

GLORY 1130
WECR-AM
Newland, NC

Issue and Programs Report
For
Station WECR-AM

Quarter 4, 2022
October 1 – December 31, 2022

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WECR NEWS

Reports filed in news segments are aired weekdays at 5:55am, 6:55 and 7:55 am.

Special reports are aired in emergencies at other times.

Q4 news stories included:

10/4

The Watauga County Meet the Candidates Forum is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, from 5:00-9:30 PM, and will be broadcast live from the Appalachian Theatre in Downtown Boone. The event is co-hosted by the Boone Area & Blowing Rock Chambers of Commerce. During this forum you'll have the chance to hear from candidates for: US House of Representatives, Watauga County Sheriff, Watauga County Board of Education, NC House (Districts 93 & 87) as well as Watauga County Commissioners. Anyone who wants to attend or ask questions of the candidates will have the opportunity to do so. For those unable to attend in person, this event will be broadcast live, in its entirety, on WATA (1450 AM / 96.5 FM) as well as Skybest TV and YouTube TV. Archives of each segment of the forum will be made available on Boone Area Chamber of Commerce platforms following the event. Live coverage on WATA will begin shortly after 5 pm. PA

10/10

On Friday October 7th a Watauga County School Bus was struck on the 105 bypass while picking up students. Fortunately no one was injured and the bus was able to be transported back to the lot despite its superficial damage. Watauga County Schools Superintendent Scott Elliot spoke with me regarding this incident and how the rate at which local school buses are being hit has been steadily rising in recent years. He said that there has been a marked increase in vehicles striking a stopped bus within the past year. In addition to this numbers of instances where cars pass stopped busses using their stop sign has gone up as well. Passing a stopped school bus actively picking up students causes great danger to the students. Elliot mentioned how school busses are equipped with several onboard cameras that are used to record such instances and that they prosecute those caught passing busses. Elliot requests drivers to be mindful of school busses and reassures us that statistically they are still the safest way to transport students to and from school. CD

The N.C. Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting Thursday, Oct. 13, in Watauga County to receive comments for a proposed widening project to improve U.S. 321/U.S. 421 west of Boone. The purpose of this project is to improve traffic flow, mobility, and safety for all users. The public meeting will take place from 4-7 p.m. at Brushy Fork Baptist Church, 3915 U.S. 421. No formal presentation will be made. NCDOT staff and consultants will be on hand to answer questions and receive comments. The project, which will stretch from U.S. 321 to the N.C. 105 Bypass near Old Bristol Road, will widen the highway from a single lane to two lanes in each direction separated by a 30-foot median with paved 5-foot-wide shoulders. The estimated cost of the project is \$92.6 million. Right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin in 2024 with construction following in 2027. Comments may be submitted at the meeting, or by email US421-US321-Vilas@PublicInput.com or by phone (512) 580-8850. GR

10/18

Officials from Blue Ridge Energy and SkyLine Membership Corporation/SkyBest Communications, Inc. met with members of the Watauga County Commission on October 6 to provide the latest update on fiber construction activity in eastern Watauga County, where crews from both companies have been constructing both aerial and buried fiber that will bring gigabit-capable broadband connectivity to residents and businesses. The two companies have completed 75 miles of construction across Phase 1, 2,3 and 4 to areas of Elk Creek/Powderhorn, Stony Fork/Wildcat, Blackberry/Sampson and Howard's Creek/Ray Brown), and as part of Phase 1 of the project, there are currently 62 active fiber customers now connected to broadband services through SkyBest Communications. With \$7.5 million in funding awarded from the Watauga County Board of Commissioners, a total of 150 miles of overhead and underground fiber will be constructed by Blue Ridge Energy and SkyLine/SkyBest over the next two and a half years to serve more than 1,700 unserved or underserved locations. For more Information on this project visit www.BlueRidgeEnergy.com.

