THE 18TH RIDING

Actos-Copic Friday, September 15, 2006

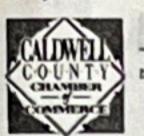
The man and his mountain

ugh MacRae Morton Sr., and Grandfather Mountain are Ltwo legends that will always be remembered together. To our extreme sadness, the world lost Mr. Morton this year, but his legacy will live on as long as his beloved mountain.

He was not only a nationallyrenowned photographer, but also a tireless custodian of the environment. He was a man who stood up to the National Park Service and said, "No." That simple "no" led to the creation of one of the most photographed and amazing spots of the Blue Ridge Parkway - the Linn Cove Viaduct. He was a shining star, kind and caring.

His love of all things living brought Mildred the Bear to Grandfather Mountain and opened up a whole new world of education for all who visit the animal habitats. If not for Mr. Morton, the Bridge to Bridge would not exist. Sounds like an insignificant detail in the history of Grandfather Mountain, but Mr. Morton was always at the summit to greet the first finisher with his camera. Mr. Morton's love of Grandfather Mountain was also evident in his son, Hugh MacRae Morton Jr., and now in his grandson,

The Man and His Mountain In memory of Hugh MacRae Morton, Sr.









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Unifour Trail Bike Club

See MORTON | 11

Rider Profiles: Caldwell County residents

	No.	Name	Sex	Age	City	ST	
	14	Robert Allen Annas	М	26	Granite Falls	NC	
	301	Dale Hamby	М	44	Granite Falls	NC	
2000	13	Mark Annas	M	47	Granite Falls	NC	
	165	Jason Crawford	M	38	Granite Falls	NC	
2000	481	Edmund W. Mangan	M	57	Granite Falls	NC	
	628	Wayne Rash	M	33	Hudson	NC	
	442	Lanny Lambert	M	47	Hudson	NC	
	629	Arlen Roy Rash	M	36	Hudson	NC	
I	434	Nathan Kohring	M	40	Hudson	NC	
ı	579	Tommy Lee Page	M	31	Hudson	NC	
ı	497	Michael J. McClinton	M	48	Lenoir	NC	
ı	806	Waters S. Waters	M	34	Lenoir	NC	
l	515	John McMenemy	M	39	Lenoir	NC	
ı	85	David Coulter Brown	M	42	Lenoir	NC	
	7	Ron Jackson	M	24	Lenoir	NC	
	686	Wyatt Seals	M	44	Lenoir	NC	

No.	Name	Sex	Age	City	ST	
762	Troy E. Tomlinson	М	35	Lenoir	NC	
36	Randal Bast	М	40	Lenoir	NC	
279	Rob Goodwin	М	37	Lenoir	NC	
345	Mark J. Hites	М	48	Lenoir	NC	
568	Marshall J. Nord	M	40	Lenoir	NC	
34	Richard M. Barlowe	М	49	Lenoir	NC	
289	William Scott Grogan	М	32	Lenoir	NC	
470	Travis Lowe	M	30	Lenoir	NC	
215	Maxwell Kincaid Dyer	M	30	Lenoir	NC	
336	Charles Daniel Hicks	M	30	Lenoir	NC	
615	John David Powell	M	40	Lenoir	NC	
173	Robert M. Dacus IV	M	41	Lenoir	NC	
234	Jimmy Farr	M	38	Lenoir	NC	
535	Monty R. Minton	М	51	Lenoir	NC	
(No females from Caldwell County registered)						

BRIDGE TO BRIDGE: ELEVATION Elevation The 101 mile route will take 5,200 ft Finish Line: cyclists up and down more Grandfather Mtn. than 9,800 total feet, the Elevation: 6150 ft lowest point being 1,130ft and the highest 5,150ft. 4,500 3,800 Turn onto Blue Ridge Parkway Elevation: 3500 AS 10, 11 3,100 Eastern Continental Divide Start: Lenoir Elevation: 3900 f Main St. Elevation: 1250 ft 2,400 Left on to Taylorsville Rd Elevation: 1400 ft 1,700 Right on to 1,000 10 miles 20 miles 30 miles 40 miles 50 miles 60 miles 70 miles 80 miles 90 miles 100 miles

Best of luck! 2006 Bridge To Bridge Riders

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Best of Luck!



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Route change, expo highlight 2006

Joshua Harris Local News Editor jharris@newstopic.net

The route is a bit different. The Saturday expo will be a bit bigger. But the cyclists still will have to cover more than 100 miles this Sunday from the foothills of Caldwell County to the top of Grandfather Mountain to complete the Bridge to Bridge Incredible Challenge.

The distance is 101.8 miles to be exact, said Cathy Rhuberg, Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce program director. The course is different this year because of construction on the Blue Ridge Parkway that cut eight miles off the ride. But Rhuberg said a four-mile and a three-mile section were added to extend the ride beyond 100 miles.

Riders also will experience a change Saturday during the "pasta feed" expo. In addition to the free spaghetti dinner, riders will be able to enjoy live music in the courtyard behind Hog Waller Marketplace in downtown Lenoir and browse merchandise from several new vendors,

SEE PAGE 12 FOR NEW ROUTE-MAP

Rhuberg said.

"The courtyard was poured last night," Rhuberg said on Sept. 8. "That's ready to go."

Downtown business owners worked hard to prepare for the event, and Rhuberg said she appreciated all the effort.

"We have had great reception from the merchants," Rhuberg said. "They are very proactive in helping make (the ride) work.

