



YANCEY COMMON TIMES JOURNAL

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On Veteran's Day writer remembers The Great War: My Italian Pilgrimage

By Rich Filippi

As we enjoy the holiday weekend, I am reminded of the origins of Veterans Day - originally called Armistice Day - the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month 1918 that saw the end of World War I.

Over one hundred years ago, the world was embroiled in a conflagration known as the Great War. It was the first truly global conflict that lasted four and a half years. The devastation on economies and populations was so horrible that it was considered "the war to end all wars."

The origins of World War I can be found in the struggles of European nations: expanding their empires, forming secret treaties to limit the growth of others, global colonization of countries to exploit their populations and natural resources to feed the needs of industrialization and the rise of ethnic nationalism by conquered peoples. War broke out in Bosnia in August 1914 and continued until November 11, 1918. Ultimately, 32 countries were involved and over 20 million lives were lost. The devastation of World War I changed the lives of an entire generation, it saw the fall of great empires and the birth of dozens of new countries and the creation of a League of Nations. Unfortunately, unresolved issues, the Great Depression and a growing desire for revenge by Germany, set the stage twenty years later for an even greater conflict, World War II.

Both of my Italian grand-

fathers served in the Italian Army in World War I. As a child I heard stories about their involvement. During high school, I read Ernest Hemingway's A Farewell to Arms which takes place on the Italian front during WWI. I was curious to discover more about Italy's part in the Great War. Originally, Italy was allied in a defensive pact with Germany and Austria-Hungary but chose to remain neutral when war broke out in 1914. They were courted by both sides with promises of territorial concessions. In 1915, Italy joined France, Britain, and Russia against Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey. Italy attacked their neighbor and traditional enemy, Austria-Hungary, and pushed out toward the Isonzo River. Italy paused and a defensive line of mountain positions was formed. The next two years saw bloody indecisive fighting for control of the valleys between the mountains. The Italian Front was called "the White War," as most of the fighting was done between snow-covered mountain peaks. It was very different from the low rolling terrain on the Western Front in France and Belgium. My personal journey began with childhood stories of my grandfathers, evolved into family genealogy research and several trips to Italy where I obtained copies of their Italian Military records. I researched the official Italian Army records of the war and determined where their units were stationed and with the help of my friend, Steve Crich, we built an exten-

sive travel itinerary based on our findings. I thought it fitting on the centenary of the Great War that we travel to Italy and experience the sacred places where they fought so long ago.

So this past September, Steve and I met in Venice, rented a car and drove three hours north into the Dolomite Mountains. En route we stopped in Fossalta di Piave where, in June 1918, Ernest Hemingway was wounded while serving as a volunteer in the American Red Cross. Later on in the trip, we visited the Villa in Bassano where he began his recovery. By late afternoon we reached our destination, the city of Udine. For the next five days, we used Udine as our base of operations and took day trips into the nearby mountains. We visited towns and villages, museums, castles, cemeteries, ossuaries, mountain memorials and trench lines. We traveled up narrow mountain roads, navigating hairpin turns and challenging switchbacks, parking at trailheads and hiking up to century-old trench lines hidden in the clouds. The air was cool and crisp and walking in the mists made for a surreal timeless atmosphere. Many of these old defensive lines have been cleared and restored, some with informational markers, as part of open-air museums used by hikers and students of history. We saw a few people hiking, but mostly we were alone taking in this frozen piece of history. We discussed how these positions were built, how the soldiers lived in them, how they

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New Program helps Yancey Veterans to obtain ID card at Register of Deeds office

Yancey County veterans have a new reason to file their military discharge record, also known by the form designation DD-214, with their county Register of Deeds. Veterans who file a copy of their military discharge record with the Register of Deeds Office will receive a free local veteran ID card which will enable them to receive exclusive discounts at Yancey County businesses.

Susan Jobe, Yancey County Register of Deeds, is excited to introduce the Veteran's Honor Program to our local veterans. "I am so proud to offer this recognition program to Yancey County veterans who have served our country in the armed forces. It has also been exciting and rewarding to reach out to our local businesses to offer special discounts to the county's veterans. The response and eagerness of our businesses to participate in this special program to give tribute to our veterans has been heartwarming. I am so proud of the service of our veterans and also the participation of local businesses in the Veteran's Honor Program."

