 North Main Street, Burnsville, NC 28714
Telephone: (828) 682-2120 / Fax: (828) 682-3701
web: www.yanceytimesjournal.com
news email: editor@yanceypaper.com
advertising email: pat@yanceypaper.com

Publisher / Advertising Manager Pat Randolph
(email: pat@yanceypaper.com)

News Reporter Kayti Ledford
(email: editor@yanceypaper.com)

Business Manager/Bookkeeper Anna Webb
(email: anna@yanceypaper.com)

Office Manager/Circulation Katie Hardin
(email: katieh@yanceypaper.com)

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Yancey Common Times Journal, 22 North Main Street, Burnsville, NC 28714.
Liability for an error will not exceed the cost of space occupied by the error.
This newspaper is printed on 100% recycled paper by Bristol Herald Courier.

The Yancey Common Times Journal is published proudly for the citizens of Yancey County and surrounding counties. Our goal is to produce quality, profitable, community-oriented newspapers that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach that goal through hard work, teamwork, loyalty, and strong dedication towards printing the truth.

Published and operated by owners Pat Randolph, Anna Webb.

The Yancey Common Times Journal (USPS) 695-300 is published every Wednesday for \$25.00 per year in Yancey, Mitchell and Madison Counties, \$30.00 per year in North Carolina, and \$40.00 per year for out-of-state. Subscription prices include 6.75% sales tax. Published by The Yancey Journal Inc. Second-class postage paid at Burnsville, N.C. Postmaster.

YANCEY STRONG

YANCEY COUNTY IS BUILT ON OUR FAITH IN A MIGHTY GOD AND SHARED VALUES OF HARD WORK, RESILIENCE, AND PRIDE IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. YOUR LOCAL REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN HONORED TO SERVE AND WORK WITH YOU TO MAKE OUR COUNTY STRONGER AND TOGETHER, WE WILL REBUILD.

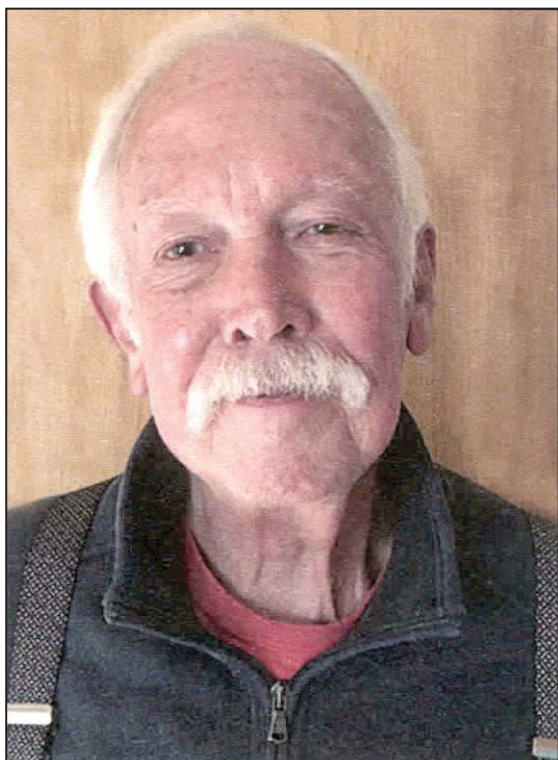
OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU REMAINS THE SAME: TO PRESERVE THE STRENGTH OF YANCEY COUNTY, AND ENSURE A SAFE, PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY FOR ALL. LET'S CONTINUE THIS JOURNEY TOGETHER, KEEPING YANCEY COUNTY STRONG.

VOTE REPUBLICAN AND RE-ELECT COMMISSIONERS MARK LEDFORD, SANDI NORTON, JEFF WHITSON, AND RE-ELECT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS EDWIN FORTNER, WILL HENSLEY, AND CODY WHITSON.

PAID FOR BY THE YANCEY COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY



JIM PARLIER and HILLARY MANDY YOUNG YANCEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER



In the aftermath of the recent storm that devastated our county, County Commissioner candidates Jim Parlier and Hillary Mandy Young have issued a message of hope, resilience, and gratitude to the people of Yancey County.

“We want to first give thanks to God for the many blessings our county has received,” Young said. “But we also take notice of those who have lost everything during this difficult time. Please know that you are in our prayers, and we ask for God’s blessings upon you and your family”.

Both Parlier and Young have made a commitment to work tirelessly in the county’s rebuilding efforts, ensuring that no one is left behind. They stressed the importance of mental health services and support, highlighting the resources already in place while exploring additional options for care in the future.

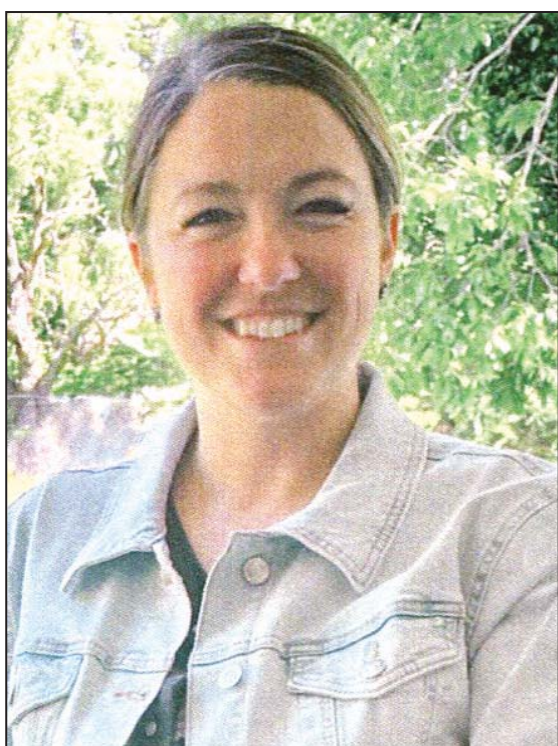
“We are fully dedicated to supporting mental health with the resources we currently have and will continue to seek new solutions to improve care for our citizens,” Parlier explained. “We know that this will require a careful balance of fiscal responsibility, and we aim to avoid unnecessary expenses while focusing on what truly matters: rebuilding our communities.”

Both candidates also extended deep appreciation to all the workers, both local and from other areas, who have stepped up to assist in the recovery efforts.” There were no strangers in Yancey County, even if you didn’t know the name of the person working beside you it felt like family.” Parlier explained. “We can’t thank everyone enough for their hard work, care, and compassion. So many people have pitched in, cried with us, and stood by our side. Those moments of unity will never be forgotten.”

Parlier and Young encouraged residents to use the resources that have been brought into the community for relief and recovery, emphasizing that these services are for everyone, without shame or hesitation.

“We are strong Appalachian people, and together, we will get through this,” they stated. “We want to assure you that we will do our best for Yancey County moving forward, because our residents deserve the best.”

The candidates concluded their message with a call for continued unity and support under the hashtag: #YanceyStrong.



SUSAN JOBE - YANCEY COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

Susan Jobe is grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Register of Deeds for Yancey County. Serving as Register of Deeds since 2015, Susan is a dedicated public servant taking care of your property deeds and most vital records. Susan Jobe knows the people of Yancey County and is proud to serve the county where she was born and raised.

She is the daughter of the late Everett and Nancy Crout, both of whom passed away in the mid-1980s when Susan was only 12. Susan is married to her high school sweetheart, Robbie Jobe. Together, Susan and Robbie have two sons, CJ (an electronic engineering graduate from Western Carolina University-currently employed at Baxter) and Josh, (currently a senior at Western Carolina University studying to obtain a Business Management Degree.) Susan is proud of her strong faith and is blessed to have a strong church family at Bakers Creek Baptist Church where she is a long-time member.