"We are very proud of the merchants of Lenoir."

Hog Waller Development Program Director Monte Willis said the company has put in extra hour to complete the court yard.

"We did step it up to get ready for Bridge to Bridge registration," Willis said.

Willis said she, other business owners and government staff want local and out-of-county residents to see the changes being made in downtown.

"It's completely different," Willis

2006 Bridge to Bridge Aid Stations

Following is a list of Bridge to Bridge aid station locations with the approximate opening and closing times. Spectators are encouraged to stop by the stations and cheer for or talk with cyclists.

Aid Statio	n Location	Race mileage	Open	Close
No. 1	Start of ride	0.0 m	6 am	7 am
No. 2	Oak Hill Underground	30.5 m	7:20 am	9:45 am
No. 3	American Legion	39.2 m	8 am	10:15 am
No. 4	The Bluffs Entrance	50.3 m	8:15 am	11 am
No. 5	Near Steele Creek Park	59 m	8:45 am	Noon
No. 6	11 miles to Parkway sign	63 m	9 am	12:15 pm
No. 7	Brown Mtn. Overlook	65.9 m	9:15 am	1 pm
No. 8	Cool Springs Lodge	68.6 m	9:30 am	2 pm
No. 9	Grandmother Mtn Overlook	k 78.5 m	10 am	2:15 pm
No. 10	Eastern Continental Divide	90.8 m	10:15 am	3:30 pm
No. 11	U.S. 221 picnic area	96 m	10:30 am	4 pm
No. 12	U.S. 221 picnic area	99 m	11 am	4 pm
No. 13	Grandfather Summit	101.8 m	11 am	5:30 pm

said. "It looks so nice, and we want people to be proud of our town."

The public is invited to the expo from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday to check out the vendors and listen to the music. But the spaghetti dinner from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. is for riders

Rhuberg said 850 people signed up for the ride, and this year's challenge filled up quicker than ever. The Blue Ridge Parkway actually allows only 750 riders, but Rhuberg said many riders don't make it to the Parkway.

Riders who need a break can

stop at the aid stations along the route for something to drink, a snack or just a quick rest. Rhuberg said local residents can drive to and stop at the stations to cheer riders or just to talk to cyclists who need a break.

"The riders love the people at the aid stations," Rhuberg said. "(The spectators) don't have to stay and work."

Riders also love seeing friends made during past rides, and Mark Hites said that's just one reason he keeps taking on the Bridge to Bridge.

"It's also a fun ride, and there is a lot of camaraderie," Hites said.

Hites works at Greer Labs and moved from Phoenix to Caldwell County 10 years ago. This will be his sixth or seventh ride, he said.

"To me, there is nothing like being in a big pack of riders," Hites said. "It's an amazing feeling, especially when you are in the big pack."

When riders get to N.C. 181, that pack starts to thin and inexperienced or untrained riders may fall

See ROUTE | 11

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How I geared up for my first ride

It's only a matter of days before the long wait is finally over.

After a year of dedicated training,
I am ready for my first crack at the
Bridge to Bridge Incredible
Challenge.

Many know the ride as "100 Miles of Pure Hill," but others may replace that "i" in hill with a totally different vowel. For me it will be pure joy, and I look forward to every mile.

Many people have asked me, "Are you ready?" The answer is simple: "If I am not ready now, I never will be."

By no means will it be an easy task, but my rigorous training schedule has made sure that I am battle-tested and up for the challenge. For those who will miss out on this year's cycling extravaganza but wish to give it a try in 2007, I have a few tips that may be helpful.

If you never have attempted a long ride, start out slow.

I started out last year riding 20 or 30 miles three to five times a week and gradually increased the work load. Over the summer I was able to work up to riding six days a week. Each ride ranged from 40 to 80 miles, and I did have the occasional 100-miler. Despite the distance, I always avoided the hottest times of the day and made sure I had plenty of water. You want to have about 32 ounces for every hour.

Once you become more acclimated to long rides, step up the mileage and number of days you ride. The only way to improve is to ride more, and the more you ride the better you will get. If weather is ever a problem and you still want to give it a go, invest in a trainer or use a stationary bike at the gym.

While it is important to work

hard, do remember to schedule recovery days and periods of complete rest. You don't want to overdo it.

Another tip is to not always fly solo. Group rides are great for conserving energy and riding at a set tempo, and you may just learn something from your fellow cyclists.

When training, keep in mind that Bridge to Bridge involves a lot of elevation change. Some of the route has hills with very steep grades, especially N.C. 181 and the switchbacks leading to the peak of Grandfather Mountain.

Just like riding in general, the more you do the better you will perform. So, the only way to improve your ability to conquer the hills and mountains is to incorporate that type of terrain into your training regimen. Even pushing yourself that extra inch in the rolling hills and flat areas can boost your stamina and power, which are key in surviving the long climbs.

OK, you now know what you are getting into and even if you are ready to put in the time, there still are two important things to remember.

No matter how hard you are willing to train, you must maintain your bike and keep your body fueled.

Even if you have the world's fastest bike, it won't matter if the engine is not taken care of.