10/25

On October 17, 2022 at around 12:47am deputies responded to a commercial burglar alarm at the Cove Creek Store on Hwy 321 North. A white pickup truck was seen leaving the scene. Deputies stopped the truck and began an investigation which led to the arrest of Jarvis Devante Carter age 28 and Demarko Montel Carter age 24, both of Deland Florida. The store had been broken into and money was taken and an ATM was damaged in an attempt to remove it from the store and access its contents. It was also discovered that a vehicle parked nearby had been broken into as well. Both face charges of: Felony Breaking/entering, Breaking/entering a motor vehicle, Larceny after Breaking and Entering, Misdemeanor Larceny. A similar robbery occurred on September 23rd 2022 at the Valley Pantry in the Zionville Community. Similarly, an ATM machine was removed from the store. As a result of that investigation and video images, Jarvis Devante Carter has been charged with Breaking and entering and larceny and possession of burglary tools, from the Valley Pantry incident as well. CD

11/03

Sheriff Len Hagaman announced that thanks to a grant from the North Carolina Center for Safer Schools, the Watauga County Board of Education will be able to complete its goal to place a school resource officer in every school in the district. Watauga County Schools Superintendent Scott Elliott said he was pleased to have been awarded the grant and proud of WCS staff who have worked continually to renew and seek out new applications and sources of funding. ED CD

Watauga County Board of Elections, Matt Snyder has some advice for those going to cast their vote on election day, November the 8th. On Election Day, polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Voters in line at 7:30 p.m. will be able to cast a ballot. Voters must go to their assigned Election Day polling place. You can find your polling place through the Voter Search or the Polling Place Search. You can find these link on GoBlueRidge.net.

North Carolina residents may not register to vote on Election Day, unless they became eligible after the October 14 voter registration deadline due to becoming a U.S. citizen or having their rights restored following a felony conviction. Election results will be posted throughout election night at the State Board's Election Results Dashboard. For more information, read [What to Expect on Election Night in North Carolina](#). You can find more information on [GoBlueRidge.net](#). PA

11/15

Western North Carolina is seeing an increase in the RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus. This is a seasonal upper-respiratory virus that usually peaks in January or February. RSV typically causes mild, cold-like symptoms such as runny nose, decrease in appetite, coughing, sneezing, fever and wheezing. Because RSV, COVID-19, and the flu share similar symptoms, it can be difficult to differentiate between the three. Unfortunately, there is no way of knowing for sure without getting a test. Call your healthcare provider if you or your child is having difficulty breathing or symptoms linger or get worse. EH

11/18

Watauga County Director of Elections Matt Snyder, announced that Billy Kennedy, Angela Laws King, and Holly Fehl have requested recounts in their respective races. If a candidate loses by 1% or less they have the right to request a recount. Angela Laws King lost to her Republican Counterpart Todd Castle in the race for Watauga County Board of Commissioners District 1 by just 31 votes. Fehl lost to her Republican for Watauga County Clerk of Superior Court by 30 votes, and finally Kennedy requested a recount after losing to Braxton Eggers for the Watauga County Board of Commissioners District 3 seat after losing by 6 votes. The recount is going to be done on November 28th. PA

11/30

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Valle Crucis School was held at the school's new property, about a third of a mile from the current school site. Members of the Watauga County Board of Education, Watauga County Commissioners, architects, construction crew and others were on hand to turn over the first shovel of ground at the site which will house the new school. WCS Superintendent S thanked the board members and others for the many ways he said they'd helped further the project over the years. He said he was proud to be able to take part in the groundbreaking after so many years of effort to get a new school built. "Thank you so much to all of you who have worked so hard to make the construction of a new school in Valle Crucis a possibility," Elliott said. "We've come a long way to get to this point, and I am so proud to have worked alongside the school board, county commissioners and so many others to give the students and teachers in Valle Crucis the school building that they deserve." A second groundbreaking ceremony was held later in the day for school staff, teachers and students. ED GR

12/01

The NC Parks and Recreation Authority approved a \$17.4 million to fund nine capital improvement projects and six land acquisitions for North Carolina state parks. This fund will be giving money to Elk Knob State Park and Grandfather Mountain State Park. N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Secretary D. Reid Wilson said "These

land acquisition and park improvement projects will both expand our state parks system and repair and restore facilities and trails for the benefit of the people of North Carolina as well as visitors to our state, and We are grateful to the General Assembly and Governor Cooper for providing significantly increased investments in the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund over the last two years.” EH AC

