




FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		
Showers; Fog H 63 L 50	Rain; Fog; cool H 59 L 48	Clouds early H 64 L 47

High Country Press

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FREE

Tie A Yellow Ribbon... Welcome the 1451st Home This Weekend!

Gather your flags and yellow ribbons, make signs and post every kind of welcome—the soldiers of the 1451st Transportation Unit are coming home this weekend!

By press time, the North Carolina National Guard had not released the route the unit will take into Boone, so don't delay with the decorations—we want our troops to see a solid line of welcomes no matter which road they travel.

"We encourage the people in the High Country to put up welcome home banners, signs, yellow ribbons—anything that says welcome home to our soldiers," said Barbara Daye, volunteer organizer of the Family Readiness Group.



A formal welcome-home ceremony is happening at Watauga High School on Sunday, May 6, at 3:00 p.m.

Major General William Ingram, Jr. sent email invitations for the event to local elected officials earlier this week, and residents of the High Country are encouraged to pack the high school in even greater numbers than they did for the deployment ceremony in February 2006.

Watauga County Commissioner Mary Moretz began working with the 1451st Family Readiness Group more than one year ago and commented, "I wish everyone would tie a yellow ribbon and attend the ceremony on Sunday to make a strong declaration of support for both the families and the soldiers. I'm hoping for a huge amount of support."

Tweetsie Celebrates 50 Years of Family Fun

Theme Park Commemorates Golden Anniversary Season Beginning May 4

STORY BY SAM CALHOUN

North Carolina's first theme park is celebrating a milestone in 2007—50 years of Wild West adventure and timeless family fun. Tweetsie Railroad invites you to celebrate the past, present and future during the park's 2007 season that begins Friday, May 4. Nestled in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, Tweetsie will offer entertainment for the entire family during its golden anniversary season.

"We have four new rides this year and plenty of special events," said Cathy Robbins, marketing director for Tweetsie Railroad. "[Tweetsie] is a great family attraction where families can come

Continued on page 18



Readying Tweetsie for a new season. Photo by Ken Ketchie



Architects Present High School Site Plan

STORY BY KATHLEEN MCFADDEN

On Wednesday afternoon, members of the subcommittee tasked with planning and coordinating efforts toward the new Watauga High School met to consider the final site plan for the new school prepared by sfl+a Architects of Charlotte. The committee is expected to recommend that the Watauga County Board of Commissioners and Board of Education approve the plan at their joint meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, at 4:00 p.m. in the commissioners' boardroom.

At their last joint meeting in February, the commissioners and school board members approved a preliminary site plan for the high school property, after the subcommittee considered three plans and forwarded its recommendation to the two boards. According to County Manager Rocky Nelson, the final plan contains no significant changes from the working design of the past few months.

In response to suggestions from committee members, project architect Jennifer Sisak developed a plan with parking more centrally located to the athletic fields, the school building and other site features than in the other two plans.

The school building is oriented to take advantage of the natural grade of the land, with the career-technical education spaces at the bottom of the slope, allowing for large instructional spaces and rollup access doors that will not be on the same level as academic classrooms.

Continued on page 18

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education will conduct a joint meeting in the commissioners' boardroom on Tuesday, May 8, at 4:00 p.m. to consider this final site plan prepared by sfl+a Architects for the new Watauga High School.

They Won in D.C.! **STUDENT GROUP WINS EPA AWARD FOR SOLAR GREENHOUSE RESEARCH**

STORY BY KATHLEEN MCFADDEN

For the past eight months, students from ASU's Department of Technology have researched greenhouse technologies that have the potential to reduce the construction cost of energy-saving solar greenhouses, also known as bioshelters.

The Affordable Bioshelters Project is funded by a \$10,000 EPA P3 grant and a \$10,000 SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) grant. Yonatan Strauch, a graduate student majoring in appropriate technology in the Department of Technology, is leading the collaborative project.

