

INSIDE:

DEPUTY WILL
RAPEL 30 STORIES

PAGE 8A

WHAT TO
DO ABOUT
MAX PATCH

PAGE 1B



INSIDE:

COMMISSIONER
RACE PROFILES -

PAGE 2A

THE MOUNTAINEER

INFORMING, INSPIRING AND ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1884

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

www.themountaineer.com \$1.00



HERE AT LAST: THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL EXPERIMENT BEGINS

BY BECKY JOHNSON
bjohnson@themountaineer.com

It's been six months and counting since Coleman Cothern had strolled down the Tuscola breeze-way on his way to class, and while school has never looked quite like this before, he is ready to take whatever he can get.

"I have been worried all year that I wasn't going to have a senior year. It's bothered the crap out of me," said Cothern. "I am happy to actually have a senior year of football. That's another thing I was worried about."

But returning to school during a pandemic on a part-time rotation isn't all peaches and cream.

"I don't want to wear a mask. And I am only



RITE OF PASSAGE — Some things never change about the first day of high school, even in a pandemic. Freshman Ashe Cathey consults a campus map on Abbi Brookshire's—phone to get his bearings.

going to be with half my friends," Cothern said, citing the week-on, week-off rotation for middle and high school students.

He was also conflicted about lunchtime. He'd heard students would be limited to two per table in the cafeteria.

"All my friends, we've always sat at the same table," he said.

Celia Foglio also had mixed emotions about returning to school. It isn't exactly the quintessential senior year she would have hoped for.

"I honestly think this is going to be horrible," Foglio said, pausing to have a forehead temperature check by a custodian on her way into Tuscola Monday morning. "Having to be here with masks on for eight hours, and it isn't the full school experience. It is kind of ruining another senior year."

About 25 percent of Haywood County students have chosen to

School continues on 7A



FOREHEADS PLEASE —Amarissa Hollaway gets her temperature checked by a bus driver as he disembarks in the Tuscola parking lot. She'll be checked again before entering the building.

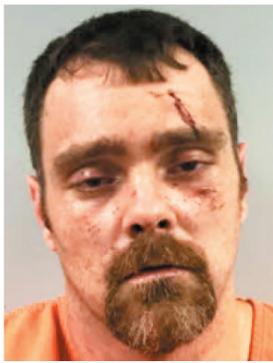
Did meth lead to speed?

BY KYLE PERROTTI
kperrotti@themountaineer.com

A Georgia man was arrested in the early morning hours of Sept. 27 after leading police on a high-speed chase near Waynesville.

At some point either during the night of Sept. 26 or early morning Sept. 27, James Adam Mills, 36, was allegedly spotted by a Waynesville Police officer driving recklessly and at least 15 miles per hour over the speed limit on Pigeon Street.

When the officer tried to pull over Mills, who was driving with a revoked license, he allegedly fled in his vehicle, a 2004 BMW



James Adam Mills

X5. In addition, court documents note that once Mills pulled over and parked, he fled the scene on foot but was eventually apprehended.

Meth continues on 8A

Author David Joy offers a glimpse into his world

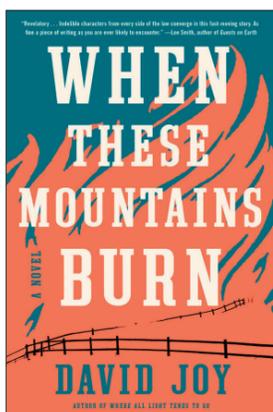
Latest novel is a gripping tale of mountains, addiction

BY VICKI HYATT
vhyatt@themountaineer.com

Jackson County author David Joy's fourth novel, "When These Mountains Burn," was released just over a month ago, and has inspired rave reviews from across the nation.

It was among five books readers were told not to miss by USA Today; was one of the best six new books to read recommended by the New York Post and has made the National and the Southern Indie Bestseller lists.

The bad news for those who haven't snagged a first-edition copy is that the copies are already running low and the book is headed for a second printing. Even worse news is that the U.S. printing and binding industry is



behind in production, and is giving priority to first printings, Joy told his fans on his Facebook page.

"I hope you'll be patient. I promise it's worth the wait," the post stated.

"When These Mountains Burn" is indeed a page-turner. In typical David Joy fashion, the natural beauty of the Appalachians shines through, and the cast of characters will remind most anyone who's lived in the region for a while of someone they've crossed paths with.

The story line is one

Author continues on 9A

Find us on Social Media:

- facebook.com/the.mountaineer.news
- @themountaineernews
- @mountaineerinfo

WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going."

- Oscar Wilde

©2018 The Mountaineer
Waynesville, NC • 828.452.0661



6 98 2 9 1 1 0 1 9 9 7

Subscribe Today!

The Mountaineer

Your Community Newspaper. In Print. Online.

STARTING AT
\$8 PER MONTH!

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE
www.themountaineer.com/subscribe

OR BY PHONE
(828) 452-0661



A NEW EXPERIENCE IN LOCAL NEWS