



Your Community-Minded Newspaper

# YANCEY COMMON TIMES JOURNAL

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Burnsville, North Carolina 50¢

## Commissioners approve resolutions

County Commissioner approved two anti-corruption resolutions on Monday, November 13, 2017. The resolutions support (1) independent redistricting legislation that would prohibit gerrymandering, and (2) campaign finance reform and stronger enforcement of campaign finance rules and ethics.

These resolutions would restore fair elections and enable legislators to remain responsive to the people they govern. The Yancey County Commissioners joined ranks with the Burnsville Town Council members who approved these resolutions at their June 26, 2017, meeting.

A grassroots movement started back in January when a group of residents from all over Yancey and Mitchell County got together to figure out what could be done to address the multitude of hurtful issues that seemed out of control and brewed by our political system.

Action teams have formed that focus on social equality, community building and anti-corruption.

The anti-corruption team is building consensus around legislation that will reset our political system by disabling corrupt practices. After calling, emailing, petitioning and visiting state and federal legislators, it was clear that the voice of individual voters is no longer considered. Bigger voices were needed in the anti-corruption grassroots movement. Resolutions were brought first to the Burnsville Town Council and then to the Yancey County Commissioners for their consideration.

Monday, November 13th, Yancey County Commissioners approved by majority vote a resolution in support of the inde-



Yancey County Commissioners Front Row - Mark Ledford, Jill Austin, John Stallings Back Row - Jeff Whitson and Johnny Riddle.



County Commissioner approved two anti-corruption resolutions on Monday, November 13.

pendent redistricting legislation. This would eliminate single party re-mapping of the district election lines by supporting a bipartisan/independent approach. The resolution states: Be it resolved that it is the position of the County of Yancey, to support efforts to pass independent redistricting legislation, and respectfully urges our elected representatives to the North Carolina General Assembly and the United States Congress to pass independent redistricting legislation in North Carolina and in the United States.

Also, the Commissioners unanimously approved the reso-

lution for campaign finance reform. This resolution states: Be it resolved that it is the position of the County of Yancey, that all elected representatives and senior staff adhere to laws and regulations pertaining to their office; And strengthen federal agencies and House and Senate ethics committees to enforce the rules against politicians and special interests that break campaign finance law.

Yancey County also respectfully urges the North Carolina General Assembly and the United States Congress to lead efforts to pass campaign finance reform legislation.

## A Blue Ridge Mountain Thanksgiving Memory

By Bob Wilson

My father worked in Black Mountain in those days and due to the time, it took to make the trip over the winding mountain roads he only came home on weekends. Several people in Pensacola were employed by the Beacon Manufacturing Company in Swannanoa and shared the commute with him. On their journey home on Friday nights, they would stop at the A&P in Asheville and purchase their groceries for the coming week. I was the youngest of six children and we would eagerly await our father's arrival and quickly carry the bags into the house for we knew those familiar bags not only contained our groceries for the week but special treats for we six children. It was such a Friday night that I now begin my Thanksgiving story.

My father arrived home right on time that night and we ran out to meet him as usual but before we could open the car door he said "Hold up on the groceries. I have something to show you." We followed him around to the rear of the car. He gently opened the trunk revealing an orange crate. Our treats

must be oranges, I thought, but there came a rustling sound from inside the crate and then something moved. My father laughed and opened the crate and removed the smallest piglet I had ever seen. We carried the little pig inside and took turns holding him. When he was at last handed to me one look into those little beady eyes and small pink snout it was love at first sight. That night we talked our parents into letting us keep the pig and in our room. The next morning we were up bright and early to feed him and take him outside to play. By making a trail of food we could get him to follow us and as he moved along picking up the pieces he made this little grunting noise that sounded like "Oosh Oosh". My brother laughed and said, "we should call him Ooshie" and we did. That day Ooshie became one of our many family pets.

My father built a special enclosure in the barn for him and because of his size, he could escape from all the others. The days turned into months and by spring Ooshie had grown until he was now allowed to roam free in the fenced in lot that he would

share with our cow "Bessie". After school brother, Bill and I would go into the lot and play with him or scratch his back and head with a dried corn cob just to hear his grunting sound of approval. He would now follow us wherever we went and, on more than one occasion, he accompanied us to Brook Wilson's general store where we shared a candy bar, a pack of peanuts or a Moon Pie- peanuts were his favorite. He has even been known to drink a portion of our Coca-Cola. By fall Ooshie was a fully grown hog.

I guess in the back of our minds we always knew Ooshie had been brought home to be raised as food for our family but we did not want to face reality and when "Hog killing season", as it was called, came and went we breathed a sigh of relief for Ooshie had been given a pardon. By summer he was now a very large hog and people in the community said he was the biggest one they had ever seen. What I remember most about those warm summer days was going into the lot with a corn stalk

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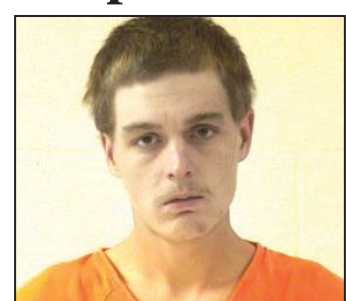
## Couple wanted for 1st Degree Murder arrested by Yancey Sheriff's Department

On Wednesday, November 15, 2017, officers with the Yancey County Sheriff's Office arrested Donavon Dakota Hargis, 23, and Jamie Nunley, 40, both of Grundy County, Tennessee. Both individuals were wanted from Grundy County, Tennessee on charges of First Degree Murder and Felony Abuse of a Corpse.