The team won the EPA's prestigious 3rd Annual P3 (People, Prosperity and the Planet) Award—a national student design contest for sustainability. Steve Johnson, EPA administrator, announced the winners at the National Academy of Sciences building in Washington, D.C. on April 25. Out of a group of 41 teams comprised of more than 350 university students and advisors, six teams, including the Appalachian team, were chosen for the creativity and utility of their sustainability designs.

The Appalachian team includes Andy Franklin Bryant, Andrew Fulton, David Fulton, Sean M. Hackett, Caroline House, Zolbayer Javzmaa, Roscoe Oswald, Micah Shristi, Joe Smith, Yonatan Strauch and Brian Taddonio. Entitled The Affordable Bioshelters Project: Testing Technologies for Affordable Bioshelters, the team's winning entry in the competition explores affordable greenhouses that are powered renewably to conserve energy and reduce the demand for fossil fuels.



Members of the winning team from Appalachian in the EPA's prestigious 3rd Annual P3 competition are all smiles. The group won for their research into energy-saving solar greenhouses. Photo courtesy US EPA

The award includes additional funding up to \$75,000 that gives the students an opportunity to further develop their designs for sustainability, implement their projects in the field, and move them to the marketplace. Several small businesses have already been established from earlier P3 student projects.

The student team has built two 24- by 14-foot greenhouses on a test site located on Charles Church's Watauga River Farms in Valle Crucis. Church has partnered with other university projects in the past, including an archeological dig along the Watauga River.

The group from Appalachian is one of 41 teams participating in an EPA competition for a \$75,000 grant to continue their research. The competition will be

held April 24 to 25 in Washington, D.C., on the National Mall.

Greenhouses typically have poor insulation values, with heating and cooling accounting for about 35 percent of production costs. Heating a 2,000 square foot greenhouse can cost \$5,000 a year in moderate to cold climates when the greenhouse is used all winter.

Lower costs and better insulation methods mean the bioshelters could pay for themselves within five years.

In one greenhouse, liquid soap foam was used at night to reduce heat loss and then transferred to storage tanks during the day. While it did result in a 14-degree difference in temperature at night,

Continued on page 14

QUESTIONS around the office

What are Those Black Squiggles that Look Like Snail Tracks All Over Depot Street?

Outside our office at 130 North Depot Street in Boone last week, Boone Public Works employees spread thin lines of asphalt in multiple directions all over the road, creating an unsightly mesh of black lines. We wondered what they were doing.

According to Blake Brown, Boone Public Works director, the process is called crack filling, and the lateral



and parallel cracks in the asphalt are filled with more asphalt. The roadway began to crack, said Brown, because of stress caused by the extreme differential in temperatures this time of year. Warm and cold weather extremes occurring in proximity cause the pavement to expand and contract and create cracks in the surface of the roadway, he explained.

Crack filling is used so the pavement doesn't have to be replaced as often or can be used to fill in the cracks before a road is repaved so the cracks don't reappear in the new surface.

In the case of North Depot Street, Boone Public Works is crack filling because the roadway will be repaved in the coming month. After the roadway is repaved, Boone Public Works will also add a sidewalk on the east side of the street, from King Street to the stop sign in front of the Watauga County Library.

RESEARCHED BY SAM CALHOUN

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NEWS BRIEFS

OF THE WEEK **76,558**

Preliminary estimate of the number of attendees at MerleFest 2007

Correction: Liquor by the Drink Comes to WEST Jefferson...

Last week, *High Country Press* reported that the citizens of Ashe County passed a referendum to allow liquor by the drink in the towns of Jefferson and West Jefferson. That's not right. The ABC Store and mixed-beverage referenda applied to West Jefferson only. The vote in the mixed-beverage referendum was 231 in favor and 159 opposed. The ABC Store referendum vote was 232 in favor and 160 opposed. Last August, Jefferson voters approved on- and off-premises beer and wine, but liquor by the drink is only available on the west side.

Downtown Boone Post Office Will Not Close...