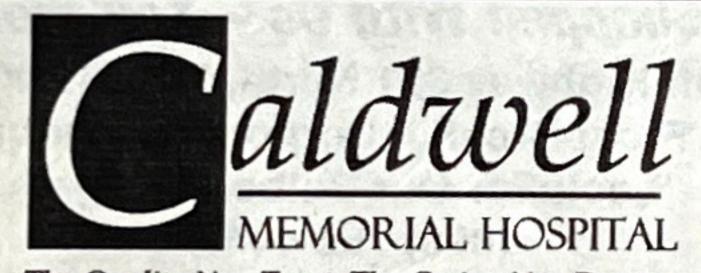
Cycling has great potential to burn thousands of calories over a

Ron's Riding Tips

- Train, train, train ... most professional riders train by riding 4-6 times a week.
- Start off slow to maintain your energy and set a good tempo.
- Avoid the hottest times of the day and year.
- Have plenty of water, about 32 ounces for every hour.
- Schedule recovery days after long rides.
- Be aware of elevation changes and adjust accordingly.
- When you can, ride with a group. Group rides are great for conserving energy and keeping a good tempo.
- Maintain your body and bike; eat healthy to keep up your energy and get regular bike tune-ups.
- · Finally, train, train, train

long ride. During a 70-mile race back in August I burned off nearly 3,500 calories, and the course was not as hilly as Bridge to Bridge. Be sure to eat plenty of food and make sure it includes quality carbohydrates, protein and fat. You want your calories to be about 60 to 70 percent carbs, 20 to 30 percent from protein and 10 to 20 percent from fat. Also be sure to pack an energy bar or two, or use an energy gel when riding hard for more than an hour. Energy bars can be

See RIDING TIPS | 11



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Rider Profiles: Miscellaneous

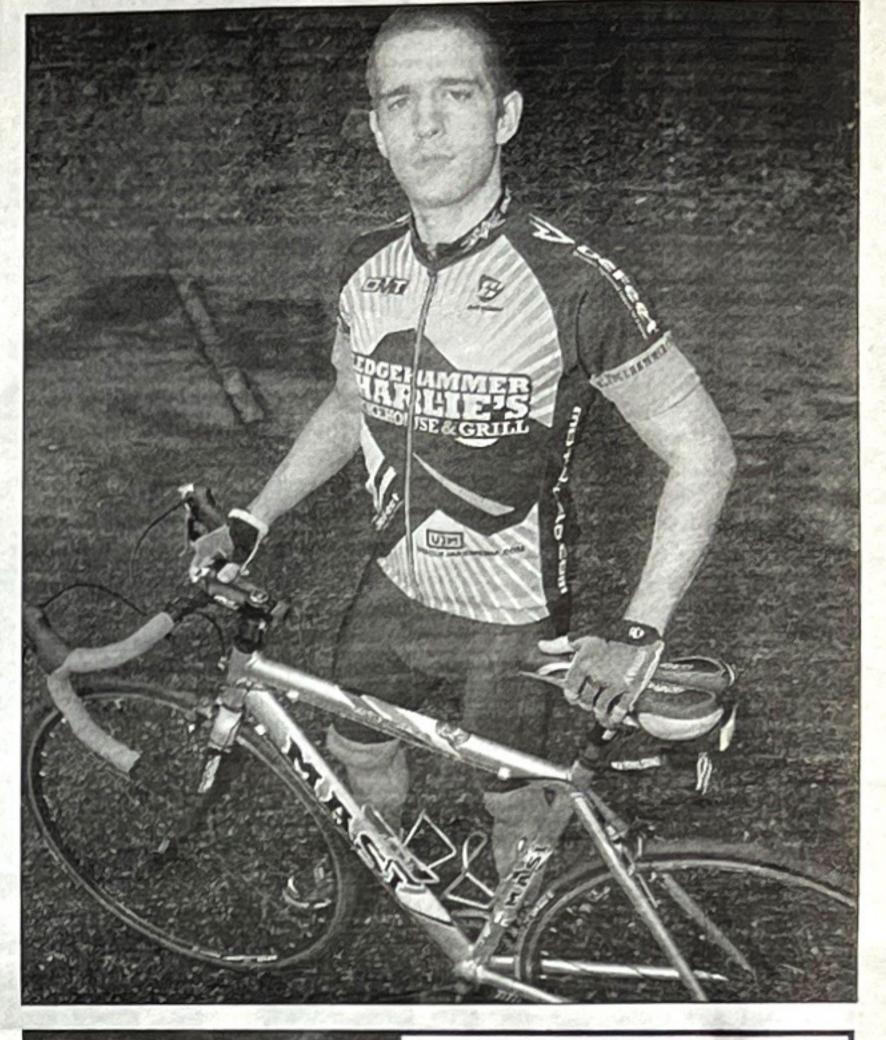
- Rider ages range from 15 to
 72 in 2006
- 8.879% female riders
- Oldest female rider: 57
- Youngest: Bridgette McLean,
 15 (Boone, NC)
- 30 riders are from Caldwell
 County
- 61% of the riders are from North Carolina

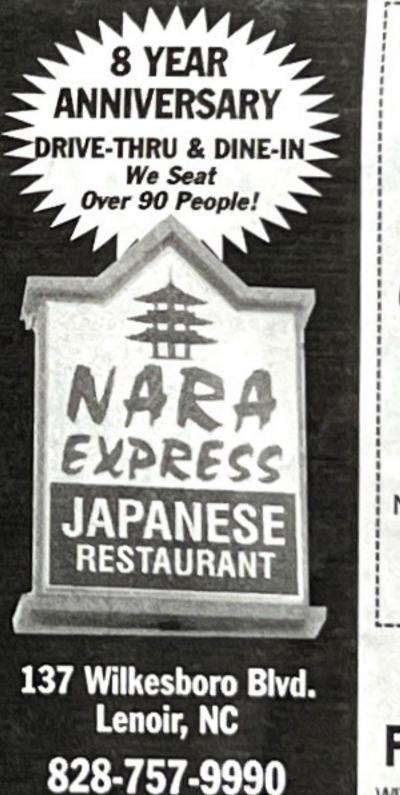


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GREGG FLOYD | NEWS-TOPIC

Co-owner of Luna Cycle Jeff Welch tunes the tires on a bike getting it ready for the 2006 Bridge to Bridge Incredible Challenge.

