

Fourth Quarter 2011 Community Issues Report:

WCQS continues to take advantage of a number of opportunities it has during its twenty-four hour broadcast day to report on issues of importance to the residents of Western North Carolina, **the local economy, environment, planning and development, transportation, health care, education and politics**. Monday through Friday we produce local newscasts on the hour at six, seven and eight in the morning. The morning newscasts are two minutes long.

In addition to our local newscasts we produce in-depth stories that are inserted into our morning news-magazine "Morning Edition" and our afternoon news and cultural affairs program, "Fresh Air" and our afternoon news magazine 'All Things Considered'

2011-12-29

North Carolina is the second-largest producer of Christmas trees in the United States. Duncan McFadyen takes a look at the 100 million dollar industry.

2011-12-28

The year in Books: Store Manager with Malaprops Book Store in downtown Asheville, Linda Barrett Knopp takes a look at some of the regional writers who left their mark on 2011.

2011-12-23

Tony Kiss takes a look at the weekend entertainment scene. Lots of new movies have arrived in Western North Carolina, just in time for Christmas.

2011-12-22

Horticulturist Alison Arnold shares ideas for last-minute holiday decorating with plants from the yard. - 5 min

2011-12-16

Tony Kiss takes a look at the weekend entertainment scene. Its a weekend full of holiday offerings and a couple of new films.

2011-12-14

Henderson County Commissioners have approved offering an incentives package valued at around 3.75 million dollars to attract an unnamed manufacturing company. David Hurand reports. –

2011-12-12

This coming Friday (12/16/11) marks YWCA of Asheville Executive Director Holly Jones last day on the job. After nearly sixteen years with the local Y she is leaving to become regional manager for the YWCA Southeast Region. In her new job she will be working with twenty-three Y's in seven states. She spoke with David Hurand about her new job and her political future.

2011-12-09

With low temperatures dipping into the 20s, it's time to winterize garden equipment to prevent it from freezing. Horticulturist Alison Arnold shares her ideas with Duncan McFadyen. –

2011-12-07

Atmospheric scientist Dr. Ed Brotak talks to Duncan McFadyen about upcoming winter weather in WNC. - 3 min

2011-12-06

One of the nation's oldest community arts organizations has hired a new Executive Director. - 4 min

2011-12-02

Tony Kiss takes a look at the weekend entertainment scene.

2011-11-30

Bill McKibben, political activist and the author of several books, including *The End of Nature* and *The Global Warming Reader*, spoke Wednesday, November 30th to a near full house at Lipinsky Hall, on the campus of UNCA. McKibben is a founder of the grassroots climate campaign 350.org. He is also the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College and holds honorary degrees from a dozen colleges, including the Universities of Massachusetts and Maine, the State University of New York, and Whittier and Colgate Colleges. In 2011 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. - 60 min

2011-11-25

Tony Kiss takes a look at the weekend entertainment scene. Its a great weekend for family friendly movies, inspiring music, and wonderful theater. –

2011-11-25

Celeste Collins of On Track Financial Education and Counseling center offers tips of making---and keeping---a holiday budget.

2011-11-21

The Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture was in Western North Carolina to drum up support for the Obama Administration's American Jobs Act. David Hurand spoke with Kathleen Merrigan about the economy and the recent decision by Congress to block proposed changes to the nation's school lunch program.

2011-11-18

Tony Kiss takes a look at the weekend entertainment scene, including the 65th annual Asheville Holiday Parade.

2011-11-18

This winter, volunteers will be putting the finishing touches on the first stage of the French Broad River paddle trail. When it's completed, paddlers will be able to take a seven-night trip from the headwaters in Transylvania County all the way north to the Tennessee state line. French Broad Riverkeeper Hartwell Carson took Duncan McFadyen down a section of the river in Henderson county that runs by one of the campsites.

2011-11-17

Potted bulbs can be an easy way to add color to your home around the holiday season. Of course, this time of year, you have to engage in a little horticultural trickery to get them to bloom. Horticulturist Alison Arnold tells us how to force bulbs.

2011-11-14 A clearer picture of the close relationship between President Richard Nixon and the Reverend Billy Graham is revealed in documents recently released by the Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library. Carolina Public Press contributing reporter Jon Elliston has taken a look at the documents. He spoke with David Hurand.

2011-11-11

Fifty years ago this month, Pack Memorial Library in downtown Asheville was desegregated. At the time, the library was located across the street from the Vance Monument in what is now the Asheville Art Museum. The effort to end segregation was lead by a small group of high school students, the Asheville Student Committee on Racial Equality, A-SCORE. David Hurand spoke with, Viola Spells, an A-SCORE member who worked to end segregation in Asheville...

2011-11-11

North Carolina's wine industry has a 1.2 billion dollar impact on the state's economy. That according to a new state report. Twenty five years ago, there were only 6 wineries in the Tar Heel State. Today, there are over 100. And the state's second largest winery is located in Western North Carolina. Duncan McFadyen visited the Biltmore winery in Asheville.

2011-11-11

Tony Kiss takes a look at the regions entertainment scene, including theater, music, and movies.

2011-11-08

A Swain County High School teacher is this year's winner of the Norman Mailer Teacher Writing award. Marjorie Dawn Gilchrist-Young is a graduate of Swain County High School. Her undergraduate degree is from Warren Wilson College. She earned her graduate degree in English from Columbia in New York City before returning to Western North Carolina to teach at Western Carolina University. For the past fourteen years she has taught high school English. She spoke with David Hurand in her classroom just hours before leaving for New York City to attend the Norman Mailer Center Foundation Gala.