According to a Greensboro District employee of the U.S. Postal Service, "There's no plans for [the downtown Boone post office] to be closed." The staff member, who asked that he not be identified, also verified the accuracy of the story that ran last week in *High Country Press*, adding that a cost estimate for the necessary repairs to the building has been completed. However, he would not provide any information about the cost estimate or the Postal Service's evaluation of the building. He did not discount the possible sale of the building, explaining that a nationwide effort is currently underway to determine what Postal Service properties can and should be sold. "Our study could indicate that we want to sell," he said, "but it would have to go to somebody who would protect it and the Postal Service would lease back a space in [the building]." As reported last week, the Postal Service has set no timeline for making a determination about the building. According to Tuesdae Rice, executive director of the Downtown Boone Development Association, she has been working with the Greensboro office "for a full year" in an effort to have the building repaired. Rice has also petitioned the Postal Service for space in the building for the DBDA and for a satellite location for the Appalachian Cultural Museum.

Flowers Are Big Business...

Flowering plants represent North Carolina's fastest-growing agricultural segment, generating \$182 million in sales. More than 1,000 different floriculture plants are grown in the state, and farmers in 97 out of 100 counties in North Carolina reported significant farm income from floriculture. According to Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, the state ranks sixth in the nation for floriculture production, with more than 637 acres of outside plants and more than 20 million square feet of greenhouse space devoted to floriculture. North Carolina is second in poinsettia production and in the top 10 in azaleas, orchids, chrysanthemums and hostas. To highlight the variety and strength of this industry, Gov. Mike Easley has named May as Floriculture Month.

Quote of the Week

"It's going to be fun at Canyons. We are very happy to be a part of this reunion show."

SpongeTones drummer Rob Thorne commenting on the Second Annual P.B. Scott's Reunion Party to be held at Canyons in Blowing Rock on Saturday, May 12

Boone Board of Adjustment Denies Templeton Permit

STORY BY KATHLEEN MCFADDEN

In a special meeting Tuesday night, the Boone Board of Adjustment denied Phil Templeton's application for a special use permit to develop a former church on State Farm Road into a medical clinic.

The motion to approve Templeton's application failed in a vote of 3-5. The Boone Unified Development Ordinance requires that four-fifths of the board members concur on special use permit application approvals.

Templeton initially presented his plan for the property in January and subsequently presented a new plan in April that addressed concerns raised by property owners on VFW Drive regarding the size of the clinic, vehicular access to VFW Drive, lighting and trash receptacle placement. After five hours of procedural issues and testimony at the April meeting, the Board of Adjustment adjourned without deliberating the case, instructing Development Services staff to schedule a special follow-up meeting.

Voting against the motion to approve were Richard Crepeau, Denise Lockett and Fred Hay. Crepeau commented that the proposed medical center was not in harmony with the area and not in conformity with the town's comprehensive plan. Hay

agreed with Crepeau and added that he had concerns about traffic. Lockett said she was concerned about traffic issues and safety.

Phil Templeton is in Arizona and did not attend Tuesday night's meeting, but his son Jeff Templeton was there and issued the following statement: "The decision not to grant a special use permit for a medical clinic on State Farm Road is further evidence of the anti-growth attitude of the Town of Boone. Phil Templeton made unprecedented concessions to address the valid concerns of the adjoining property owners, including a 30 percent reduction in the size of the proposed new structure, the removal of any parking access off VFW Drive, provisions to address garbage removal, the addition of a turning lane on State Farm Road, the condition that the hours of operation be limited to 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and the condition that the facility not be primarily used for mental, drug or alcohol rehabilitation. The Town's Development Services Department found the project to be complete and in compliance with the Town of Boone's Unified Development Ordinance. The staff report states, 'This is the area where near-term growth and development is to be especially encouraged.' Members of the Board of Adjustment are appointed by the Town Council and therefore reflect their policies of anti-growth."

Sixth Annual Empty Bowls Event Raises \$6,400

STORY BY CELESTE VON MANGAN

The bowls may be empty, but the Hunger and Health Coalition's (HHC) cupboards will soon be full—with 30,000 pounds of food purchased with the \$6,400 raised by the sixth annual Empty Bowls event.