Filling a niche

Luna Cycles stays busy with the growing number of cyclists in Caldwell County

Ron Jackson Staff Writer rjackson@newstopic.net

Since the inception of the Bridge to Bridge Incredible Challenge, both the ride and the cycling community have grown tremendously in Caldwell County.

During the previous Bridge to Bridge event, local cyclists and those from abroad had Yellow Dog to look to for their cycling needs, but the bike shop changed into a fitness studio, leaving a need for a new local shop.

In late April, Shawn Moore and Jeff Welch opened a new bike shop in downtown Lenoir in hopes of filling that void, and Luna Cycles was born.

"We felt there was a niche to be filled," Welch said. "We felt the area was going to grow and there would be a need. We felt there was going to be growth in outdoor activity, and we wanted to be on the ground floor for that."

Luna Cycles will play a pivotal role in Saturday's pre-ride festivities.

The plaza located on Church Street, which is in front of the bike shop, will host a cycling expo starting at 1 p.m.

Welch said the expo will give cyclists and others in the community an opportunity to see the latest products as well as relax and socialize with others while enjoying live music. He said the shop will be open for any last-minute needs such as tire tubes and nutritional products.

Welch and Moore are not Caldwell County natives. The Luna Cycle co-owners have known each other since the late 1980s. Moore said both he and Welch worked in the same shop in Flagstaff, Ariz., before he moved to Caldwell County four years ago to teach.

Welch said he moved to Caldwell County about 15 months ago. He said he was attracted to the area after visiting Moore on business trips. He said he thought the area was perfect for road riding, and the real estate prices were much lower.

Luna Cycles is more than just a bike shop. It also serves as a hub for advice and a meeting place for group bike rides. The cycling community still continues to mature in Caldwell County, but things were completely different in Flagstaff. Moore said

See LUNA | 11









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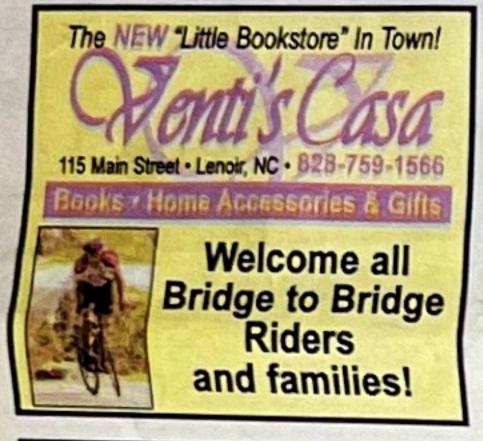
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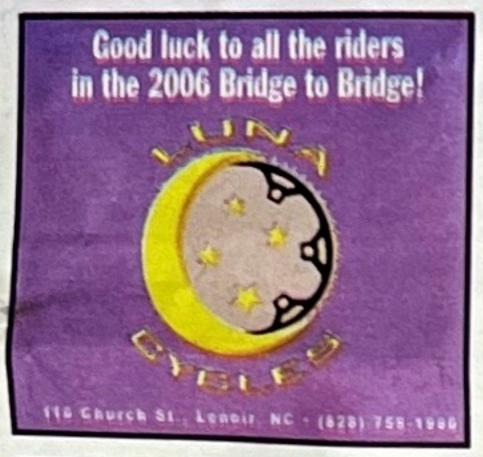


Bridge to Bridge Incredible Challenge Parking & Info Map

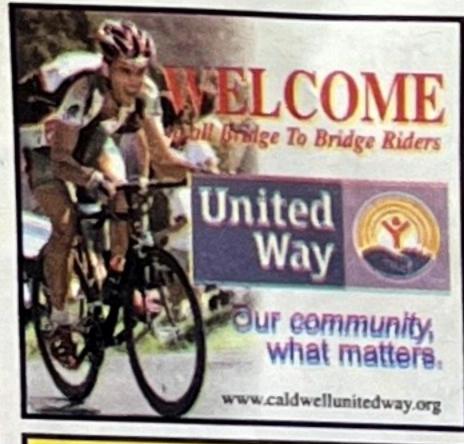
Live Music throughout the day.

Willis and the Phillis will perform from
1 until 3 p.m. and
The Neighbors will perform from 3 until 5 p.m.











