

CLASSIC HITS 100-7
WZJS-FM
Banner Elk, NC

Issue and Programs Report
For
Station WZJS-FM

Quarter 1, 2023
January 1- March 31, 2023

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WZJS PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

ISSUES OF CONCERN IN BEECH MOUNTAIN AND THE HIGH COUNTRY ADDRESSED IN RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

CODE ISSUE

AC Arts, Culture, and Tourism
CD Crime/Drugs/Public Safety
CR Civil Rights & Activism
EC Economy/Employment
ED Education
EH Environment/Health/Medical Affairs
GA Government Affairs / PA Political Affairs
GR Growth/Transportation/Roads
HO Housing
IA International Affairs / NS National Security

Issues and Programs
WZJS-FM, Banner Elk, NC
Q1, 2023

On WZJS-FM, Reports filed in news segments are aired at 6:00am, 6:30am, 7am, 7:30am, 8am, 9am, Noon, 4pm, 5pm, and 6pm weekdays. Special reports are aired in emergencies at other times. Some of the stories aired in Q3:

01/18/23

An Avery County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulance was involved in a collision at the intersection of Highway 105 and Blowing Rock Road, near Wendy's in Boone. The ambulance was transporting a patient to Baptist Hospital on Friday, December 30th when a car pulled out into the intersection and collided with the vehicle. Despite the severity of the accident, the patient was not harmed and was able to continue their journey to the hospital in a Watauga County ambulance. Additionally, aside from minor injuries, no one involved in the accident was harmed. One car failed to yield to the ambulances right of way and collided with it. The ambulance is likely beyond repair. Each vehicle was estimated to be traveling at around 35 miles per hour at the time of the accident. CD

01/23/23

Wednesday, January 25, 2023, marks the annual homeless Point-in-Time Count. The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, coordinated by the Northwest Continuum of Care (CoC), is the annual documentation of the extent of homelessness in the High Country region, which includes Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey counties.

The information from the PIT Count provides a valuable snapshot of the extent of homelessness in the region and informs support service providers on the priorities to prevent and end homelessness. If you are experiencing homelessness, please come forward to be counted. Let a food pantry, school, community kitchen or church know where you are. The count respects confidentiality of those experiencing homelessness and does not obligate anyone for unwanted services. Knowing the extent of homelessness, particularly homeless families, and veterans, assists the development of support services to meet the basic needs of housing to those in need. For more information please call (828) 264- 1237 and speak with director of grant funding Ethan Flynn or email him at grants@hospouse.org. HO CR

01/27/23

Yesterday, Two inmates with ties to Ashe County escaped from the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail in Abingdon, VA. Johnny Shane Brown and Albert Lee Ricketson, both with violent criminal histories, are both on the run with a stolen gold-colored Cadillac SUV, Virginia license plates UDZ-6049. Brown is a 51-year-old white male who stands 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs 182 pounds, with gray hair. Ricketson is a 31-year-old white male who stands 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighs 212 pounds, with brown hair. They were last seen wearing red jumpsuits and possibly white t-shirts. Washington County, VA Sheriff's Office is offering a combined reward of \$10,000 for information leading to the apprehension of the two escapees. In the meantime, the Sheriff's Office has urged citizens to keep their families safe and lock all home and car doors. If anything suspicious is seen, they are urged to call 911 immediately. CD

01/31/23

On Monday, January 30, 2023, Malik Keyshawn Gibbs of Damascus Church Road in Wilkesboro, turned himself in to the Boone Police Department for his involvement in a shooting on West King Street in Boone on August 21, of last year. According to the Boone Police Department, the shooting occurred around 1:20 AM because of an argument between the occupants of a truck and at least one pedestrian on the sidewalk. During the altercation, the suspect fired multiple shots from a handgun, striking the truck three times and two unoccupied businesses. Luckily, none of the three occupants in the truck were hurt. After the shooting, Gibbs fled to Wilkes County, where he resides. However, on Monday he met Detective Dennis O'Neal at the Watauga County Magistrate's Office with his attorney and was served with a True Bill of Indictment. This included three counts of Assault With a Deadly Weapon With Intent to Kill, one count of Discharging a Weapon into a Moving Vehicle, two counts of Injury to Real Property, and one count of Going Armed to the Terror of the People. Gibbs was then issued a \$75,000.00 secured bond and placed in the custody of the Watauga County Sheriff's Office Detention Center until his court date on March 6, 2023. CD