Susan Jobe is experienced and knowledgeable in every aspect of the Register of Deeds Office. Susan worked 15 years as a legal assistant for a local attorney gaining experience in many types of legal documents before joining the Register of Deeds office. Susan is a state-certified register of deeds and has received other education and training to ensure her ability to safeguard our county’s most important records. The work of the Register of Deeds requires great attention to detail as Susan is responsible for all land records and deeds, as well as birth, death, marriage, and veteran records.

Susan Jobe works hard every day to ensure the citizens of Yancey County have a highly trained, dedicated, and professional Register of Deeds Office that is prepared to meet any challenge. Susan’s entire life experience has prepared and led her to the opportunity to serve the citizens of Yancey County as Register of Deeds.

Thank you for your continued support!



For the Children, Building Tomorrow Together: A New Vision for Yancey County Schools



In a unified effort to prioritize the future of education in Yancey County, three dedicated and highly experienced educators are stepping up to lead. With a combined 100 years of teaching experience, **Lavenia Peterson Burnette**, **Kim Higgins**, and **John Stallings** have committed their lives to shaping the minds and well-being of the county’s children. Their journey of service continues as they aim to represent the interests of students, teachers, and staff in the upcoming Board of Education election.

In the wake of the recent natural disaster, these candidates have become acutely aware of the challenges facing the school system. Their vision for Yancey County Schools centers on recovery, resilience, and the future. They stress the importance of addressing the educational and emotional needs of both students and staff, understanding that the road to normalcy will require collective effort and careful planning.

A Commitment to Excellence and Integrity

The educators’ campaign message is clear: they are committed to ALL students and ALL staff. Their priorities revolve around quality instruction, ethical leadership, and fiscal responsibility. Burnette, Higgins, and Stallings believe that education should be free from political influence and focused solely on the best interests of the children.

“We will ensure that every teacher is supported, and that quality instruction is provided through the right tools, technology, and qualified staff,” they said. “Politics has no place in the classroom, and we will work tirelessly to keep it that way.”

They also plan to take a firm stand against the recent Board of Education pay raise from \$18,600 to \$57,120 pledging to redirect those funds to areas of greater need within the school system, specifically benefiting the students.

Assuring Free Lunch Beyond Next Year

One of the team’s key promises is ensuring that all students continue to receive free lunches beyond the upcoming year. They are dedicated to securing additional grant funding to extend the free lunch program, ensuring that no child in Yancey County schools goes hungry. “Every child deserves to have a healthy meal at school, and we are committed to making sure this program is sustained long-term,” they said. The candidates see this as part of their broader mission to address not only academic success but also the well-being of each student.

Supporting Teachers and Staff

One of their key priorities is ensuring that teachers feel empowered and supported in their roles, without fear of political retaliation. They emphasize that retaining and hiring highly qualified staff is essential to the success of the district.

The candidates are also committed to ensuring transparent and ethical practices within the hiring and administrative processes. They intend to restore integrity to personnel decisions by relying on school principal recommendations and unbiased hiring committees. This will, they believe, place the focus back on students and away from Board members’ notoriety and influence.

Prioritizing Well-Being

In addition to their focus on academics, Burnette, Higgins, and Stallings understand the importance of addressing the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of all students, faculty, and staff. Their commitment extends beyond the classroom to ensure that Yancey County Schools provide a nurturing and supportive environment for everyone.

Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency

The candidates promise to uphold fiscal responsibility, ensuring that all funds are used for their intended purposes. They have vowed to bring transparency and fairness to all Board of Education meetings, advocating for straightforward and ethical practices.

“We are here to restore integrity, transparency, and focus back to Yancey County’s schools. Our children and their education come first.”

With a vision that centers on students and staff, these three educators are ready to guide Yancey County Schools toward a brighter future—one where education is free from political influence, and the well-being of every child, teacher, and staff member is prioritized.

The next elected School Board will make a decision that shapes the future of education in our community—the hiring of the next superintendent. This vote isn’t just about today; it’s about ensuring our children have the support, leadership, and vision they need to thrive.

Our kids deserve leaders who will make their education a top priority.

Lavenia Peterson Burnette

My name is Lavenia Peterson Burnette, and I am running for a seat on the Yancey County School Board of Education. My parents were Park and Kate Bailey Peterson, a farmer and a homemaker. My great great great grandfather was Yellow Jacket John Bailey, who donated 100 acres of land for the county seat to the town of Burnsville, for which the town square is named “Bailey Square” in his honor. Born and raised in Yancey County, I attended Clearmont and Burnsville Elementary Schools, East Yancey High School, and Mountain Heritage High School. I continued my education at Appalachian State University and graduated from Mars Hill College with a Bachelor of Arts in Education Grades 4-9 in 1983.

During my teaching career, I achieved my National Board Certification and Academically Gifted Certification. I taught Special Education at Mountain Heritage High School, English Language Arts, grades 6 and 8, at Cane River Middle School and East Yancey Middle School. I retired after 30.5 years of teaching in the Yancey County School System. After retirement, I continued to teach part time at Genesis Academy, grades 3-5, in Yancey County for four years.

I was the 2002-2003 Yancey County Teacher of the Year. I worked for the 21st Century After School Program, MAGIC, as a teacher and coordinator at East Yancey Middle School and a teacher at Burnsville Elementary School. I co wrote one of the 21st Century After School Grants for the Yancey County Schools which received 1.2 million dollars to extend the MAGIC Afterschool Program. I taught summer school English at Mountain Heritage High School and summer school reading at Cane River Middle School.

I am married to Kimmy Burnette who retired from Glen Raven. We have three children. Kyle Burnette is a graduate of Western Carolina University and owner of Southern Drifters Outfitters in Burnsville. Katie Burnette is a graduate of South College and a Surgical Tech at the VA Hospital in Asheville. Kirk Burnette is a graduate of East Tennessee State University and owner, along with his wife Samantha, of Burnette’s Country Store in Spruce Pine. I have been blessed with four wonderful grandchildren who already attend or will attend public schools in Yancey County.

As a parent and educator, I have been actively involved in various after school activities. I served as PTO president at Burnsville Elementary School, I was the first female Booster Club President at Mountain Heritage High School. I coached soccer, softball and basketball in the Yancey County youth league. I coached cheerleading and Odyssey of the Mind at Cane River Middle School and Volleyball at East Yancey Middle School. During my teaching career, I was a mentor for beginning teachers.

As a former educator, I am a believer in the value of public education, working collaboratively with others to solve problems and treating others with dignity and respect. I truly believe that politics and political influences have no place in our educational system. I will support all teachers and staff, and ensure that they are free to teach and do their jobs without fear of political interference or retaliation. I will work to retain the excellent teachers and staff that we have in our school system. I will be committed to the students, parents, administrators, staff and our community. I will make decisions based in the best interest of our students to ensure they receive the highest quality of education and promote every child’s mental, emotional and physical well-being. I will strive to adopt and maintain appropriate policies and practices that provide the best education to all our students. I will promote budgetary responsibility and transparency. I will work to unite the students, families, and educators in the pursuit of educational excellence throughout the Yancey County School System.

Kim Wilson Higgins

“True education is concerned not only with practical goals but also with values. Our aims assure us of our material life and our values make possible our spiritual life.”

