

Radio Station WRGC  
**540 AM-105.7**

# Issues / Programs List

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**FIRST Quarter-2023**

Compiled by: Roy Burnette

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY

 04/05/23  
Operations Manager Date

## A. Focus On The Community

Airing Monday Through Friday 12:07 till 12:15 PM

| ISSUE                                     | SPEAKER  | DATE AND TIME                           | CONTENT  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Cowee Tunnel Projects                     | Ann Cheskey Smith and LA Shanda Eddy Jackson Co. NAACP     | 01/02/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | 22 Black prisoners died a hundred years ago in a river disaster while drilling the Cowee Tunnel. A remembrance ceremony was conducted in Dillsboro         |
| International Service Volunteer           | Rene Peoples, volunteer Southern Bapt. Mission.            | 01/03/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | Service in Slovenia offering assistance to Ukrainian refugees  |
| Protein Based COVID Vaccine               | Silvia Taylor: Noravax Medical staff                       | 01/04/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | A new development using protein based vaccine as opposed to the current vaccines being used which are virus related  |
| Livestock winter care                     | Kendra Fortner   | 01/05/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | Feeding livestock and caring for pastures during winter; animal vaccines and calving issues  |
| Report from the Consumer Electronics Show | Carley Knoblock Tech Expert with Google                    | 01/06/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | The Consumer Electronics Show is going on in Las Vegas. This report described many of the new home security devices being introduced this year             |
| Married to Medicine                       | Dr. Contessa Metcalf An Atlanta based physician and author | 01/09/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:17 PM | Recommendations on when to start working on good winter health and fitness and the importance of diet and exercise. Suggestions on how to combat influenza |
| Eco Forestry                              | Lang Hornthal Dir. of Eco-Forestry program                 | 01/10 and 23/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till   | Meetings are scheduled for February to give land and forest owners guidance on how to preserve their forest land and                                       |

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|   | in Asheville   | 12:15 PM                                       | benefit from growing timber for market  |
| Award for volunteer service benefitting veterans        | Koby Langley, founder Nations Fifty Award              | 01/11/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM        | This ten year program recognizes individuals and organizations who have gone to great lengths to make life better for struggling veterans   |
| The window to sign up for Affordable Health Care is now | Dr. Katherine Hempstead, Robert Wood Johnson Found.    | 01/12/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM        | Residents are encouraged to sign up for health care during this time period. Local assistance programs are available such as the SHIIP Program  |
| Department on Aging                                     | Eddie Wells, Dir. Jackson Co. Dept. on Aging           | 01/13/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM        | The Department has several programs including: SHIIP assistance Meals On Wheels, Care for Elderly at the Respite Care Program, Congregate meals, Ramp Construction and Project Firewood |
| Lung Health   | Dr. David Hill, American Lung Assoc.                   | 01/16/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM        | More options are available for the COVID Vaccine. Flu shots are critical prevention   |
| Local Herbalist using native medicines                  | Ila Hatter<br>Owner:<br>Mountain Herb Company          | 01/17 and 30/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | Use of Natural herbs and plants for medicine and food   |
| Neighbors helping each other                            | Eddie Wells, Ruth McConnell                            | 01/18/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM        | Details on the Jackson County Neighbors in Need Program and the upcoming fundraiser banquet   |
| Gardening, seed starting                                | Minda Daughtry, NC Coop Extension                      | 01/19/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM        | How to start seedlings in early spring., controlling pests, such as moles   |
| Careers for men and women in military logistics         | Timothy Andress<br>Army Reserve Warrant Officer        | 01/20/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM        | The Army Reserve depends on the Reserve Corp for much of their logistics for getting materials to military units stationed worldwide. Reserve officers are often part time soldiers     |
| Development of trees and forest for timber growth       | Lang Hornthal<br>Director of Eco-forestry organization | 01/23/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM        | The organization is offering a free seminar for homeowners to protect and expand their timber growing land  |

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| Importance of Hydration                   | Joy Stephenson-Laws                                 | 01/24/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | Drinking sufficient amounts of water is a key to a healthy lifestyle   |
| Dept. of Aging                            | Eddie Wells, Dir. Dept. on Aging                    | 01/25/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | Details of the SHIIP Program which certifies volunteers to help individuals complete their application for health care through ACA   |
| (1) "Year of You"<br>(2) Cooking with Gas | (1)Kenny Case, Podcaster<br>(2) Chef Dean Sheremet. | 02/26/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | (1) Individuals need to focus on getting their own mental order back in place<br>(2) A discussion of foods critical for good health and how to provide healthy meals on a budget using available apps for food sources, discounts, and recipes |
| New Surgeon at local hospital             | Dr. Jonathan Dean, Harris Regional Hosp.            | 01/27/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | Introduce new surgeon at Harris Regional Hospital, background, interests, skills   |
| Most searches in the month using Google   | Elizabeth Howard, Google report                     | 01/31/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | A review of the trends catalogued by Google in January from sports, to food and entertainment, war in Ukraine  |
| SCC Job Fair                              | Mike Despeaux, SCC                                  | 02/01/2023<br>Time: 12:07 till 12:15 PM | Upcoming job fair opportunities and schedules at Southwestern Community College  |
| Livestock necessities for winter care     | Kendra Fortner, NC Coop. Ext.                       | 02/02/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM  | Rotating pastures, pre-emergent weed control, worming cattle, proper use and storage of hay, fence maintenance,  |
| Family/Medical Leave Act                  | Dr. Avenel Joseph, Researcher RWJF                  | 02/03/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM  | Advocating for Medical Family Leave and family care givers, only 7% of lowest income wage earners have access to paid family medical leave   |
| Suicide prevention                        | Dr. Stacy Freedenthal                               | 02/06/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM  | Warning signs and prevention of suicide and a new cancer hot line has been established   |
| Stem Cell Transplant                      | Dr. Corey Cutler, Merideth Cowden                   | 02/07/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM  | Progress has been made with the use of stem cells as a cancer treatment. Sometimes the accompanying sickness is painful to survive   |
| Practices to maintain a Healthy Heart     | Dr. William Cooper, Cardiothoracic                  | 02/08/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM  | Advice on healthy heart lifestyle which includes proper food and exercise. Certain racial and ethnic groups are  |