02/07/23

Local farmers in the Watauga region will be able to take advantage of a free workshop this Monday, Feb. 27 to learn more about the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offered by the US Department of Agriculture. Hosted by the Watauga Center of NC Cooperative Extension, the workshop will cover topics such as program eligibility,

popular initiatives, identifying resource concern, conservation practices, cost-share assistance applications and connecting with local NRCS agents. The workshop will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Watauga Agricultural Conference Center, located at 252 Poplar Grove Rd. in Boone. A light dinner cooked by one of the presenters will also be provided. This workshop is open to all farmers, extension agents and related entities. By attending, participants will gain valuable insight on how to leverage the resources offered by the NRCS to make the most of their Specialty Crops Production. EC

02/10/23

Watauga County Parks and Recreation is taking the initiative to gather feedback from the local community in order to create a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The department held multiple in-person events to get input, with the most recent one taking place at the Old Cove Creek Gym on Monday, February 6th. For those who were unable to attend the meetings, an online survey is available at tinyurl.com/WCPRDsurvey and will remain open until February 25th. Those who take the survey will have the opportunity to win one of seven \$20 gas cards. This plan is an important step for Watauga County, as it will help guide the future of Parks and Recreation for years to come. AC SP

02/15/23

Watauga County Fire Marshal Shane Garland recently took action to ensure the safety of two Dollar General stores located in Vilas and Zionville. After conducting a thorough inspection of the stores, Garland found that the exits and aisles were blocked by packages, leading him to close the stores until the issues were resolved. As of Tuesday morning, the store in Zionville had been permitted to reopen while the Vilas location remained closed. Garland said he will continue to monitor the stores to make sure the safety of customers is not compromised. CD

02/17/23

On Wednesday evening, February 15, 2023, the Boone Police Department was notified of an incident at the Temple of The High Country where an individual had left an anti-Semitic flag with a swastika symbol on the property. Responding officers arrived and retrieved the flag, but the individual had already left the area. The Boone Police Department is deeply disheartened by this event and is actively working with the Temple of The High Country to enhance security in the wake of this incident. Detectives and other involved authorities are also working together to share information regarding the incident and find the individual responsible. The Boone Police Department is urging anyone with any information regarding the incident to come forward and help with the investigation. CD CR

02/23/23

The Watauga County Library will host a Bilingual Introduction to Homeownership series, in English and Spanish, on Thursday evenings at 530 pm in March. The series will be held in the Library's meeting room at 140 Queen Street Boone. Dinner will be provided. The dates are March 2, 9, 16, and 23, with different topics each time. Please RSVP by calling 828-264-8784 extension 4. Learn more at ARLibrary.org/Watauga. HO EC

02/24/23

The Boone Town Council unanimously approved the Antisemitism Education and Awareness Resolution at its Feb. 22 meeting, denouncing the anti-Semitic vandalization of the Temple of the High Country on Feb. 15. Mayor Tim Futrelle expressed his disgust with the incident and was joined by the rest of the council in their commitment to protecting members of the Jewish community. According to the resolution, hate crimes against Jewish individuals and institutions increased by 14% in 2019, and the Anti-Defamation League of NC reported a 131% increase in antisemitic incidents in 2022. The resolution also noted North Carolina's Budget Act of November 2022, which established guidelines for Holocaust education and defined antisemitism. The Town of Boone is proud to stand with the Jewish community and support the Anti-Defamation League's mission to combat anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry. GA CR

03/01/23

Blue Ridge Energy line technicians have been hard at work restoring power to members who lost power due to the severe windstorm that swept across the cooperative's service area on Monday night. In Ashe County, the damage was the most extensive with broken power poles and line damage affecting 1,216 members. By Tuesday noon, crews had managed to restore power to most of the affected members, with only 25 members still without power. In Alleghany County, seven locations were severely damaged which left 170 members in the Sparta, Glade Valley and Ellis communities without power. Line crews have worked quickly to restore power to the remaining 15 members. Watauga County was also hard hit with line damage in 20 different locations impacting 1,320 members. Fortunately, full power restoration was complete by 9:25 am Tuesday. Blue Ridge Energy reminds members to report all outages by calling PowerLine at 1-800-448-2383, by using the Blue Ridge Energy mobile app, or, if signed up for outage texting, by text. For more information on outage texting, visit: www.blueridgeenergy.co. EH CD