Watauga High School art students and local artisans created ceramic bowls that were filled with soup and served with bread and dessert for \$15. WHS art instructors Susan Dunn, Lori Hill, Shelton Wilder and Whit Whitaker led the project, and Pat Morrison, art instructor at Ashe County High School, and Watauga County Schools art instructors Dacia Trethewey and Jill Huffman organized their students this year to contribute to the project as well.

"It just gets better every year," said Compton Fortuna, executive director of HHC. "They do a wonderful job. The \$6,400 is \$300 more than last year and there was better participation from local artisans and the community. The money will go towards the food assistance programs and it will count towards the Feinstein Challenge; this is a great boost."

The Feinstein Challenge is the brainchild of Alan Feinstein of the Feinstein Foundation in Rhode Island. Feinstein will divide \$1 million among food assistance organizations across the country. While not a matching grant, the foundation has a formula for distributing the money that is based on the amount



The Empty Bowls fundraiser was a success, raising \$6400 for the Hunger and Health Coalition. Photo courtesy of Matt Presenell.

raised locally between March 1 and April 30. "The more you raise, the more you can receive," said Fortuna.

The Hunger and Health Coalition supplies people in need with groceries and meals, prescription medication and health-care services. The HHC serves families and individuals in Watauga, Ashe and Avery counties.

For more information about HHC programs, call 828-262-1628.

Letter Carriers Food Drive May 12

Mark your calendars, write yourself a note or tie a string around your finger to remember that Saturday, May 12, is the 15th annual Letter Carriers Food Drive. The nation's largest food drive—the Stamp Out Hunger campaign—will benefit the Hunger and Health Coalition.

"This is a big event we have coming up," said Hunger and Health Coalition Executive Director Compton Fortuna. "People simply place their donation of nonperishable food in a bag and hang it on their mailbox or take it to the post office. Last year, we collected 13,000 pounds of food. How-

ever, if everyone in Watauga County gave two cans, we estimated we would collect close to 80,000 pounds of food."

While 80,000 pounds of food or even 13,000 pounds of food sounds like a lot, Fortuna pointed out that the HHC distributes 10,000 pounds of nonperishable food items every month. The HHC has participated in the Letter Carriers Food Drive since 1998, and participation has grown considerably since the first year when about 3,000 pounds of food was collected.

"The key is getting the word out," said Fortuna.



Letters To The Editor

RAM's Rack Responds

Dear Editor:

Resort Area Ministries (RAM) Board of Directors would like to thank Mr. Ronald Norris and others for informing RAM and the community about their problems with the RAM's Rack Thrift Shop. The RAM Board of Directors, the RAM staff and the RAM's Rack Thrift Shop are truly sorry that Mr. Norris or anyone else has had a bad experience with the RAM's Rack Thrift Shop. RAM does not wish for anyone—customer, client or even the staff to have a bad experience in the shop. Resort Area Ministries has not had a complaint or a concern voiced by Mr. Norris to the office or the board of directors. When RAM receives a complaint or negative feedback about the RAM's Rack Thrift Shop, RAM works to alleviate the problem. If someone has a concern about the RAM's Rack Thrift Shop, he/she can go to the RAM office that is located upstairs in the back of the thrift shop, call the RAM office, 828-264-6605 or contact a RAM Board member.

Mr. Norris mentioned several concerns he has about the RAM's Rack Thrift Shop. RAM is working to address the concerns of Mr. Norris and other residents.

Resort Area Ministries appreciates the support of the community over the past thirty plus years for RAM's ministry programs and the RAM's Rack Thrift Shop. RAM could not have accomplished its programs' goals without giving donors, the faithful customers and the many volunteers who have worked with RAM's programs.

If anyone has a concern about the RAM's Rack Thrift Shop, please let the RAM office or any member of the Board of Directors know about the problem.

Sincerely,
Cindy Long, Board Chair
Resort Area Ministries Board of Directors

Time to Plant!