12/02

An active school shooter was reported at Wilkes Central High-School Thursday. Local Law Enforcement arrived at the school to investigate the situation and found it to be false. The caller claimed that a while shooter has locked himself teachers classroom. It's been reported that pranks like this have been happening all over North Carolina. Watauga County schools issued a statement saying "It is unfortunate that we must remind people that it is a felony to communicate a threat false against a public school. We just wanted everyone to know that our students and staff are safe and sound, and we have received no threats." We will update you as more information becomes available. I spoke with Watauga County Schools Superintendent Scott Elliott to discuss this incident and the reaction to it. He was very upset by this event. Despite the widespread reach of this hoax, fortunately Watauga County Schools were not targeted. Despite the fact this all turned out to be a prank Superintendent Elliott wants to ensure the public that this is a very serious issue and that in all cases it will treated accordingly. ED CD

12/12

A Boone man was arrested for Allegedly stabbing a child. On Thursday the 8th, the Boone Police Department took Franklin H. Ensminger into custody for assault with a deadly weapon and inflicting serious injury. According to court documents the defendant "unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously did assault" a juvenile "with Black Kershaw Pocket Knife - approximately 9 inch blade, a deadly weapon. Very little is known at this time except that the incident occurred in the Big Lots and that Ensminger and the victim did not know each other according to Boone Police Chief Andy Le Beau. CD

12/13

Watauga County Schools Superintendent Scott Elliott has announced that he plans to retire at the very latest by September of next year. We had the chance to speak with Dr. Elliot about his many years of contributing to this community. Despite this announcement Elliott stated that he intends to stay long enough for a suitable replacement to be found. Dr. Elliot emphasized that though he is retiring as Watauga County Schools Superintendent he is in no way done helping this community. His days of relaxing on beaches and playing golf aren't here just yet. ED

12/19

Officers with the Boone Police Department responded to two separate incidents of theft from construction sites in the old Green's Hotel site and the new car wash site. At both sites, numerous construction related items like DeWalt and Kobalt tools, as well as bundles of PVC pipe in varied sizes. At one site, both the building and a construction trailer were broken into. The Boone Police Department would appreciate any information

related to this incident. If you know anything please call Crime Stoppers at 828-268-6959 / 828-737-0125 or the Boone Police Department at 828-268-6900. CD

12/21

In state news Governor Roy Cooper signed a state of emergency for the Western region of North Carolina. Governor Cooper said with the extremely low temperatures North Carolinians will need propane and other heating fuel to keep their families warm. While propane supplies are strong in the state, there is a limited supply of licensed commercial truck drivers, which is being further exacerbated by COVID and flu outbreaks. The State of Emergency will help ease some restrictions and allow heating fuel companies to keep up with demand. An Arctic mass is expected to come through the area Friday and drop overnight temperatures in the teens. In addition to this light precipitation is expected as well. Visit ReadyNC.gov for more information on winter weather safety and preparation. For information on road conditions visit DriveNC.gov. EH CD

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM

Q4, 2022

NCNN Public Affairs Programming airs 12 Noon each Saturday, 30 mins

Carolina Newsmakers

PRODUCED BY NORTH CAROLINA NEWS NETWORK

HOSTED BY DON CURTIS

CR—Civil Rights & Activism

CD—Crime & Drugs

ED—Education

EH—Environment & Health

GA—Government Affairs

GR—Growth/Transportation

HSM—Health, Safety, Medical Affairs

IA—International Affairs

NS—National Security

PA—Political Affairs

RE—Religion

SP—Sports

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

“Carolina Newsmakers” – Weekly Public Affairs Program
Hosted by Curtis Media Group Founder & Chairman, Don Curtis

Programs aired during Q4

10-2

INTERVIEW WITH DAVID PRICE - U.S. CONGRESSMAN FOR NORTH CAROLINA'S FOURTH DISTRICT
ECONOMY, INFLATION, PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, ELECTRIC VEHICLES, CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT, RECESSION, EDUCATION, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, VETERANS, CAMP LEJEUNE, UKRAINE, RUSSIA, NATO, NORTH KOREA, AND MIDDLE EAST. Issues discussed: EC ED IA EH

10-9

INTERVIEW WITH BARRY PORTER - REGIONAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS TRIANGLE AREA CHAPTER
HURRICANE IAN, TECHNOLOGY, VOLUNTEERING, COVID-19, BLOOD DONATIONS, SICKLE CELL ANEMIA, MILITARY, BABY SITTING, CPR TRAINING, FIRE DISASTER RELIEF, AND DONATIONS. Issues discussed: CD EH