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|  | Surgeon Emory Univ.                               |  | especially susceptible to heart disease and an early death from a heart attack  |
| A report on the recently reported AHEAD study  | Stephanie Monroe                                  | 02/09/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 P.M. | A detailed report this study which identified certain populations more likely to become afflicted with Alzheimers and preventative measures.  |
| The hypertrophic association                   | Lisa Salberg, founder Hypertrophic Assoc.         | 02/10/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM   | Over seven hundred thousand people live with the inherited heart condition, hyper-trophic-cardio-my-opathy condition  |
| Super Bowl Google Trends                       | Elizabeth Howard: Google Trends                   | 02/13/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM   | Google reports on the searches applicable to the Super Bowl from food, players, commercials, and Beyonce  |
| The Georgia H.S. 4-H computer training prog.   | Hannah Jones, 4H member & Allie Griner a 4H agent | 02/14/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM   | 4-H Change makers. The students meet weekly with older citizens to assist them with the email, setting up files, social media, maintenance, Google searches                                     |
| Artificial Intelligence is coming fast         | Dr. Blanca Villagomez U-C Irvine                  | 02/15/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM   | Surveys to determine the influx of Artificial Intelligence and possible ethical issues especially in education  |
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| Small Farm Boot Camp and Container Gardening   | Minda Daughtry: NC Cooperative Extension          | 02/16/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM   | How to commence an early garden in containers to give plants an early start when replanted in the garden. Also the business side of farming & soil samples                                      |
| Army Reserve Engineering from bridges to roads | Col. Andrew Sunelli, Army Corps of Engineers      | 02/17/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM   | As a member of the Army Reserves military can use their weekends and summer duty to support active duty with infra structure projects   |
| Super Agers have more to spend and offer       | David Cravitt and Larry Wolfe                     | 02/20/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM   | The book title is “Super Agers” and has stories about people retired and did a better life work, also have more money to spend on products yet overlooked by advertisers, especially automotive |
| Slaughter of horses for pet and human food     | Marty Irby: Dir. of Animal Wellness               | 02/21/2023<br>Time 12:07 till 12:15 PM   | Some countries still permit horse meat consumption, but the road to the slaughter house is inhumane   |
| Family Meds, and ways to eat                   | Dr. Pauline Jose, Professor UCLA                  | 02/22/2023<br>Time 12:07 till            | Menu planning is critical then being able to buy in larger qualities and save.  |

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| healthy on a budget                        | Family Medicine                                     | 12:15 PM                                     | Also store brands, discount days, and on line buying can save the budget   |
| SCC Job Fairs                              | Mike Despeaux                                       | 02/23/2023<br>Time 12:07 till                | There are two SCC Job Fairs, one for health care and one for general workers   |
| Services sched. for Jackson County Library | Ben Woody:<br>Library Assistant                     | 02/24/2023<br>Time 12:07 till<br>12:15 PM    | Several new programs including free Tech Time, The Quilt Review, free in-person music programs, presentations  |
| Life after Trauma                          | Dr. Randall Bell                                    | 02/27/2023<br>Time 12:07 till<br>12:15 PM    | Trauma comes in many forms, how a person uses or develops coping skills is critical for a recovery   |
| Google search trends                       | Google Trends expert                                | 02/28/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M.  | A review of top items that are being searches for which include tech items, jobs, automobiles, and health care   |
| Super Agers                                | David Cravitt and Lanny Wolfe                       | 03/01/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M.  | A continuation of a prior program which focused on buying power for senior citizens which is often overlooked  |
| Smoking/ Black Lung issues                 | Carol McGruder and Lincoln Mondy                    | 03/02/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M.  | The industry promotion of menthol cigarettes to black smokers has resulted in a high rate of lung cancers deaths attributable to smoking               |
| Critical Thinking in College               | Dr. Lewis Newman:<br>Professor UC-Irvice            | 03/03/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M.  | Students are not learning critical thinking skills in high school. His research shows memorization of facts and data, but not critical thinking on use |
| Farm week control, and use of hay          | Kendra Fortner,<br>NC Coop. Ext                     | 03/06/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M.  | This is the time of year for pre-emergent week control and ways to utilize hay without massive amounts of waste  |
| Teen Mental Health Month                   | Dr. Charmain Jackman: CDC Researcher                | 03/07/20223<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M. | The Sound It Out Campaign focuses on the use of music to support middle schoolers emotional wellness   |
| Opportunities for travel using promotions  | Gabe Saglie<br>Travel expert                        | 03/08/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M.  | Companies are offering huge discounts to customers in order to rebuild the cruise and travel industry after COVID                                      |
| Multiple-Myeloma                           | OYA and JAC Survivors of the disease                | 03/09/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M.  | Multiple melanoma cancer. The treatment is painful critical but living miserably for some is better than death   |
| Brain Fog Fix                              | Dr. Mike Dow,<br>Psychotherapist,<br>author of book | 03/10/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M.  | Often seen as the start of Dementia and Alzheimers, a new medication has proven effective in slowing and   |