Dear Editor:

The garden centers are crammed with pretty stuff and we've all got that urge to get some dirt under our nails. But wait a minute. Before rushing out and grabbing up a lot of plants, let's just think about some important things that are just going to get more and more important as time goes on. Things like where we live and how rapidly it's changing; like the impact we all have on the natural beauty that is the whole point of choosing to be here for most of us. Like the impact that we have when we plant something that doesn't grow here naturally and especially plants that may be invasive, pushing out native plants. Like putting in showy specimens that disregard and change the aesthetic harmony that nature has fine tuned for millennia to be just so for these mountains. Like ripping out perfect, appropriate native cover to replace it with grass to cut or expensive and inappropriate ground covers and plantings.

The High Country is blessed with one of the world's richest, most beautiful pallets of native varieties. Our natural, undisturbed places are more perfect, serene and spiritually rewarding than all the gardens of Japan, or all the made gardens of the world. Unfortunately we are still bound by attitudes of the past when wild places were appreciated only for their potential for profitable use or conversion to ordinary, "respectable," "cared for" (read high maintenance) lawns. That aesthetic has been largely responsible for our inability to appreciate and live within a natural environment, for the disastrous destruction of natural habitat, the loss of species and of our personal connection to nature itself. Folks, this is not merely a matter of personal taste, of what "I like." What "I want." It is much, much more than that. It goes directly to changes that we MUST make NOW in the ways we

MAIL LETTERS TO: **P.O. Box 152
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EDITOR'S NOTE: High Country Press does not verify the information in the letters to the editor submitted to the newspaper and does not endorse the positions expressed in the letters. The opinions and assertions are those of the writers alone. Please keep letters to a 600-word maximum. Letters containing personal attacks and name calling will not be printed. Issues-oriented letters are always welcome.

use and abuse our world. It demands that we develop keener sensitivities, more intelligent attitudes, greater spiritual capacities, and more humility (read less selfish indulgence) than that for which our forbearers felt a need. And, like anything important it comes right down to the little, seemingly trivial things of everyday living. Like planting grass and ornamentals.

Down in Florida, where you can't see the water (and lots of native species can't live in it) for the water hyacinths and fish walk across your patio, our own home grown megacorporation, Lowe's has taken to selling and promoting native plants and ornamentals. Please, Lowe's, do that here! Our need is not less acute. And this is your birthplace! As more and more of our land is covered in houses and all that goes with them, we must all do all we can to save and preserve our precious native species. They are not always easy to find. Even respected authorities often disagree whether certain plants are, indeed, native. Some of the most desirable species, such as our spectacular deciduous magnolias cannot be found, as far as I know, in any garden center or nursery. But many wonderful natives are available if you know what to look for. Learning about what to look for could be a first step to a better way of being and living here. Please, PLEASE, learn before you plant.

Lowell Hayes

Continued on page 6

NEWS BRIEFS

Watauga County Proposed Budget Available May 7...

The Watauga County Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-08 will be submitted to the commissioners on Monday, May 7, and available that day for public inspection online at www.wataugacounty.org, in the county manager's office and at the public libraries in Boone, Blowing Rock and the Western Watauga Community Center. The commissioners will conduct work sessions to review the recommended budget on Wednesday, May 9, from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m., and Thursday, May 10, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the commissioners' conference room in the Watauga County Administration Building. A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, at 6:00 p.m. in the commissioners' boardroom. For info or questions, call 828-265-8000.

ASU Graduations This Weekend...

ASU will hold graduation ceremonies Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6, and approximately 1,375 students will receive degrees. Each of the university's degree-granting colleges and schools will hold individual ceremonies. The schedule is as follows: Saturday, May 5, 9:00 a.m., College of Fine and Applied Arts, Holmes Convocation Center, with guest speaker Cullie Tarleton, N.C. State Representative. Saturday, May 5, 1:00 p.m., Mariam Cannon Hayes School of Music, Broyhill Music Center, with guest speaker Robert Moody, music director of the Winston-Salem Symphony. Saturday, May 5, 4:00 p.m., College of Arts and Sciences, Holmes Convocation Center, with guest speaker Stephen Johnson, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Sunday, May 6, 9:00 a.m., Reich College of Education, Holmes Convocation Center, with a video highlighting activities in the college. Sunday, May 6, 12:30 p.m., Graduate School, Holmes Convocation Center, with a video highlighting graduate student research. Sunday, May 6, 4:30 p.m., Walker College of Business, with guest speaker Lloyd Taylor, director of global operations for Google.

