

Project SEARCH information night Jan. 16

Project SEARCH will hold an information session night at Mission Hospital, 1 Hospital Drive, Room 5205, Asheville, on January 16 at 6 p.m.

Project SEARCH is a partnership between Mission Health, The Arc of North Carolina, A-B

Tech, NC Vocational Rehabilitation, Vaya Health and the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities. The program offers a one-year internship for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Its goal is to help the students, who range in age from 18 to 30, achieve their goal of securing meaningful, competitive employment.

This session is a one-hour introduction and determination of candidacy appropriateness. Speakers will include Tim Blekiki, Mission Health Project SEARCH instructor, and the job coach, as well as current and past interns, and representatives of program partners. There's a Q&A at the end for parents and students.

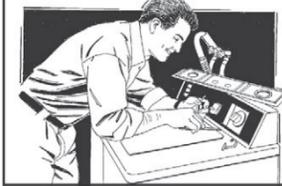
There will be another session on February 13 at 6 p.m. at 1 Hospital Drive, Room 6102, Asheville. For questions, please contact Tim Blekiki at tblekiki@arcnc.org or 828-254-4771 or visit arcnc.org/project-search-asheville.

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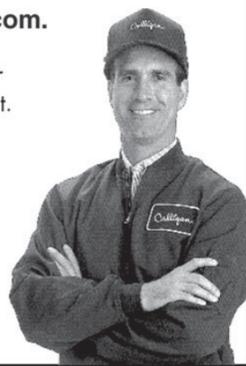
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The Blotter: Arrest report

Yancey Sheriff's Office arrest report for December 19 through January 2.

Joe Junior Bailey, 73, of Burnsville was arrested on Dec. 20 and charged with assault on a female.

Lucas Michael Born, 23, of Statesville was arrested on Dec. 20 and charged with DWI for Buncombe County, failure to appear for Madison County, simple possession Schedule IV Controlled Substance for Buncombe County.

Timothy James Kirkman II, 47, of Burnsville was arrested on Dec. 20 and charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz., possession of paraphernalia.

Erica Kaye Williamson, 28, of Burnsville was arrested on Dec. 21 and charged with criminal contempt.

James Ryan Phillips, 32, of Burnsville was arrested on Dec. 26 and charged with 2 counts of larceny of ungathered crops and 2 counts of obtaining property by false pretenses.

Fred Andrew Banks, 44, of Swannanoa was arrested on Dec. 25 and charged with resisting an officer, simple Possession Schedule III Controlled Substance, felony simple possession, and possession of methamphetamine, all for Mitchell County.

Jayson McDaniel Crain, 37, of Burnsville was arrested on Dec. 28 and charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Aaron Jackson Lottahall Wynkoop, 22, of Spruce Pine, NC was arrested on Dec. 29 and charged with probation violation, carrying a concealed weapon, 3 counts of failure to appear on misdemeanor charges.

Pedro Romero Magana, 49, of Burnsville, NC was arrested on Jan. 1 and charged with assault on a female.

Gasoline prices continue to fall

Gasoline prices in North Carolina have fallen 4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.09/g this past Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 6,092 stations in North Carolina.

This compares with the national average that has fallen 3 cents per gallon versus last week to \$2.22/g, according to GasBuddy. Including the change locally during the past week, prices Sunday were 26.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago and are 19.8 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has dropped 19.9 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 26.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"After a brief hiccup that saw the nation's average gas price rise for two days last week, the overall trend remains in favor of lower gas prices, even as oil prices have rallied. The window for cheap gas prices continues to close, however, and by mid-February will likely be completely closed, so do take advantage of the low prices while they last," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.



Town honors Randy Banks for service

Burnsville Town Council recently recognized Randy Banks, a charter member since 2011 of the town's Planning Board, for his service as he rotates off the board. He was presented with a Resolution of Appreciation for his efforts in guiding the planning and regulation of the town's development to benefit the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. The resolution recognizes the many hours of training he underwent to expand his knowledge of planning and zoning matters while drawing on initiatives of the NC Dept. of Commerce and reviewing and recommending revisions to the town's sign and zoning ordinances to preserve the historical character of the community. His exemplary dedication to planning for the town's future focused on the betterment of its economic, cultural and aesthetic development. Pictured (l-r) Planning board chairman Harrison Tyner, Randy Banks and Mayor Theresa Coletta.

