

# REBELS WIN BIG

Fannin County rolls to 38-14 victory over Gilmer Co. ■ B1



# CONTEST BEGINS

The annual football contest kicks off this week ■ B3

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023

# THE NEWS OBSERVER

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## Food pantry to open one Sat. a month

BY LAURALEE CALLEGARI  
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The Fannin County Family Connection (FCFC) Food Pantry will be open one Saturday a month from 10 a.m. until noon starting on September 16. Sherry

Morris says, "We saw an opportunity to help more."

The FCFC Food Pantry served roughly 8,270 families in just the last year. At least 461 of those families were first time visitors to the facility.

Morris, FCFC executive di-

rector, says the food pantry gave out 537,301 pounds of food to families in need this past year. With over 23,000 visits total to the food pantry during that time, Morris says that these numbers are the highest they've ever been. According to Morris, the food

pantry didn't even reach those levels during Covid-19.

Morris also stresses that Family Connection is much more than a place to get much needed groceries. It is currently the largest community outreach organization in the county.

The Family Connection Center includes additional programs including day services for the unsheltered, a free clothing closet, a library, Internet, job search services, quarterly health services,

See FCFC A2➤

## STUDENTS LEARN FLAG ETIQUETTE



News Observer photo\Glenn Harbison

Blue Ridge Elementary School fifth grade students Zeke Payne and Troy Taylor follow instructions from veteran Chris McKee as he demonstrates how to tuck the folds of the United States flag neatly. This was part of a local program offered by area veterans organizations.

For the complete story, please see A3➤

## Taylor only candidate opposed in Blue Ridge

BY GLENN HARBISON  
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Voters in Blue Ridge will decide only one challenged race in the November city election even though three council seats will appear on the election ballot.

Jack Taylor was the only incumbent challenged in his bid for re-election when qualifying ended at noon Friday, August 25.

The other two incumbent council members whose seats will be on the ballot, Bill Bivins and Christy Kay, are both unopposed.

All three incumbents have served two year terms as the last election began the process of staggered

terms for the mayor and council. The November election will return the seats to four year terms.

The last day to register to vote in the city election is Tuesday, October 10, by 5 p.m., and absentee ballots can be requested through October 27.

Early voting will begin October 16 and continue through November 3 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day.

There will also be two Saturdays of early voting, October 21 and 28, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on election day, November 7.

All voting will take place at City Hall in Blue Ridge.

## Eight qualify for five McCaysville council slots

BY GLENN HARBISON  
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Thomas Seabolt is not being challenged as he seeks another four year term as McCaysville's mayor, and eight candidates have qualified to fill the five seats on the city council.

When qualifying ended Friday afternoon for the November 7 city election, Seabolt and four of the five current council members had en-

tered the race. Gilita C. Carter, Larry L. Collis, Susan B. Kiker and Jason Thomas Woody are all seeking re-election. Sue Beaver, announced earlier this year she would not seek re-election.

Challenging the incumbents are Jacob Born, Billy W. Chastain, Kermit (Kim) Corn, Karen L. Hawkins, and Mary Alice Reece Walker.

The top five vote getters will take office in January 2024.

## Remember next week's deadlines

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
news@thenewsobserver.com

To prepare for the Labor Day holiday, all news, display and classified advertising for the September 6 issue of *The News Observer* must be

received by noon Friday, September 1. This will enable your weekly newspaper to be delivered on its regular schedule.

All of us at *The News Observer* wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday.

## Labor Day BBQ on, other activities canceled

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
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Carlie Hammond said late Monday afternoon, August 28, the Good Samaritans of Fannin County will still host the 42nd Annual Labor Day BBQ, but all other activities planned by the organization for the weekend have

been canceled.

Pic-Nic-Nac was to be held in the downtown Blue Ridge park Saturday with local artists and crafters, and area nonprofits sharing their information. The traditional interdenominational worship service, congregational singing, and ice cream social were set for Sunday. None of

these events will be held.

Good Samaritans will host the BBQ Monday, September 4, with meals served from 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m., or until supplies last.

BBQ plates will be loaded with all the fixings, including a bottled drink and a locally grown apple from Mercier Orchards. Attendees can choose from St.

Louis Style ribs, a pulled pork sandwich, or a half chicken for the meal.

However, the event will be drive-thru only. Bluegrass and gospel music will not be featured.

This year, tickets will be available for purchase at the event.

For more details about the Good Samaritan's ministry,

volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events throughout the year, visit [www.goodsamfc.com](http://www.goodsamfc.com).

Hammond is the organizer of the annual Labor Day event for the Good Samaritans. She reminds everyone the BBQ is a fundraiser as the interdenominational group works to help the less fortunate in the area.



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Dogs, cats waiting in Fannin County for forever homes, A7



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