



The Yancey County Commissioners are sponsoring a special event to dedicate the Charters of Freedom monuments on Monday, September 25th at 5:00 p.m.

Charters of Freedom dedication set for September 25

The month of September holds great historical significance for the United States of America. Our young country spent the summer of 1787 in a constitutional convention drafting what would become the Constitution of the United States of America. This was a long and deliberate endeavor by our founding fathers to develop a document to address the various concerns and interests of all the states and the role of the federal government. The work of the convention culminated with the approval of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787 and sent it to the states to be ratified. The Constitution was ratified by the states on June 21, 1788.

History tells us that the ratification process was not a simple one. During the ratification process there was a call for specific guarantees of personal freedoms and rights, and other concepts of limited government and delegation of powers to the states that had not been specifically addressed in the new Constitution. These concerns were addressed by Congress and resulted in the creation of the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution in a document known as the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights was approved by Congress on September 25, 1789 and submitted to the states for ratification. The Bill of Rights was ratified by the states on December 15, 1791.

The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights, together with the Declaration of Independence, are collectively referred to as our country's Charters of



For those that are not able to travel to Washington, D.C., there is now another option to view these important documents on the Yancey County Courthouse Lawn.

Freedom. These documents are housed in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. They are preserved and on display for all of those citizens who desire to see the documents that contain the principles and ideals that our great country are based.

For those that are not able to travel to Washington, D.C., there is now another option to view these important documents. The Yancey County Commissioners have partnered with the non-profit organization, Foundation Forward, to bring these Charters of Freedom to Yancey County.

In October 2016, Foundation Forward presented the Commissioners a gift of the Charters for the citizens of Yancey County. Foundation Forward paid for both the Charter documents (which are made of etched bronze) and the brick monument pedestals and the County provided all the site preparation through a combination of generous volunteer labor and contributions and also paid labor and materials. Construction

of these monuments began in July on the front lawn of the Yancey County Courthouse. For the past couple of months much work has been done to prepare the area and build these monuments. Construction is now complete and these monuments are ready to be formally dedicated to the Citizens of Yancey County.

The Yancey County Commissioners are sponsoring a special event to dedicate the Charters of Freedom monuments. Everyone is invited to the lawn of the Yancey County Courthouse for this special dedication and celebration event on Monday, September 25th at 5:00 p.m.

This date was selected as the anniversary date of the approval of the Bill of Rights by Congress 228 years ago. We invite every citizen and resident to attend this special event.

Information on other Yancey County government services is available on the official Yancey County website at www.yanceycountync.gov.

Blue Ridge Partnerships says thank you for support

We at the Blue Ridge Partnership for Children are humbled and amazed with the tremendous turnout at Monday night's Taste of the Blue Ridge event in Burnsville!

Despite the heavy rains and wind that evening, we were honored that so many in our community came out to support services for young children and families.

I hope that you each had a lot of fun, enjoyed the delicious treats, and had a ball with the auctions and games, all for a good cause.

As we reconcile our final figures, we are excited to announce that we exceeded our goal to raise \$20,000 to invest in our 3 targeted programs – Imagination Library, Play & Learn groups, and the Yancey Alliance for Young Children. As the auctioneer Michael Parker reminded us -- many times Monday night – “It’s for the children!”

Special thanks to the participating restaurants for sharing their delicacies with us, to our Presenting Sponsor Piedmont



Taste of the Blue Ridge exceeded its goal to raise \$20,000 to invest in our three programs.

Natural Gas and Author Level Sponsor Unimim, for the donors who offered items for auctions and games, and to the generous bidders and those of you who made outright donations for the Imagination Library in Mary Lou Howell's memory. We were all touched by Jeff Howell and his dad Larry allowing the community to honor Mrs. Mary Lou through contributions to the Imagination Library.

Your gifts will honor her memory and continue her dedication to children and literacy for years to come!

Taste Planning Committee members, Partnership board members, volunteers and our committed staff, who all worked so hard to help make the event the true success that it was. And, to Chad and Rob for their hard work in hosting us at the Town Center.

Again – hope that everyone enjoyed the night, and we look forward to next year's event on Sept. 17, 2018 when we take Taste of the Blue Ridge to Avery County!

