

The Blowing Rocket

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80th Year • No. 19 • 50 Cents

LIVE from Blowing Rock!



Vacation destination

Russell Biven and Beth Haynes (center), hosts of the WBIR-TV news show 'Live at Five at Four' from Knoxville, Tenn., visited the High Country on Monday for a one-hour special about vacation destinations in the High Country. After filming segments at Chetola Resort, the Blowing Rock Tourism Development Authority, Grandfather Mountain, Tweetsie Railroad, Linville Falls, the Mast General Store in Valle Crucis, Ashe County Cheese, the Blue Ridge Parkway and other locations, Biven and Haynes introduced the recorded segments via a live feed from Blowing Rock Memorial Park. There they spoke with Greg Tarbutton (left) and Carl Freeman (right) about Chetola Resort's new Orvis guided fly-fishing tours.

JEFF EASON PHOTOS



Proposed budget shows decrease of \$85,420

BY JEFF EASON
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During last week's meeting of the Blowing Rock Town Council, town manager Scott Hildebran distributed copies of the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2011-2012, which will begin on July 1, 2011.

The proposed budget for the town, including the general fund and the water/sewer fund comes in at \$6,311,550. The total is a decrease of \$85,420 from the current 2010-2011 budget.

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New traffic pattern south of Blowing Rock

The N.C. Department of Transportation will begin work on realigning the intersection at U.S. 321, N.C. 268 and Warrior Road north of Lenoir in Caldwell County to allow traffic to flow smoothly.

The intersection has been the location of several severe crashes in the past due to the number of vehicles that cross U.S. 321 from the two side roads, many at the same time.

As part of the project, a traffic island will be constructed on Warrior Road to allow only right turns at the intersection with U.S. 321.

U.S. 321 will be widened at the first median break to the

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Museum celebrates May flowers with show

'Cork and Canvas' to showcase photos

The Blowing Rock Art and History Museum and Blowing Rock Frameworks and Gallery will celebrate the tradition of "May flowers" with "Cork and Canvas," an exhibition that will run from May 20 until May 23 at the Blowing Rock Frameworks and Gallery.

The event will highlight local photographer Freda Wilkins, who captures the beauty of flowers in her art. A special artist's reception will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 20, at the gallery, accompanied by a wine tasting that will feature samples from Spencer Mountain Vineyards in Cove Creek, which she owns with her husband, Lucien.

Wilkins' love for photography began when she was a young girl, as she watched her father develop his black-and-white photographs. She followed a more practical route in college and after graduating, she taught junior high school.

After her children went to school, however, she decided to pursue her dream and study photography. In 1979, she opened a small studio in Wilmington, N.C., and began



The nature photography of Freda Wilkins will be the subject of a new art show presented by the Blowing Rock Art and History Museum at Blowing Rock Frameworks and Gallery.

PHOTO BY FREDA WILKINS

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