

# Looking For a Job?

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## Piece of the pie

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First man on the moon dies at 82 7A



## Local

Fair setup starts Monday in Troutman 5A

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### Courts

## State pre-K to remain need-based

BY PRESTON SPENCER  
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At-risk children will continue to be the primary beneficiaries of the state's pre-kindergarten program, thanks to a Court of Appeals decision upholding a ruling that 2011 legislative changes to NC Pre-K were unconstitutional.

"Our children's ability to find a job later in life is tied directly to their educational opportunities, and quality pre-kindergarten programs lay the foundation for academic success," Gov. Bev Perdue said in a statement following Tuesday's court decision. "(This) unanimous decision provides both a boost for struggling families and hope for every child across our state."

NC Pre-K was restructured during 2011 state budget changes. The program, which previously had been free with enrollment based on greatest need, was changed to limit enrollment for at-risk children, or those who can't afford to pay, to 20 percent. The remaining 80 percent of students who would be allowed in the program would have to pay a fee: 10 percent of gross family income for a family of three; 9 percent for a family of four or five; and 8 percent for a family of six or more.

Superior Court Judge Howard Manning ruled the changes meant every child in the state was no longer afforded the right to a sound, basic education: a constitutional right in North Carolina. He said the state cannot deny access to a child who cannot pay the fee. The legislature passed a revision to the program in June to get rid of the 20 percent cap on at-risk enrollment and the fee requirement.

The NC Pre-K program in Iredell County, operated by the Iredell County Partnership for Young Children, is currently serving 237 children.

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### ROCKY CREEK RANCH

## 'TRULY UNIQUE'



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONCIERGE AUCTIONS

An overhead shot of Rocky Creek Ranch, which is being auctioned by former NASCAR Winston Cup owner Jim Mattei.

### 517-acre retreat to be sold at auction

BY AMY FUHRMAN  
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When former NASCAR Winston Cup owner Jim Mattei purchased what is now Rocky Creek Ranch 13 years ago, it was a simple, turn-of-the-century style farm.

Since then, Mattei has created an expansive 517-acre retreat that features three residences, a

grand stable, eight miles of hiking trails, waterfalls and a lake — complete with beach area and a family of ducks.

"It was designed around generational family enjoyment," Mattei said. "It's truly a unique property."

The ranch, which is located off Snow Creek Road, will be sold at auction on Sept. 27. The sale



### ONLINE

» For video of the property, log on to [statesville.com](http://statesville.com)

has provided a rare opportunity for the public to get a glimpse of the property, which has never been on the market and has been owned by only two families in the last 110 years.

See **RANCH**, Page 10A

### Giving Back

## Retired teacher still shaping young lives

BY PRESTON SPENCER  
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Jane Riley is something of an institution at N.B. Mills Elementary School.

She first walked the halls of the school as a fourth-grade student, returning years later as a student-teacher before dedicating 35 years and her entire school-teaching career to the first-graders who passed through its doors.

"She was a teacher who was

willing to use any method to get to any child no matter what their level, yet she always put humor into everything," said Teresa Kutteh, a counselor at Union Grove Elementary School. "She would find any way to help any child learn."

Kutteh used to volunteer weekly in the classroom when two of her daughters had Riley as a teacher in the mid-1990s.

"I think I've always been pretty wide-open, but I learned from (Riley), as long as you stay in ethical

bounds, you don't put limits on any way you can reach a child," Kutteh said.

Riley turned 70 years old last week. The long-time educator hasn't been in the classroom for five years. She said she sees the buses driving to Northview School near where she lives and reminisces about the thousands of children she taught, but gets involved with the community in different ways these days.

See **RILEY**, Page 10A



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Jane Riley said there is nothing more important than teaching a child to read. She is pictured with one of the thousands of first-grade students who passed through her classroom in 35 years at N.B. Mills Elementary School.

**ONLINE**  
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### Obituaries

KEN SPEECE  
HELEN HARRIS  
BARBARA MARTIN  
TOMMY WEEKS  
MARGARET BENNETT

OCIE HAYES  
FRED BELL  
CHUCK HOWELL

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**TODAY'S WEATHER**

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