



SPORTS

NFAC RELEASES ALL-CONFERENCE LISTS **A5**

We appreciate Bonnie Hamby and all of our readers.

News-Topic

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

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\$1.25

Caldwell UNC unfazed by vaccine shortage

BY KARA FOHNER
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Caldwell UNC Health Care's vaccine supply has so far not been seriously affected by the state allocating a large portion of its vaccine this week to a mass inoculation effort in the Charlotte area, a hospital leader said. Caldwell UNC Health Care received an allocation

of 975 first doses of the vaccine for this week, said Laura Easton, the CEO. Caldwell UNC Health Care is vaccinating patients who have doctors in their network. "We are in the process of continuing first dose administration and second



Laura Easton

dose administration, which keeps us about at that 500-a-day pace this week," Easton said. "So this week we were not affected by those mass vaccinations, although I heard the same thing you did, that others were." Public officials and

representatives of some hospital systems expressed frustration Monday after news that state officials had committed to supplying vaccine for two mass inoculation events in the Charlotte area, taking up at least one-sixth of the 120,000 doses that North Carolina expects

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Pandemic drives record numbers into nature

BY NEWS-TOPICTOPIC STAFF

The COVID-19 pandemic helped send a record number of people to North Carolina's state parks in 2020, including Grandfather Mountain and Burke County's South Mountains.

The number of people visiting Grandfather Mountain climbed 32% from 2019, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources reported. That was among the largest increases in the state park system.

The increased visitation also wasn't limited to periods of warm weather — December 2020 was the busiest December on record, with South Mountains State Park leading the state at a 98% increase from the same month in 2019.

Overall, state parks and recreation areas welcomed 19.8 million visitors last year, an increase of 1.2 million, or about 6.5%, from 2019, and 400,000 more than the previous record for visitation, which was set in 2017.

Gov. Roy Cooper said the increase shows how state residents value the parks.

"As we came together to face the pandemic, our state parks became a comfort in a time of isolation," Cooper said. "The records set in park visitation show that our outdoor spaces hold even greater value than we could have imagined before the challenges of the last year."

Park staff attribute the

SEE **NATURE/PAGE A3**

Fallen behind, or ready early?

A Halloween decoration hangs in a tree at the corner of Archer Avenue and U.S. 321-A near Hudson.

DAVID PREWITT | NEWS-TOPICTOPIC



City campaign targets tourism and growth

BY GARRETT STELL
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Lenoir has a new logo and motto intended to promote the city's artistic and industrial heritage. The city's new tagline, "Create With Us," is meant to promote collective action toward improving the community, Economic Devel-

opment Main Street Director Kay-lynn Horn said. "It's an invitation, if you will. We're inviting our businesses, industries, residents and visitors to create" healthy lifestyles, a strong community, a vibrant economy and new opportunities, she said. The new logo features the city

name and motto inside a circular design that Horn said was crafted to reflect different aspects of life in the city. Developed in partnership with Boone-based communications firm Destination by Design, the logo

SEE **CAMPAIGN/PAGE A3**



Lenoir's new logo features pieces of a cog wheel, abstract lines and geometric shapes, all meant to evoke the city's artistic, industrial and scientific resources.

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HIGH 55 LOW 30

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