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|  | “Brain Fog Fix”                                       |   | reversing some of the symptoms, very expensive but seems to work  |
| Four Steps to better sleep                             | Carlos Nunez:<br>ResMeds Chief<br>Medical Officer     | 03/13/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M. | National Sleep Awareness Week<br>Chronic sleep disorders caused by stress, diet, and other health complications may be solved with the use of new models of CPAK equipment which is quieter and less cumbersome |
| Workplace Safety is not enough                         | Tony Orłowski,<br>author of<br>Beyond Safety          | 03/14/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M. | Worker commitment goes further in workplace safety than harping on OSHA compliance with is arbitrary  |
| Tech update.<br>Several handy new apps                 | Stephanie<br>Humphrey, tech<br>reporter               | 03/15/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M. | A review of several of the new apps for improving home safety, productivity, and energy savings   |
| Steps to eradicate invasive plants                     | Minda Daughtry<br>NC Coop<br>Ext, Service             | 03/16/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M. | A couple of community seminars to teach citizens on how to safety eradicate these pest plants   |
| Ways to remove sagging throat skin and other age spots | Dr. Richard<br>Westreich, NY<br>Plastic Surgeon       | 03/17/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M. | A review of the current processes including surgical and not, which can lead to tighter skin around the face and head and elsewhere   |
| Congress action pending to end school lunch funding    | Megan Lott,<br>Robert Wood<br>Johnson<br>Foundation   | 03/20/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M. | The current budget process in congress in trending toward ending the school lunch support program which will lead to less nourishment from school lunches due to limited budgets in some schools                |
| Spring DIY Projects                                    | Chip Wade<br>Home Improvmt<br>Guru                    | 03/21/2022<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M. | Spring is the best time to work on home improvement projects and take advantage of daylight saving time   |
| Addition of a Pediatrician at hospital                 | Dr Carmin<br>Nations,<br>Pediatrician                 | 03/22/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M. | Local woman has completed medical school and returned home to practice medicine in pediatrics at Harris Hospital  |
| C. Difficile Infections                                | Dr. Paul<br>Feverstadt, Yale<br>School of<br>Medicine | 03/23/2023<br>Time:12:07 till<br>12:15 P.M. | This is a highly contagious infection often spread through a hospital setting by people who do not know that have the virus. The treatment is intensive   |
| Business Advertising in                                | Karla Jo Helms:<br>Financial and                      | 03/24/2023<br>Time:12:07 till               | Businesses who advertised during difficulties of pandemic came out ahead;   |

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| all down times             | business advisor                    | 12:15 P.M.                               | stopping ads during recession is detrimental to business   |
| Trust for America's Health | Matt McKillop:                      | 03/27/2023<br>Time:12:07 till 12:15 P.M. | Reported on this year's national health and emergency status by state. NC has improved since last year in several measurable departments |
| Stress Reduction           | Leanna Halkows, author              | 03/28/2023<br>Time:12:07 till 12:15 P.M. |  |
| Diet health issues, part 1 | Udo Erasmus                         | 03/29/2023<br>Time:12:07 till 12:15 P.M. | The benefits of health related to Omega 3 oils in the diet   |
| Diet health issues, part 2 | Udo Erasmus                         | 03/30/2023<br>Time:12:07 till 12:15 P.M. | Inclusion of Omega 3 oils in diet of violent-prone adolescents resulted in dramatic reduction of school confrontations among students    |
| Google trends              | Mario Armstrong, Google Tech expert |  |  |

**Section B: Primary News Stories Covered**

**(Local News airs at 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM and during the Noon hour and at 5:00 PM. The local news does not air Saturday and Sunday during the noon hour but does air at 8:00 A.M.)**

January 02, 2023

NC regulators gave Duke Energy permission to continue with their projects and goal to reduce greenhouse gasses by 70% by 2030, compared to 2005.

Empowering Mountain Food Systems has announced three Agritourism panels to share steps in how to develop a farm Agritourism component of their farm.

NCState sports announcer Gary Haun has been suspended indefinitely by Learfield for making racist statement about illegal aliens in Texas.

January 03, 2023

The state gas tax has been increased by 2 cents per gallon, an annual increase of approximately \$15 for a driver who buys 15 gallons per week.

The state income tax dropped ½% and is scheduled to be at 3.99 by 2027. SNAP benefits expect a cost of living increase of 12.5%.

The Governor issued a proclamation showing support of school choice during school choice week. He previously had said that those schools took money from public schools.

January 04, 2023

The National Park Service reports that Twin Creeks Trail Road and Cherokee Orchard are closed for tree pruning and for placing boulders by the roads to prohibit parking, The Great Smokies National Park is preparing to charge parking fees beginning in March.

Haywood County Sheriff's Department continue to investigate the death of a Woodfin community resident. 26-year-old Jenny Bolden is under a \$5million bond.

Duke Energy provided several reasons for the rolling blackouts on Christmas Eve, the first such situation for Duke Energy.

January 05, 2023

The Sylva Town Board expressed optimism about several projects to be completed this year: (1) Bryson Park repair and upgrade, (2) Bridge Park Renovation, and (3) Police Force upgrades.

The Sheriff's Department reported that solicitation calls asking for money for the office is a scam, and the office will not be calling to ask for money.

Mark Meadows will not be prosecuted by fellow Republican NC Attorney General for attempted fraudulent voting activities.

January 06, 2023

Small businesses in 4 WNC counties are collaborating for a "We Speak WNC" campaign to be held at the Cherokee Convention Center on February 27-28.

