
Engineering category, Caitlyn Leonard of Belmont Middle School placed first, followed by Owen Gorylof Belmont Middle School and Gaven Hoke of Navy Roberts and Aaron Hollis of Grier Middle School. The following students received the Navy Science Award: Marlow Morris of Stanley Middle School and Elijah Hartman of Belmont Middle School.

11. The Gaston Regional Science and Engineering Fair elementary awards were presented over two days. On the first day of the event, Jax Jenkins and Connor Pursley of North Belmont Elementary were the overall winners. Schafer Nunn, Anderson Hammond, and Karson McDonald of McAdenville Elementary placed first in the Biological Sciences category; Jameson Patterson of Tryon Elementary placed second, and Audrey Sullivan of W.B. Beam Intermediate placed third. In the Chemistry category, Artemis Shuford of W.B. Beam Intermediate placed first; Sydney Huffstetler of Catawba Heights Elementary placed second; and Breonna Nelson of Gardner Park Elementary placed third. In the Earth and Environmental Sciences category, Ava Satterfield, Madison Bell, Ryleigh McLean, Mason Melton, and Bethany Lazenby of Chapel Grove Elementary placed first; Luke Parton and Gabriel Parton of McAdenville Elementary placed second; and Addyson Powers of Catawba Heights Elementary placed third. In the Physics and Mathematics category, Landon Satterfield, Duane Byers, Aidan Rhoten, Marek Chase, Nolan Barber, and Addilynn Brannon of Chapel Grove Elementary placed first; Sky Youmans of Catawba Heights Elementary placed second, and Annie Glover, Myles Glenn, and Ne, f 0.00(cat)-6 (e(4 Tc 0.004 T

13. Zaxby's presented "Big Zax Snak Meal" gift cards to the school and ~~central~~

25. Bessemer City High School football coach Shane Show was named the Southern Piedmont 1A/2A Coach of the Year.

26. Carr Elementary students created ornaments, crafted button trees, and illustrated Christmas scenes on wooden discs that were used in the garland at the historic Dallas Square gazebo. Teachers Elizabeth Perkins and Angela Newton assisted in the

35. The East Gaston High School Tri-M Music Society performed Christmas carols for the residents of Stanley Total Living.
36. The East Gaston High School cheerleading team placed second at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association championship in the Varsity Game Day Medium/Large D2 category.
37. Forestview High School senior Ford Poag was selected to participate in the UNC Charlotte Honors Band.
38. LifeShare Carolinas visited Forestview High School Health Science II class to educate students about organ donation and transplantation. The students enjoyed learning about the donation process and participated in an exciting, hands-on opportunity to examine human organs, including the liver, lungs, and kidneys.
39. The W.C. Friday Middle School band participated in the annual McAdenville tree lighting ceremony on December 2. Band director Cindy Owens was honored for her faithful 10 years of providing holiday music for the event with her band students. Owens was recognized by Pharr McAdenville Corporation with flowers and an introduction that highlighted her contributions to the event over the years. Additionally, Pharr made a donation of \$200 to the band program.
40. W.C. Friday Middle School in collaboration with the Project Unify Club, hosted the Special Olympics of Gaston County Young Athletes Day. Special recognition goes to Angela Collett, exceptional children classroom teacher and department chair, as well as physical education teachers Amy Brown and Jake McDaniel for their efforts in making the event a success.
41. Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences students Sadie Morton and Autumn Queen are both UNC-Chapel Hill Morehead-Cain Scholarship semifinalists.
42. The following Gaston Early College High School of Medical Sciences students earned a perfect score on the PACT: Libby Carter and Cooper Hamrick in science and Sophie Hoerst in science, reading, and STEM.
43. Gaston Early College High School of Medical Sciences senior Andrea Padilla is a semifinalist for the Tucker Scholarship at Gardner-Webb University. The Tucker Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength Scholarship is a full-tuition and room and board scholarship that is awarded to one high school student who exemplifies the principles and values of the Gardner-Webb community.
44. Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences sophomore Mariam Raja participated in the PATCH Regional Program, which is a pathway initiative designed for high school students from underrepresented backgrounds. The program offers exposure to various health professions and is a collaboration between Atrium Health Medical Education, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, and Workforce Development.

45. Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences sophomore Jayleigh Whisnant was selected to participate in the Wake Forest Summer Immersion Program. This summer, she will spend a week at Wake Forest, gaining hands-on experience in the medical field and exploring various career opportunities. During the program, she will visit healthcare facilities, participate in simulations and labs, and learn essential skills such as taking blood pressure and suturing.
46. National Honor Society students at Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences made blankets for patients at the CarolMont Health Cancer Center.
47. The Highland School of Technology student council hosted a canned food and non-perishable food collection drive to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank, Crisis Assistance Ministry, and Cancer Services of Gaston County.
48. Nineteen Highland School of Technology HOSA members attended the Regional Learning Conference in Shelby. Menaal Shaikh placed first in Health Informatics; Zuha Shaikh placed first in Health Career Photography; Katie Fangman and Joshua Mendozap placed second in Dental Science; and Abigail Anderson placed third in Dental Terminology.
49. Madison Darnell of Highland School of Technology was named to the 2024 North Carolina High School Tennis Coaches Association's state team.
50. Madison Thompson and Alise Mayers of Highland School of Technology were named to the North Carolina Volleyball Coaches Association's state team.
51. The Hunter Huss High School cafeteria staff earned a score of 100 on its sanitation inspection.
52. Kiser Elementary collected more than 2,200 non-perishable food items for the Webb Street School "One Can Make A Difference" food pantry.
53. The Lingerfeldt Elementary School cafeteria staff earned a score of 100 on its sanitation inspection.
54. Students in the Leadership Academy at North Gaston High School collected 245 toys for children in Burnsville, N.C., who were impacted by Hurricane Helene.
55. The North Gaston High School FCA club packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thanks to the incredible generosity of students, staff, and community families, the school assembled 50 boxes to spread joy to children around the world for the holiday season.
56. North Gaston High School teacher Kyle Haywood has been selected to serve as a side judge in one of the four North Carolina High School Athletic Association state football championships.
57. Logan McKnight, Ruby Ruiz-Vargas, Mikaili Small, and Ronald Tovilla-Pablo of North Gaston High School were selected to participate in the UNC Charlotte

Invitational Honor Band Clinic. Logan and Ruby earned first chair positions in the top band, while Ronald earned third chair in the same band. Additionally, the North Gaston High School Marching Wildcats performed at the annual Carols on the Square event in Dallas on Friday, December 6. Several band members are also playing for the Christmas Eve services at City Church in Gastonia.

58. Pinewood Elementary received a \$25,000 donation from National Gypsum company. The check presentation ceremony featured a performance by the school's fifth grade show choir.
59. The Pinewood Elementary cafeteria staff earned a score of 100 on its sanitation inspection.
60. South Point High School senior Asher Dover is a semifinalist for the UNC Chapel Hill Morehead-Cain Scholarship.
61. South Point High School senior James Dover, who is the recipient of the Calvin Coolidge Scholarship, attended the 2024 Winter Gala in New York City and was able to spend time with writer George Will.
62. The South Point High School marching band received several awards at recent competitions. At the North Lincoln Roundtable Tournament of Bands, the band took home the Class 1A first place band award, as well as first place in music performance, visual performance, and general effect. They also earned second place in colorguard and first place in percussion. At the North Gaston Wildcat Invitational, the band continued its success with the Class 1A first place band award and first place in music performance, visual performance, general effect, drum major, and percussion, along with the CJ Hill Prop/Pit Crew Award. Additionally, they secured second place in colorguard. At the Porter Ridge High School Pirates' Cove Classic, the band achieved the Class 1A second place band award, third place in music performance, second place in visual performance, general effect, colorguard, and percussion, and first place for drum major.
63. The South Point High School cheerleading team placed first in the Super D1 category at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state cheerleading championship. They also placed first in the Super Varsity Division at the UCA Piedmont Prestate Competition at Cox Mill High School and the Mav Classic at Marvin Ridge High School.
64. The South Point High School Environmental Club in partnership with Keep Belmont Beautiful cleaned up areas in and around Belmont.
65. The Tryon Elementary student council organized a canned food collection drive, collecting more than 1,300 cans for the Webb Street School "One Can Make A Difference" food pantry.
66. The Webb Street School cafeteria staff earned a 100 sanitation rating.