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GNCC coming to Aonia

This weekend, the Grand National Cross Country Series (GNCC) will be visiting Washington from March 12-13.

The competition is the biggest off-road series in the country and is contested mostly by North American riders; this year, two of the top riders from Europe have decided to race limited events — Steve Holcombe (U.K.), who's a seven-time World Enduro Champion, and Josep Garcia (Spain), who most recently claimed both the Enduro2 world title and the overall win at the 2021 International Six Days Enduro. Garcia finished second overall at the second round in Florida this past weekend. South Carolina brothers Grant and Steward Baylor are two of the top Americans, hailing from Honea Path, South Carolina, just 70



Photo by RICHARD CRABBE

Riders race at last year's GNCC race

miles away across the river. The event at Aonia Pass, called, "The Specialized General," was established in 2003. The current event schedule is:

Saturday
Specialized Turbo eMTB

GNCC National Championship 4:30 p.m.

ePeeWee (STACYC) Racing 6 p.m. at the finish line
Supercross Watch Party 7:30 p.m. at the finish line

Live entertainment will also be available both Friday and Saturday nights.

According to the GNCC website, the series was founded by Dave Coombs, an avid motorcycle racer. The first event of what would become the GNCC series was the Blackwater 100, which was raced on a track in Davis, West Virginia. As the popularity of the race grew, so did the number of races. The series was first known as the Wiseco 100 Miler Series. Shortly after, it acquired its present name.


While the events were originally for motorcycles/dirt bikes, three-wheel ATVs were added in 1983, followed by four wheelers shortly thereafter.

Race lengths and durations were eventually reduced to encourage participation, as the original races were five hours and 100 miles long. At present, the races are two hours long for ATVs and three hours long for dirt bikes.

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The new cat shelter units that were purchased thanks to Petco Love's grant

Animal Shelter receives grant from Petco Love

Submitted by KATHY AGAN

Thanks to a grant from Petco Love, the Washington-Wilkes Animal Shelter was able to purchase several cat housing units. The new units have three sections: a living/sleeping area with a perching platform, a food area, and a litter box area. The units were placed in the Intake section where cats entering the shelter can acclimate to the shelter environment.

According to Petco Love's website, the independent non-profit is one of the biggest supporters of animal welfare organizations in the nation. The non-profit has facilitated 6.5 million animal adoptions, has 4,000 animal welfare partners, and has invested \$300 million into animal welfare.

Have news?
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W-WPRD hosts first girls basketball game

Submitted by Stefanie Bradshaw

On Tuesday, February 15, the WPRD hosted its first girl vs girl basketball game. Teams consisted of 10U and 12U girls separated and divided up from our regular season teams. The game received positive feedback from players, parents, and coaches. The evening was a resounding success.

Both teams played extremely hard, showing good sportsmanship and teamwork. Girls who have been competing with the boys are sometimes intimidated or nervous while playing. Implementing this into the basketball season allowed the girls that really do not get a chance to display their skills to relax and be comfortable while playing hard and competing. Ultimately, the goal is to build a basketball program so that the girls can compete just as well as the boys once they reach middle school.

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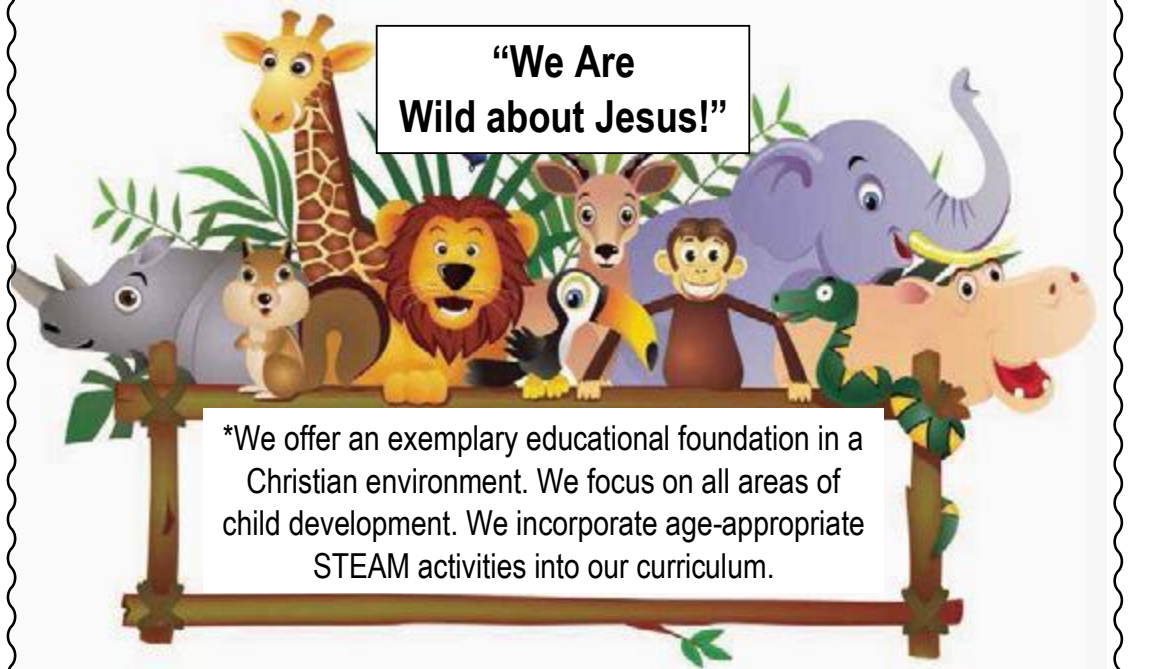
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FBC Pre-K Registration for 3 and 4-Year-Olds for 2022-23



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*We offer an exemplary educational foundation in a Christian environment. We focus on all areas of child development. We incorporate age-appropriate STEAM activities into our curriculum.

Community Calendar

First Mondays Lions Club, Lions Club building, 6 p.m.
First Tuesdays Iris Garden Club litter pickup, various locations
Second Weds. Fishing Creek Wildlife Action, Harris Rd., 6:30 p.m.
2nd Saturdays Litter pickup, meet at CofC, 8 a.m.
Tuesdays Washington Kiwanis Club, Woman's Club, 1 p.m.
Thursdays Washington Rotary Club, Woman's Club, noon
Fridays Alzheimer's Support, Connely Gallery, 11 a.m.
March 12 DAR, Woman's Club, 11:30 a.m.
March 14 Woman's Club, clubhouse, noon
March 17 Wilkes County Chapter Ladies Homestead Gathering, Danburg Baptist Church, 6 p.m.
March 18 Classic South Quilt Guild, Wesley Hall, First United Methodist Church, 2 p.m.
March 23 WALLI Readers, home of Katie Price, 10 a.m.
March 28 Civil War Round Table, Woman's Club, 6 p.m.
May 14 - Iris Garden Club Spring Garden Tour, Robert Toombs House Headquarters, 10 a.m. -4 p.m.

Registration will continue until all spaces are filled.

- A form may be picked up at the church office or downloaded from the church website at www.fbcwashingtonga.org
- A registration fee of \$100 is due upon registration.
- Bus transportation is available to and from in-town daycares for a fee.
- Weekly Schedule: Monday-Thursday from 8 am-12 pm.
- Staff includes: Carol Souther, teacher; Dean Sisson, paraprofessional; and Maggie Craycraft, student aide.
- For more information call 706-318-0109 or 706-678-2912.

