



App State to require face coverings on campus

STAFF REPORT

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BOONE — Appalachian State University is requiring students, faculty and staff returning to campus to wear face coverings “to create the safest possible learning and working environment,” the



university stated on June 19.

“Because COVID-19 is spread through droplets when an infected person speaks,

coughs, or sneezes, one of the most important tools we have in this fight are face coverings,” stated the university.

App State will begin its fall semester on Aug. 17. In situations where at least six feet of physical distance cannot be maintained or guaranteed — such as hallways, restrooms or multi-person work stations

— on-campus staff, faculty and students are required to wear face coverings that cover the mouth and nose. The university stated it will provide all students, faculty and staff with three face coverings.

Everyone is required to carry a face

SEE **CAMPUS** ON PAGE 3

Back 2 School Fest will be back

School supply event to be extended to two days

STAFF REPORT

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BOONE — Organizers of the Back 2 School Festival have announced plans to extend the school supply event to two days and are making an urgent call for donations.

The 2020 Back 2 School Festival will be held on Friday, Aug. 7, and Saturday, Aug. 8, at Watauga High School.

“While we are still uncertain about how the children will learn, the Back 2 School Festival remains committed to making sure every Watauga County student returns for the 2020-2021 school year confident and prepared with the tools they need to succeed,” organizers stated.

“Watauga County Schools anticipates even greater need this year due to COVID-19” said festival President Kendra Sink. “Many parents have lost jobs or are working protracted hours while our economy continues to recover. A lot of families in our area may be facing challenges paying for food, housing and other necessities for the first time. And school supplies are a huge expense they may not be able to handle.”

The Back 2 School Festival’s fundraising efforts were halted earlier this year with the statewide stay-at-home order.

“We have seen some of our supporting partners remain open and furlough employees, while some have had to shut their doors for good,” organizers stated. “We are grieving with them. We know we are facing extraordinary circumstances this year, but by sharing the load among many, it lightens it for those who need help the most.”

Over the last seven years, hundreds of



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Hospitality House Director of Development Todd Carter helps promote the Back 2 School Festival during the Boone Fourth of July parade in 2016.

volunteers, the faith community and civic-minded businesses invested in the future of Watauga County by supporting the Back

2 School Festival. Thanks to these efforts,

SEE **SCHOOL** ON PAGE 2

Blowing Rock Council to discuss mask requirement

STAFF REPORT

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BLOWING ROCK — The Blowing Rock Town Council announced on June 22 that it

will hold a special town council meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, to discuss COVID-19-related issues.



SEE **COUNCIL** ON PAGE 3

App State faculty question plans for in-person instruction this fall

BY KAYLA LASURE

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BOONE — Appalachian State administrators outlined decisions about the fall 2020 semester and fielded questions during a special June 22 meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Faculty heard from Interim Provost Heather Norris,

SEE **SENATE** ON PAGE 2

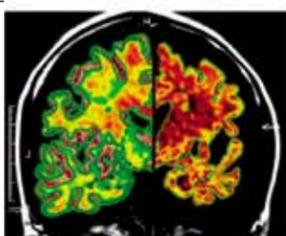


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