SEARCH public meeting Jan. 15 in Burnsville to update on activities for Mission's sale to HCA

SEARCH (Sustaining Essential and Rural Community Healthcare) will inaugurate the new year with a public meeting on Tuesday, January 15, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Burnsville.

While there will be brief reports from the Outreach and Outcomes Committees, the focus of the meeting will be on the developing activities around the sale of Mission Health to HCA, including recent resolutions by the towns of Bakersville and Spruce Pine sent to N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein.

Sustaining essential services in this rural area is the core mission of SEARCH, and defining what those services should be became even more important when a list of only three services for Blue Ridge Regional Hospital was deemed necessary in the Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) which Mission and HCA sent to the Attorney General for approval.

SEARCH will review the APA recommendation for Blue Ridge as opposed to for the

WAMY intent to apply for CDBG funding

WAMY Community Action, Inc. will be submitting an application for funding under the Community Services Block Grant program. The funding available for the grant is \$318,826 for Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties.

WAMY proposes to operate a self-sufficiency program to help 40 low-income families move above poverty through education and employment.

A complete copy of the grant application is available upon request.

For more information, please contact Melissa Soto at 828-264-2421. WAMY Community Action is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Local government meeting schedule

Yancey County Board of Education meets the first Monday of each month at the central office on School Circle. Closed session at 6 p.m. and open session begins at 6:30 p.m.

Burnsville Town Council meets the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., second floor of Town Hall.

Yancey County Board of Commissioners meets the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the courtroom of the county courthouse.

Special and emergency meetings will be scheduled and announced as required by law.



SEARCH members accompanied former Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon (left) to a meeting at the N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein's office with staff Swain Wood (center) and Jennifer Harrod (right). SEARCH will hold a meeting in Burnsville Jan. 15 to update the public.

other hospitals in the Mission Health System and will seek input from attendees on a more complete and accurate list.

An Asheville group called Western North Carolina Healthcare Equity was formed this fall, primarily in response to perceived inequities in the establishment of the Dogwood Health Trust. Members of SEARCH have been involved tangentially and will report on the group's plans and progress. To receive the complete

DAV's annual Christmas dinner set for Jan. 19

The DAV's annual Christmas dinner which was cancelled due to weather, has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 19.

The doors will open at 4 p.m. with dinner at 5 p.m. The dinner is free to all veterans plus one guest; for all other guests over the age of 12 the dinner is \$12.

Contact Jerry Miller, 678-9369, Icket Thomas, 675-5613 or Sondra Ickes, 682-6245 to make a reservation by Jan. 14.

West Yancey VFD meeting Jan. 14

West Yancey Volunteer Fire Department will hold their annual meeting on January 14, 2019 at 7 p.m. at the fire station in Bald Creek community.

All community members are invited to attend.

Find bargains at Book Annex

Stop by the Book Cellar Annex on the Burnsville Town Square beside the tag office. You will find a surprising number of books of all kinds for adults and children.

Proceeds benefit the Yancey County Public Library. Open 11 - 4 Monday thru Saturday.

meeting agenda, including additional speakers and activities, please send an email to search-wnc@gmail.com or go to the SEARCH website, SEARCH-wnc.org.

All are welcome at the meeting, which is not only a good place to share ideas on healthcare, but also where you can bring for the refreshment table Aunt Tillie's fruitcake you can't quite finish or the Harry and David treats someone else might enjoy.

TRACTOR hosting meeting Jan. 10 for interested growers

TRACTOR Food and Farms is hosting a meeting for growers at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Burnsville on Thursday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m.

Any farmers interested in selling through TRACTOR in 2019 are invited to attend to learn more. For more information or to RSVP, contact Michael Graf at 828-536-0126 or email michael@tractorfoodandfarms.com.

Egypt-Ramseytown VFD meeting Jan. 17

Egypt-Ramseytown Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual election of officers meeting on January 17, 2019 at 6 p.m. At the main station located at 8635 U.S. Highway 19W, Burnsville, NC.

All members are expected and all visitors are welcome to attend.

Christmas tree recycling available

The Yancey County Convenience Centers and the Yancey Mitchell Sanitation Landfill are now accepting Christmas trees for recycling.

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