

Highway Patrol promotes back to school

With school back in session, the State Highway Patrol is focusing on safety in and around school zones. Motorists should be aware of an increase in school traffic and familiarize themselves with local school bus stop locations. Teen drivers

will also increase as some will be driving to and from school for the first time. Drivers should also expect an increase in pedestrian traffic in and around school zones.

Troopers statewide will monitor school bus routes, at-

tempting to ensure motorists comply with stopping for school buses as they pick up and release students.

According to state law, motorists are required to stop when a school bus is displaying its mechanical stop signal or flashing red lights and the bus is stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging passengers.

The driver of any other vehicle that approaches the school bus from any direction on the same street, highway, or public vehicular area shall bring that other vehicle to a full stop and shall remain stopped.

Officials also encourage students to ensure all traffic has stopped before entering the roadway when boarding or exiting their respective school bus.



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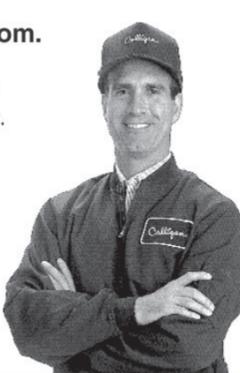
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SEARCH meeting is set

The group known as SEARCH (Sustaining Essential and Rural Community Healthcare) will meet Tuesday, September 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Trinity Episcopal Church, 15 Hemlock Avenue, Spruce Pine.

The catalyst for forming the group was the impending closing of Labor and Delivery at Blue Ridge Regional Hospital which led to the group's first goal, which is to understand and express concerns about the decisions to close L/D at BRRH.

The second goal is to empower greater involvement in decisions affecting the healthcare of our residents and the third is to preserve, strengthen and expand access to essential medical services in our area. Anyone wishing to become involved in SEARCH is invited to attend the meeting.

For more information call Susan Larson at 765-2652.



Pictured from left are Allyson, Jeremy & Derek Heidenfelder, Benjamin & Abby Varney and Wayne Huddleston (Account Manager with Duke Energy).

Yancey 4-H attends Electric Congress

A delegation representing Yancey County 4-H attended the 70th Annual 4-H Electric Congress, July 11-13 at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. 155 4-H'ers, adult leaders and North Carolina Cooperative Extension agents from 47 counties attended the three-day event.

Participants attended a career fair, participated in workshops, a dance, hot air balloon ride and spent an afternoon at Carowinds Park. Since 1947,

Duke Energy and Dominion Energy have sponsored the annual congress to emphasize electrical energy concepts, conservation, and safe efficient use. The 4-H electric program is one of the most popular activities among Tar Heel 4-H'ers.

To attend this program, 4-H members were required to complete 4-H Project Books or Portfolios that captured their work in the electric program. Congratulations to Jeremy Heidenfelder, Kyler Glover,

Benjamin Varney and Derek Heidenfelder for winning this year's county electric program awards.

The 4-H program is the youth education program of N.C. Cooperative Extension, based at North Carolina State and North Carolina A&T State universities. More than 232,000 young people between the ages of 5 and 19 participate in North Carolina 4-H activities each year with the help of 20,563 adult and youth volunteers.

Altapass Orchard has lots planned this month

The Orchard at Altapass hosts over 150 musical performances every May to October, highlighting local and regional and visiting artists. Throughout the season, songs of bluegrass to country, folk to mountain soul, and blues to rock 'n roll fill the red barn, and whether the musicians draw large crowds or intimate gatherings, every performance is free to the public.

Join us and take in the beautiful views of the surrounding Blue Ridge Parkway while you tap your feet to the music or get up and dance.

We have lots of great music planned this week, starting with our Wednesday Music Jam at 1:45 p.m. If you are a new or an accomplished musician, you are invited to attend. There is no sign up. Just show up.