Ludwig Mies van de Rohr, Architect

I am Kim Wilson Higgins, the youngest daughter of Calvin and Faye Wilson. I am a native of the Seven Mile Ridge Community and currently reside in the Micaville Community. I am married to Burnsville native, Darrin B. Higgins, who is a long-time employee of Glen Raven. We have two sons: Logan is a senior honor student at UNC-Charlotte and is majoring in Electrical Engineering, and Lawson is an honors student and two-sport athlete in the senior class at Mountain Heritage High School.

I am running as a Yancey County School Board Candidate as a daughter, a mother, a wife, and, most importantly, as a TEACHER.

Yancey County is rooted in traditions of community, tenacity, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the next generation. Recently, however, the trajectory has changed, and traditions have been eclipsed by the ominous shadows of political pursuits. The focus of education is no longer on the students and teachers, and I can say this with certainty because I devoted 28 years to Yancey County Schools.

I pursued a career in teaching because I was inspired and encouraged by my mentor and Drafting Teacher, Mr B.R. Bailey. Following my passion, I have taught high school Mechanical and Architectural Drafting since my teaching career began in 1995, teaching Drafting classes at Mtn Heritage High School and leading SkillsUSA for 28 years. During my tenure at MHHS, I sponsored the highly successful annual citrus fundraiser for the MHHS SkillsUSA Club that contributed to the Reconciliation House Food Ministries, I founded the Billy Ray Bailey SkillsUSA Scholarship for a SkillsUSA Member in 1989, and I have served as the Region 8 (Western 16 counties) SkillsUSA Club Advisor since 2009.

During this time, I also worked for various superintendents and administrators, and I experienced the ways in which the Board of Education directly impacts both an entire school community and the community at large. The climate that has been cultivated by our current BOE over the past four years has driven some of our greatest assets to seek employment in neighboring counties:

- Since 2020, four highly effective and award winning principals have left Yancey County to work in other counties. Two other administrators were forced into early retirement. Beginning in June 2023, 6 highly qualified teachers (including 3 National Board Certified and teacher of the year) left Mountain Heritage High School alone.

- One other teacher left teaching altogether. An Assistant Principal left Mtn Heritage to seek a counselor position in Buncombe County. Of those that left, 3 positions have not been filled: Drafting and Design, Drama/Theatre and 10th Grade English. The EOC English and Drama positions were absorbed by current faculty in the English Dept.

Many of the people who made the heartbreaking decision to leave were the same people who have encouraged, helped, and loved your children. Teachers pursue teaching because it is a passion that is fueled by the work of other great teachers. Yancey County is an award-winning school system in both academics and sports because of this community’s dedication to our children and because of the teachers who have devoted their lives to serving others.

At this point in time, however, I am scared for the future of Yancey County Schools. Teachers and school faculty/staff morale is at an all-time low across the nation. Yancey County is no different. I fear more principals and highly qualified teachers are going to leave the county for other school systems or seek early retirement because they do not feel supported. Teachers, staff, and faculty members need to be respected and trusted so that they have a voice to advocate for our students once again.

If teachers are unable to use their voices for fear of retaliation, who is advocating for the children of Yancey County?

I can certainly identify who is NOT advocating for the children of Yancey County:

- Yancey County Schools and the Yancey County Commissioners failed the students of Yancey County in last year’s budget requests. Mitchell County received \$54.3 million. \$14.3 million was earmarked for Mitchell High athletic facilities. A new YMCA will also be built in Mitchell County.

- Yancey County received \$4M: \$2M for the Yancey County Sheriff’s Department, \$1.8M for the Town of Burnsville Police and public works, and \$200,000 for the Yancey County History Museum. What was awarded in the budget for Yancey County Schools? ZERO DOLLARS.

- Yancey County students were the only students in Western NC that were not provided free breakfast and lunch. Studies show students learn better if they are fed. A hot meal at school is the only meal many students receive each day.

Who is putting the needs of our children first? Because of the current state of affairs, students’ needs are not being met, and mental health is declining with each new year. As an educator, I feel we have to teach the “whole child.” It is our social responsibility to be concerned with their physical, emotional, and educational well being. It is now time to redirect our focus to the traditions that have made Burnsville, NC a safe, supportive, and loving place for our children to grow, learn, and thrive.

As a BOE member, I will work to ensure students have food security. I will be a voice for teachers, faculty, and staff members.

I believe in a fair and valuable education for all students regardless of their race, religion, sex, or demographic background, so I will advocate for all students.

I will work to move the Board of Education in Yancey County away from the partisan politics and biased decisions that have hurt our community and negatively affected generations to come. I want to position students and teachers at the forefront of the decision-making that impacts Yancey County Schools, so I will work with school leaders, local leaders, and community members to provide complete and total transparency as we move away from detrimental political games and towards a brighter future for our children and community.

“I know the price of success; dedication, hard work and an unrelenting devotion to the things you want to see.”

Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect

Education Background

- National Board Certified Teacher, Career and Technical Education 2001
- BS Appalachian State University, Industrial Arts, Drafting Concentration, 1994
- AAS, Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College, Civil Engineering Technology, 1993
- Mountain Heritage High School, graduate, 1989
- Mentor Teacher to beginning teachers since 2010
- Currently teaching Drafting in a neighboring county.
- I am the pianist and Teen Sunday School teacher at my local Baptist church.

John Stallings

A Lifetime of Service

John Stallings has dedicated almost half a century to the schools and youth of Yancey County as an educator, coach, mentor, and motivational speaker.

He is exceptionally proud of the youth and schools of Yancey County and is committed to ensuring quality education, and supportive environments for staff and educators.

Mr. Stallings is proud to have served the citizens of Yancey County both in his roles with the schools and also as county commissioner.

Teacher and Coach

Mr. Stallings brings valuable in-classroom experience, having spent 24 years teaching high-school history and social studies at Mountain Heritage High School and eight years teaching sixth-grade social studies at Cane River Middle School.

After retiring, Mr. Stallings continued to contribute to Yancey County Schools, serving fifteen more years as a substitute teacher.

Mr. Stallings is proud to be called “coach” by many in Yancey County. He spent fourteen years coaching football and six years coaching softball at Mountain Heritage and coached again at the middle school level for several years.

Focused on Education

John Stallings will provide resources and pathways for all students in Yancey County to develop and succeed.

He pledges to create a learning environment with opportunities for all students to excel.

Mr. Stallings is committed to removing bias and partisan politics from the school board and basing all decisions on reasonable educational principles.

He believes in a culture of cooperation and respect, and will empower and support school-based leadership in personnel and policy decisions.

He will be guided by the best interests of the students and staff of Yancey County Schools.



For The Children, For a Change

Paid for by the Yancey County Democrat Party

Why you should be stocking your pantry for winter - right now

By Niki Maness
NC Cooperative Extension

As communities recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, many of us will rely on donated, shelf-stable food supplies to get through the upcoming winter. With the roads destroyed by flooding and still impassable, access to fresh ingredients may be limited for months. To prepare for winter, it's important to stock up on canned goods and dried foods as a necessity and precautionary measure. Even if you don't think you'll need it now, having an emergency pantry ready can make all the difference in a crisis.

Key canned and dried goods to stock:

- Proteins: canned meats (chicken, tuna, salmon, beef), beans (black beans, kidney beans, chickpeas)
- Vegetables: Canned corn,

- carrots, green beans, peas
- Carbohydrates: Instant rice, canned potatoes, pasta
- Fats: Cooking oil, butter, shelf-stable cheese products
- Other essentials: salt, pepper, dried spices, crackers, peanut butter

These ingredients can be combined to create filling meals using simple cooking techniques and a propane stove. Below is a featured recipe using common canned ingredients that can be prepared on a propane stove or a single-burner grill option.

Recipe: Chicken and Potato Hash

This recipe is simple to make, only requires one pan and burner (perfect for a propane stove or single-burner option), and can be customized based on what's available in your pantry.