10-16

INTERVIEW WITH DALE FOLWELL - STATE TREASURER OF NORTH CAROLINA
INFLATION, STATE DEBT, RECESSION, STATE PENSION PLAN, STATE BUDGET, STATE HEALTH PLAN, HIGHWAY TRUST FUND, SCHOOL BONDS, TAXATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION, AND UNCLAIMED CASH. Issues discussed: EC GA

10-23

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN HOOD - PRESIDENT OF THE JOHN WILLIAM POPE FOUNDATION ELECTIONS, ECONOMY, RECESSION, INFLATION, ABORTION, CONGRESSIONAL RACES, U.S. SENATE RACE, NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, UNAFFILIATED VOTERS, AND CRIME. Issues discussed: EC PA

10-30

INTERVIEW WITH SHAWN HARDING - PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU
AGRICULTURE, ECONOMY, INFLATION, IRRIGATION, SUPPLY CHAIN, FARM BUREAU BACKGROUND, INSURANCE, IMMIGRATION, WEATHER, CHRISTMAS TREES, EXPORTS, FOREIGN POLICY, TRADE AGREEMENTS, AND LEGISLATION. Issues discussed: EC GR GA IA

11-6

INTERVIEW WITH TOM JENSEN - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY POLLING ELECTION, VOTING, ECONOMY, INFLATION,

ABORTION, UNAFFILIATED VOTERS, UNITED STATES SENATE, EDUCATION, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PRESIDENT BIDEN, CRIME, ADVERTISING, AND POLITICAL PARTIES. Issues discussed: PA EC GA ED

11-13

INTERVIEW WITH TOM CAMPBELL - CREATOR OF NC SPIN ELECTION, POLITICS, NATIONAL DEBT, UNITED STATES SENATE, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, REDISTRICTING, ADVERTISING, NEGATIVE ADVERTISING, POLITICAL PARTIES, UNAFFILIATED VOTERS, AND BALLOT ACCESS. Issues discussed: GA EC PA

11-20

INTERVIEW WITH BRAD CRONE - PRESIDENT OF CAMPAIGN CONNECTIONS ELECTION, POLITICS, MEDICAID EXPANSION, EDUCATION, ECONOMY, DONALD TRUMP, ELECTION INTEGRITY, SPORTS BETTING, LEANDRO CASE, DAYLIGHT SAVING, JIM GRAHAM, UKRAINE, RECESSION, AND GROWTH. Issues discussed: EH PA GR IA

11-27

INTERVIEW WITH ELAINE MARSHALL - NORTH CAROLINA SECRETARY OF STATE CHARITABLE GIVING, SCAMS, DONATIONS, GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS, BUSINESS CREATION, PUBLIC SERVICE, CRYPTOCURRENCY, COUNTERFEIT THC-LACED ITEMS, TRADEMARKS, AND ADVANCE DIRECTIVES. Issues discussed: CD EC IA EH

12-4

INTERVIEW WITH DR. MIKE WALDEN - WILLIAM NEAL REYNOLDS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERTIUS OF RESOURCE AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ECONOMY, INFLATION, RECESSION, EMPLOYMENT, REMOTE WORK, GROWTH, MORTGAGE RATES, STATE GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, NATIONAL DEBT, SOCIAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND BROADBAND. Issues discussed: EC GR PA IA

12-11

INTERVIEW WITH BOB PHILLIPS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMON CAUSE NORTH CAROLINA REDISTRICTING, UNAFFILIATED VOTERS, ELECTIONS, MEDIA, NEWS, COMMON CAUSE BACKGROUND, MONEY IN POLITICS, SUPER PACS, EDUCATION, POLITICAL ADS, VOTER REGISTRATION, ELECTION SECURITY, AND SAME DAY REGISTRATION. Issues discussed: PA ED CR

12-18

INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR PHIL BERGER - PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SENATE

TAXATION, MEDICAID EXPANSION, CERTIFICATE OF NEED, ECONOMY, INFLATION, POPULATION GROWTH, BROADBAND, EDUCATION, TEACHER PAY, TRANSPORTATION, RAIL, AND PUBLIC SAFETY. Issues discussed: EC EH GR ED CD

12-25

INTERVIEW WITH STEVE LAWLER - PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION
HEALTHCARE, INSURANCE, MEDICAID, CERTIFICATE OF NEED, POPULATION GROWTH, AGING, RECRUITING NURSES, COVID-19, TEACHING HOSPITALS, MENTAL HEALTH, PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, AND TELEMEDICINE.
Issues discussed: EH GR ED