If the veteran has already filed their DD-214 with the Yancey County Register of Deeds, they need to come by to have their photo taken and their personal ID card made. There is no charge to file the DD-214 and there is no fee to receive the ID card.

DD-214's (military discharge records) are the only documents in the Register of Deeds office that are not public record. These records are kept separate in a filing cabinet under lock and key. Specific guidelines are followed to protect the privacy of these documents.

If you have a business



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that you would like to enroll in this program, please come by or call Susan Jobe, at the Register of Deeds office at 828-682-2174. You may also go online to enroll at www.yanceydeeds.com and click on the tab titled "Veterans Honor Program" to fill out the form online (complete with the opportunity to put your logo and your business website on the link.) There is no charge. This is a free program to our veterans as well as our businesses who want to honor them.

For more information or to view a list of the current businesses that are part of this program, please visit www.yanceydeeds.com and click on the tab "Veterans Honor Program".

There will be a special

kickoff event for the Yancey County Veteran's Honor Program this Veteran's Day, Saturday, November, 11th. The Register of Deeds Office will be open immediately after the annual memorial service on the Courthouse lawn to issue Veteran ID cards. All veterans, please bring your photo ID (and your DD-214 if you haven't filed it yet). Susan and her staff are excited to see you and present you with your Veteran Honor Program ID card. There will also be refreshments for your enjoyment!

VETERANS... please honor us with your presence on this special day and get your Yancey County Veteran Honor ID discount card and refreshments!!!



Grading work at site of new school in full swing

Last week Yancey County Commissioners heard an update on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and engineering and design recommendations for sewer extension to Blue Ridge Elementary School and Cane River Middle School in a presentation from Chris Cavanaugh with Magellan Strategies. The new Blue Ridge Elementary School will be located in the Western part of the county and will replace aging schools in Bee Log, Clearmont, and Bald Creek. The school will have many special features that most elementary schools don't have. The facility will have space to add additional classrooms if necessary. The \$11.5 million project is expected to be completed by Spring - Summer of 2019. Pictured, workers move dirt on the new site just off Highway 19 in Cane River. Photo by David Grindstaff

Questions answered about Mission Health System

By Dr. Jean W. Hunt

In recent months, Mission Health System's closure of Labor and Delivery at Blue Ridge Regional Hospital, and the choice to leave the BCBS NC network of preferred providers, has created a sense of insecurity among some citizens in our community. This sense of insecurity is fueled in part, by a lack of awareness of the availability of alternative health services in our area and the cost of such services. This column is designed to inform interested members of the community about some of the terms related to the provision of hospital services, how reimbursement for those services is determined, and to provide a general comparison of estimated costs for labor and delivery services at various providers in the area.

How is the amount your insurance company will pay for a service determined?

The amount paid for a medical service in any geographic area is based on what providers in the area usually charge for the same or similar medical service. This basis is referred to as the "usual, customary, and reasonable" amount. This UCR amount is based on a community rating which is the rating assigned to a community based on specific characteristics that affect health care utilization such as age, gender, number of smokers, health care usage statistics, etc. The UCR amount is often used to determine the allowed amount which is the amount paid for a service.

How is the amount paid (the allowable) calculated?

The maximum amount an insurance plan will pay for a covered health care service

is referred to as the "allowed amount." May also be called "eligible expense," "payment allowance," or "negotiated rate." If your provider (physician, clinic, hospital) charges more than the plan's allowed amount, you may have to pay

the difference.

When the provider charges more than the "allowed amount" can they bill you?

When a provider bills you for the difference between the provider's charge and the al-

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Yancey American Legion seeks patriotic youth

The Earl Horton American Legion Post #122 in Burnsville is recruiting patriotic young people to enlist in the North Carolina American Legion Student Trooper Program.

The purpose of the North Carolina American Legion Student Trooper Program is to create an association between our young people and the men and women who are responsible for enforcing the laws of our State.

The week long American Legion Student Trooper Program is conducted at the North Carolina Highway Patrol Training Center in Raleigh, North Carolina, and is a cooperative sponsorship of The NC American Legion and The NC Highway Patrol.