- 1 can of diced potatoes (or

- fresh if available)
 - 1 can of chicken
 - 1 can of mixed vegetables (drained)
 - 1 tablespoon of oil or butter (if available)
 - Salt, pepper, and garlic powder (to taste)
- Heat the oil or butter in a large pan over a propane stove or grill burner. Make sure the stove or burner is placed on a stable, flat surface for safety, and use a wind guard to protect the flame from going out.

Once the oil is hot, add the diced potatoes. Fry them for a few minutes until they start to brown. Stir them occasionally to prevent sticking.

Add the canned chicken and mixed vegetables to the pan. Stir the ingredients well so they combine evenly.

Season the mixture with salt, pepper, and garlic powder. You can adjust the spices to your taste or based on what's available.

Let everything cook for about 10 minutes until it's heated through and the potatoes have a crispy texture. Serve immediately.

Why this recipe works:

Canned potatoes: pre-cooked, so they don't require a long cooking time and are easy to crisp up.

Canned chicken: a quick protein source that doesn't need refrigeration.

Mixed vegetables: adds vitamins and variety to the dish while using up what you already have.

Single pan cooking: keeps it simple and saves on fuel.

Tips for using a propane stove safely:

When using a propane stove or a grill burner, it's important to follow a few safety precautions to ensure both efficient cooking and safe operation:

Always place your propane



stove or burner on a sturdy, level surface to prevent tipping or accidents.

Use wind guards or position your stove in a sheltered spot to prevent the flame from blowing out.

Most propane stoves have adjustable heat settings. Use a low to medium flame to prevent burning your food and conserve fuel.

If you're cooking indoors or in an enclosed area, make sure you have proper ventilation to avoid carbon monoxide buildup. A cracked window or door can make a big difference.

Safety first! Always have a fire extinguisher within reach in case of emergencies.

In challenging times, creativity in the kitchen can help stretch resources and feed more people with limited supplies.

Combining simple ingredients into hearty meals can boost morale and sustain energy through cold winter days.

Using a propane stove and the canned goods donated or stocked up for the winter can guarantee your family stays well-fed even when access to fresh foods is limited.

NCDHHS provides free well disinfection, well water collection kits to communities

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services today announced free well disinfection and well water collection kits are available for communities impacted by Hurricane Helene. Local health departments in western North Carolina will distribute kits for households with private wells that were flooded or damaged by the storm.

Excessive rain and flooding can cause water in private wells to become contaminated, meaning the water can make people sick if it is consumed. After a flood, private wells must be assessed for damage, repaired, disinfected and tested before use to ensure the water is safe. It is critical people do not drink or use water from a private well that has been damaged or flooded until it has been properly disinfected and tested after the storm.

The NCDHHS Division of Public Health has assembled well disinfection and well water collection kits for distribution through select local health departments. Private well owners living in the communities served by the following local health departments who have flooded or damaged wells can now pick up free kits at participating local health departments. Included is Yancey County Health Department: 202 Medical Campus Drive, Burnsville, NC 28714; Madison – Environmental Health Building: 5707 US-25, Marshall, NC 28753; Toe River Health District – Mitchell location: 130 Forest Service Drive, Bakersville, NC 28705; Toe River Health

District – Avery location: 545 Schultz Circle, Newland, NC 28657.

Each well kit includes the necessary supplies to disinfect and collect a well water sample for testing, including step-by-step instructions. Flooded or damaged wells must be disinfected first before collecting a sample for testing. Private well owners should return the sample back to their local health department for testing. The local health department or testing lab will provide results back as quickly as possible. Private well owners who live in an impacted area not listed above should contact their local health department for well disinfection and testing assistance.

For help understanding test results, use the online Be Well Informed tool (select North Carolina) or contact the NCDHHS-DPH Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch at 919-707-5900 or oeeb@dhhs.nc.gov.

Well disinfection and well water collection kits can be picked up Oct. 28-31, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with additional dates and times to be provided by the local health departments.

Attention All Veterans

The Sgt. E. L. Randolph Chapter 57 Disabled American Veterans is in need of some Veterans volunteering to join our Honor Guard. If you are interested please contact Jerry Miller between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 828-208-2486.

Blue Ridge Parkway reopens near Blowing Rock

On Wednesday morning, October 23, 2024, the Blue Ridge Parkway opened to traffic from milepost 285.5, at Bamboo Gap, to milepost 305, near Beacon Heights, in the Blowing Rock, North Carolina area. This is the first section of roadway to open in North Carolina since Hurricane Helene. Opening this section of the park provides improved transportation links while communities address ongoing storm recovery on other local routes.

"We realize how critical the Parkway is for our region," said Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent Tracy Swartout. "While much work remains, we are prioritizing our efforts in less-damaged areas that have the most impact for community connectivity, and that we are able to reopen safely. We are anticipating opening additional sections of the Parkway that support adjoining communities, soon."

Because the Parkway is a narrow, two-lane road with shifting grades, curves, and

limited sight distances, commercial vehicles are prohibited on the Blue Ridge Parkway for the safety of all drivers. There are no truck lanes, runaway truck ramps or places for a large commercial vehicle to slow down and pull over. Violators will be subject to a citation as well as a fine of up to \$5,000.

Park visitors are also urged to use extra caution when visiting the parkway areas that are open. Visitors should anticipate closed facilities and trails in this approximately 20-mile section of the park and follow directions on local signage regarding facility or trail closures.

Sites CLOSED for ongoing assessment and repair within the specified corridor include: interior of the Moses Cone Manor House and Carriage Barn restrooms, milepost 294.0; Boone Fork Trail, milepost 296.5; Price Park Campground, milepost 296.9.

Areas that will be OPEN to visitors within the specified corridor include: Bass Lake (restrooms available), mile-

post 294; Moses Cone Manor House parking and carriage trails (no restrooms available), in and around milepost 294; Price Lake Picnic Area (expect portable toilets), milepost 296.4; other trails between milepost 285.5 and 305 (use with extreme caution).

Visitors should be aware that trail assessments have not been completed and caution should be exercised when hiking.

Visitors may encounter hazards on trails such as landslides, tree debris, and washed-out sections or bridges. For safety reasons, the park asks that people continue to be patient and respect remaining closures. Multiple seen and unseen hazards exist in closed areas and crews and heavy equipment will be working to make areas safe for reentry.

The hurricane left tens of thousands of downed trees across the roadway and caused nearly three dozen rock and mud slides. The slides have occurred above and below the road and have also severely damaged or swept away the roadbed in numerous places.

To date, crews have reopened over 200 miles of road. Since September 30, 2024, over 100 Blue Ridge Parkway employees, along with over 275 employees from 37 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, representing 64 parks and offices across the NPS, have been on the Parkway assisting with recovery efforts. Their expertise spans a wide variety of roles including sawyers, carpenters, arborists, and equipment operators.

Current conditions and updates can be found on the Blue Ridge Parkway website at www.nps.gov/blri

SBA opens at Mayland

The U.S. Small Business Administration has opened a Business Recovery Center inside the Mayland Community College Small Business Center in Spruce Pine.

SBA's Customer Service Representatives are available at the Center to answer questions, assist business owners complete their disaster loan application, accept documents, and provide updates on an application's status.

Walk-ins are accepted, but you can call to schedule an in-person appointment at 828-766-1296.

NCDOT calling on businesses to help with Helene recovery

State transportation officials are reaching out to businesses interested in helping restore Western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene brought catastrophic damage to the region.

It will take several billion dollars to restore roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure, according to the N.C. Department of Transportation's initial estimates.

