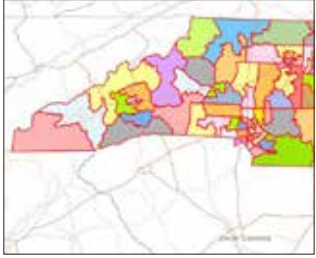




It's your SUNDAY

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Community voices heard



PHOTO BY KAYLA LASURE

Watauga County Commissioner Perry Yates speaks during a public meeting on Sept. 3. Also photographed: Tony di Santi, Billy Kennedy and John Welch.

Officials hear opinions on placement of new Valle Crucis School

BY KAYLA LASURE
kayla.lasure@wataugademocrat.com

VALLE CRUCIS — Approximately 60 to 70 people filled the Valle Crucis School gymnasium on Sept. 3, when people spoke both in favor of and in opposition to the proposed placement of a new Valle Crucis School.

The Watauga County Board of Education and Watauga County Board of Commissioners hosted the joint meeting to ask for public input on a possible site for a new school that is locat-



PHOTO BY KAYLA LASURE

Lyle Schoenfeldt expresses his concerns about the proposed site for a new Valle Crucis School.

SEE HEARD ON PAGE 2

O'Brien to serve prison sentence after violating parole

BY KAYLA LASURE
kayla.lasure@wataugademocrat.com

BOONE — After being arrested for violating her parole in July — while she was supposed to be serving active jail time — a woman was sentenced on Sept. 3 in Watauga Superior Court to serve time in prison.

Makala Lee O'Brien, 20, of 11222 U.S. 421 S., Trade, Tenn., pleaded guilty to felony hit and run leaving serious injury, felony death by vehicle and DWI charges on Nov. 14, 2018. Superior Court Judge Gary Gavenus then handed down a split sentence, and O'Brien was to serve a minimum of two years and five months active jail time at the Watauga County Detention Center with a probationary period of five



O'BRIEN

SEE O'BRIEN ON PAGE 2

Todd woman dies following motorcycle wreck

STAFF REPORT
editor@wataugademocrat.com

BOONE — A Todd woman has died from injuries sustained following a motorcycle collision with a truck in the area of East King Street near Forest Hill Drive on Sept. 3.

"Mary Jo Shane, 66, of Big Hill Road, was found unresponsive at the scene," a statement from Boone Police's Sgt.

Geoff Hayes stated. "She was flown to Johnson City Medical Center, where she passed away from injuries sustained in the collision. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Ms. Shane."

The call came in at 2:49 p.m. on Sept. 3, the release stated. According to Boone Police Officer Steven Mueck, Shane



PHOTO BY KAYLA LASURE

SEE WRECK ON PAGE 2 A motorcycle is involved in a collision on Sept. 3.



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