Beware of the Jury Scam...

According to the FBI, jury scams have been around for years, but increased activity has occurred in recent months. A telephone caller claiming to be a jury coordinator accuses you of failing to appear for jury duty. If you protest that you never received a summons, the scammer asks for your Social Security number and date of birth so s/he can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Your identity can be stolen with this information, and the scammers try to bully people into giving it up. So far, the fraud has been reported in a dozen states. The FBI points out that court officers do not ask for confidential information over the phone, but correspond with prospective jurors via mail. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their websites.

CHURCH SIGN OF THE WEEK



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FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	NEXT WEEK
			MONDAY - Partly cloudy; Warmer; H- upper 60s, L- near 50s TUESDAY - Partly cloudy; Slight chance of a T-shower late; H- lower 70s; L- lower 50s
H 63 L 50	H 59 L 48	H 64 L 47	

Record highs were the biggest weather story of the past week. Tuesday, Boone tied a record of 81 set in 1962; Banner Elk set a new record at 81 (breaking the old record of 80 set in 1910); Jefferson reached 84 breaking the old record of 81 set in 1910. Record highs were again in reach Wednesday.

The weather story this weekend will be vastly different--clouds, rain, fog, and cool temperatures. A front moves through the High Country Thursday and stalls just to our south Friday and Saturday. High pressure will nose down the east side of the Appalachians producing a stubborn, damp, cool, southeasterly flow producing a rather gray Graduation Weekend at ASU, at least for the first half of the events. At least Sunday will have gradually improving weather with afternoon breaks in the clouds after a cloudy, foggy start. Monday and Tuesday will be warmer with partly cloudy skies.

While the timing of this rain event is unfortunate for ASU Graduation Ceremonies, we should not complain too loudly because we desperately need the rain. We are significantly below normal precipitation for the year so far. At the end of April, Boone's normal rain total is 18.21" (18.91" on Beech Mountain). Through April this year, actual rainfall ranges from 9" to 13" across the region putting us around 50% to 65% of normal. This serious rain shortage is a primary factor in forest fires scattered around the Southeastern US this spring; everyone needs to be extremely careful with outdoor fire--always good advice but especially so this year.

Temperature History

LAST WEEK	BOONE	BEECH MTN
Friday, April 27	Hi 65 Lo 54 Precip 0.00"	Hi 59 Lo 37 Precip 0.00"
Saturday, April 28	Hi 58 Lo 46 Precip 0.02"	Hi 47 Lo 37 Precip 0.05"
Sunday, April 29	Hi 68 Lo 51 Precip 0.00"	Hi 58 Lo 43 Precip 0.00"
Monday, April 30	Hi 77 Lo 49 Precip 0.00"	Hi 70 Lo 50 Precip 0.00"
Tuesday, May 1	Hi 81 Lo 53 Precip 0.00"	Hi 76 Lo 55 Precip 0.00"
THIS WEEK LAST YEAR	BOONE	BEECH MTN
May 4, 2006	Hi 69 Lo 45 Precip 0.00"	Hi 59 Lo 42 Precip 0.00"
May 5, 2006	Hi 77 Lo 45 Precip 0.19"	Hi 66 Lo 42 Precip 0.42"
May 6, 2006	Hi 65 Lo 50 Precip 0.55"	Hi 58 Lo 43 Precip 0.66"
May 7, 2006	Hi 65 Lo 49 Precip 0.10"	Hi 53 Lo 43 Precip 0.15"
May 8, 2006	Hi 49 Lo 42 Precip 0.38"	Hi 47 Lo 37 Precip 0.28"
May 9, 2006	Hi 50 Lo 43 Precip 0.01"	Hi 50 Lo 40 Precip 0.02"
May 10, 2006	Hi 51 Lo 44 Precip 0.02"	Hi 58 Lo 41 Precip 0.00"