"We are going to need help from qualified businesses with many skill sets," said state Transportation Secretary Joey Hopkins. "There is debris to be moved, roads and bridges to be designed, fixed or rebuilt, as well as other types of contract work to be done. We're going to need a lot of help to rebuild Western North Carolina."

NCDOT is working to educate the business community on the many contracting opportunities that will be available and the requirements to bid on state transportation contracts.

On Oct. 29-30, NCDOT staff will host six separate "Special NCDOT Prequalification Outreach" in-person workshops at the Buncombe County NCDOT Division 13 Office, 55 Orange St., Asheville. Businesses interested can attend one or more of the sessions to learn about prequalifica-

tion, a requirement for any business that wants to bid on state transportation contracts. Prequalification ensures a firm has sufficient ability, experience and resources to perform the work specified on NCDOT contracts. The work sessions will cover how to apply online to become prequalified, the North Carolina Identity Management Service process, and the documentation and experience requirements for various scopes of work. Registration is required and limited to two persons per firm. Register at <https://forms.office.com/g/qG-Z6npiHuL>. Space is limited so people should register soon.

The prequalification sessions will be held on the following schedule: 8-11 a.m. Oct. 29; Noon-3 p.m. Oct. 29; 3-6 p.m. Oct. 29; 8-11 a.m. Oct. 30; Noon-3 p.m. Oct. 30; 3-6 Oct. 30.

NCDOT will also be offering other prequalification work sessions from: 1-4 p.m. Nov. 14 at Nash Community College in the Continuing Education Building (Room 8123), 522 North Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount

Participation in any work session is not required to become prequalified. Need more information? Call 919-707-6909.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

You Can Still

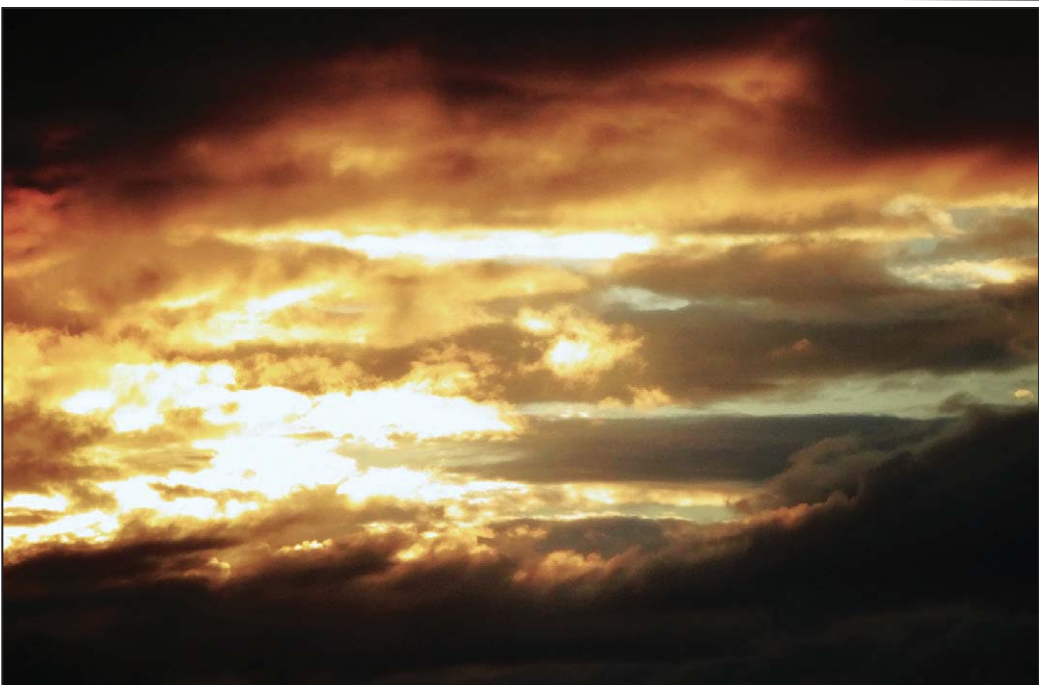
VOTE

Make your voice heard.
Please scan QR code
to learn how, or visit
ncsbe.gov/helene

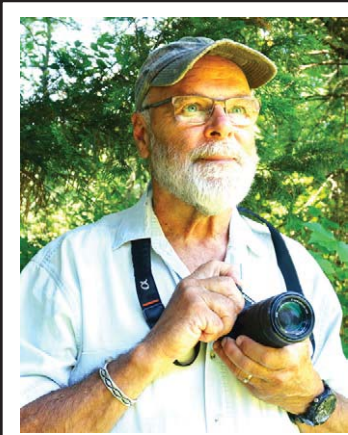
NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS



The great storm approaches



Morning after the great storm



Roaming Around Yancey “Meditations on the Mountain Year” with Robert Towe

Late October Reflections

From my nature journals: October 25, 8:58 post meridian, from the upstairs desk. The window is opened to the cool darkness. A slight breeze stirs the trees, breathing the ripened scents of Autumn night through the screen.

Drawn by lamplight, a Luna Moth flutters large, pale green wings against the black screen. His eyes glow in the light, reflecting tiny gold facets of topaz. The year’s last crickets sing feeble chants in cold grass at the base of the wall below the window.

Reflecting: Already a month in the past, the terrible maelstrom of heavy rains and thrashing winds came roaring into the mountains howling like a Banshee. The monster storm left a swath of unspeakable destruction and death in her path. All that night and the next day, we heard the great 80-90 mph swells rise and fall. We listened, as even old oaks bent and cracked, finally broke and crashed to the ground. In the crest of each long gust, I wondered if the very rafters and the roofbeam of our house would break under the weight of a stormblown tree. Thankfully, they did not. Sadly for many, homes and roads, bridges and lives were swept away.

In the storm’s wake the morning after, I walked out into a mild warm breeze out of the northwest. A gentle morning with blue sky and breaking clouds, as if nothing had happened. But torrential brokenness left the old oak woods around our home a shamble of shattered sticks. A large Pitch Pine fell and broke the back of my wife’s car. Had it fallen a few degrees to the East, the pine would have broken our house. I could hear the big river rushing well out of its banks, roaring like the sea, half a mile away.

Back to tonight, at my desk. In the lamplight a Luna Moth flickering golden eyes bumps against the dark window screen. From somewhere out in the late October night, a solitary “Katy-did” scratches his raspy mating message with dry, worn-out wings, singing to any female “Katy-didit”.

In spite of devastating storms, and wars, angry divisive politics and the weary finger-pointing blaming, the endless bragging and arrogant lying noise of another election, in spite of all that, the wonderful lusting pulse of natural life and seasons goes on. “The big wheel just keeps on turning”. But where?— many of us keep asking— where is the godly leader we need?

Each night now, sparkling bright and low above the purple western hills, Venus silently gleams. This timeless sister-planet radiates like a brilliant oracle through millennia of human glories and tragedies. The “Summer Triangle” of Vega, Deneb and Altair descends into storm-thrown ragged trees. The “teapot” of Sagittarius, low now in the southern sky, tilts and spills the black tea of eternity into the southern horizon’s cup of hills, which never fills.

October’s waning “Hunter’s Moon” will not rise for a few more hours, along with sparkling Autumn stars and great Jupiter, shining clear like a ten-carat diamond reflecting rays of Sun, billions of miles from here. On these cloudless nights, the rising moon starts the coyotes howling. Their sharp wild cries cut the cold dusk, like the silent opened maw of the two canine teeth of Autumn moon.

