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# THE NEWS HERALD

Monday, March 27, 2023

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## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



TAMMIE GERCKEN, THE NEWS HERALD

Pictured, from left, are local Boy Scout Kelsey Randall and Molly Eller, the veterans' service officer for Burke County, standing in front of the flag retirement box Randall installed at the Burke County Senior Center. Eller is holding a pile of American flags retrieved from the box.

# PATRIOTIC PROJECT

Scout installs flag retirement box at senior center

TAMMIE GERCKEN  
 Staff writer

A local Boy Scout has created another convenient place in

Morganton for people to retire worn-out American flags. Kelsey Randall, a member of Troop 184 of Morganton and a senior at Freedom High School, installed a new flag retirement box at the Burke County Senior Center at 501 N. Green St. for his Eagle Scout project. Randall, who has served in

Scouts for the past six years, said he wanted his project to bring attention to veterans and contribute to the senior center, which is why he chose a flag retirement box. The senior center houses the Burke County Veterans' Service Office.

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**VIEW:** Watch as Kelsey Randall introduces the new flag retirement box, explains how to use it and describes what happens to the flags put in it. Just point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**

## TOWN OF VALDESE

# Budget requests for 2023-24 heard

SHARON MCBRAYER  
 Staff Writer

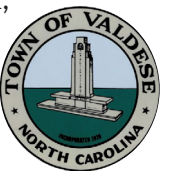
VALDESE — The Valdese Town Council didn't give a clue about what the town's tax rate may be during its budget retreat on Thursday and Friday.

But town staff told them about increased costs the town has and will face, the need to pay competitive wages for employees and potentially what increased cost might be passed on to users.

The council, which took no action during the retreat at the Old Rock School, also was informed about recommended rezonings of property where Draughn High School and Valdese Lakeside Park are located.

Burke County is in the midst of a property revaluation that saw values increase and hundreds of property owners have appealed their values. Burke County commissioners will set a new tax rate as part of the 2023-24 budget process.

The tax rate for property owners in the town of Valdese is currently 54.5 cents per \$100 of



Please see **BUDGET**, Page A4

## REDHAWK PUBLICATIONS

# Book recounts history of local furniture industry

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS HERALD

HICKORY — A local professor explores the history of a once thriving industry in the area with his new book.

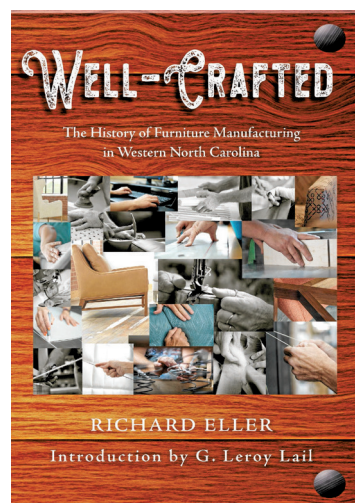
Richard Eller, a professor of history at Catawba Valley Community College, has released a book called, "Well-Crafted: The History of Furniture Manufacturing in Western North Carolina," published by Redhawk Publications. The book documents the historical rise, fall and rise again of furniture in western North Carolina, highlighted by personal accounts from an array of industry leaders and crafters that helped create this unique legacy.

The book notes that furniture has been the most important economic force in western North Carolina for the last 150 years and follows what became an industrial powerhouse from its workshop days to mammoth factories.

"Countless thousands did their part to help build our furniture industry," Eller said. "Commerce generated from their efforts put much food on the table for families in the foothills, as well as paying many mortgages and sending many kids to college, including me."

Eller began researching the

Please see **BOOK**, Page A4



SUBMITTED, REDHAWK PUBLICATIONS

"Well-Crafted: The History of Furniture Manufacturing in Western North Carolina," published by Redhawk Publications, documents the historical rise, fall and rise again of furniture in western North Carolina.

# Schools grapple with discipline, suspensions

JASON KOON  
 Staff Writer

It seems like a simple equation: A student commits a major disciplinary infraction, they earn a suspension. Problem solved. However, Burke County Public Schools administrators are saying it may not always be that simple.

"Out-of-school suspension, as a consequence, probably has changed in impact," said Vivian Radford, BCPS Behavior Support Services lead.

On Wednesday, *The News Herald* reported the increasing prevalence of suspensions, criminal acts, bullying and law enforcement involvement in schools

across North Carolina and in Burke County since 2019. Now, BCPS administrators are looking for creative solutions to help stem the tide of increased school disruptions.

"We've known what was coming," said Sara LeCroy, BCPS director of student and family services. "We have really

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A4

**MORE ONLINE:** For the first part of this series on the district's efforts to stem the tide of rising disciplinary issues in schools, point your smartphone camera at the QR code and then tap the link. **NEWSVU**

Take a look at what was happening 50 years ago, **PAGE A3**

See a roundup of national, world news, **PAGE B8**

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