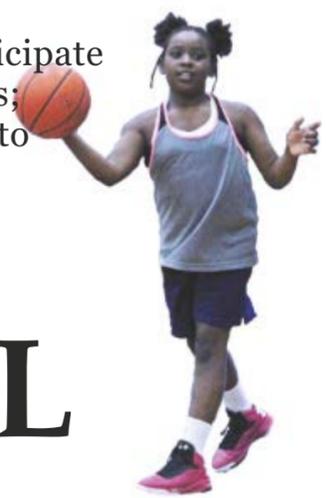




**Artist being recognized**  
Toe River Arts is hosting “Clay +” and the work of Cynthia Bringle at Spruce Pine Gallery  
**Arts & Entertainment / 6**

**Scholarships awarded**  
Several Mitchell High School graduates receive money for college expenses  
**Schools / 4**

**Never a day off**  
Boys and girls participate in basketball camps; football players go to Pisgah, WCU  
**Sports / 9**



# MITCHELL NEWS-JOURNAL

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Wednesday, July 4, 2018

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## Bell resigns from BOE

BY CORY SPIERS  
Mitchell News-Journal  
reporter1@mitchellnews.com

LEDGER – The Mitchell County Board of Education at a special meeting this past Saturday accepted the resignation of board member and vice chair Sherry Bell.

Bell announced her resignation this past Wednesday in a letter to board chair Angela Bursleson.

Bell is moving to South Carolina this summer to take a position with



Bell

Charleston County Schools.

“Making the decision to move has been a very difficult one,” Bell said. “I feel that this is what is best for me at this time.”

Bell, who checked into Saturday's meeting via speakerphone,

said she is grateful for the opportunity to have served on the board.

“Serving as a member of the Mitchell County Board of Education has been an honor and privilege,” Bell said. “I am so very grateful for the opportunity to have served with members of a board who genuinely care about the students of Mitchell County.”

“I am honored to have worked in the capacity of improving the school

and its functions for all children and am grateful for your partnership. I wish all of you and Mitchell County Schools the best success in the future.”

The board unanimously approved Bell's resignation as part of the personnel portion of the special meeting consent agenda.

The board's next regular monthly meeting is July 16 and the session will continue July 26, if necessary.



### Ringwood goes to dance camp

The Bowman sixth-grader attended “Kick It Up” at ASU.

**A&E / 6**

## A HOT TOPIC



BRANDON ROBERTS PHOTO/Mitchell News-Journal  
The Rev. Bill Sweetser, left, signs a petition opposing the sale of Blue Ridge Regional Hospital. Calvin Hall, right, who was a driving force in raising money to build the hospital in the 1950s, was the first to sign the petition being circulated by the ad hoc group “Save Our Hospital.”

### Petition opposing sale of hospital being circulated

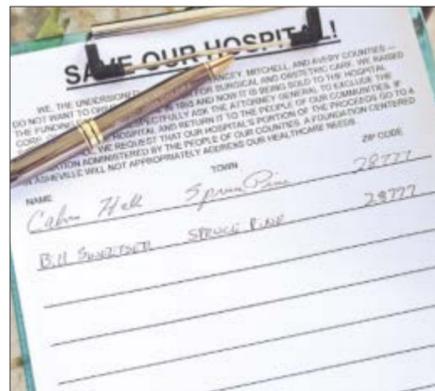
BY BRANDON ROBERTS  
Mitchell News-Journal  
editor@mitchellnews.com

SPRUCE PINE – When Mission Health announced this past March that a deal had been reached to the sell the nonprofit health system to Tennessee-based for-profit HCA Healthcare Inc., a group of concerned citizens called Save Our Hospital, or SOH, thought the people's voices should be heard.

To this end, SOH, not affiliated with the local Sustaining Essential Access

to Rural Healthcare, or SEARCH, group, is circulating a petition calling for two things: first, that Blue Ridge Regional Hospital be excluded from the sale; and second, if the hospital sells, any proceeds to be returned to the community.

Save Our Hospital's aim is to let everyone's voices be heard, said the Rev. Bill Sweetser, Save Our Hospital member. Sweetser said the petition calling for proceeds



BRANDON ROBERTS PHOTO/Mitchell News-Journal  
A petition opposing the sale of Blue Ridge Regional Hospital can be signed on change.org.