Other musical performances for your listening and dancing pleasure include Debbie Young & Friends (variety of dancing music) at 1:45 p.m. Thursday, August 31; Annette & Doug Conion (AmeriFolk duo) at 1:45 p.m. Friday, September 1; Creekside Grass (traditional bluegrass gospel) at 1 p.m. and Crossfire (a different selection of dance music) at 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 2; David Cody (blues, country, rock & originals) at 1 p.m. and Tru Blu (bluegrass & classic country) at 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 3.

The Children's Book Club will meet every Saturday in September, from 12 to 1 p.m. as

Orchard co-founder Bill Carson reads his book *When It Rains On The Mountain!* Children get a free copy and a chance to meet Bill for an autograph.

Artists on the Deck for Saturday, September 2 will be Tim Muench and David Krafcik.

Tim is a Blue Ridge Artist who creates graphite pencil drawings of people, animals and scenes along the Parkway, and David designs hand-etched, carved and painted glass and glassware.

Both artists will have products available for purchase 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. David and his glassware will be there on Sundays throughout September as well.

During our Labor Day Picnic on Monday, September 4, there will be music and dancing all day in the barn and lunch will be served at noon in the pavilion. Each person should bring a dish to feed six or pay \$15 per plate.

The victory of the Overmountain Men in the historic battle at Kings Mountain will be celebrated with two events at the Orchard. First, a re-enactment of the battle will be held Saturday, September 16, at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend this free event.

Second, a dinner honoring the Overmountain soldiers and their modern re-enactors will be held Thursday, September 28, at 6 p.m. The members will tell

the story in a vivid and memorable performance following the dinner. The meal is free for re-enactors in period dress and \$15 for guests. All are welcome. Call 828-765-3437 to RSVP.

The Orchard Book Club will meet September 20, 11 a.m. to discuss *A Passel of Hate* by Joe Epley. The time period for this historical novel is the Revolutionary War and details the story behind the battle at Kings Mountain.

Among the two thousand participants in this conflict, there were at least forty-two sets of brothers and eighteen father-

son groups, but not all members of the same family fought on the same side.

Tickets are available for the play, *Love Makes a Home*, to be performed Thursday, September 21, at 6 p.m. Patty Louise Smith will portray the rugged frontier woman, Rebecca Boone, wife of explorer Daniel Boone. Fiddler Bruce Greene, descendant of the Boone family, will perform old time tunes. Tickets are \$10 and advance purchase is recommended. Call 828-765-9531 to order. For a complete calendar, visit www.altapassorchard.org or call 828-765-9531.

Toe Talk

Habitat with community purpose

By Lauren Street

As a part of rural America here in Western North Carolina, we have made a home in the midst of many microbiomes, ecosystems, and habitats. Each one of these incredibly diverse environments provide and serve different purposes for the community, as well as the wildlife that we share the land with. One of these extremely beneficial ecosystems is called a wetland.

Wetlands are usually located in depressions in the land, and their soils are either saturated or covered with a shallow layer of water. Many different natural systems fall underneath the title of a wetland such as marshes, swamps, bottomland hardwood forests, bogs, fens, and wet flats. They might all look and function differently, but they share characteristics such vegetation, hydric soils formed under water-logged conditions, and hydrologic features.

Wetlands are natural areas between uplands and waterways. Water collects in these areas and contributes to stream flow when full, or through ground water movement. Wetlands act as storage areas for large quantities of surface water which can then be slowly released into a watershed. A one-acre wetland, one-foot-deep, can hold approximately 330,000 gallons of water. When wetlands are removed storm water runs directly into the watershed, increasing floods and erosion. Wetlands trap sediment, remove nutrients and detoxify chemicals, and act as a successful and cost-effective filtration system. As water enters a wetland, many of the harmful components that were picked up from upland areas can be treated and removed before the water enters into the streams and rivers.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission stated in an article that our state has lost around an estimated 1.2



Lauren Street is the Toe-Cane Watershed Coordinator.

million acres of wetland habitat. Nationwide the United States has lost a whopping 53-percent of its original acreage total in the lower 48. Originally at 221 million acres of wetlands, by 1980 we were down to 104 million acres. In the Appalachians, wetlands are usually drained and filled to increase an area and productivity for farming or to allow room for commercial development.

