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LIGHTS IN THE FOG



ROBERT C. REED / HICKORY DAILY RECORD

Motorists faced foggy conditions Tuesday morning as they commuted into work. Here, Hickory police and Catawba County EMS respond to a wreck on Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard. No one was injured.

Morning Briefing

Special learning area to have open house

GRANITE FALLS — Granite Falls Middle School houses an unusual learning area, a dedicated makerspace, where students gather to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover using a variety of technology devices, tools and materials, thanks to funding and contributions from local organizations. Worktables, benches, stools and other items less identifiable by some, such as Raspberry Pi's, Arduinos, Makey Makeys, are available to students, as are embroidery and sewing machines, a 3D printer and 3D pens. This customized space also includes electronic building blocks, such as littleBits, and Snap Circuits in addition to iPads, MacBooks, Chromebooks, Spheros and even a Cricket cutting machine. The area also provides three LEGO walls for design and modeling and an AV room complete with a green screen for video recording, a plethora of items on-site for students to get together and make things.

"The makerspace, known as GFMakers, is also creating a name for themselves as a global littleBits chapter, one of only six in the state," said Randy Seldomridge, the mastermind behind the project and Project Lead the Way teacher at Granite Falls Middle School. "We are part of a global network putting the power of electronics in the hands of students."

For local patrons, parents and technology enthusiasts, the public is invited to a community open house on Thursday, Jan. 19, from 6-8 p.m. The makerspace is located in the basement of the school between the main entrance and the auditorium. Look for the GFMakers signs and parking will be indicated as well. For questions or to make a donation, email rseidomridge@catdwellsschools.com.

Rotarian Idol auditions announced

HICKORY — The Hickory Rotary Club has announced dates for its vocalist competition fundraiser, Rotarian Idol for 2017. This year's event will be Saturday, April 8, at 7 p.m. in PE Monroe Auditorium at Lenoir-Rhyne University. Auditions will be at The SALT

Block auditorium Feb. 9 from 5:30-7 p.m. and Feb. 11 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. and are open to amateur vocalists of any age or place of residence. Entry fee is \$5.

Twenty contestants will be selected via auditions and will compete for \$5,000 in total prize money: \$2,500 first place, \$1,500 second place, \$500 third place, and \$500 for audience favorite.

Three music industry professionals will judge vocalist performances for the top three prizes; Audience favorite is selected by audience vote at the event. The public also can vote online before the April 8 competition.

"Community support for education is essential to a great community, and 100 percent of the money raised by Rotarian Idol is used to benefit educational needs throughout Catawba County," said Rotarian Sandi Fotheringham, who is the event co-chair. "We are on track to exceed the almost \$70,000 raised last year through sponsorships, event program ads, and ticket sales."

For more information, visit www.hickoryrotary.org, call Fotheringham at 828-320-9429 or email fotheringhamsa@hickoryschools.net, or call Lynn Loehr 828-310-7648 or email lynnlloehr48@gmail.com.

Fundraiser to feature The Harlem Wizards

CONNELLY SPRINGS — The Harlem Wizards are coming to East Burke High School for a fundraising game at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5.

The fun-filled event is hosted by Hildebran Elementary PTA. The organization is bringing the Wizards to town to help benefit the PTA "Gives Back" Project. At a family-friendly Wizards game, fans will witness amazing basketball talent combined with comedy.

Tickets purchased before the event are \$15 for adults \$12 for children. Tickets can be purchased online at http://www.harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets/, via email at hildebran@hildebranptaschools.com or by visiting Hildebran Elementary School until the day of the game.

Tickets will also be available on the day of the game at East Burke High School at noon at \$18 for adults and \$15 for children.

Today in History

Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 18, 1967, Albert DeSalvo, who claimed to be the "Boston Strangler," was convicted in Cambridge, Massachusetts, of armed robbery, assault and sex offenses. (Sentenced to life, DeSalvo was killed in prison in 1973.)

On this date:
In 1778, English navigator Captain James Cook reached the present-day Hawaiian Islands, which he named the "Sandwich Islands."

In 1862, the tenth president of the United States, John Tyler, died in Richmond, Virginia, at age 71, shortly before he could take his seat as an elected member of the Confederate Congress.

In 1892, comedian Oliver Hardy was born in Harlem, Georgia.

In 1911, the first landing of an aircraft on a ship took place as pilot Eugene B. Ely brought his Curtiss biplane for a safe landing on the deck of the armored cruiser USS Pennsylvania in San Francisco Harbor.

In 1919, the Paris Peace Conference, held to negotiate peace treaties ending the First World War, opened in Versailles, France.

In 1936, Nobel Prize-winning author Rudyard Kipling, 70, died in London.

In 1943, during World War II, Jewish insurgents in the Warsaw Ghetto launched their initial armed resistance against Nazi troops, who eventually succeeded in crushing the rebellion. A U.S. ban on the sale of pre-liced bread — aimed at reducing bakeries' demand for metal replacement parts — went into effect.

In 1957, a trio of B-52's completed the first nonstop, round-the-world flight by jet planes, landing at March Air Force Base in California after more than 45 hours aloft.

In 1970, David Oman McKay, the ninth president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, died at the age of 96.

In 1988, a China Southwest Airlines Illyushin 18 crashed while on approach to Chongqing Airport, killing all 108 people on board.

In 1993, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday was observed in all 50 states for the first time.

In 1997, former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas, who rebounded from cancer to briefly become the Democratic front-runner for president in 1992, died in Boston at age 55.

Ten years ago: Truck driver Tyrone Williams was spared the death penalty and sentenced by a federal court in Houston to life in prison for his role in the deaths of 19 immigrants crammed in a sweltering tractor-trailer. A heated controversy at the ABC show "Grey's Anatomy" boiled over as the network rebuked co-star Isaiah Washington for making an anti-gay comment against fellow actor T.R. Knight and Washington issued a lengthy apology.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama rejected the Keystone XL project, a Canadian company's plan to build a 1,700-mile pipeline to carry oil across six U.S. states to Texas refineries.

Quote of the Day

"Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint you can on it."

Danny Kaye
American entertainer (1913-86)

