

East Yancey Middle School announces new dismissal plan

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! We are very excited to have each and every one of you here at East Yancey Middle School. One of our main priorities is to get all students to and from school safely, whether it's on the bus or through the pickup line. Due to the large number of student pickups, our current dismissal plan causes major traffic congestion on Georges Fork Road. Beginning this school year, we will implement a new dismissal plan. We have worked carefully with our transportation director to coordinate a plan that we believe is in the best interest and safety of our students.

Parents/guardians will enter at the football field and drop students off at the gym in the normal fashion by 7:50 am. This will also be the new designated pickup entrance. In order for the pickup line to operate efficiently, we need your help in the following procedures:

Parents/guardians will enter at the football field and line up two by two, stopping at the barricade until directed to move to the front porch where students will be loaded into cars. Please remain in the pickup line and stay in your car.

During afternoon dismissal your student will remain on the inside of the building and will be loaded into your car by an

EYMS staff person on the front porch. Please note that you will NOT be able to enter the school from the Georges Fork entrance after 3:00 because buses will be lined up waiting to load students. The lower parking lot will be the only area available

for parking and coming into the school, however students will not be released to that area for pick up. As this is new, there will be plenty of faculty and staff helping until everyone gets used to the new traffic pattern. For student safety and to avoid

traffic congestion, please cooperate with staff.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this very important matter.

Please call the school at 682-2281 if you have any questions.

Blue Ridge Regional Hospital staff speaks out

The medical staff of Blue Ridge Regional Hospital gathered for a special meeting on July 31, 2017 to discuss the discontinuance of Labor and Delivery Services at BRRH. The following is the statement agreed upon by majority vote:

We, the medical providers of Blue Ridge Regional Hospital, want the public to know that we believe labor and delivery and surgical services are essential at our community hospital. Keeping these services open is in the best interest and health of the community. To be clear, we do not see Mission as an "enemy." They have provided financial support our hospital could not have survived without. However, Mission Health has demonstrated a repeated pattern of making decisions that have enormous impacts on our mountain counties without seeking input from our medical staff, community leaders, or the larger community.

We want to see a change in

the way Mission does business here. We want to have a greater say about the care provided at BRRH, and we want your voice to be heard, too.

The first step in speaking up is understanding what happened and what's going on.

BRRH has state-of-the-art facilities and already meets the recommended standards for rural labor and delivery units. The American Academy of Family Practice supports specially trained family physicians like Drs. Mitchell and DeGuzman performing C-sections to improve access to care in rural areas. Yet Mission Health presented to the public that labor and delivery is being closed due to low volume of deliveries at BRRH, using research studies showing that hospitals delivering fewer than 500 babies a year have a higher risk of a poor outcome when compared to centers that do more than 500 deliveries. However, this doesn't take into account our hospital's actual outcomes, which have been excellent.

Also, even if all women who planned on delivering at BRRH delivered in McDowell, the number of deliveries would still be well below 500 per year. This means that the same studies Mission used to close our labor and delivery unit don't support McDowell being any safer. They also fail to mention the studies that show driving long distances to deliver a baby increases risk and can be related to poor outcomes. Mission administration does not appear to understand that the national statistics they used do not apply to our unique situation of providing local care in the rural mountains. It appears to us that the motive to close labor and delivery was largely financial. Hospitals across the country face financial challenges. Labor and delivery units usually lose money. This happens when patients do not have insurance that pays for deliveries or have Medicaid. To put that in context, half of all maternity care in North Carolina is covered by Medicaid. 75-80% of the

patients the Mission system serves are covered by Medicare or Medicaid. Reimbursement to hospitals by Medicare and Medicaid often does not cover the cost of providing care. Also, North Carolina was one of the states that chose not to accept federal dollars to expand Medicaid, resulting in more uninsured patients overall. All those factors put together means Mission Health System is required to provide hospital services to patients and absorb the losses from the uninsured and under insured. So, when faced with such financial losses, they choose to cut or consolidate services. Mission Health creates plans for services based on the number of people our hospital serves, which is a small number compared to other hospitals.