In response to my sister’s suggestion, I scribble a brief homage to a dear old “friend”, gone with the storm. The devastation of natural cataclysms happens in many ways and on various levels of experience and meaning. For a naturalist/forester, one of my more poignant losses was keenly felt on the morning of September 27. I walked out into the lawn with a cup of Coleman campstove coffee and looked southward across the sloping meadow, as I have done thousands of mornings in all seasons the last 31 years we have lived here. I knew immediately something big was missing. As I stared in disbelief, I realized that the great old White Oak was gone from the pastured skyline. Nothing there in its place but a wide space of empty sky. Overnight, it had blown down. I could see its sprawl of bones lying broken on the land. A living elder creature that had inspired me many mornings with the countless truths inherent in trees.

Spontaneously, I screamed a loud and prolonged shock of grief—NO!—to the sky. As one would scream at the sudden loss of any loved one. Over the last eight years writing this column I have included words and photos of that great Oak. Since oak roots run deeper than those of pines, it did not occur to me that it would go down in the storm. The big healthy oak was a sapling in the Civil War. But seventeen inches of rain and fierce cyclonic winds howling combined to end its life. It began as a little acorn the size of my thumbnail one Autumn way back in the 1800’s long before my great grandfather’s life began. (And thank you, Lynn, for the encouragement to write this down.)

Robert Towe is a mountain naturalist, a fifth-generation native of the area, and owner of Mountain Acreage of WNC, Inc., for 35 years featuring high-quality farms, forestland, retreat properties and larger land investments. He also consults directly with landowners and buyers, and prepares land-management plans. Contact him directly at 828.253.7055, or mountainacreageavl@gmail.com. See his display ad on the Classified Page.



Violet Asters, late October



A few Zinnias survived



After the big river went back down



Great old White Oak blown down by the storm

Obituaries



Larry Douglas Edwards

Larry Douglas Edwards, age 81, of Talbott, TN, passed away on Sunday, October 20, 2024 at North Knoxville Medical Center to join his family in Heaven. A native of Yancey County, he was a son of the late Arthur and Elizabeth Phillips Edwards. He was also preceded in death by brothers: Brisco and Reece Edwards. Larry was a loving Christian, devoted husband and father who enjoyed gardening and fishing. He was a great provider and will be truly missed.

Surviving is his loving wife, Shirley Greene Edwards; son, Douglas Scott Edwards and wife, Bok, of Fletcher, NC; daughter, Tamara Van Valkenburg and husband, George, of Strawberry Plains, TN; grand-children: Madison, Autumn and Alana (Nathan) and sister, Kay Harris and husband, Jim, of Micaville. Several nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family members also survive.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, October 24th in the Fork Mountain Baptist Church Cemetery. Preacher TH Ferrell officiated.

To send online condolences, please visit our website at www.yanceyfuneralservice.com.

Marine Corps

League Mt. Mitchell

Meeting Notice Located at the Western Sizzler Restaurant, 11961 S Hwy 226, Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Meeting the 3rd Thursday of Every Month at 7:00 p.m.

All branches are welcome and families!



Mildred Ann Renfro

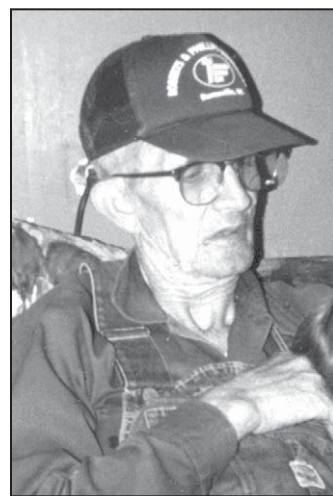
Mildred Ann Renfro, age 81, of the Jacks Creek Community, went home to be with the Lord on October 24, 2024. A native of Yancey County, she was a daughter of the late Hiram and Birdie Bradford Willis. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Lloyd Renfro; sisters: Reba Ward, Minnie Jane Wilson and Linda Miller and a brother Johnny Willis. Mildred was a long-time member of Mine Fork Freewill Baptist Church who loved her church and her church family. She graduated Cane River High School class of 1961 where she earned the honor of Salutatorian for her class. Mildred turned down the opportunity so that it would benefit her classmate that was going to get to attend college. She enjoyed reading her Bible, Amish and Christian books, sewing and quilting and especially loved her grandson Elijah.

Surviving is her sons: Dennis Renfro and Ethan Renfro and wife, Brandi; grandson, Elijah Renfro; sisters: Dessie Wilson and Martha Tipton and a brother, Ronnie Willis and wife, Veronica, all of Burnsville. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral services were held at 12 noon on Tuesday, October 29th in Mine Fork Freewill Baptist Church. Rev. Ricky Bennett officiated. Burial followed in the Tipton-Griffith Cemetery.

The family would like to say a very special thank you to Candi Fox at Blue Ridge Regional Hospital and Compassionate Care WNC for the wonderful care given to Mildred.

To send online condolences, please visit our website at www.yanceyfuneralservice.com



Oss Wilson

Oss Wilson, age 90 of Old Fort, passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, October 17, 2024. Born on September 1, 1934, he was the son of the late John Lee Wilson and Bertha Whitson Wilson. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his wife, Alice Riddle Wilson; former spouse, Emma Jean Tolley Wilson; daughter, Nellie Arlene Wilson Jones; stepdaughter, Laura Fortner; brothers: Fred Wilson, and infant brother, Paul Wilson; sisters: Hazel Silver, and Lora Phillips; as well as a great-grandson, Alex Jones, and great-great granddaughter, Cora Laine Murdock.

Left to cherish his memory is his son, Gary Wayne Wilson; stepsons: Glen (Rita) Edwards, Kevin (Sherry) Edwards, Howard (Michelle) Arnold; brothers: James Wilson and Farrell Wilson; sisters: Neta Fox and Maxine Holloway; grandson, Jason Jones; step-grandsons: John (Donna) Fortner, Ryan Wheeler, and Nathan Beckham; step-granddaughters: Nicole (Matt) Loftis, Jacqueline Arnold, Erica Arndt, and Hillary Wheeler; nieces: Patricia Garland, Lisa Robinson, Tammy Wilson, Ida Holloway, Becky Holloway, and Kim Holloway; nephews: Donald (Theresa) Wilson, Mike Holloway, Stanley Holloway, Greg Holloway, Paul Wilson, and Randy Wilson; as well as 23 great-grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2024, in the Chapel of Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home in Burnsville, NC. Reverend Donald Wilson officiated. Interment followed the service at the Silver Holler Cemetery off Bear Wallow Road in Burnsville, NC.

Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home is respectfully serving the Wilson family.

Online condolences may be made at www.holcombebrothersfuneralhome.com



Susan Bishop Strickland

Susan Bishop Strickland passed away Friday, September 27, 2024 at her home as a result of a landslide during Hurricane Helene. Originally from Chattanooga, TN, she loved the entire Yancey County community as her home for the past 49 years. Through her varied work experience including time at the ADAPT program, Brad Ragan, WKYK-WTOE, Blue Ridge Medical offices, Bakersville Children's Dental Clinic, and finally retiring from clerical work at Blue Ridge Regional Hospital in Spruce Pine, Susan made many friends and touched many lives with her loving and bubbly personality.

Beyond work, Susan was well known for being Jubilee the Clown. Susan's love for telling jokes and brightening someone's day made being a clown a natural fit. Her ease in connecting with others, as well as her ease in giving love and joy to others, overflowed from Christ's love and joy within her. Within the span of her 49 years in Yancey County, Susan actively participated in ministry and fellowship with Laurel Branch Baptist Church and, most recently, Higgins United Methodist Church. After her time of cheering and supporting her children in the sports endeavors, Susan enjoyed crafting and loved the ability to give little mementos to any and all with whom she crossed paths.