03/08/23

The Watauga County Commissioners have given the green light to AppHealthCare's request to start doling out opioid settlement funds to community organizations via a county-wide grant application. Jennifer Greene, the CEO and Public Health Director of the said organization, advised the commissioners on how to potentially allocate state and national opioid settlement funds during their Tuesday, March 7 meeting. Josh Stein, the North Carolina Attorney General, made an appearance in Watauga County late in 2022 to initiate the distribution of national opioid settlement funds. EH

03/14/23

Chris Blanton, the Principal of Watauga High School, will be taking on the role of Assistant Superintendent of Watauga County Schools, beginning July 1. This new role will involve having Blanton lead the Human Resources department as well as overseeing district-wide athletics and auxiliary services. Scott Elliott, the Superintendent of Watauga County Schools, noted Blanton's extensive experience with public education, as well as the six years he spent in the district, as proof of his aptitude for the role. Blanton is a skilled educator who has proven himself to be a great leader in his time with Watauga High School. He will continue leading the school until a new principal is selected during

the summer. Blanton comes from Cleveland County Schools and has experience on several committees and advisory boards, including the Professional Education Preparation and Standards Commission and the North Carolina High School Athletics Association, for which he is now Vice President. Blanton holds a Bachelor's Degree from Appalachian State University, a Masters from Western Carolina and a Doctorate from Gardner-Webb. ED

03/22/23

The Town of Boone was awarded a \$400,000 NC LASII program grant. The grant will fund an inventory and mapping of the stormwater infrastructure on publicly owned land, town-maintained right-of-way, DOT-maintained right-of-way, and publicly accessible private property. The inventory will include a field collection of features across the entire incorporated area of Boone, excluding small areas that were inventoried during previous location-specific projects. This will help Town leaders make decisions on appropriate levels of funding for stormwater during the budget process. GA GR

03/23/23

Lees-McRae College and Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute have expanded their partnership by signing new articulation agreements. Four new agreements were signed, providing opportunities for CCC&TI students to pursue a bachelor's degree at Lees-McRae. Three of the agreements allow direct transfer for graduates of the CCC&TI associate in Emergency Management program into the Lees-McRae online bachelor's in Criminal Justice program. The fourth agreement outlines direct transfer for graduates of the CCC&TI associate in Human Services Mental Health Concentration to the Lees-McRae online bachelor's degree in Human Services. Students are also offered discounted rates for entering an online degree completion program. This partnership allows CCC&TI graduates to further their education while providing a boost to Lees-McRae's student body. ED

03/29/23

In memory of Watauga County Sheriff Office's Sgt. Chris Ward and Deputy Logan Fox, Boone's town buildings will feature blue lights throughout April. The tragic incident which claimed the lives of both officers will have its two-year commemoration on April 28th. The fatal standoff, which took place on April 28, 2021, also led to the loss of Michelle Ligon and George Ligon. Isaac Barnes, Michelle Ligon's son and George Ligon's stepson, was another victim in the incident. Deputy Fox succumbed to his injuries at the location, while Sgt. Ward passed away after being airlifted to Johnson City Medical Center for treatment. The harrowing event lasted for 13 hours. To show solidarity, the town of Boone requests all businesses and willing individuals to display blue lights outside their properties throughout April. Blue bulbs can be obtained from both New River Building Supply and Watauga Building Supply stores in Boone. For additional information, visit the Back Our Blue Watauga Facebook page. CD

Issues and Programs

WZJS-FM 100.7

Q4, 2022

NCNN Public Affairs Programming

**CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM
AIRS 6:30 AM SATURDAYS, 30 MINS**

HOSTED BY CURTIS MEDIA GROUP OWNER 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

Programs aired during Q1

JANUARY 1

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN HOOD - PRESIDENT OF THE JOHN WILLIAM POPE
FOUNDATION

ECONOMY, POLITICS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RECESSION, GOVERNOR'S RACE,
BIPARTISANSHIP, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL RACE, UKRAINE, INFLATION, AND
MEDIA. EC PA IA

JANUARY 7-8

INTERVIEW WITH WENDY HARRIS - PAST PRESIDENT OF NC REALTORS
HOUSING, HOUSING INVENTORY, INTEREST RATES, HOUSING PRICES,
BUSINESS GROWTH, POPULATION GROWTH, MEETING HOUSING DEMANDS,
RETIREES, HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, EDUCATION, MORTGAGES, AND
LAND. EC CR HO