Jennifer Simpson, Executive Director Blue Ridge Partnership for Children

Readers' Forum

A reader gives a few thoughts on the Civil War

No flag or cloth should determine whether I should like or dislike you, it is your treatment of me that should determine how I feel toward you.

There is an old saying “one bad apple can spoil the whole bunch” and I can honestly say that a bad apple entered the barrel where the history of the confederate flag is concerned. Those that decided to use the confederate flag to represent racism have destroyed this symbol of southern heritage. The confederate flag is the flag that represented the South during the War of the States, it did

not represent slavery. Slavery existed in the North just as it did in the South. Many of our African American ancestors stayed loyal to the South and have just as much right to the confederate flag as anyone, black slaves fought willingly in the South army, not all ran away to fight with the North.

The confederate flag belongs to all of us that are American born of the South. Lincoln told newspaperman Horace Greeley, two years into the war, “My paramount objective in this struggle is to save the Union and it is not to save or destroy

slavery,” he further stated if he could save the Union by keeping slavery he would do so.

It is just as obvious the Union did not invade the confederacy to free the slaves, it had to preserve the Union to save itself economically. Tens of thousands of blacks fought for and supported the confederacy, tens of thousands of slaves fought for the Union, ninety-four percent of confederate soldiers did not own slaves, a big percentage had never seen a black man.

Randy Briggs
Burnsville

We need people to join the fight for our hospital

“Stand with Mission.” That’s what Mission Health Care System is asking the people of Western North Carolina to do as it battles the region’s biggest insurer, Blue Cross Blue Shield.

That plea leaves a sour taste here in Yancey and Mitchell counties, given Mission’s abrupt decision to close the labor and delivery unit at Blue Ridge Regional Hospital. The hurt is still raw and the memory fresh: Mission acted with no outreach and no apparent concern for the impact on us, the people this \$1.7 billion corporation claims to serve.

But Mission’s insensitive approach did have one positive outcome: Concerned citizens, including several pastors as well as doctors and residents from both counties, have banded together to fight for our hospital and our health care. We’ve chosen the name SEARCH (Sustaining Essential and Rural Community Healthcare).

We need people from every corner of our counties, from every walk of life, to join the fight for the survival of our local hospital. After all, every one of us is likely to be affected if Mission continues to chip away at the services and facilities at

Blue Ridge. Already, two local physicians have decided to move their practices to other areas where they can continue to deliver babies. Two others plan to move or retire. Our communities can’t afford losses like that.

The people who formed SEARCH aren’t naïve. We know that Mission is a highly acclaimed institution – in many ways a regional gem. We know that, like all hospital systems, it is struggling to bring its costs in line with what insurers and programs like Medicare and Medicaid will pay. (After all, that’s why Mission is taking on Blue Cross.)

And we certainly know that every health provider in North Carolina has been stretched to the breaking point by the state’s decision not to accept federal dollars to expand Medicaid as provided by the Affordable Care Act. We want to see a change in the way Mission does business. Our community has a right to a greater say about the services provided at our local hospital. Our hope is that Mission will welcome our efforts and that in the future we will proudly stand with Mission as true partners.

Here’s how you can get involved: Attend a Public Vigil

for Health Care at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 30 at Riverside Park in Spruce Pine. This candlelight vigil, sponsored by SEARCH and the NAACP, will mark the day the labor and delivery unit closes.

Come to SEARCH’s next general meeting on Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Burnsville.

Watch “Women’s Health and Rural Hospitals,” from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 25. This public forum in Asheville, hosted by Carolina Public Press and HuffPost, will be streamed live online. (Check SEARCH’s website, searchwnc.org, for details on how to watch.) You can also attend the event in person at Lenoir-Rhyne University’s Center for Graduate Studies in Asheville.

The forum is just one part of a joint investigation by Carolina Public Press and HuffPost that will highlight stories of women in our counties as an example of how rural women struggle to get access to basic health services. Their reporting will bring national attention to our area.

Karin Rolett
Burnsville
On behalf of the SEARCH team

Can you help Family Violence Coalition of Yancey County Shelter with furnace repairs?