Lenoir, NC

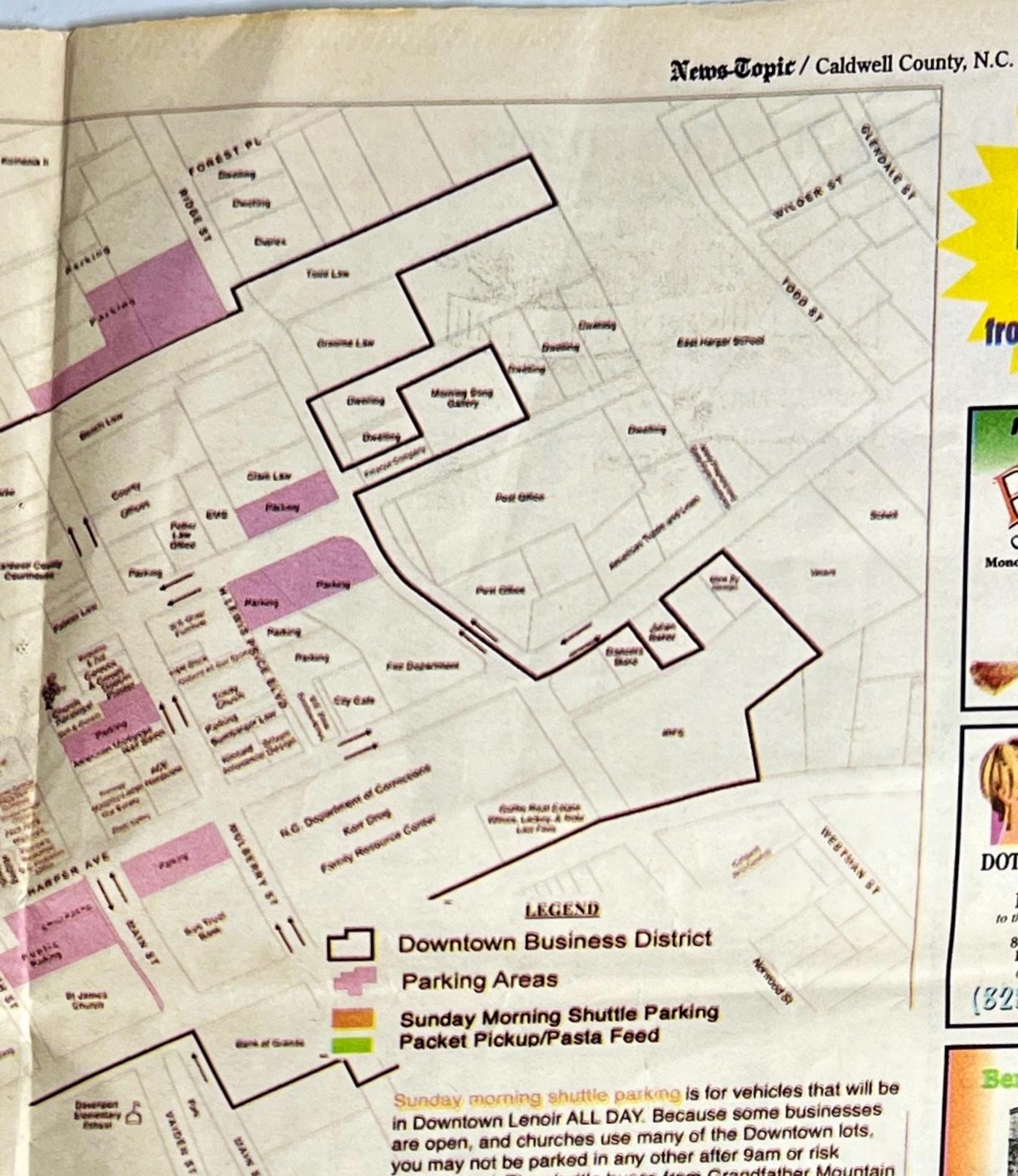


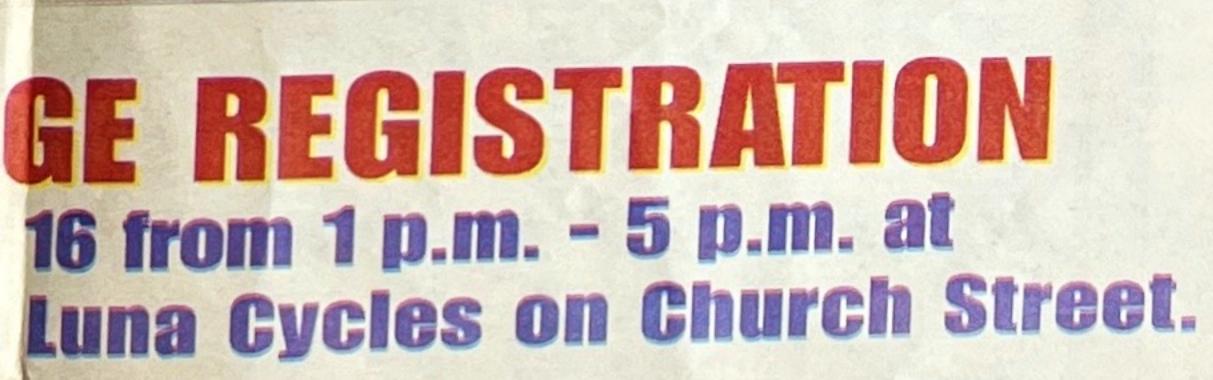


BRIDGE TO BRIDG

is Saturday, September 16 HogWaller Courtyard beside L

Take advantage of these Lenoir Mer





being towed. The shuttle buses from Grandfather Mountain

will return you and your bike to the lot marking in orange.