Duke Energy Community Fund provided \$25,000 to be shared among 11 Dillsboro businesses to give facilities a facelift. Money will be used for painting, gutters, steps and doors to refresh Dillsboro.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters in Bryson City are seeing mentors for their program.

January 9, 2023

Mark Meadows and his wife are off the hook for scheming to register and vote in Macon County and other places.

A \$6000 reward is offered by EBCI wildlife for information leading to the arrest of the person who shot an elk calf with an arrow.

Jackson County Sheriff reminds locals that calls asking for money are scam.

A small Business Seminar will be held at Harrah's in February.

January 10, 2023

Swain County Middle School opened Monday under police protection following a social media threat posted on Sunday. Police were able to track the threat to its source and take action.

Cherokee Council member Bo Crowe was taken before a judge on Monday following a road rage incident in which he forced a driver out of his car, leading to a fight. Crowe is serving his 4<sup>th</sup> term on the Council.

NCDOT reports a scam in which callers accuse individuals to pay nonexistent traffic fines.

January 11, 2023

Students from Warren Wilson College come to Cherokee each fall to plant and restore river cane along streams. Cane was an major product of Native Americans.

Dogwood Trust awards an \$80,000 grant to WCU Birth to Kindergarten program to expand opportunity and train workers from diverse backgrounds, providing full tuition for 30 students.

Buncombe County will receive about \$1million annually for 18 years in opioid settlement. They are asking for public input as to how best to spend this money.

January 12, 2023

Sylva has added the 1088-acre Pinnacle Park and the 441-acre Black Rock tract of land to the city limits.

Last week's storms caused only minor damage, but about 40 calls were reported during the Christmas freeze.

Jackson County's unemployment rate is 3.7%, the statewide rate is 3.8%.

January 13, 2023

Applications are being accepted for one of 10 Governor's Awards for Volunteerism. The deadline is February 9.

The Jackson County School Board will meet January 24 at Smoky Mountain Elementary School. They will vote on the future of middle school athletics, discussing funds for security at practice locations, pay for coaches and bus drivers.

The tax office has implemented new software, allowing property taxes to be paid online.

January 16, 2023

Macon County School Officials have confirmed that an employee at Iotla Elementary School was fired following an incident where discipline was enforced by taping a child to a chair. Some vet clinics are running out of vaccines due to a resurgence of Canine flu, the largest rate since 2015.

WNC is getting \$2.66 million from the Southwestern Commission for Rural Infrastructure upgrades. Bryson City will receive \$600,000 for Streetscape upgrade to enhance tourism.

Cherokee County will receive \$500,000 for land purchase next to Emergency Services.

NCDOT is providing bicycle helmets for youth. Local organizations will be distributing these.

January 17, 2023

UBER driver, Julia Holland, was murdered on New Year's Eve in Asheville. Her car was later found in Canton, where a 26-year-old man and his 57-year-old mother were arrested. A petition calling for better protection for Uber drivers has been set up, along with support for the family.

A Haywood County couple won \$1million in the lottery this weekend. They had initially lost the ticket, but took home \$700,000 after taxes.

January 18, 2023

A \$5 day parking pass will be required in the Great Smokies National Park beginning in March. An annual pass for \$40 is being offered.

Macon County REACH shelter experienced broken water lines resulting from the Christmas freeze. Repairs are underway, but there is limited space at the 10-bed facility.

Haywood Christian Ministry is running short on food, reporting a 2-week supply left.

January 19, 2023

Tuscola High School football coach Chris Brookshire appeared before the Haywood County School Board to resign following accusations of sexual innuendos made to female staff. Several people attended in support of Brookshire and to call for a policy review.

Haywood County is seeking a \$7million grant to resettle several families who were displaced by Hurricane Fred.

Sylva is moving forward to provide a public restroom facility at the old train depot. The completed plan must be approved by the railroad.

Sylva did not receive the \$5,000 grant from Jackson County to add art work in the city.

January 20, 2023

Lewis Easton Cantwell of Waynesville is sentenced to 6 months in prison for his involvement in the January 6 insurrection at the Capitol in Washington, DC.

Terrell La Shawn Williams of Cherokee was found guilty of possession of a 9mm firearm by a convicted felon.

The Bridgepark make-over in Sylva was placed on hold after the application for \$800,000 from the State & Southwest Regional Commission was denied. They will look for other sources of income for this project.

January 23, 2023

Jackson County School Board will vote on Tuesday regarding the status of middle school sports, whether to have individual school teams, a middle school team, or both. Strong opinions have been expressed on both sides of the issue.

The online portal for paying taxes in Haywood County has not worked well, and postal service delays for those paying by mail has left individuals concerned about late fees. The tax collector said that the postmark would serve as the payment date.

Applications for food and craft vendors are being accepted for the Greening Up the Mountains Festival in Sylva in April.

January 24, 2023

A Transylvania County biker was severely injured Saturday in a mountain trail accident. Rescue Squad members traveled over 3 miles in 40 minutes to prepare the victim to be airlifted to a trauma center.

A 66-year-old woman in Haywood County has been taken into custody and charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of a 4-year-old she was teaching to swim.

Asheville, NC, has been recognized by Trip Advisor as number 10 on its list of Best Cities in America for Local Flavor Food.

January 25, 2023

Law enforcement released the audio from the 9-1-1 call at the time Lambert Wilson was shot at least 4 times at El Camino Motel in Cherokee. His death is being investigated as a homicide.

The Save Wilson Creek Association has received a grant of \$1500 for ongoing efforts to clean and protect the creek.

The National Park Service is repairing four bridges in the park.