Cadets participate in morning physical training, close order drill, and disciplined conduct throughout the day under the watchful eyes of counselors and instructors. Cadets participate in a wide variety of instructional sessions. They learn the use of police skills, including drug detection, firearms safety, and precision driving, just to name a few.

Students who have successfully completed their junior or senior year can be accommodated at the training center, so be sure to get applications in early.

The application must be submitted through a local American Legion post. Applications may be obtained by calling Department Headquarters or using the order form also enclosed with the mailing. Applications and medical forms can be obtained by writing, calling or e-mailing department headquarter.

Again, cadets must be sponsored by an American Legion post. Contact Earl Horton American Legion Post #122 Commander Les Heavner at 828-208-2675 for more information.

Town Elections on Tuesday

A Municipal Election will be held on November 7, in the Town of Burnsville to vote on Mayor and two Town Council seats for a four-year term each.

Results were not available at press time, Monday. Look for full details in next week's Times Journal.

Incumbent Mayor Theresa Coletta is running against write-in candidate, current Councilman Ron Powell, while there are five candidates, Kayti Ledford, Bunnie McIntosh, Gordon Higgins, Russel Fox and Lucy Dolly vying for the two open spots on the Town Council.

Christmas Ornament Show at Town Center

The 16th annual Christmas Ornament Craft Show is set for Saturday, November 18. Featuring one of a kind gift items all 100% handmade by local crafters and artisans. Shop items such as paintings, quilted sheep, teddy bears, wooden bowls, stained glass, painted signs, glass ornaments, beeswax candles, baked goods and much more! 48 vendors will offer their handmade items for sale. Breakfast and lunch will also be available for purchase in the concession area.

Free admission. Located at the Burnsville Town Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information contact Christy Edwards at (828) 208-6975.



The 16th annual Christmas Ornament Craft Show is set for Saturday, November 18 at the Burnsville Town Center.

New venture hopes Madison County will become next solar panel manufacturing hub

Executives with Toronto and Denver-based solar cell developer IntriEnergy signed the licensing and manufacturing deal with Mars Hill's Solar Connection inside it's Hickory Drive facility November 2nd.

William Boyle started Solar Connection under his Boyle Enterprises umbrella more than two years ago. He hopes the new joint venture, called Manufacturing Advanced Renewable Systems, or MARS, will see his vision for a solar manufacturing workforce built from military veterans take off within the next two years. With four full-time employees now, Boyle is optimistic that a staff totaling around 100 will be working three shifts in 24 months' time, turning out high-efficiency, low-cost solar panels round the clock.

"Now that I have competent people behind me and engineers and so forth, we'll move a lot faster," Boyle said as he showed off a machine used for solar panel framing inside the former Honeywell Micro Switch plant. "We'll be able to do what my dream has been: to train veterans."

That concept of a workforce built on military servicemen and women played a part in attracting IntriEnergy to the project, according to CEO Jackie Coffey. "I admire his vision for hiring veterans and training them to be independent

workers in solar. He has that same vision for creating jobs and helping the local economy," she said in a phone interview two days before signing the agreement.

Coffey joined IntriEnergy's Managing Director Jeff Whitney and VP of Product Development Pere Sòria for the morning signing ceremony. According to Sòria, who arrived from Barcelona hours before the deal became official, MARS will produce solar panels, also called solar modules, comprised of solar cells more efficient than what exists affordably on the market today.

"We are going to take a step forward and put out in the market the next generation of solar cells," he said.

The difference will come from IntriEnergy's proprietary solar cell, according to Coffey. That newly-patented solar cell,

call the IntriSic, is still about one year away from appearing on a marketable solar panel prototype, Coffey said. Once that hurdle is cleared, the venture will still need to develop a manufacturing process to efficiently create the IntriSic solar cells.

As that process plays out, Boyle will begin outfitting the old Honeywell site with machines to assemble solar panels using the 17-percent efficient solar cells available on the market today. He expects those to be rolling off his assembly line in about four months.

If all goes well with the development of the 24-percent efficient IntriSic solar cell, the Mars Hill location will manufacture both the cutting-edge solar cell and panels with the new technology.