Saturday packet pickup is from 1 until 5pm in the

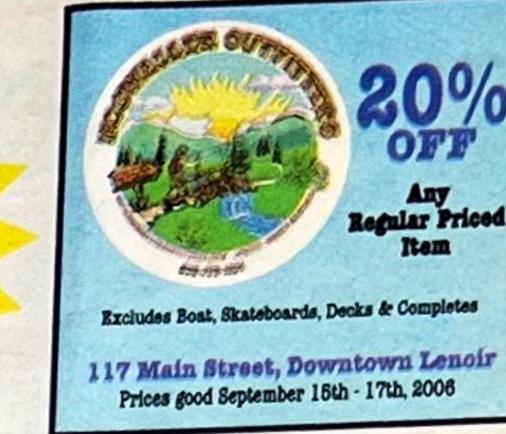
Pasta Feed is from 4 until 6pm in the same area.

Courtyard marked in green on the map.

MANUAL SINGLAND OF THE COUNTY OF THE PARTY O

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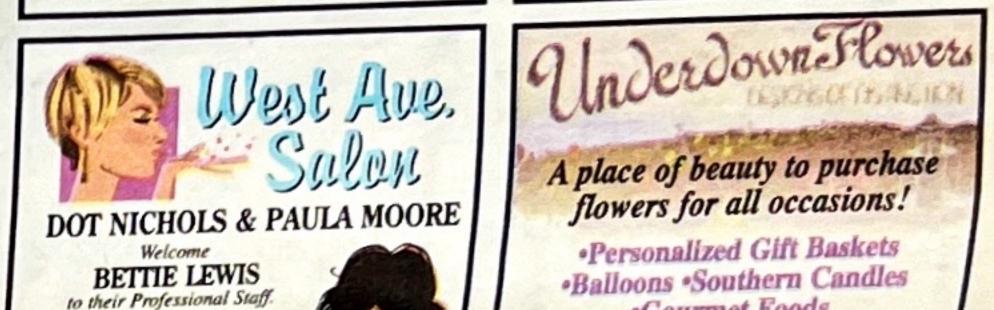






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2006 BRIDGE-TO-BRIDGE RIDER ROSTER

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2006 BRIDGE-TO-BRIDGE RIDER ROSTER

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Rider	# First	Last		M/F	Ann	City	
738	Roger Alan	Stewart		M	Age 56	Lugoff	
739 740	Brent Anthor	y Stine		M	46	Hickory	
741	Michael John Paul Michael		d	M	51 34	Carthage Morganton	
742	Michael Rich	ard Svatek		M	46	Safety Hart	oor
743 744	Bill Class Bosses	Sweene	y	M	47	Anderson	
745	Clive Roger	Sweene	y n	M	58 36	Durham Apex	
746	Doug	Tart		M	57	Lakeland	
747 748	John Tyler John S.	Tatum		M	31	Alpharetta Lewisville	
749	Ed Ed	Taylor Taylor		M	42 65	Elizabeth C	itv
750	Michael Edw	ard Taylor		M	31	Raleigh	
751 752	Avery Peter	Telligmai Tempest	n		28 63	Winston-Sa Virginia Bea	
753	Sally	Tempest			29	Virginia Bea	ich
754	Glenn	Thaller		M	46	Burlington	
755 756	Christopher I	Thomas Thomas			37 34	Stony Point Chapel Hill	
757	Paul Lee	Thomas	II	M	45	Moore	
758	Anne Jones	Thompson			47 52	Blacksburg Vesuvius	
60	Kevin Wood	Thornton			39	Richmond	
61	Scott Lynn	Titlow	A	M	47	West Liberty	Y
62	Troy Edward	Tomsky			35 59	Lenoir Asheville	
64	Lars K	Tonneser			39	Charlotte	
65	Steven Lee	Trantham		M	17	Fletcher	
66 67	Alan Troy Linford	Tripp Trotter	1		26	Greenville Winston-Sal	lem
68	Gary Michael	Troup		M S	59	Burlington	
69	Stephanie D.	Truell			10	Thomasville	
70	Zorda John	Tucker Turbek			31	Salisbury Georgetown	Santa.
72	Cheyne	Turbyfill	1	M 3	30	Elk Park	
5	Peter Smith Randall Dwain	Turk			17	Charlotte Conover	
6	Suzanne	Unger	F	3	14	Durham	
7	Michael Bill	Valenti	N	1 4	2	Clinton	
8	Elliot	Van Every Van Patter	n A			Valle Crucis Wake Forest	
	Scott J Wilmar Omar	Vanek	A	1 3	5	Kennesaw	
	John R	Vargas Chi Vaughan	aparro M	1 2	8	Greenville High Point	
	Ramon Casey	Vazquez	N	1 2	5	Cornelia	
	Mark	Vedder Verwoerdt	N			Mt. Airy Chicago	
	Christopher Kevin W	Verwoerdt	M	4	0 1	Winston Sak	m
	Mark	Viars Vinette	M			Draper Bethesda	
	Chris Gary D	Voeller	M	36	3 [Denver	
	David	Vogin Vreeland	M	43		Atlanta Vilmington	
	Mike Bruce form	Wachtel Wade	M	47	'	ary	
A	Ingie	Wade	M	58		sonville Bear	oh
I	rond Kydd	Waemess	M	38	A	pex	
S	iteve D	Wagoner Wagoner	M	53	A	Moore Toole	
T	racie	Walker	F	26	C	ary	
S	teve	Walker Walker	M	58 37	C	ary	
T	odd	Wallace	M	43	C	hapel Hill	
	Shaun D Ceith	Walter Walter	M	39	N	tyrtie-Beach	
	leff Walthew Georg	ge Walthew Wartski	M	45	L	yman	
-	Waters Shawn	Waters	M	34	L	taleigh	
	Amanda Steven	Watkins Watkins	F	35 38		harlotte	
	Bill	Watkins	M	34		harlotte lorth Wilkesh	oro
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	Jerry Neal	Webb	M	51	D	anville	327
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	Robert	Wells	M	36	S	pringfield	
	Jane Richard Dennis	West White	F	41 52		anahan	
	Steve	White	M	36		partanburg	1
	Jon E. Jim	White White	M	35	C	onnelly Sprin	gs N
	John Rae	White	M	48 58		panoke ashville	Y
	Jimmy Michael	White	M	51	G	affney	S
	Randy Geoffrey E.	Whitt Wile	M	59 38		narlotte inston-Salem	N
1	Kari S	Wilkinson	F	45	Me	bane	N
	Rusty	Williams	M	39		arlotte	N
	Daniel Burke	Williams Williams	M	23 26		rham leigh	N
5	Steve	Williams	M	57	Mu	rfreesboro	T
	Debra Clint L	Williams Williams	F	47		ndersonville	NI
	Aark	Willis	M	37		morest arlotte	G/ NO
C	ireg Pigman	Wilson	M	39	Ger	mantown	NO
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FROM PAGE 3 ROUTE