Susan is survived by her husband of 49 years, Ray Strickland; son, Aaron Strickland (Pam) of Burnsville; daughter, Ginnie Beverly (Matt) of Advance; and grandchildren: Austin, Devin, Lauren, Claire, Emma, Ahna, Adam and Noah. She is survived as well by many nieces and nephews with a special nephew, Danny, many in the community may know.

The family invites you to join them in celebrating her life well lived on Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the Burnsville Town Center.

Donations may be made in her memory to Mount Jubilee Ministries at 227 W. Morehead St., Reidsville, NC 27320, or Laurel Branch Baptist Church at 12 Pensacola School Road, Burnsville, NC 28714. To send online condolences, please visit our website at www.yanceyfuneralservice.com.

Men's Bible Study on Revelation

Bible Study Fellowship meets weekly on Tuesday at the Family Life Center at Higgins Methodist Church, located at 101 N Main Street in Burnsville. Bible Study begins at 7 p.m. Call 828-284-6901 for more information.



Glenda M. Hall

Glenda M. Hall, age 84, of the Bolens Creek Community, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, October 21, 2024 at Blue Ridge Regional Hospital. A native of Yancey County, she was a daughter of the late William and Edith McKinney Miller. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Dewey Hall and a daughter, Marketti Tipton. Glenda was a life-long member of Bolens Creek Baptist Church who enjoyed gardening. She was a loving mother and grandmother who loved her grandchildren. She will always be remembered as a good woman.

Surviving is her daughters: Regina Bradford and Michelle Hudgins; son-in-law, Ronnie Tipton; sister, Virginia Wilson; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren and one on the way.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 27th in the chapel of Yancey Funeral Services. Dr. Chris Morgan officiated. A private burial will be held.

To send online condolences, please visit our website at www.yanceyfuneralservice.com.

Carolyn H. Pate

Carolyn H. Pate of Dalton, Georgia passed away suddenly on October 16, 2024. Carolyn was born to Hugh and Mary Bailey Pate in Siler City, North Carolina. She spent her childhood with her family and grandmother in Burnsville, North Carolina. Upon graduating from East Yancey High School she attended Berea College in Berea, Kentucky and received a degree in English. Following her graduation, Carolyn worked for the Girl Scouts in Ashland Kentucky and then enrolled in the Education Department at Georgia State University, completing an education degree with a Ph. D. Carolyn then taught Special Education for more than thirty years in secondary schools in Atlanta and Dalton Georgia. In addition to her career in secondary education she taught Special Education courses at Eastern Kentucky University, University of the Cumberland and at Dalton College.

Carolyn is survived by her sister Julia Ashlock (Jim) of Dalton with their children Jay and Julie Beth and brother Dennis Pate (Luanne) and their daughter Laurel. Brother Gary Pate of Burnsville, North Carolina and the all important member of her family – her dog "Luke".

A celebration honoring the life of Carolyn will be scheduled for Spring of 2025. In Lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to their local humane society or to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

County, she was a daughter of the late Wilburn and Rose Lee Shepherd McPeters. As well as her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ned Austin; her first husband, Garrett Pittman; brothers: Wilburn McPeters, Jr., Clifford McPeters, and Johnny McPeters; and sister, Alice Elkins.

Helen loved attending her church, Indian Creek Baptist Church. She enjoyed cooking and helping everyone that she could. She was a loving wife to her husband, and also loved her faithful companion, Snoopy.

She is survived by sisters: JoAnn Goforth (Haven) of Asheville and Mary Will Garland of Burnsville. Several other nieces, nephews, cousins, and other extended family members also survive.

A Memorial Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday,



Ethel Grindstaff Young

Ethel Grindstaff Young, age 82, of Arbuckle, went Home to be with the Lord on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at The Greens at Spruce Pine. A native of Mitchell County, she was a daughter of the late Squibb and Bunia Grindstaff. She was preceded in death as well by her beloved husband of 54 years, Harold Young, as well as seven sisters: Lela Grindstaff, Pansy Willis, Mae Good, Bonnie Smoot, Alice Scarlett, Mattie Whitney and Savannah Smith; and three brothers: Mack Andrew and Everett Grindstaff.

How does one explain just how much Ethel's life meant to so many? She spent a lifetime in her kitchen cooking for her family and friends, and was known for her hospitality to all who entered her home. One thing was for certain with Ethel – no one ever left her home hungry. She was also the friend who would spend hours on the phone being a great listener to all who just needed someone. She had a fun sense of humor and always had plenty of stories to share. Ethel was a longstanding member of Youngs Chapel Baptist Church. Ethel had the deepest love for her family and they were the most important thing in her life. She was the wife, mother, grandmother and friend who showed everyone just how extraordinary an ordinary life could be, and will be truly missed by all who knew and loved this precious lady.

Left to cherish her memory are her son, Harold Young, Jr. and wife, Mary, of Brevard, and two daughters: Janie Huntley and husband, Terry, of Arbuckle, and Melinda Clark and husband, Wayne, of Marion; seven grandchildren: Dylan Young (Rebecca), Keely Wellman (Robbie), Dalton Lee (Anna), Taylor Amerto (Avery), Matt Clark (Jaclyn), Brittany Martin (Patrick) and Haven Huntley; six great-grandchildren: Maxwell Young, Noah Young, Daxton Wellman, Grayson Lee, Savannah Martin and Isaiah Martin; and special friends: Mildred and R.C. James, and J.D. and Kathy Laws. Several nieces, nephews and other extended family survive her as well.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16th in the Chapel of Yancey Funeral Services. Johnny Bartlett officiated. Private burial was held in the Gus Young Cemetery.

The family would like to extend special thanks to the staff of both Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge and The Greens at Spruce Pine for the wonderful care given to Ethel. Memorial donations may be made to Samaritan's Purse at P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607. To send online condolences, please visit our website at www.yanceyfuneralservice.com.

October 30th at Indian Creek Baptist Church. Pastor Charlie Foster will officiate. The family will receive friends from 6 until 6:30 p.m. prior to the services at the church.

The family would like to say a special thank you to Madison Health and Rehabilitation and Compassionate Care WNC for the wonderful care given to Helen. Memorial donations may be made to Compassionate Care WNC at 856 Georges Fork Road, Burnsville, NC 28714. To send online condolences, please visit our website at www.yanceyfuneralservice.com.

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver meals any weekday.

For information call the Senior Center at 682-6011.

Appalachian Protective Services Inc.

Security-Fire Systems / Access Control

31 Cross Street, Spruce Pine, NC 28777

apssystems@bellsouth.com

Sharon Munday, Office Manager

828-765-9797 800-SAFE-585

Church Directory

To have your church information included in the Church Directory contact Pat Randolph at pat@yanceypaper.com for publication costs

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Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

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pc(usa)

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Wednesday: 6:00 PM

Prayer and Healing

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Summit Street, Burnsville

Rev. Anthony Mbanefo

Sundays 11:30 a.m.

2:00 p.m. Misa en Espanol

For information call

St. Andrew's Rectory

689-3719

P.O. Box 1406, Mars Hill, NC

Messiah Of The Mountains Lutheran Church

19E Micaville

675-4291

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Visit our website: <https://messiahofthemountains.org>

email: messiahofthemountains@gmail.com

Pastor Naomi Sease Carrier

Pensacola United Methodist Church

Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.

9255 Hwy 197S

Burnsville, NC

Contact: contact.pumc@gmail.com

Pastor: Kent Smith

West Burnsville Baptist Church

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship Service 6:00p.m.

Wed. Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.

