



What WNC coaches had to say about playoffs

SPORTS, 1B

The Gaston Gazette

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025 | GASTONGAZETTE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



President Donald Trump does a little dance for soldiers after he finishes speaking at Fort Bragg on June 10.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW CRAFT/THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Trump visits, gives speech at Fort Bragg

Rachael Riley
Fayetteville Observer
USA TODAY NETWORK

FORT BRAGG — President Donald Trump told several thousand Fort Bragg soldiers, veterans and civilians that he will restore the Confederate names of seven Army installations, criminalize flag burning and he criticized leaders in California where immigrations raids have sparked widespread protests.

Trump spoke more than 50 minutes to the crowd June 10 at Fort Bragg's Pike



President Donald Trump arrives in Marine One at Fort Bragg to speak on June 10.

Field. The event was to commemorate the Army's 250th birthday later in the week.

Before arriving at the field, the president watched a capabilities exercise that included U.S. Army Special Operations Forces demonstrating seizing a building, heavy equipment drops and 593 paratroopers jumping from aircraft.

"That was a beautiful sight to celebrate with you at Fort Bragg," Trump

See **TRUMP**, Page 2A

Person and dog bitten by rabid fox in Dallas, N.C.

Kara Fohner
Gaston Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

A dog and a person were both bitten by a rabid fox in the Dallas area last week, according to Gaston County officials.

Gaston County Police Animal Care and Enforcement received a call on Thursday, June 5, at approximately 9:45 p.m. about the attack, which occurred on the 800 block of Alexis High Shoals Road.

The fox ran into the woods after the attack, and Animal Care and Enforcement workers could not find it. The person who was bitten received treatment at a local hospital the same evening, and the dog, which was current on its rabies vaccination, received a rabies booster shot on Friday morning.

On the evening of Friday, June 6, someone else, who lives in the same area, reported that a fox had attacked them. In that case, the fox bit the man's steel toe boot. He was not injured during the encounter, and no other pets were harmed. The man was able to capture the fox.

The fox was sent to the N.C. Laboratory of Public Health in Raleigh when the lab opened on Monday, June 9. The fox tested positive for rabies. Animal Care and Enforcement was notified Tuesday.

They completed a neighborhood canvass in the area of Alexis High Shoals Road to notify the community of the positive rabies results, and verify rabies vaccinations for family pets in the area.

The incident marks the ninth rabies case in Gaston County this year.

Local organizers still concerned as Gastonia discusses in-kind services

Chloe Collins
Gaston Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

EbonyFest Juneteenth Festival was recently absorbed by Gastonia and became a city-operated celebration.

While many advocates for this decision are celebrating, some are also hoping the conversation does not end there.

Finland Fair, an organizer for Highland Festival, said it would be very difficult to do the event this year if the current in-kind services policy remains in place.

Under the current policy, event organizers are required to pay for services like off-duty police officers at their events and the city covers the

event space.

Under the new policy, which went into effect at the beginning of the year, the cost to host the Highland Festival is around \$17,000, Fair said.

Councilwoman Cheryl Littlejohn, who represents Ward Four, said the Central City Revitalization and Housing / Community Engagement Committee is currently discussing two alternative options for the policy.

Both of those options include capping services. City spokeswoman Dandria Bradley said, "in both options, the city would give the 501c3 applicant up to a specified amount of support, and anything in excess of that amount would need to be paid for by the applicant."

Highland Festival typically takes



Becky White, with BJ's Grill, fries fish during the 34th Annual Highland Festival on July 15, 2023, outside the Erwin Center on North Pryor Street in Gastonia.

MIKE HENSILL/THE GASTON GAZETTE

place in July. Bradley said the two options are going back to the committee for further discussion in July and then to City Council sometime after.

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to gastongazette.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 130 | No. 138
To subscribe 704-869-1800
©2025 \$2.50