See **PETITION** / page 3

### TOWN OF SPRUCE PINE

## Bursleson re-appointed to ABC board

BY CORY SPIERS  
Mitchell News-Journal  
reporter1@mitchellnews.com

SPRUCE PINE – The Spruce Pine Town Council at its regular meeting this past week received a report from the Mitchell County ABC Board and unanimously approved the re-appointment of Danny Bursleson as the ABC Board chairman.

Bursleson updated the council on how the local ABC liquor store in Grassy Creek did during the fiscal year and

See **COUNCIL** / page 3



### Spruce Pine

The annual Kiwanis Club of Spruce Pine parade starts at 5 p.m. followed by music, dancing, food, inflatables and games in Central Park. Fireworks start at dusk.

### Little Switzerland

The Little Switzerland 4th of July Parade begins at 4 p.m. Floats and entrants will line up at 3:30 p.m. in “Uptown” Little Switzerland on High Ridge Road.

### Penland School of Crafts

Homemade/handmade July 4 parade begins at 7 p.m. and fireworks are at 9:30 p.m.

### The Orchard at Altapass

Fourth of July festivities are 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Events include live music, cloggers and a covered-dish meal. The Fourth of July dinner is free if one brings an ample covered dish, otherwise entry is \$15 per person.

### Saturday, July 7

### Bakersville

The town-wide yard sale is 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; fireworks begin at dusk.



### BRRH honors its volunteers

Grundstroms have logged more than 30 years combined.

**Life / 12**



### A tribute to David Earl King

Remembering some men who died while working on Highway 261.

**Looking Back / 7**

### CONTACT US

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Thank you,  
**Mary Lee Bailey,**  
of **Suwanee, Georgia,**  
for subscribing to  
the News-Journal.



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## Filing deadlines approaching

Mitchell County Board of Elections Director Roy-cene Jones announced the filing period to run for the Mitchell County Board of Education began at noon Monday, June 4, and ends at noon Friday, July 27. There are three seats available on the board of education.

The filing period for soil and water began at noon Monday, June 11, and ends at noon Friday, July 6. There are two seats available for soil and water.

## PETITION

From page 1

of the sale of Blue Ridge Regional to go into a foundation administered by the people of Mitchell and Yancey counties is to ensure our area gets its fair share.

“We are concerned the money from the endowment created by the sale will stay in Asheville,” Sweetser said.

Petitions can be signed online at [www.change.org/p/joshua-stein-save-our-hospital](http://www.change.org/p/joshua-stein-save-our-hospital) and copies can be obtained from Sweetser or any member of Save Our Hospital.

## COUNCIL

From page 1

passed out copies of the board’s projected budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Burleson said the store follows three basic rules – don’t sell to those who are already drunk, don’t sell to minors and keep the shelves well-stocked. He added the store had no sale violations during the year.

The local store is on pace to hit \$1.3 million in revenue for the fiscal year, Burleson added. That figure represents a 3 percent increase from the previous fiscal year.

“It’s a typical year of retail,” Burleson said.

Burleson said Tim Willis has taken over as store manager.

The council asked Burleson if Grassy Creek is still the best place for the store. Burleson said the building hadn’t had significant problems and the location is just far enough off the road enough to be ideal.

“The location is pretty good,” Burleson said. “I don’t know where else we’d put it that would be any more beneficial.”

Each year, the ABC Board donates portions of its revenue to the Alcohol Rehabilitation Fund and local public safety.

After giving his report, Burleson presented the town of Spruce Pine with a check for \$44,000 from the board.

After Burleson’s report, the council unanimously approved his re-appointment to the ABC Board.

“This board works well together,” Burleson said. “We each have our particular jobs, and we will continue to do the best we can.”

Spruce Pine residents John and Carolyn Riddle also addressed the council during the appointments period.

The couple posed questions about the process of appealing a denied land rezoning request.

Mayor Darla Harding and Town Clerk Darlene Butler told them to submit a letter appealing the denial. After that, the council will advertise and have a public hearing during a meeting, and after the hearing, the council can decide about the request.