January 26, 2023

The Jackson County School Board voted to retain the current program for individual school sports teams, but giving priority of facilities to the middle school teams.

The Macon County teacher accused of taping a child to a chair will not be charged, but has left the school.

Sylva mayor, Lynda Sossaman has resigned after 16 years of service due to health issues.

The WCU police force has added a therapy dog to their unit.

January 27, 2023

The National Park Service says that having an annual parking pass will not guarantee that a visitor will have an actual parking space.

Whiteside Mountain is closed due to protection of nesting habitats of peregrine falcons.

January 28, 2023

The state must pay an additional 10% to cover crisis of state health care and the need for Medicare expansion. Hospitals say they cannot match funds.

Sports gaming is looking to be legalized at NC sports facilities and online.

January 30, 2023

Zito Media in Haywood County faces complaints of poor service, long outages, and no responses to customers' issues.

The Cashiers/Glenville Fire Department announced plans to build a new substation 5 miles south of Cashiers near the South Carolina state line on donated land.

Sylva has been selected for a Tesla level three EV charging station. The location has not yet been announced. Sylva currently has four EV charging stations.

January 31, 2023

Stores in 33 counties have been reported for not charging reduced prices as advertised. The Bryson City IGA was fined \$930 for overcharging customers.

A 39-year-old man is ok after spending a cold night outside on the Blue Ridge Parkway. He had abandoned his car which had been crashed through a closed gate.

The Cullowhee Fire Department honored L.C. Painter upon his retirement after 50 years of service, the longest period of service recorded.

February 01, 2023

Megan Emily Tate was arrested on Monday, charged with supplying inmates with fentanyl. Two inmates have died from an overdose in the past year.

Two Haywood suspects, Noah and Julia Bolden, are charged with the death of Julia Holland, whose body was found in the Newfound area of Haywood County.

Asheville and Buncombe County have applied for a state grant to upgrade McCormick Field. \$30 million is needed for the project.

February 02, 2023

Former law officer Jack Hudley is jailed with a \$700,000 bond for numerous child sex offenses. 55-year-old James Ralph Bradley is jailed for 4 years after a conviction of arson.

Southwestern Community College will be hosting a job fair during February.

February 03, 2023

Suspect Noah Bolden, arrested on Monday, has been charged with the murder of Uber driver from Asheville, and his mother, Julia Bolden, charged with accessory to murder.

Jackson County Board of Education met with commissioners to review budget priorities. First priority will be the cafeteria at Fairview Elementary School.

Western Carolina University introduced their new brand logo, “Live WCU”, which will be centered in all marketing endeavors.

February 06, 2023

Smokey Mountain Elementary School students are now part of the Ride A Bike Program.

Haywood County is seeking a waiver so homeschooled students can participate in athletics at Tuscola and Pisgah High Schools.

Avin Jordan Jensen, a former Macon County youth pastor, now employed at Haywood Christian Academy, has been arrested on child sex crimes.

Adrian Michael Watts of Asheville has been arrested in connection to the Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> death of Uber driver Julia Holland.

February 07, 2023

Bolden is sentenced to life imprisonment or perhaps the death penalty for the murder of Uber driver. Haywood County Sheriff’s Department is establishing a motorcycle unit for community outreach. Citizens are warned not to touch any debris from the China balloon that crossed the area before being shot down near Myrtle Beach, SC.

February 08, 2023

The Jackson County Sheriff’s Department responded to a tip that a student on Bus #33 had a weapon. The bus was quarantined and searched, but no weapon was found.

Asheville police bomb squad was called to disarm a container of nitro-glycerine that was found in a Barnardsville barn. The substance was disposed of without incident.

Tuscola High School principal Heather Blackman resigned after being placed on administrative leave. Football coach Brookshire was also placed on leave following accusations of improper sexual remarks.

Great Smokies park officials met with Swain County Commissioners to discuss impending parking fees.

February 09, 2023

Three persons are arrested in Macon County for theft of an automobile on February 3. The trio face multiple charges.

The Buncombe County bomb squad responded to further discoveries of nitro-glycerine and old dynamite found in Barnardsville barn.

ECBI council member Bo Crowe has stepped down after several charges of domestic violence and road rage incident.

Haywood County Commissioners approved a \$75,000 grant to expand availability of COVID vaccines.

February 10, 2023

Sylva police are investigating a Tuesday hit-and-run accident on East Main Street. The driver fled a police stop, hit a car, and later wrecked. Charges are pending.

Haywood County is looking for \$2.1 million to pay for a jail expansion. Sources may include a tax increase and use of fund balance.

The Nantahala Health Foundation has made a \$400,000 grant to seven counties for home repairs for disabled and elderly citizens who need but can't afford repairs.

February 13, 2023

The body of Hendersonville High School athlete, 17-year-old Keshawn Gibbs, was found in his car in rural Transylvania County on Thursday morning. Apparently speeding, the car left Hwy 64 at Crabtree Road and crashed down an embankment.

Haywood County residents are calling for a mandate by NCDOT to make changes at the Pilot Truck Stop on I-40. The establishment has been the site of numerous accidents. DOT says the changes must be the responsibility of Pilot.

The NC Highway Patrol has a shortage of officers and now has a fast track program for recruits.

February 14, 2023

The Charles B. George VA Medical Center has reached Level 3 (Bronze) for geriatric care for veterans. ECBI Tribal Ethics Review Board has found probable cause for disciplinary action against Shannon Ross for actions at the casino while intoxicated. He will be charged \$1000 and required to undergo alcohol tests. Asheville has been recognized as one of the top 3 best places to retire in the US.