JANUARY 14-15

INTERVIEW WITH DALE FOLWELL - STATE TREASURER OF NORTH
CAROLINA

STATE HEALTH PLAN, INSURANCE, HEALTH CARE, MEDICARE,
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, STATE PENSION PLAN, INFLATION, INTEREST RATES,
UNCLAIMED CASH, AND NATIONAL DEBT. EC GA PA

JANUARY 21-22

INTERVIEW WITH ANDY ELLEN - PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA
RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

INFLATION, RECESSION, REMOTE WORKING, DOWNTOWN
REVITALIZATION, E-COMMERCE, IMPULSE BUYING, SELF CHECKOUT,
SUPPLY CHAIN, COUPONS, LEGISLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE,
AND TAXATION. EC

JANUARY 28-29

INTERVIEW WITH BRAD CRONE – PRESIDENT OF CAMPAIGN CONNECTIONS
POLITICS, STATE AUDITOR BETH WOOD, NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR’S
RACE, ATTORNEY GENERAL JOSH STEIN, COUNCIL OF STATE OUTLOOK,
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MEDICAID EXPANSION, SPORTS BETTING, GAMING,
TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMY, AND REDISTRICTING. PA GR

FEBRUARY 4-5

INTERVIEW WITH TOM JENSEN - DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY POLLING
POLITICS, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, UNAFFILIATED VOTERS, DONALD
TRUMP, GEORGE SANTOS, ECONOMY, STUDENT LOAN DEBT, NORTH
CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S RACE, THIRD PARTY CANDIDATES, DEMOCRATIC
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY, AND CRIME. PA

FEBRUARY 11-12

INTERVIEW WITH VIRGINIA FOXX - CONGRESSWOMAN FOR NORTH
CAROLINA DISTRICT 5
LEGISLATION, POLITICS, EDUCATION, PARENTAL RIGHTS, CHARTER
SCHOOLS, ECONOMY, MEDICAID, NATIONAL DEBT, TAXATION, STUDENT
LOAN FORGIVENESS, WORKFORCE INVESTMENT, NAME, IMAGE AND
LIKENESS, UKRAINE, AND CHINA. ED PA

FEBRUARY 18-19

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN BELL - HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER AND
REPRESENTATIVE OF NC HOUSE DISTRICT 10
POLITICS, ECONOMY, MEDICAID EXPANSION, HEALTH CARE, LEGISLATIVE
SESSION, MILITARY, UTILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, BROADBAND, AGRICULTURE, SPORTS BETTING,
INFLATION, STATE BUDGET, TRANSPORTATION, REDISTRICTING, AND
EDUCATION. EH PA GR

FEBRUARY 25-26

INTERVIEW WITH DR. MIKE WALDEN - ECONOMICS PROFESSOR EMERITUS
AT NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
ECONOMY, RECESSION, CONSTRUCTION, EMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, GAS
PRICES, TRANSPORTATION, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTEREST RATES,
EDUCATION, AND ENERGY. EC GR ED

MARCH 4-5

INTERVIEW WITH MIKE CAUSEY - INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF NORTH CAROLINA

INSURANCE, DISTRACTED DRIVING, SPEEDING, INSURANCE COVERAGE, FIRE DEPARTMENTS, INSURANCE FRAUD, OPIOIDS, REPLACEMENT VALUE COVERAGE, SMART NC, AND LEGISLATIVE SESSION. EC

MARCH 11-12

INTERVIEW WITH BRENDA BERG - PRESIDENT OF BEST NC

EDUCATION, TEACHER PAY, TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS, COVID-19, CHARTER SCHOOLS, K-12 EDUCATION, PRINCIPALS, RECRUITING AND RETAINING TALENT, PARENT TEACHER RELATIONSHIP, AND GENDER PAY. ED

MARCH 18-19

INTERVIEW WITH LYNN MINGES - PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA RESTAURANT AND LODGING ASSOCIATION

BACKGROUND ON ASSOCIATION, COVID-19, TECHNOLOGY, EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, ALCOHOL, HOTELS, TAXATION, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES. EC ED GA

MARCH 25-26

INTERVIEW WITH KODY KINSLEY - SECRETARY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DEPARTMENT BACKGROUND, COVID-19, VACCINES, MENTAL HEALTH, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, OPIOIDS, MEDICAID EXPANSION, SMOKING AND VAPING, ALCOHOL, LEGISLATION, AND FOSTER CARE. EH