As the man tasked with overseeing technical develop-

ment of the planned Mars Hill production facility, Sòria hopes the new partnership will thrive from the very beginning. "The joint venture is a live thing,"

he said. "It is working with Solar Connection from the very beginning to ensure Solar Connection is a success with the

actual technology existing today and then to introduce the new generation of cells whenever we consider it is the right moment.



Bovine visitors on W. Main St.

If you drove down W Main St, in Burnsville, last week you may have had to do a double take. Yes, that was a small hairy cow you saw parked on the sidewalk in front of Appalachian Java. Baby James and his sister Little Girl are Scottish Highland Cattle. Baby James, pictured above, almost died when he was born because of an infection and then the rest of the herd rejected him. So, he became friends with the dogs on the Happy Hens and Highlands Farm in Burnsville!. His new owners adopted him a sister so he wouldn't be lonely. He enjoyed the attention while his owners enjoyed the coffee.

Classic Movie Club screens Battleground

A reminder of the screening of the 1949 movie "Battleground" Starring Van Johnson, John Hodiak, George Murphy, Ricardo Montalban and Denise Darcel Monday, November 6th 7:00 pm at the Yancey Theatre. This truly classic film was nominated for six Academy Awards including best picture and won two. Come join the Classic Movie Club as we celebrate Veterans Day 2017.

Cold weather is coming on and the theatre will need to be heated which adds to the operating expense so we need your donations to keep our Classic movie club going. We appreciate Louan and her staff of the Yancey Theatre for making the screening of these great films once again on the big screen possible. We'll see you at the movies.

Questions answered about Mission Health System

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allowed amount it is referred to as "balance billing." For example, if the provider's charge is \$100 and the allowed amount is \$70, the provider may bill you for the remaining \$30. A preferred provider usually may not balance bill you for covered services.

Can you avoid "balance billing"?

A "preferred provider" is one who has a contract with your health insurer or plans to provide services to you at a discount. You may have a co-pay with a preferred provider but are typically not required to pay "balance billing" above and beyond the allowed amount. "Participating providers" also contract with your health insurer or plan, but the discount may not be as great, and you may have to pay more.

Check your policy to figure out whether your insurance plan has preferred or participating providers or a "tiered" network where you must pay extra to see some providers and not others. Your health insurance or plan may have preferred providers who are also "participating" providers. This and other terms associated with health care delivery, insurance coverage, provider status, and how standards and costs are set is available online at <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/>

How do networks, preferred and participating provider status affect BCBS insureds in our community now that Mission is no longer "in network"?

This issue of preferred and participating providers is at the root of the recent removal of BC-BS from the "in-network" providers for the Mission Health

System in WNC. BC-BS no longer has a contract with Mission to receive "preferred provider" pricing for services to subscribers. You can still receive treatment from Mission although your BC-BS policy will most likely pay a lesser percentage of services and you may be billed for services that you were not billed for when BC-BS was in the Mission preferred provider network.

The reasonable and customary allowable amounts set for providers who contract with insurance companies are determined by the age, gender, and health status of subscribers (people who have that insurance plan). Rates insurance agrees to pay for various services are a closely guarded secret within the industry.

When an insurance company makes a contract with a provider network (physicians, hospitals, clinics), the provider agrees to waive any difference in cost between the "cash price" or allowable based on community ratings and the amount contracted by the insurer for their subscribers. The terms of the agreement vary depending on the negotiations between insurers and providers and apply only to subscribers, not to the uninsured.

Uninsureds are subject to paying the "cash price" for a service and in most cases, that is the full price (UCR based on community rating) with no discounts. The provider (clinic, hospital, physician) is at liberty to set a cash price at the in-network price at their own discretion.

And, they may just as easily elect not to do so. For instance, to find out the "cash price" or estimate of costs for a service

to someone with no insurance, you can contact the provider directly.

Look for a comparison of the cost of labor and delivery services at various hospitals accessible to our community in next week's Times Journal.

Dr. Jean W. Hunt is a research scientist with a doctorate in Health Psychology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She is a resident of Burnsville and can be reached at drjwhunt@aol.com.

15th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 23rd
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
682-2835

Celebrate Thanksgiving Dinner at the
Family Life Center Higgins Memorial
United Methodist Church

No Reservations Necessary! No Charge!

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