back, he said. But, that's no reason to get discouraged, Hites said.

"If you have gone 60, 80, 90 miles, that's something to be proud of," Hites said.

His advice for riders is to keep eating and drinking through the ride.

Of course, riders will be eating Saturday and Sunday morning to stock up on carbs, and Rhuberg said that's one of the positive economic impacts of the event.

Local restaurants will be busy Saturday night, Sunday morning and perhaps Sunday evening, Rhuberg said.

"And there is a car show in Lenoir, and we expect a lot (of riders) will hang around for that," she said.

Several restaurants will be open extended hours Saturday and bright and early Sunday for the riders and spectators.

Java Joe's staff will open the doors on Main Street at 5:30 a.m. Sunday, according to, information from Rhuberg. Kamrons Lunch Box,

also on Main Street, and the new Our Place Restaurant, located at 813 West Ave., will open Sunday at 6 a.m.

Riders will start the ride at 7 a.m. at the intersection of Main Street and West Avenue. Parking is available for spectators at several municipal lots for people who want to cheer during the sendoff.

"It is fabulous," Rhuberg said about the start.

By about 7:10 a.m., the riders will pass McDonald's.

"From about 7:15 to 7:45 a.m. they'll be on U.S. 321-A in Whitnel all the way down to Granite Falls," Rhuberg said. "That will be a really nice area to watch. They'll be coming through there in the hundreds."

By 9:30 a.m. or 10 a.m., the cyclists will come back through Smith Crossroads around 9:30 a.m. or 10 a.m. and head back through downtown past the post office.

"They'll start getting (to NC 181) by 10 a.m., but they start spreading out," Rhuberg said.

FROM PAGE 5

LUNA

Flagstaff had a very well-established cycling community. He said his goal is to bring more people together and build that kind of cycling community here.

"I think we are trying to bring a sense of community," Moore said. "Where we come from cycling had its own culture and sense of community. I wanted to bring that here. We want people to feel comfortable coming in, and we don't want people to feel like they have to buy something every time they are here. We want this to be a place where people can come hang out and learn from others."

Troy Tomlinson is one of several local cyclists who frequents the shop. He said Luna Cycles is a very valuable asset to the cycling community because it offers services that cannot be found anywhere else in Caldwell County.

"Knowledge and service. Those are the biggest and most important things," Tomlinson said. "You can't go to Wal-Mart and ask them about a bicycle."

In addition to bringing more cyclists together, Welch said he would like to see the entire community become more aware of cycling and the presence of more bikes on the road.

"I'd like to see more awareness," Welch said. "As Caldwell County continues to grow and become more popular (to cyclists), more people will need to come to the realization that many people will move to the area. This is a great community. The people are thoughtful and considerate in this area."

FROM PAGE 4

RIDING TIPS

found about anywhere, and gels can be found at nearly every bike shop.

I have forced myself to adhere to a pretty strict diet, but you don't have to be too strict as long as you are getting enough calories and carbs to avoid the dreaded bonk. I've been there before, and there is no feeling worse than being completely sapped out in the middle of nowhere with at least 15 miles to

Bike maintenance is crucial in preventing mechanical failure. Be sure that all parts are secure; gears shift smoothly; the chain is adequately lubricated; and tires are inflated properly. The guys at Luna Cycles are far more well-versed in mechanical expertise, and they can answer any mechanical questions and give pointers to help you get the most out of your road machine. And do leave the

mechanical work to the experts. Trying to perform your own tuneup work can make things worse.

Well, there are just a few tips to help get ready for the open road. Wish me luck.

Ron Jackson is a reporter at the News-Topic, a former wrestler at Appalachian State University and an amateur cyclist.

FROM PAGE 2 **MORTON**

Hugh MacRae Morton III. As the third generation Hugh Morton takes control of the Mountain, I can assure you that Grandfather is in good hands.

As you cross the finish line at the summit of Grandfather on Sunday, you likely will see Hugh MacRae Morton III, known as Crae, working alongside the rest of us to make the Bridge to Bridge one of the best rides in the country, just as his grandfather did.

Cathy Rhuberg is program director for the Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce.



Welcome Bridge To Bridge Riders!