Cold weather is on the way and the Family Violence Coalition of Yancey County’s shelter needs a major repair to replace the heating portion of our Heat Pump/AC.

We have received several quotes about how to repair it to keep the existing system in place, since the AC portion works fine.

Here it is mid-September and I am learning the easiest fix is to replace the heating portion with new parts and along with labor we need from \$2,400.00 to \$3,000.00.

This is the worst time of the fiscal year for us with funds

in the bank due to us having to wait for the State of N.C. and the federal funds to be either reimbursed to us or deposited into the bank via the first quarterly installment.

Our shelter is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with clients and families in need regardless of how many funds are in our bank account.

We need to keep a cushion of funds to remain operational until state and federal funds arrive and to take care of expenses for something such as our shelter furnace.

The state and federal grants do not allow too many dollars

to be allocated for big items/repairs, so we are dependent upon donations for emergencies, but necessities, such as furnace repairs. If we raise more than we need for the furnace repair we will save the excess in a savings account just for shelter maintenance. If you or your church can donate to the FVC Furnace Fund we certainly could use your generosity right about now!

Thank you for your love and support over the past 21 years.

Samantha Phipps, executive director FVC of Yancey County, Inc.

Reader believes in “Liberty and justice for all!”

To Whom it may concern: In regards to having an alleged altercation with Mr. Andrew Peterson on December 28, 2016, for the record, I have no animosity or bear any vengeance against him or any of his family. Over the past several years I’ve had the pleasure of working for Andy and his mother and also Ralph Hise Sr. I still consider them as friends

and any work I did for them I was well compensated for it! On this particular date I had stopped by to visit with Andy after not being able to reach him by phone. Then allegedly after he shot into my vehicle and I allegedly shot at him, I’m the only person being charged in the incident! My truck has been impounded and it has bullet-holes in the passenger door, toolbox,

and quarter-panel and I’m still going to court for it! However, I am aware that politics and money are powerful implements here in these small mountain counties but, the fact is, even in our pledge of allegiance to the flag, it states, with “Liberty and justice for all!”

Respectfully,
Stephen Scott,
Burnsville

Brief History of global warming and hurricanes

That famous scientist Stevie Wonder and his colleague Beyoncé just called me stupid for not believing in man-made global warming after 2, yes 2, hurricanes have just hit the US. This is after a 12-year pause in the US being hit by a major (cat 3 or higher) hurricane.

Let’s look at history. Since 1851 when hurricanes began to be counted, 293 storms with hurricane winds have hit the US. Here are the decades with numbers of hurricanes hitting the US.

The decade with the most hurricanes was the 1880’s with 25. Next was 1941 to 1950 with 23. Following was the decade of 1901 to 1910 with 21, and then the 1890’s and 1950’s with 20 each. The 2000’s had 19 with the last major hurricane being Wilma in 2005.

(All data from “Wikipedia” so anyone with curiosity

can easily look it up.) Anyone see a global warming trend here? The correct answer is of course no.

For the more mathematically inclined, the least squares fit of the number of hurricanes hitting the US per decade vs. decade number (beginning in 1851) is the line given by the equation $y=19.5 - 0.176471x$ where y is the number of hurricanes and x is the decade number with 1 being the decade 1851-1860.

The minus sign in front of x means the “average” number of hurricanes is decreasing since the 1850’s!

The strongest was the La-

bor Day hurricane in 1935 with 190mph winds.

Over a year ago, Weatherbell’s Joe Bastardi predicted that we would have more hurricanes hitting the US since major atmospheric patterns now are similar to the 1950’s and 20 made landfall in the 50’s.

So, Stevie and Beyoncé, what say you’ll now? As usual, the ones with “skulls full of mush” are the zealots who pontificate without evidence and accuse those of us who actually look at facts of being “science deniers”. “I’m rubber, you’re glue...”

Bucky Cochrane
Murchison, NC

Letters must be signed to be published, with address and phone number included for verification purposes only. Please keep comments civil and refrain from hate speech, name-calling and personally attacking others for their views. Deadline is noon Friday. Send to: Times Journal, PO Box 280, Burnsville, NC 28714 or email: david@yanceypaper.com.