2011-11-08

Unofficial results from Buncombe Election Services: City of Asheville City Council Voters chose from a field of six candidates to fill three seats. Mark Hunt finished first with 8,725 votes. 22.13% Chris Pelly finished second with 8,172 votes. 20.73% Jan Davis finished third with 7,682 votes. 19.49% Lael Gray finished fourth with 7,642 votes. 19.38% Mark Cates finished fifth with 5,246 votes. 13.31% Saul Chase finished sixth with 1,753 votes. 4.45% Hunt celebrated with his supporters at Asheville Pizza on Coxe Avenue in Downtown Asheville. At age 55 he won his first bid for elective office. Incumbent Jan Davis, who finished fourth in the primary, moved into third position and retained his seat, but just barely. at one point in the evening he thought he would finish fourth. But when the results came in from the final precinct to be counted, he narrowly defeated Lael Gray. The Buncombe County Sales and Use Tax Referendum For the quarter cent sales tax increase 16,795 50.74% Against 16,303 49.26%.

2011-11-08

Incumbent Jan Davis thought his election night would end in defeat. he trailed most of the night but with one precinct outstanding he trailed political newcomer Lael Gray by just three votes. When the votes came in from the final precinct, Davis had been reelected by a forty vote margin.

2011-11-07

Voters in Buncombe County will weigh in November 8th on the proposed quarter-cent sales tax increase. County Commissioners voted unanimously back in January to put the tax on the ballot, saying the proceeds would be used for capital improvements to A-B Tech. Supporters contend the improvements will stimulate the area's economy and create jobs. Those opposed to it argue that there's no guarantee the revenue will be used for community college projects. It's become a highly-charged issue the weeks leading up to the election. Both sides have spent thousands of dollars on mailings, radio ads, and yard signs to try to get their message out. Duncan McFadyen takes a look.

2011-11-03

Saul Chase is making his first run for a seat on Asheville City Council but is no stranger to elective office. He served eight years on the Boone Town Council before moving to Asheville. He finished sixth in the primary.

2011-11-03

Mark Hunt is making his first bid for elective office. He finished first in the Asheville City Council primary. -
2011-11-03

Horticulturist Alison Arnold talks to Duncan McFadyen about "putting the garden to bed" for the winter.
2011-11-02

Mark Cates finished fifth in the primary. He is making his first bid for elective office. He is a business consultant and says his number one priority is the city's job climate. Although the city council election is a non-partisan race he says voters should be aware he is the only Republican running. - 32 min
2011-11-02

Chris Pelly is a long time neighborhood activist and is making his third bid for a seat on city council. He finished second in the primary.

2011-11-01

Lael Gray is making his first bid for elective office. She finished third in the primary. Gray told David Hurand her priorities are the city's transportation grid, protecting the environment, race relations, and education. –

2011-11-01

Jan Davis is seeking his third consecutive term on Asheville City Council He finished fourth in the primary. He had considered not running again, but after fellow councilman Brownie Newman announced he would not seek re-election, Jan Davis decided to seek reelection. –

2011-10-31

Brian Eno's 77 Million Paintings is at the YMI Cultural Center in downtown Asheville for the month of November. Duncan McFadyen reports.

2011-10-28

This weekend is moogfest: a music festival celebrating the vision of sound engineer Bob Moog. In its second year in Asheville, the festival continues to grow. One of this year's new additions is the multimedia art installation "77 Million Paintings" at the YMI Cultural Center. Created by music pioneer Brian Eno, this will be the first time the work has been presented east of the Mississippi. Duncan McFadyen reports.

2011-10-17

David Hurand talks with Duncan McFadyen about President Obama's visit to Asheville Regional Airport.

2011-10-14

During the first two weeks in October, more than a dozen same-sex couples have applied for marriage licenses at the Buncombe County Register of deeds. Because North Carolina law does not recognize same-sex marriage, the couples have all been denied. On Friday, October 14, they will return en masse to the Register of deeds' office to apply again. Duncan McFadyen followed the group and filed this report.

2011-10-14

Tony Kiss takes a look at the entertainment scene in Western North Carolina, Fall Festivals, theater, movies and more....

2011-10-12

In the Mid 1990s an effort began in Buncombe County to help provide health care to low income residents who had no health insurance. Since its inception, Project Access has been praised by patients, doctors, and local and state officials. David Hurand spoke with reporter Susan Andrew about the growing demand for services and the future of the program. –

2011-10-07

Tony Kiss takes a look at the entertainment scene. Topping the list, fall festivals, theater and the new movie Ides of March, directed by and starring George Clooney.

2011-10-06

Chilly nights, clear, mild days, its fall in the mountains of Western North Carolina. The fall color season also provides a needed boost to the regions economy. David Hurand spoke with Asheville Citizen Times reporter Jason Sandford about the importance of the season for area businesses. - 4 min

2011-10-04

In part 2 of our series, Duncan McFadyen looks at the ways scientists are trying to control Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Western North Carolina. -

2011-10-03

In the mountains of the eastern seaboard from Georgia to Maine, a tiny insect is killing hemlock trees. In many areas, it threatens to eliminate them completely. And among them/those is Western North Carolina---In the first of our two-part series on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Duncan McFadyen reports on the history of the pest.