Moon Phases

FULL	LAST	NEW	FIRST
Wednesday May 2	Wednesday May 9	Wednesday May 16	Wednesday May 23

Sunrise / Sunset

Sunrise Friday, May 4.....	6:31am
Sunset Friday, May 4.....	8:15pm
Sunrise Saturday, May 5.....	6:30am
Sunset Saturday, May 5.....	8:16pm

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All Mast Store locations are drop-off points until May 7, 2007

SALE GOOD THRU MAY 8

Letters To The Editor

Continued from page 4

Support the Tot Lot

Dear Editor:

As a pediatrician, I want to express my wholehearted support of the Boone Service League's Tot Lot Renovation. Obesity is a growing problem for children in North Carolina; obesity rates in Watauga County are greater than the state average. A healthy lifestyle for children includes consistent, active play. Our community is in desperate need of a safe and accessible outdoor play space for our children. I strongly encourage all local businesses to consider financially supporting this effort in order to promote the health of children in Watauga County.

W. Scott St. Clair, MD

On the Deaths in Iraq

Dear Editor:

Family and friends of the Boone-based National Guard 1451st Transportation company were devastated to learn that we lost two of our company in Iraq, on April 14th. Brandon Wallace, age 27, and Joshua Schmit, age 26, were killed by a roadside bomb while on their last mission before returning home. Both young men were inactive ready reserve which means they had already served their active duty contract and returned to civilian life. They were recalled to join the 1451st last spring for this deployment to Iraq. Even though Brandon was from Missouri and Joshua was from Minnesota, they had trained, lived, and worked as members of our company, under extremely difficult, demanding, and dangerous conditions for the past year. Our soldiers lost brothers when they died.

We look forward to celebrating our soldiers' return next week, but our joy is darkened by this loss. We send our hearts and prayers to Brandon's and Joshua's families.

Sincerely,

Dale Harrington

Selective Statistics

Dear Editor:

President Bush is being dishonest when he claims that the "surge" of US troops in Iraq is working due to a dramatic drop in sectarian violence. In fact, Bush is relying on statistics that exclude one of the main killers of Iraqi civilians—car bombs and other explosive devices.

That's right! The President is reporting only some of the statistics with regard to deaths in Iraq.

How did Bush respond to a question about this issue? "If the standard of success is no car bombings or suicide bombings, we

have just handed those who commit suicide bombings a huge victory." Get that?

As it turns out, selective presentation of statistics is standard operating procedure for the White House. In November 2005, the White House released its "National Strategy for Victory in Iraq." In that document, Bush spelled out the measures he would use to track success in the area of achieving security. Among them: the quantity and quality of Iraqi units; the number of actionable intelligence tips received from Iraqis; the percentage of operations conducted by Iraqis alone or with minor Coalition assistance; offensive operations conducted by Iraqi and Coalition forces; the number of contacts initiated by Coalition forces, as opposed to the enemy; and the number of car bombs intercepted and defused (http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/iraq/iraq_strategy_nov2005.html).

Notice that the number of car bombs exploded is not included? Nor are attacks on Iraqi civilians, or on US troops. Nor are their deaths. Why not? Because these are the goals of the enemy, said Bush!

Well, honest policy evaluation of the Iraq war requires that the US government assess both the benefits and the costs of our actions there. The Bush Administration seems content on focusing only on the good news, and even then it is selective in its presentation of statistics.

The good news is that the number of violent deaths in Iraq has declined significantly in Baghdad since December. The bad news? The number of bombing attacks and the number of people killed in explosive attacks in Iraq is rising; thus Bush leaves them out.

And there are other things he fails to mention. First, in April 2007, more than 100 US troops were killed, pushing the total of Bush's war to more than 3,350 US deaths. Second, more than 100 Iraqis are killed every day!

