

Lake Gaston Gazette-Observer

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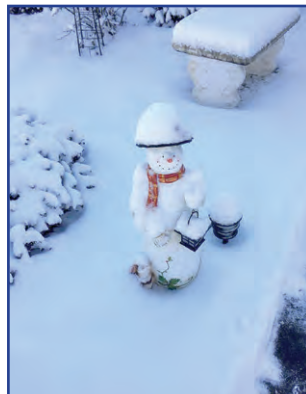
More snow hits the Lake Gaston region

By Della Rose
Editor

Lake Gaston along with much of the eastern seaboard was hit by another round of snow last weekend as high winds and cold temperatures helped to blanket the region in four to six inches of the white stuff. Residents were advised to stay indoors Wednesday evening and to avoid driving during the weather event, but temperatures quickly rose to the 40s on Saturday and life returned to normal. All that cold just made Lake Gaston even more enchanting and residents enjoyed hikes, some fishing and playing in their winter wonderland.



Photos contributed by (from top left clockwise), Jay Baker, Zakk Royce, Karen Callahan and Randi Klein.



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New crops bring change of scenery

By Della Rose
Editor

With the opening of the hemp industry in North Carolina, many farmers are turning to this alternative to cotton and tobacco with hope for a brighter future. As a result lake residents will soon see a new kind of field by the roadside as they travel.

Warren County farmer, Anthony DeBerry has 10 acres he plans to dedicate to hemp production this year – it's his first venture as a farmer but he said he believes it has the opportunity to not only be lucrative, but it can also help the community.

DeBerry said he comes from a long line of farmers. His grandfather owned about 400 acres in Montgomery county, N.C. back in the day, but he lost the farm as many farmers did in the 1970s and 80s. The



young man said he does have a lot of experience in organic gardening however, as he worked with his grandmother every year in her strawberries. "I was short enough for the work and she didn't have to bend down," he joked.

On a more serious note, he said he wants to provide a secure future for his children and he believes planting hemp is the way to do this. "You could say it's in my blood," he commented.

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Community welcomes something beautiful

By Ruth Richey
Contributing writer

There's a new way to feel beautiful at Lake Gaston.

Nancy Grueneich is excited to announce that skin care services will soon be available again at Healing Kneads Therapeutic Massage.

Taylor Norris, a licensed esthetician, will offer facials, waxing, makeup, eyelash lifting and more starting Jan. 27.

Grueneich has worked with two estheticians in the past. When the most recent skin care pro left this past August after moving out of the area, Grueneich said she had pretty much decided that her business would focus solely on massage services.

As fate would have it, a chance meeting and divine guidance led her in a different direction.

The same week that she learned that massage therapist and yoga instructor Sylvie Gregory was leaving in January to take care of family in Texas, she received a phone call from one of her clients. The call was from Taylor

Norris' mother, who asked Grueneich if she could provide brochures for her daughter to refer clients who desired massage services.

Rather than mailing the brochures, Grueneich put together an envelope with brochures to drop off at Taylor's business, Southern Shell Esthetics LLC, in Roanoke Rapids.

"We just really hit it off," Grueneich recalled. "I got a facial from her and she's absolutely wonderful. She talks to you about your skin so every facial is specific to the individual. I'm very impressed with her."

Taylor also recalls that fateful encounter. "Nancy got a facial from me and two and a half weeks later she called me and she was very open to whatever I wanted to do to offer services."

Taylor said she will offer flexible hours convenient to customers at the lake and continue to offer services at her Roanoke Rapids business.

"I want her so busy out here she won't have time for Roanoke Rapids,"

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February BUNCO benefits Pierce family

By Ruth Richey
Contributing writer

This past year has brought everything but luck to the family of Howard Pierce of Gasburg. They are hoping things get better in 2018.

Howard Pierce, 60, suffered a bout of pneumonia this past February and his life has been turned upside down since. An x-ray showed a black spot on his right lung, which a biopsy confirmed is non-small cell cancer.

"The doctor called me at home and asked did I want treatment in South Hill or Richmond," Pierce recalled. "I went to South Hill the next day and they started radiation and chemo the next week. The cancer specialist said we're going to jump on this thing right away."

And jump they did. Pierce received daily radiation treatments for 30 consecutive days



Howard Pierce and wife, Judy and weekly chemotherapy. A subsequent CT scan, however, showed the cancer started

growing again and he began having numbness in his fin-

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Seminar explains new type of currency

By Della Rose
Managing editor

Bitcoin is the newest trend in investment and people are making good money in the trade. There is a lot of confusion about what it is and how it work, however and one local firm is planning a seminar

Feb. 3 to explain.

Sheree Anderson with USI Tech is holding a presentation with special speakers to explain the new technology from noon until 1:30 p.m. at the Hampton Inn, at 85 Hampton Boulevard in Roanoke Rapids.

She said anyone wanting to

learn about the new technology but doesn't know where to start is exactly who should come.

"While we currently have paper money, we're predicting we will be going to paperless," Anderson said.

According to Anderson the seminar

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