TeamKid Youth 6:00 p.m.

Special Studies 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Chris Fox

Church Office 682-3990

222 West Burnsville Church Road

HOPE FELLOWSHIP WNC

Growing in Grace, Walking in Love.

Pastor: Jack Sielaff

SUNDAY 11 a.m.

Burnsville Town Center Auditorium

6 South Main Street

Burnsville, NC 28714

www.hopefellowshipwnc.org



Helen Lee McPeters Austin

Helen Lee McPeters Austin, age 90, of the Cane River Community, passed away on Sunday, October 27, 2024 at Madison Health and Rehabilitation Center. A native of Yancey

Mountain Heritage High School Sports

The Mountain Heritage Varsity Cougar football faced off against Madison High School on Saturday, October 26th with a final score: Mountain Heritage

55 / Madison High School 13. The football games are being held on the Madison High School football field. (Mitchell High defeated Owen High 46 to 6)



Sports photos courtesy Jessica Whitson Bryant / Prints on the Paw

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Bristol celebrates lighting of venue's 45-foot resonator guitar

Just a few weeks before it officially opens, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Bristol reached a major construction milestone on Friday — the lighting of the 45-foot duplicate Resonator guitar that will tower over guests as they enter the highly anticipated entertainment venue.

“With every Hard Rock project, we like to design the guitar feature to be customized to the location,” said Giovanni Taliaferro, Hard Rock International Vice President of Memo-

rablia & Design. “Bristol, the Birthplace of Country Music, initiated the ‘Big Bang’ of country music in 1927. Because we wanted to design an instrument that would help relate to the narrative of the Bristol Sessions and country music, we thought that the Resonator would be a really good instrument to help signify that. The first Resonator was created the same year as the Bristol Sessions.”

More than 2,500 labor hours went into the design, technical drawings and manu-

facturing process of the guitar, which weighs more than 7,000 pounds. Its internal framing and cladding are fully manufactured using aluminum tubes and sheeting to minimize the weight.

“Needless to say, the lighting of the guitar struck a chord with our Bristol team,” said Allie Evangelista, President of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Bristol. “We are so proud to promote our community’s history with our duplicate Resonator guitar and celebrate the universal language of music.”

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Bristol will open its doors on Thursday, Nov. 14. To commemorate the historic milestone, the venue will host a grand opening ceremony featuring the signature Hard Rock Guitar Smash and a concert by country music icon Blake Shelton at the new Hard Rock Live entertainment venue.

For more information, visit www.hardrockhotelcasinobristol.com





OPEN HOUSE

6 Goodtime Lane, Burnsville, N.C.
Listing ID 4142282



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11:00 - 2:00
Hotdogs, door prizes, raffle.**

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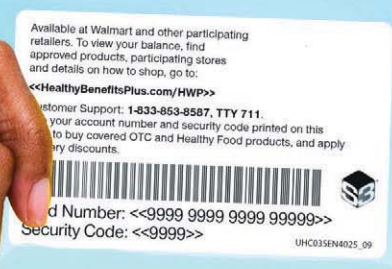
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OCTOBER 31ST
4 TO 6:30 PM**

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DEADLINE for classified ads and
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Wednesday's publication.

COST is \$7.00 for the first 20 words, 25 ¢
for each word over 20, 50 word limit.

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Thursday, November 14
Marshall 9:00-9:45 @
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Times Journal Deadline

Deadline for news copy, pictures, classified advertisements is 12:00 on Friday for Wednesday's publication. Copy should be brought by the office located at 22 North Main Street or mailed to Times Journal, 22 North Main Street, Burnsville, N.C. 28714.

FOR RENT

NEED TO RENT NEW or used furniture, appliances, computers, TV, DVD/VCR? Call 766-8775. Free delivery. #1685/5-5un

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LEGAL NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE GENERAL
COURT OF JUSTICE,
YANCEY COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
SUPERIOR COURT
DIVISION**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Administrator / Executor
Notice**

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Patrick Lawrence Murphy of Yancey County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons and corporations having claims against the Estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of January, 2025 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 22nd day of October, 2024.

Paul Lambert Murphy
204 Morningwood Ln
Piedmont, SC 29673
Published October 30,
November 6, 13, 20, 2024

**LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE GENERAL
COURT OF JUSTICE,
YANCEY COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
SUPERIOR COURT
DIVISION**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Administrator / Executor
Notice**

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Morris Kelly Hylemon of Yancey County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons and corporations having claims against the Estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of January, 2025 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 23rd day of October, 2024.

Danny T. McIntosh
5 Sunrise Lane
Burnsville, NC 28714
Published October 23, 30,
November 6, 13, 2024

**LEGAL NOTICE
ADMINISTRATOR'S
NOTICE**

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of James R. Shuford of Yancey County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons and corporations having claims against the Estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of January, 2025 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 2nd day of October, 2024.

Larry Shuford, Administrator

7282 Hwy 80, South
Burnsville, NC 28714
Charlie A. Hunt, Jr.
Attorney at Law
PO Box 509
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Telephone: (828) 765-2062

Published October 9, 16,
23, 30, 2024

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Author of "Roaming Around Yancey" column



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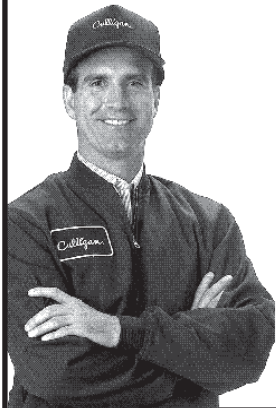
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Cleanup contract for most of Yancey County.
We are looking for local Yancey County
personnel to work on this contract.
We would prefer to staff these positions
with our local community.**

The following positions are available:

- CDL drivers to operate our company owned dump trucks
- Operators to run track hoes, knuckle-boom loaders, dozers, and off-road trucks
- Chainsaw operators
- Temporary office staff member to organize and track daily ticket operations and related duties to this contract. This position will be for approximately 3-6 months.

In addition, BLDI is looking for local personnel who would be capable of loading and hauling brush and debris using their own vehicles and/or trailers. To be considered eligible for this position, the following applies:

- Valid Driver License and valid insurance
- A vehicle and/or trailer to transport debris to designated sites
- Equipment or capability to load the debris on your vehicle/trailer
- Vehicles and trailers must pass the contractor's inspection
- Pay is based on cubic yards hauled and inspected by an official site representative. Pay will be every two weeks, after the first week of work
- There will be 10% retainage until end of project

If interested, please contact BLDI at 828-678-9966
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**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT
DEADLINE / COST**

DEADLINE for classified ads and news copy is 12:00 noon on Friday for Wednesday's publication.

COST is \$7.00 for the first 20 words, 25¢ for each word over 20, 50 word limit.

Classifieds

WANTED:

WANTED: FREE CAMPER, If you need to get rid of a camper, or pontoon boat, from your yard, at the lake, or storage. Call Ricky at 828-442-2658.

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FOX BROTHERS PAVING & TRUCKING – Locally owned and operated. Paving, mulch, dirt, hauling, gravel, trucking. 50 years experience. Max Fox II 828-284-4069, and Shane Johnson 828-284-4756.

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Volunteers needed Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver meals weekdays from 10:30 to noon. Call the Senior Center at 682-6011.

YANCEY GRAPHICS - For all your quick copy, full color copy, fax, laminating, binding, graphic design and commercial printing needs, call Yancey Graphics at 828-682-6620. M-F 8:30-4:30, across from TD Bank. Here for you since 1973.

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Times Journal Deadline Noon on Friday for Wednesday's publication. Located at 22 North Main Street. Phone 828-682-2120.

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