February 15, 2023

Alexis Sherrill, a 17-year-old Tuscola High School student, died Sunday after her speeding car ran off Lakeshore Drive and rolled over numerous times before landing on the dry lake bed. She was not wearing her seat belt and was ejected from the car.

The trial for Shannon Davies ended in a hung jury. She had been charged with the murder of her boyfriend Roger Michael Evans at their Candler home in December 2020.

SNAP benefits will revert to pre-pandemic levels in March. Food banks are expecting numerous requests to follow.

February 16, 2023

NCDMV offices are expanding hours, mornings for appointments, afternoons for walk-ins. Five additional offices will open one hour earlier.

Thirteen acres in the Ashe Settlement are being developed for up to 30 tiny homes or mobile home park. The Mountain to Sea Trail, 19 miles of which is in Jackson County, is of statewide interest for expansion.

February 17, 2023

United Christian Ministries announces their Walk for Jackson fundraiser, a goal of \$10,000 to meet their greatest need ever.

The Jackson County Register of Deeds shows that Ingles has bought lots in Jackson Plaza and the Cagle Motors property in the Asheville Highway.

The spring hiking season is beginning, according to the Conserving Carolina Land Trust.

February 20, 2023

Swain County Schools has hired Chris Brookshire as New Century Scholars coordinator and as bus driver. Brookshire had recently been terminated as a football coach in Haywood County for making demeaning remarks regarding females.

The Haywood County Sheriff's office is looking for an individual who stopped a motorist at Exit 27 and was impersonating a law officer.

Congressman Chuck Edwards is bringing his transit van, which has been converted into a mobile office to make it easier for constituents to apply for benefits and assistance he might provide.

February 22, 2023

32 miles of high speed fiber internet service are being installed in Haywood County, including Fines Creek, White Oak, Jonathan Creek, Bethel, Cold Creek, and the 209 Corridor. This is being financed by various local, state, and federal grants.

Jennifer Kirby has been promoted as Headmaster, as Haywood Community Learning Center aims to remotivate burned-out students to receive High School diplomas.

The Virginian Democrat candidate became the first Black female to be elected to Congress from the Richmond District.

February 23, 2023

Duke Energy announced that Bear Creek Lake will be maintained at 94 feet this winter to allow for maintenance at Cedar Cliff Dam.

Traffic will be adjusted on I-26 to remove a span of the westbound lanes of the bridge over the French Broad River.

Jackson County Commissioners have granted funds to Balsam and Savannah Fire Departments. The new Sturdy Act will force manufacturers to adhere more strictly to standards, preventing accidents from falling furniture and tv sets.

February 24, 2023

David Nestler was elected Mayor of Sylva after the resignation of Lynda Sossamon. Mary Gilbaugh was named Vice Mayor, and Brad Waldroup was selected to fill Nestler's vacant seat. Appeals Court in Richmond threw out the case challenging a state law, allowing undercover agents to take photos or videos of undocumented workers. The First Amendment right to privacy applies. Buyers of a hand gun in North Carolina will no longer be required to get a permit from the Sheriff.

February 27, 2023

The final 10-year management plan released from the Nantahala Pisgah National Forest focuses on survival of the ecosystem to supply clean water and recreation. Opponents say it allows for too much logging.

Duke Energy is keeping Bear Lake levels low as maintenance of shorelines and docks and repairs to the dam continue.

TWASA will receive over \$4million as Governor Roy Cooper announced over \$463million in grants to local water authorities for 249 projects in 80 communities.

February 28, 2023

A high wind warning predicting 70mph gusts in the Great Smokies forced the closing of US Highway 441 on Monday.

Jackson County Sheriff arrested a man and woman after drugs and a 1-year-old child were located in a car in a Dillsboro business parking lot.

A revised speed limit of 35mph is in effect at the East Sylva exit.

March 01, 2023

Over 12 million people visited the GSMNP last year, but parking permits are required as of today. Sylva Police are warning of a scam in which someone is offering to provide vendor space and tables/chairs for the Greening Up the Mountains Festival.

Haywood County has received a \$4million grant for low income housing as recovery from damage caused by Hurricane Fred.

March 02, 2023

32-year-old David Greene Edwards of Cherokee is sentenced to jail for 15 years, then to permanent supervised release after conviction of repeated incidents of inappropriate touching of a 5-year-old child.

A couple arrested in Dillsboro are in the county jail under a combined \$700,000 bond after a dog sniffed out a substantial amount of drugs last week. The child found in the car has been placed in protective care.

WCU has experienced a 400 student drop in spring enrollment, also showing the highest number of women students since 2007.

March 03, 2023

Downtown Bryson City is receiving a facelift with the demolition of the Rosewood Inn on East Main Street and the renovation of the old Sneeds Restaurant building. The old inn will be replaced with a 2-story building housing 6 ground-level shops and upstairs lodging.

US 441 Highway was closed all day Wednesday after a rock slide in Gatlingurg.

Swain County Commissioners passed a resolution in opposition to the GSMNP parking fees.

March 06, 2023

Duke Energy and contractors worked through the weekend to restore power to over 1600 homes, mostly in Haywood County, caused by severe storms on Friday. EMS, fire and rescue, and law enforcement assisted homeowners clear debris in Clyde.

March 07, 2023

Evergreen Packaging in Canton announced yesterday plans to close the papermill by this summer, reasons being overstocks of paper in warehouses and cost of equipment upgrades.

Plans are well underway for removal of the Ela Dam, several entities providing funds.

Asheville announced plans for a five story apartment building on Charlotte Street.