On the evening of Wednesday, November 15, 2017, of-

ficers with the Yancey County Sheriff's Office received a request for assistance from the Grundy County, TN Sheriff's Office regarding an ongoing homicide investigation in their county.

They had obtained indictments on two suspects in this case and had information to believe those two suspects were currently in Yancey County,



Donavon Dakota Hargis



Jamie Nunley

possibly somewhere on US Highway 19W.

Officers from the Sheriff's Office began to try to locate the two individuals in question. Yancey County Officers spoke with several individuals and were ultimately able to determine the individuals were staying in a camper near Langford Branch Road. Officers took both suspects into custody without incident.

Both suspects are currently being held in the Yancey County Detention Center with no bond, pending extradition back to Tennessee.

The two suspects are in custody in connection with the death of 35-year-old Dylan Winton of Grundy.

Winton was reported missing back in March, and his body was discovered in a remote wooded area in October near Highway 50. Sheriff Shrum says Winton had been shot four times: three times in the back of the head, and once in the back. The property where Winton's body was found is part of a hunting lease, where different people pay to hunt there. Winton was not a member of the lease.

Investigators have not yet speculated on a motive in this homicide case.



Members of ShortBus Studio came to the courthouse and picked up the grill and gave Mike Orr a big Thank You. Orr won the grill in a raffle to raise money for the Curtis Hughes Scholarship Fund and donated his winnings to Shourtbus Studio on Veterans Day last week.

## Raffle winner donates prize to Short Bus Studio in Burnsville

A recent raffle to help raise money for a scholarship to honor former Mountain Heritage graduate and Veteran Curtis Hughes was a big success by its organizers. The drawing for two prizes was held on Veterans day after the Salute to our Vets with a ceremony on the Yancey Courthouse Lawn. The prizes, an "Extreme" cookout package outdoor grill valued at \$650, and a Buck Stove Fire pit valued at \$299.

Larry Jenkins won the fire pit. It was sponsored by the Hometown Hero Day Committee & Buck Stove, while the grill and grill equipment, sponsored by the Hometown Hero Day Committee & Blossman Gas, was won by Mike Orr.

Orr won the grill and grill equipment and turned around and donated the grill and accessories to the Short Bus Studio in Burnsville.

Members of ShortBus came to the courthouse and picked up

the grill and gave Mike, who even took the new tank and had it filled for them, a big Thank You.

Shortbus Studio is no traditional isolated and boring sheltered workshop. In fact, the day program located in Burnsville has become the model for inclusive programs where outdoor adventure, volunteering, and the arts are used to build collaborations and everyday relationships.



This fire pit was donated by Buck Stove and was won by Larry Jenkins.

## Your guide for ACA health insurance

By Karin Rolett

If you need health insurance, you can still get it through the online marketplace set up under the Affordable Care Act. And you can get help to find the best policy for you or other family members.

All help is free, but the deadline is Dec. 15, so don't delay!

To enroll on your own, go to HealthCare.gov. Help is available by phone at 800-318-2596.

If you would rather sit down with a certified ACA Navigator or licensed insurance agent, you have several options. But be aware that many require or prefer scheduled appointments.

NCNavigator: Go to NC-Navigator.net or call 855-733-3711 to schedule an appointment.

The Navigator Rep will find a Navigator near you, arrange for an appointment and let you know what to bring to your appointment

Mountain Community Health Partnership: Call 828-688-6621 for appointments. Help is available at the Bakersville clinic on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is available at the Celso Health Center on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will also be walk-in clinics, without appointments, in Bakersville on Dec. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. and in Celso on Dec. 6 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Council on Aging: A representative will be at the Yancey Library in Burnsville Dec. 1, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15. Call 855-

733-3711 for an appointment.

Farm Bureau Insurance: Help is available by appointment. For the Burnsville office (316 E. Main St.), call 828-682-6128. For the Bakersville office (168 Hwy. 226N), call 828-688-3745. For the Spruce Pine office (157 Skyview Circle), call 828-765-9678.

Ebenconcept, Spruce Pine: Appointment preferred; call 828-765-3499. Located at 138 Highland Ave.

Roberts and Phillips Insurance Agency: By appointment;

call 828-682-2191. Located at 680 W US Hwy 19E.

Fortner Insurance Agency, Spruce Pine: By appointment; call 828-765-6121. Located at 311 Oak Ave.

The information in this article was compiled as a public service by SEARCH (Sustaining Essential and Rural Community Healthcare).

For more information about this local volunteer organization dedicated to your health, go to searchwnc.org or look for us on Facebook as SEARCHwnc.

## Christmas Extravaganza at Burnsville Town Center Saturday

The 7th annual Christmas Extravaganza will celebrate Small Business Saturday on November 25. This is a great opportunity to support local small businesses. The event will be held at the Burnsville Town Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This will be the perfect time to do your Christmas shopping and support local crafters, artists, and direct sellers. There is no charge for admission.

30 plus vendors will have their goods on display for purchase. More crafters than ever will be showcasing their handmade items this year.

With 30 plus vendors, shoppers will find a wide range of products including cosmetics, purses and bags, hair bows and accessories. Enjoy some yummy baked goods. Wreaths, ready-made gifts, candles, and jewelry will also be available. Homemade soaps, woodworking and so much more will be here under one roof for a convenient shopping experience.

Get out your Christmas shopping list or just come by and purchase some items for your everyday use. This is also a wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know some of our local small business owners as well.



Check out the Christmas Extravaganza this Saturday in Burnsville.