# The Fourth of July, Julius, and a band of little Caesars



Rick LAFLEUR

On the Fourth of July, 1776, members of the Second Continental Congress approved the final version of the Declaration of Independence, formally separating America’s 13 colonies, North Carolina among them, from the British crown.

Annual festivities began a year later, even though the Revolutionary War was raging, and in 1870 Independence Day was declared a federal holiday. From at least the 19th century onward, celebrations often commenced the night before, and today from the Switzerland Inn’s expansive lawn on the Blue Ridge Parkway you can already see fireworks blazing up from Marion and all along the valley.

Like the Brits who settled America, the ancient Greeks dispatched colonists westward by sea to Italy starting in the eighth century B.C., in search of more resources for their expanding population.

But the Greek settlements were chiefly in south Italy and on Sicily, while further north, on the hills overlooking the Tiber River, the town that was to be Roma was organized by locals who had inhabited the area for generations (though their Indo-European ancestors had originally migrated from the far north).

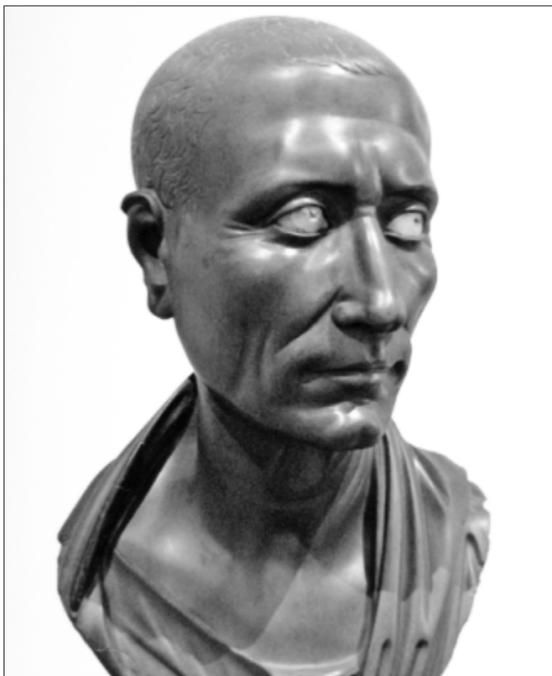


Photo courtesy of Louis le Grand, Wikimedia Commons

Julius Caesar, marble bust, first century B.C., Altes Museum, Berlin.

Tradition identified Rome’s founding date as April 21, 753 B.C., when Romulus, the city’s legendary first king, ritually plowed a trench around what was then a simple village of thatched huts, marking the town’s sacred, inviolable boundary.

But violations there were, as Rome’s northern neighbors, the non-Italic Etruscans, invaded and ruled the area for more than a century.

When the last of the Etruscan kings, Tarquinius Superbus (“Tarquin the Arrogant”), was overthrown in 509 B.C., the monarchy too was ended and replaced by a form of government known as the Republic.

Though never fully democratic by any means (slaves and women could not vote,

and the poor too were largely disfranchised), the Republican constitution did provide for elected officials and popular assemblies. Tarquin’s ouster thus represented a kind of Independence Day, though Romans continued to celebrate the country’s birthday on April 21, their equivalent to our Fourth of July.

July was an important month for the Romans. In their earliest official calendar, which Romulus was credited with establishing, the year had only 10 months, and the first was named “March,” to celebrate the war god Mars.

Even long after the addition of January and February, the original fifth month was called simply Quintilis/fifth (as in QUIN-Tet, QUINTuplets, and

QUINquennium, a period of five years).

But in 44 B.C. the month was re-named Iulius/July by the Roman senate, in honor of the recently assassinated Julius Caesar, who had been born in that month. Caesar’s nephew and successor, Octavian, the future emperor Augustus, sponsored a festival glorifying his uncle’s military successes called the Ludi Victoriae Caesaris (“Games of Caesar’s Victory”), scheduled in his birthday month, July 20-30.

Caesar’s victories in Gaul, which included modern France and Belgium, and forays into Britain were essential steps in the expansion of the empire and the Latin language’s contributions to French and English. Beginning with Augustus, Rome’s emperors assumed the appellation “Caesar” as a title, and centuries later Russian monarchs dubbed themselves “Czar.”