March 08, 2023

Evergreen confirmed the closing of the Canton mill, workers receiving severance pay of one week's pay for each year worked. There were no plans to remove the facility or to sell property.

March 09, 2023

The remains of a body were found on March 5 on National Forest land in Jackson County and were sent to the state lab for identification. Cullowhee resident Andrew Eric Jones was arrested for touching, kissing, and raping an incapacitated female on the WCU campus. He was released on a \$10,000 bond.

Canton residents scramble to find solutions after the announcement of the papermill closing.

March 10, 2023

SCC announced extension for applicants to their nursing program until all slots are filled. Jackson County Schools needs volunteers for middle school sports, since those promising to offer two months of such service have vanished, leaving the school system without personnel. Reminder that Daylight Savings Time is also time to change smoke alarm batteries.

March 13, 2023

The bodily remains found last week in Jackson County have been identified as those of 37-year-old Allison Thomas of Marshville. The case is under investigation by the SBI and Union County and Jackson County Sheriffs.

A medical helicopter destined for Asheville crashed in Macon County on Thursday. The four people onboard survived, including the patient. One person was taken to the hospital and released. The air transport program is grounded pending investigation.

March 14, 2023

Haywood County administrators met with Canton papermill workers to review employment options. Evergreen faced a backlash from huge dividends paid to shareholders and stock sold by four executives four days before announcing the closing of the mill. A union spokesman voiced concern about huge amounts of chemicals that would need to be disposed of, not just left on property after closure.

Noah Bolden has been imprisoned in connection with the murder of Julia Holland in Canton on New Year's Day. DNA testing is being sought to determine if a sex crime is also considered.

March 15, 2023

Congressman Chuck Edwards will have his mobile office van at the Haywood VFW Building today from 1-3 pm. He is asking the SEC to investigate Evergreen officials who sold tens of thousands of stock shares just 4 days before their value plummeted as the mill closure was announced.

A missing 13-year-old Texas girl is back home after eloping with a person she met online. Before being discovered, she was being held in a shed in North Carolina.

March 16, 2023

Erlanger Life Force helicopter ambulances have been cleared to return to service, following a crash last week in Franklin. This was the first incident in 36 years of service.

WCU has received \$1.5 million from the Goodnight Foundation to establish an endowed scholarship in early childhood literacy. A nationwide search for a professor is underway. Environmentalists mourn the loss of the Canton papermill. The return of clean water in the Pigeon River has positive effects, but environmentalists must direct their emphases elsewhere.

March 17, 2023

The remains of 37-year-old Allison Thomas found in Jackson County have been confirmed as the missing person from Union County, Her death is being considered a homicide, but with no current leads reported.

Over a dozen businesses participated in a job fair yesterday in Canton. Another event is scheduled for March 23, expecting over 100 employers.

The Smoky Mountain High School prom is on May 6. Free prom dresses will be on display March 25 at the school.

March 20, 2023

Police are investigating the death of a pedestrian seen walking in and out of traffic south of Franklin. The person was run over by two cars. No charges are expected to be filed.

Governor Cooper has called on Evergreen to consider steps to keep the Canton mill open; if not, the state will attempt to recover the \$12million paid as incentives to keep the mill operating in the past. The state AG has corresponded with mill ownership and demanded immediate repayment. The money will be used to help the town recover.

March 21, 2023

A car traveling at a high rate of speed left a rural highway and crashed into a tree, killing the driver, 28-year-old Scot Lewis Bright, Jr..

As required by law, local Boards of Elections are auditing voter rolls. Nonvoters will be required to verify addresses. Notifications are being sent to 289,000 registered voters.

North Carolina's Attorney General takes action to recover over \$12million paid to Canton mill.

March 22, 2023

Three people have been arrested in the death of Allison Thomas, whose body was recovered in Southern Jackson County. The Rural Center in Raleigh announced that A\$3.6million has been awarded to six agencies statewide for small business loans including Mountain Bizworks in Asheville. Some mountain schools are closed due to outbreaks of the Nora Virus, which has been spreading rapidly.

March 23, 2023

Highlands School has reached an agreement with Highlands/Cashiers Health Foundation to fund a school nurse.

A motorcycle accident in Asheville took the life of 34-year-old Deon Mills of Arden when a car turned into the cyclist's path on Highway 25 near the airport.

Buncombe County Commissioners voted to fund upgrades to McCormick Field for \$250,000 annually for 20 years. Asheville pledged \$19million last week.

March 24, 2023

Mike Clampitt filed House Bill 148 to lower the legal limit for drunk driving from 0.8 to 0.5, the same standard as several other states.

Property taxes, public library, and Highlands School Pre-K drew a large public comment pool at the recent Macon County Commissioners meeting. Highlands residents complained that priority for the Pre-K had been lowered, even though citizens had raised \$35,000 to help fund it.

March 27, 2023

Franklin Police disarmed a man who approached a convenience store clerk with a gun, then turned the gun on the police.

Local law enforcement is warning citizens of a scam targeting people looking for work, even though no local engagements have been reported.

President Biden visits NC today to visit the new warp speed semi-conductor plant in the triad. The Medicaid Expansion bill goes to the governor's desk today.

March 28, 2023

A traffic stop in Franklin last week led to a major drug bust. A car search led to the discovery of ½ kilo of cocaine. The driver, Tyreese Hutchins is now in prison under a \$2million bond.

On Little League opening day in Brevard, two inflatables were carried several hundred feet by the wind, injuring several kids.

A help line has been set up for people affected by the mill closing in Canton.

March 29, 2023

A Mars Hill man has been arrested and charged in the hit-and-run death of an Asheville man. The accident was captured on security video on Grove St. in Asheville.

