



'A great accomplishment'



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Watauga High School English teacher Emily Grogan and student teacher Hannah Dalness prepare to welcome back students into the classroom.

Watauga schools welcome back all grades on hybrid schedule

BY KAYLA LASURE

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BOONE — Months of planning have led up to Watauga County Schools allowing students in all grade levels to return to in-person learning

starting Oct. 19.

The school system welcomed K-3 students starting Oct. 5 to allow for a gradual approach of beginning screening procedures for those entering school buildings and reacclimating students and employees into school. All

grade levels are operating under a 2x3 flex plan — a hybrid in-person and remote learning schedule.

Approximately 1,823 students in K-12 will be in the schools in cohort A attending school on Mondays and Tuesdays. Cohort

B will have approximately 1,845 students who will be in school on Thursdays and Fridays. This is in addition to the approximate 140 pre-K and exceptional children students attending in-person classes four days a

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Town to study options limiting food trucks in downtown Boone

BY ANNA OAKES

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BOONE — Following a presentation of Downtown Boone Development Association recommendations on Oct. 15, the Boone Town Council directed staff to develop options for regulating food trucks in Boone. In reaction, more than 2,400 people have signed an online petition supporting food trucks downtown.

The DBDA is a group that represents downtown businesses and property owners who are in the town's downtown tax district (municipal service district or MSD).

After a survey about food trucks was sent to downtown businesses and a number of food truck operators, the DBDA board discussed the survey responses in March and unanimously voted to recommend to the town council that the DBDA is not supportive of food trucks in downtown on a regular basis;

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Boone council endorses community-led police committee

BY KAYLA LASURE

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BOONE — A community-led committee was endorsed by the Boone Town Council on Oct. 15

with goals of building transparency and relationship between local law enforcement and minority communities while building their own understanding of the policing process.

Cornerstone Summit Church Pastor Reggie Hunt spoke with Boone Town Council members

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Active cases, hospitalizations decline in county

BY ANNA OAKES

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BOONE — In the past week, a decline in COVID-19-related hospitalizations at Watauga Medical Center has mirrored a continued decline in active cases in Watauga County and at Appalachian State University.

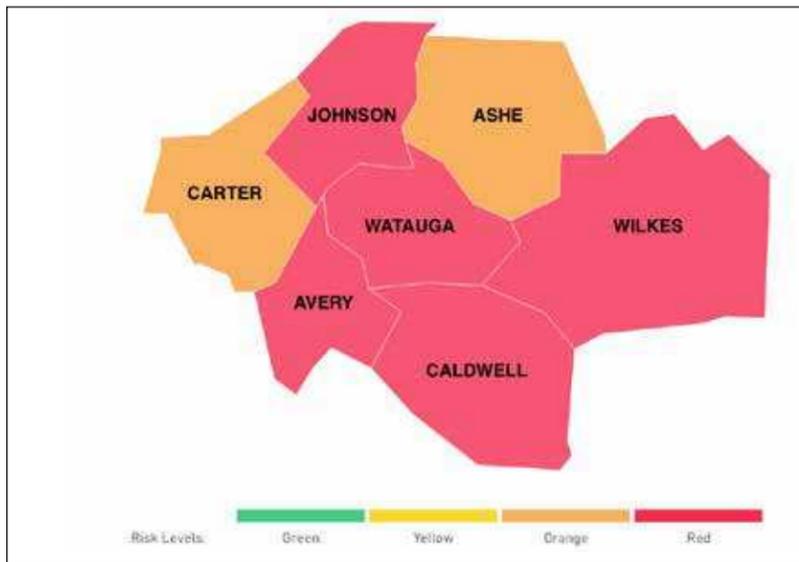
AppHealthCare, the regional health department, reported 114 active cases among Watauga County residents on Oct. 20, compared with 218 active cases on Oct. 13. Watauga's total case count was 1,673 as of Oct. 20, an increase of 82 cases over the total reported as of

Oct. 13. That's down from increases of 207 cases and 308 cases for the week prior and two weeks prior, respectively.

Appalachian State reported 63 active cases on Oct. 20, down from 98 active cases as of Oct. 13. App State's cumulative case count was 1,058 as of Oct. 20, which is 93 more than the total reported on Oct. 13. The week prior and two weeks prior, the university's total case count increased by 113 and by 224, respectively.

Any App State student or employee living on campus or in Watauga

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MAP ILLUSTRATION VIA HARVARD GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

County COVID-19 risk levels are calculated by the Harvard Global Health Institute based on Oct. 18 data. The risk levels are calculated based on a 7-day rolling average of the daily new cases per 100,000 people. The risk levels are Green (25 daily new cases per 100,000).



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