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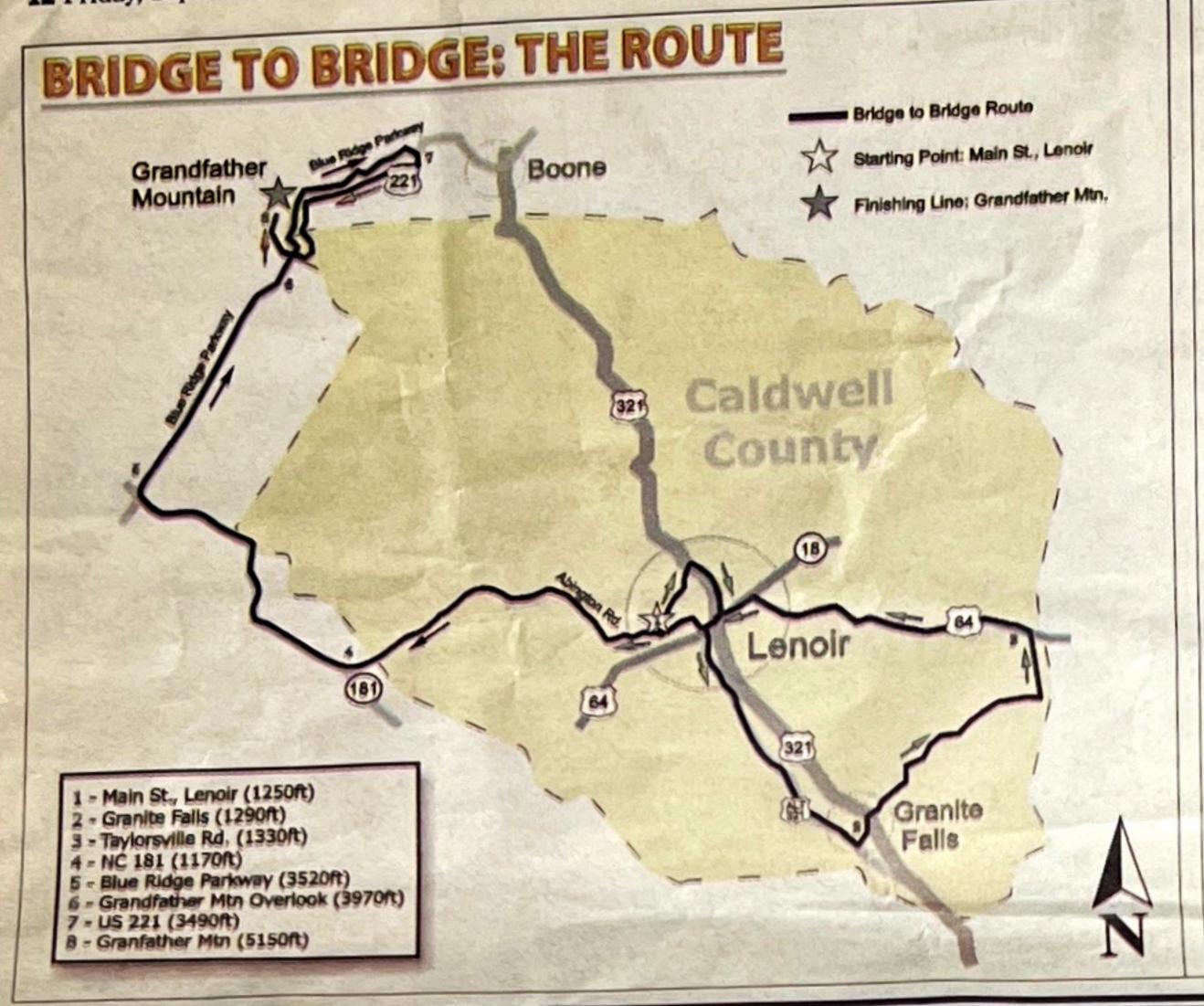
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Rider Profile: Locations

Riders from 30 states are represented, plus Canada and Denmark

State	No.	Pct.
North Carolina	546	60.94
South Carolina	76	8.48
Virginia	66	7.37
Georgia	49	5.47
Florida	43	4.80
Tennessee	34	3.79
Ohio	14	1.56
Pennsylvania	8	0.89
Maryland	7	0.78
Illinois	6	0.67
New York	5	0.56
Colorado	4	0.45
Missouri	4	0.45
Alabama	3	0.33
Arkansas	3	0.33
California	3	0.33
Indiana	3	0.33
Massachusetts	3	0.33
Michigan	3	0.33
West Virginia	3	0.33
Kentucky	2	0.22
New Jersey	2	0.22
Wisconsin	2	0.22
Delaware	1	0.11
Minnesota	1	0.11
Montana	1	0.11
New Hampshire	1	0.11
Oregon	1	0.11
Utah	1	0.11
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Thank You

to all the riders and volunteers that help make the Bridge to Bridge an Incredible Event!



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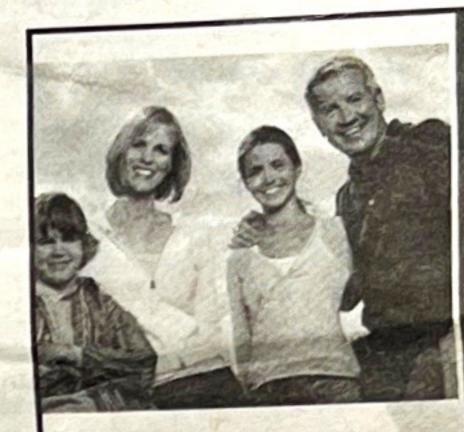
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