Restoration and conservation work is happening in our local area to revive lost wetland habitat. Wastewater retention ponds are built close to large parking lots to act as a catch basin for storm water that runs-off from impermeable/impervious surfaces. You might have a wetland closer to you than you know, be on the lookout for them. They serve huge purposes in our communities by providing habitat for fish and wildlife, store floodwater, recharge groundwater, filter nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants, and provide carbon to aquatic systems.

Toe Talk is a monthly article series sponsored by the Toe-Cane Partnership highlighting watershed and community news. The Toe-Cane Partnership is working to improve water quality and gain associated economic benefits in the watershed by providing education and technical resources and implementing on-the-ground projects. For more information, see us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ToeCanePartnership/>

Hensley history book available

Charlie Hensley began his search for his ancestors many years ago. The Hensley's came to this section of North Carolina in the mid to late 1700's. The cost of the Hensley Families

Book is \$75.00.

The book can be purchased by ordering from: Charlie M. Hensley, PO Box 63, Burnsville, NC 28714 or the Yancey Times Journal office in Burnsville.



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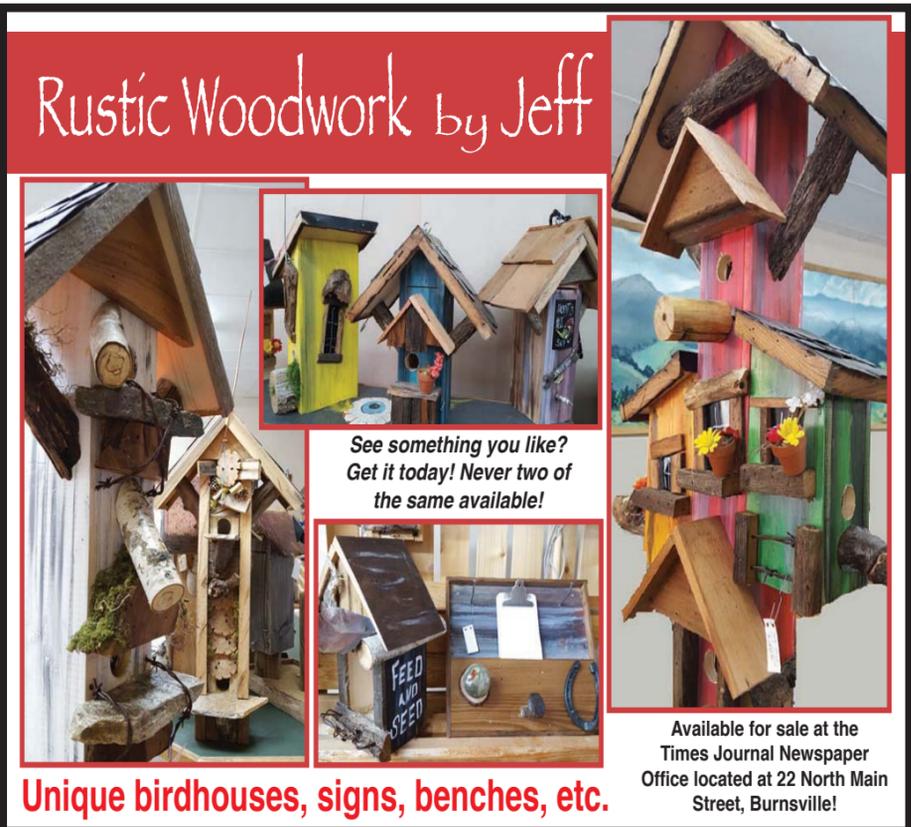
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