Therefore, it is likely that Mission's plan will be to continue consolidating and reducing services at Blue Ridge Regional Hospital. Those of us with years of experience working in a rural area know there are critical services that we deserve to have at our local hospital. These include labor and delivery (for non-high-risk pregnancies), emergency and elective surgery, emergency room care, hospitalization for basic illnesses, and laboratory and x-ray services. We don't expect to have all kinds of specialty care here, and we are very thankful for our specialist colleagues in Asheville and elsewhere who are there for our patients when they need them. We want the entire community to engage in truly equal negotiations, with the common goal of providing the best care possible. We invite everyone to get involved. Consider what services you want your hospital to provide and help determine how we can support it. Send a postcard to Save Labor and Delivery, PO Box 51, Burnsville, NC, 28714. Also, consider joining the Mitchell-Yancey healthcare task force. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 17, at 6:30 p.m. at Messiah of the Mountains Lutheran Church in Micaville.

Annual Burnsville Realty horseshoe tournament winners

The Burnsville Realty Horseshoe Tournament was held Saturday, August 5, 2017 at the Ray-Cort Park, and it was a beautiful day for this event.

There were seven teams in this years event; Phillip Fox & Wayne Ledford, Larry Ray & Johnny McCurry, Brut Crain & Ricky Chandler, Clifford Crain & Scoot Austin, Tyler Ledford & Rick Ingle, Jamie Allen & John Phillips, Randall Ray & Danny Randolph.

The tournament was won by Phillip Fox and Wayne Ledford, Brut Crain and Ricky

Chandler was second, Randall Ray and Danny Randolph finished third, and Clifford Crain and Scoot Austin were fourth.

Participants all received tee shirts and the top four teams got trophies. Several people who have pitched in this tournament were unable to pitch due to health issues, we hope they will be able to rejoin us in the future.

We would like to thank the Yancey County Recreation Department, Russ Fox for their cooperation in this event.



First place Winners-Wayne Ledford and Phillip Fox.



Second place-Brut Crain and Ricky Chandler.



Third Place-Danny Randolph and Randall Ray.



Fourth Place-Clifford Crain and Scoot Austin.

Reader's Forum-----

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As to Custer and Poe, Custer could never be the poet Poe is. Poe was a Master Sergeant, not some jumped up brevet horseback officer, dead last in his USMA class. Poe was thrown out for missing chapel, was not last in his class at the time he was severed from West Point. "Morningstar"? There are lots of fawning tributes to Custer; perhaps he died gallantly. Yet, how many other men need to die with you to make your death properly heroic? I again am concerned with the Jimmies and Johnnies that did not make it back from Task Force Smith, or the 7th Cavalry, when someone as an officer makes a habit of overreach, overextension, and gets his command overexposed and wiped out or nearly to a man by underestimation of the enemy or the danger. Poe died broke and alone with the grace not to take anyone with him. Patton? A dreamer, a believer in reincarnation, and yes a poet warrior. A very interesting individual for all his flaws, and Ladislav Farago's book is not the only one about him.

Nanking? A horror among many, lacking only Vincent Price or Boris Karloff. Yet we have the Holocaust, Lvov, and Warsaw, or the firebombing of Dresden, or either of the 2 atomic bombings or the firebombing of Tokyo. Humanity is not worthy of the name. And we really have a lot of explaining to do, no matter what side you are on or whose flag you fly.

That is why the leaders of our Nations, of our Armies and Navies and Air Forces must be men and women of character and strength, and why we must be able to know what they are doing, and be able to criticize

them in the open if we are to remain a free society. War is politics when the gloves come off and the lead starts flying. They have their fingers on the trigger.

An interesting discussion, sir, I enjoyed it much. And again my apologies to the ladies, and to all for my error, for any offense, forgive me. And thanks again for your forbearance. I pledge to be more careful and less reactive in the future. I have been, uh, a bit under the weather.

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Burnsville

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Friday, August 25 -- Hamrick's

Friday, Sept. 1 -- Mount Airy "Mayberry"

All Yancey County citizens are invited to attend these trips. If you are 60 and over there is no charge. Anyone under 60 may attend for a very small fee.

YANCEY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

115 Mitchell Branch Road, Room 1, Burnsville, NC 28714 (828) 682-6144 Fax: (828) 682-4625 LAUSTIN@YANCEYCOUNTYNC.GOV

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