A greater cause drives Crest baseball, softball title chases

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The Gaston Gazette

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Sipping and strolling at the historic Stowe

Plein air artist Nancy Winker paints as Stowe Manor opened its grounds for "Sip & Stroll at the Manor" on May 9 in Belmont. PHOTOS BY MIKE HENSDILL/GASTON GAZETTE

Owners of this Gaston manor give back to community by hosting event

Chloe Collins Gaston Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

On May 9, visitors strolled around Stowe Manor, getting an up-close look at the outdoor gardens, learning about the home's exterior restoration and shopping from local vendors. ● Proceeds from the event went to support the Gaston County Art Guild and the Historic Belmont Foundation. ● According to Wendy Hostetler, who purchased Stowe Manor with her husband in 2021, the couple grew up in Mount Holly with a deep admiration for the property and its history.

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Homeowners David and Wendy Hostetler pose together as Stowe Manor opened its grounds for "Sip & Stroll at the Manor" on May 9 in Belmont.

GASTON COLLEGE

More grants available to STEM students

Chloe Collins
Gaston Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gaston College and three other institutions recently received a $5 million multi-institutional grant from the National Science Foundation to expand the foundation's SPARC initiative, designed to support "academically talented students with financial need who are pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics."

The grant will provide scholarships and academic support to students across the partner institutions, according to a press release.

The award is Gaston College's fourth grant from the NSF specifically aimed at supporting the SPARC initiative

Students participating in the program will complete associate degrees at the chosen community colleges and will have the opportunity to transfer directly to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to pursue bachelor's degrees, the release said.

Each community college will award five to 10 scholarships annually. The first group of scholars will begin the program in fall 2026, around 120 students are expected to receive scholarship support over the course of the five-year project, according to the release.

The project will also be used to examine factors that influence successful transitions from community colleges to four-year universities.

Researchers will explore the ways in which mentoring relationships, social

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Surging fuel costs lift prices in April

Rachel Barber
USA TODAY

Americans already struggling with affordability saw prices rise again in April as surging oil costs stemming from the Iran war kept driving up prices at the gas pump and affected supply chains for other goods.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index, its measure of inflation, revealed prices rose 0.6% from March to April and were up 3.8% from a year ago. Those readings came in above forecasters' expectations and mark inflation's highest level in nearly three years.

A 5.4% rise in gas prices over the month again drove the increase, following a record 21.2% spike in March. Over the year, gas prices are up 28.4%.

"American households continue to feel the brunt of surging energy costs, adding to the deluge of inflation they have weathered since the pandemic,"

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Over the year, gas prices are up 28.4%. MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

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