Waynesville Police has added the police app, providing access for reporting tips and showing lists/photos of inmates and sex offenders.

Employees displaced by the mill closure in Canton have begun to receive pink slips in the mail.

March 30, 2023

The Canton mill, after announcing closure, has received notification of a dozen water quality violations.

March 31, 2023

A forest fire in the Lake Logan area burned about 75 acres of forest on Wednesday. The fire was fought by 50 fire departments, five aircraft, helicopters, and tankers. No structures were threatened.

The Canton paper mill has notified some workers that jobs will continue until 2025 when the town water treatment contract expires.

The Republican-led NC Legislature voted to override the Governor's veto of a bill, which now allows the purchase of a pistol without a permit.

## **Section C: Carolina Newsmakers**

**Provided by: The North Carolina News Network with Don Curtis**

**Airing: Sunday 5:00 till 6:00 PM**

January 1, 2023

Guest: John Hood, Carolina Journal and conservative think tank

Topics: Government has shown lack of fiscal responsibility with much of the budget going to benefits and neither party will take responsibility. US Leadership and influence has grown in Europe following Russian invasion of Ukraine. Diversification will help the state weather the recession better. Possible Republican candidates for governor include Mark Robinson the current Lt. Governor.

January 8, 2023

Guest: Wendy Harris, Past President of NC Association of Realtors

Topics: Organization has 57,000 members with ongoing growth. Interest rates are increasing, and home sales have slowed. Values continue to rise due to less supply and more demand, especially in 20 NC counties, affected by more families moving when school is out.

January 15, 2023

Guest: Dale Folwell, NC State Treasurer

Topics: The third party administrator for the State Health Plan for 43 years has been Blue Cross and Blue Shield. This year the bid went to AETNA. NC is self-insured, but the administrator can change. Citizens are unaware of the real cost of health care, and both Trump and Biden were sued over secret contracts. The State Retirement Fund currently has \$250billion.

January 22, 2023

Guest: Andy Allen, President of Retail Merchants Association

Topics: Inflation is a measure of what consumers' pocketbook can afford. Recent labor shortages have led to stores' limited hours, and remote workers have created an adverse effect on restaurants and other downtown businesses. Businesses are working to provide both remote and brick-and-mortar access. Use of i-phones and kiosks and QR shopping are being widely used.

January 29, 2023

Guest: Brad Chrone, Campaign Connections

Topics: Well-respected Auditor, Beth Woods, left the scene of an accident, resulting 3-4 points on her license, creating damage to her character. Possible Gubernatorial candidates are AG Stein, Lt. Gov. Robinson, and Auditor Dale Folwell. The full Council of State will be up for election. Nationally, the age of Biden and Trump are issues.

February 5, 2023

Guest: Tom Jensen, President of Public Policy Polling

Topics: The number of Republican competitors for US President is affected by polls showing about 1/3 of Republicans dead set on Trump. Polling shows that increased negative issues will not affect opinions of Trump supporters. There is an increase in Hispanic population, but only 2% vote.

February 12, 2023

Guest: Virginia Fox, 5<sup>th</sup> District US Congress representative

Topics: Serving on the Education Committee, she opposes teacher unions, wants to focus on the 3 R's, but parental rights is central issue. Arguments regarding the Keystone Pipeline, inflation due to federal spending, and immigration's changing state dynamics are issues.

February 19, 2023

Guest: Rep. John Bell, House Majority Leader

Topics: Bill addressing sports betting passed the NC Senate, but failed in the House. Advocates say that it would be worth about \$1.5billion to the state if passed. Inflation forced state projects to resubmit bids. Balancing the state budget triggers less tax, and 65% of the NC budget is for education. The Medicaid Expansion bill is in the Senate.

February 26, 2023

Guest: NCNN Dr. Mike Waller, retired NC State professor of economics

Topics: Gas prices may stabilize due to more supply worldwide. Economists did not expect the number of jobs to double, but there may still be a national slowdown, affecting production, which leads to supply issues. There is a proposal to have a mileage tax for EV's and more fuel efficient cars.

March 5, 2023

Guest: Mike Causey, NC Insurance Commissioner

Topics: Insurance companies must apply for increased rates due to cost of automobile repairs. More serious accidents, such as distracted driver, speeding, DUI, seat belt use, etc., are declining. Homes and offices must have special rider on insurance policies to cover artwork, antiques, flood and earthquake damages. Wildfires have created a need for volunteer firefighters.

March 12, 2023

Guest: Linda Bird, NC Education Association

Topics: Teacher pay in NC is the best investment, attracting quality teachers. A new pay model for all teachers is based on need and experience regardless of race of gender. It is difficult to attract talent outside communities, who need to recruit local talent from Middle School. Development of good teaching through lead teacher mentors and compensation for proven and advanced teachers are issues.

March 19, 2023

Guest: Lynn Minges, NC Restaurant Association President

Topics: COVID created implementation of new technologies and practices, such as increasing take-outs and payment by QR codes and touchfree payments. A tank of

business travel in NC and use of zoom meetings have affected food businesses. Some dining areas still have not opened due to staffing issues and lower profits due to inflation. 75% of restaurants need workers, and 91% have raised prices.

March 26, 2023

Guest: Kody H. Kinsley, Director NC Dept. of Health and Human Services

Topics: NC has a better response to COVID than most other states. An annual vaccine for COVID is a possibility. The opioid crisis has led to modified methods for people to receive needed medications, also addressing mental health issues. Medicaid expansion is a huge help for many stressors that create health issues.

Programs and Issues document for January, February, and March 2023