Cinema tough guys are given the name too, like Edward G. Robinson’s mobster character in the 1931 classic “Little Caesar” and the simian king Caesar in the rebooted “Planet of the Apes” series. An ancient law that required surgical removal of a fetus if the mother died in childbirth was renewed under the emperors and hence came to be known as CAESARIAN SECTION (from *caesare*/to cut, as in *biSEct*/*disSEct*).

I used to joke with my students that four entirely different Latin expressions could all be translated the same way – well, sort of. Caesar eam videt (as

in *VIDeo*/*VISio*) means “Caesar sees her.” Caesar, *cape eam* (think *CAPture*/*CAPtive*) is translated “Caesar, seize her!” Caesar, Caesar means of course “Caesar, Caesar”; search “Little Caesars 1990s band commercial” on YouTube and you’ll find tiny, Roman pizza-eating puppets singing “Caesar Caesar bo-be-zer banana-fana fo-feez-er me-my-mo-meez-er, Caesar!” And *Caesaris convulsio* (as in *CONVULSIO*n) can be rendered with a sound-alike “Caesar’s seizure” – not a laughing matter, as the general is known to have collapsed in public on several occasions, either from epilepsy or a series of mini-strokes.

The Fourth of July revelry started way early here in the Blue Ridge Mountains, where the LaFleur clan recently gathered for a family reunion, and I’ve already gained a few pounds from all the beer and pizza-pizza. Maybe I’ll back off tonight and order just a glass of vino (Latin *vinum*, as in *VINe* and *WINE*) to wash down a small Caesar salad.

**Rick LaFleur is retired from 40 years of teaching Latin language and literature at the University of Georgia. His book UBI FERA SUNT, a translation into classical Latin of Maurice Sendak’s classic, “Where the Wild Things Are,” ranked No. 1 on TIME magazine’s 2015 list of the top 100 children’s books. Rick and his wife, Alice, live part of the year in Little Switzerland.**



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

## SPORTS DAY AT GREENLEE

Greenlee Primary School and Mitchell High School united before the end of the school year to empower young students to be active. Mitchell athletes shared their passion for sports while teaching basic skills to Greenlee students. Teams participating with students were wrestling, men’s basketball and girls’ volleyball. There were seven teams who participated overall.



## Paddle & Clean yields truckload of trash, debris

More than a truckload of trash was removed from the North Toe River Saturday, June 23, during the second annual Blue Ridge Conservation and Development District Paddle & Clean.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



# Biddix awarded MCHS McRae Scholarship

The Mitchell County Historical Society has awarded Amanda Biddix its second annual Inez McRae Scholarship.

Biddix, the daughter of David and Marsha Biddix of Spruce Pine, is a 2018 graduate of Mitchell High School.

Her academic achievements include a 4.75 GPA, three years of the President’s Award for Academic Excellence and membership in the National Honor Society.

She participated in numerous extracurricular activities, including marching

band, concert band and show choir. She plans to attend the University of North Carolina and study history and archaeology.

The past three summers she participated in the Joara Archaeological Field School near Morganton, where a Spanish fort established in 1567 by Juan Pardo is undergoing excavation.

Biddix has competed in National History Day and the National History Bee, and won first place in the Mitchell County Historical Society’s Annual History Bee, High School division,

in 2018.

“One of the beauties of research is that conducting research almost always leads to more research,” Biddix said. “Once you enjoy the reward of finding one clue, another presents itself, and so you dive back into another book or paper or website that has more information. It’s a never-ending cycle and one that never fails to intrigue me.”

The scholarship honors Inez McRae, founding member, anchor and guiding force of Mitchell County Historical Society who

taught school for many years in Mitchell County. McRae currently lives in Winston-Salem.

The MCHS scholarship is awarded to a high school senior from Mitchell County who demonstrates an interest in Appalachian studies, including, but not limited to history, music, art, folk culture, and economic or community development. The student selected demonstrates a desire to pursue this interest at a higher educational level and express a desire to live and work within Appalachia.



Biddix