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Survey: AMC tops in patient satisfaction

By Colin McCandless
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Franklin's Angel Medical Center ranked number one along with Durham's Duke University Hospital and Chapel Hill's UNC Hospitals

for patient satisfaction in a recent national survey published in the March 2012 edition of Business North Carolina.

The Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems national patient

survey asked patients who had an overnight or longer stay in a hospital whether they would recommend the hospital to family and friends.

Considerations in the survey included outcomes, pain control, hospital noise and

cleanliness, how quickly nurses responded, whether nurses explained procedures and whether patients received good instructions when discharged.

"I'm just really excited," said Angel Medical Center

interim CEO Marty Wade-witz of the accolade. "We've worked really hard with employees to make sure that they are offering great customer service. I think we've had a history of trying to work on customer service

here at Angel, and continue to do that.

"As folks in the community, in the area, hear about things, hopefully they will want to make Angel their home for healthcare."

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Press photo/Linda Mathias

Go fly your own kite!

Youngsters strive to fly the kites they made in the ARTSaturday workshop, at the public library, March 10.

Jenkins: More diverse economy is key to growth

By Colin McCandless
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County economic development coordinator Tommy Jenkins emphasized the importance of working towards a more diversified economy during a presentation to the League of Women Voters March 8.

"Our economy was based, and still is based a lot—on construction, real estate second homes, retirement homes," said Jenkins, who contracted with the county as economic development director in November. "Not having a diversified economy has really played a part in our unemployment rates skyrocketing. We've got to diversify our economy."

Jenkins addressed some of the prospective opportunities in a changing economy and how Macon County people can improve their economic well being. We first need to examine the community's strengths, he said.

"I think we have real potential in technology," Jenkins said. He noted that we have companies like Drake Software and that with BalsamWest FiberNET in the region we have one of the top fiber optic networks in the nation. "Macon County is a regional technology leader," he said.

"Information is what drives business now," said Jenkins touting the impor-

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Home is model of greener living

By Barbara McRae
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Ken and Amy Murphy wanted more for their dream house than just a beautiful, spacious home with spectacular views. They wanted it to embody their environmental values.

They wanted a LEED home.

LEED (Leadership in En-

vironmental and Energy Design) is a green-home certification program that rewards homes that are designed and built to be energy- and resource-efficient and more healthy and durable for the occupants.

Ken, who currently serves as chairman of the board of the Land Trust for the Little

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Photo/Provided

From the windmill on the roof to the permeable paving, the Murphy house encompasses LEED standards.



Press photo/Linda Mathias

Dog or horse?

Justin Kruger, 4, rides Annie a mini horse while brother Thomas McHale, 10, and Aunt Mandi walk along-

side. They got a lot of attention Saturday when they showed up at the Coggins Clinic with other equines.

Cable TV spots advertising Franklin to continue in Atlanta region

By Barbara McRae
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The Franklin Tourism Development Authority (TDA) approved \$62,000 in expenditures during its March 12 meeting, including a \$50,000 contract with

Comcast Spotlight for advertising in the Atlanta market and matching grants for two local projects.

It was the last meeting for retiring town planner Mike Grubermann, who has provided staff support for the TDA. It was also the last

meeting for member Ron Winecoff, whose term is expiring.

This was the first meeting for Summer Woodard, assistant to the town manager. Woodard is replacing both Grubermann (as staff support) and town manager Sam

Greenwood, who previously served as a voting member representing the town.

Woodard also represents the town on the Tourism Development Commission (TDC), the county counterpart to the TDA. Grubermann chairs the TDC, but his

membership derives from his ownership of a bed and breakfast, and he will continue his involvement after his retirement.

Comcast

The TDA will continue its relationship with Comcast

Spotlight, which airs promotional TV spots on cable stations in the Atlanta market.

Charlene Romeo, the senior account executive who handles the Franklin ads, spoke with the TDA during

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Rants & Raves (Call 369-0568 after 5 p.m.)

I would like to nominate Bob Scott for president. He's my kind of man.
I go to work early in the morning and it's a shame to see the Highway Patrol stopping log trucks on Highway 28 when there's reckless speeding each day on the Georgia Road. Those guys

are just trying to make a living.
No new county planner. The position is really unnecessary since no one wants planning. A current employee can take over enforcement duties without incurring more expense.

Question: How many building permits does the county issue per month post 2007 and how many building inspectors do we still have?
A big thanks to the AARP tax preparation volunteers at the library. Great job guys!

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