Third, worldwide acts of terrorism are up since our invasion and occupation of Iraq. The State Department's annual report on terrorism shows a 29% increase in terrorist attacks worldwide in 2006 (due mainly to growing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan). There were 14,338 terrorist attacks last year versus 11,111 in 2005. Forty-five percent of the attacks were in Iraq (excluding attacks against our troops).

Fourth, an Inspector General report shows that nearly all of the \$37.4 billion appropriated by Congress for Iraqi reconstruction has now been spent. The report finds that reconstruction has been plagued by poor construction, improper design, substandard materials and lack of maintenance. Oh, and corruption is on the rise.

Anybody who's paying attention can see that bad news outweighs the good. Thus, the war is a failed policy. So, I say, no more dead Americans for this failed war!

Instead of bringing home our loved ones, President Bush will veto the bills that will end the war. And he'll do it four years after he declared "Mission Accomplished."

Shame on him, and shame on us for letting him do it.

Sincerely,

Matthew Robinson

No Longer at the Farmers' Market

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to let you know the Watauga County Farmers' Market will soon be up and running; but unfortunately without a few of its local vendors. These vendors are Earl Townsend, Helen Day, Charles and Nancy Day. These vendors were told by letter that they were no longer considered craft vendors and would no longer be allowed to sell crafts at the market. This was told to them by other members of the market who judged their crafts which does not seem fair to us. These judges told us our crafts were poorly crafted and were not acceptable to sell. Apparently the customers thought our crafts were well crafted because these vendors sold a large amount of crafts. Sounds to us like the judges are jealous and trying to run off the competition. We feel as though it is against the constitution to tell us what we can and cannot sell. We will be getting in touch with the Committee in Raleigh to further investigate the situation. This may not help us but we like to try and help other craft vendors. We plan on joining the Lenoir market located off 321 at the Lenoir Library. We would like to invite our friends and customers to visit us at our new location. We will still be selling crafts, fresh vegetables, fruits, jams, jellies and honey. Hope to see you soon. For more information, contact us at cn_day@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

Earl Townsend, Helen Day, Charles and Nancy Day

Continued on page 8

HOW THEY VOTED

Here's how U.S. Representatives Virginia Foxx (R-5) and Patrick McHenry (R-10) and U.S. Senators Elizabeth Dole (R-NC) and Richard Burr (R-NC) voted recently.

Both the House and the Senate passed HR 1591, a funding bill that sets a timetable for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq, with all four congressional members voting against the bill. President Bush vetoed the bill on Tuesday night, and neither the House nor the Senate can muster the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto.

In the House: Foxx and McHenry

HR 1591: U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007—

The House approved this \$124 billion bill that funds military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and sets a timetable for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq—Vote Passed (218-208, 2 voting present, and 5 not voting)

Virginia Foxx voted no; Patrick McHenry voted no

HR 1332: Small Business Lending Improvements Act—This bill would improve the access to capital programs of the Small Business Administration—Vote Passed (80-45, 7 not voting)

Virginia Foxx voted no; Patrick McHenry voted no

HR 493: Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act—This bill would prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment—Vote Passed (420-3, with 9 not voting)

Virginia Foxx voted yes; Patrick McHenry voted yes

HR 1678: Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act—This bill would authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture—Vote Passed (418-7, 7 not voting)

Virginia Foxx voted yes; Patrick McHenry voted yes

HR 249: Wild Horse Protection Bill—This House bill would prohibit the Bureau of Land Management from selling wild horses or burros to be slaughtered for commercial use—Vote Passed (277-137, 18 not voting)

Virginia Foxx voted yes; Patrick McHenry voted no

HCON RES 7: Calling on the League of Arab States to Acknowledge the Genocide in the Darfur Region of Sudan and to Step Up Their Efforts to Stop the Genocide in Darfur—Vote Passed (425-1, 6 not voting)

Virginia Foxx voted yes; Patrick McHenry voted yes

In the Senate: Dole and Burr

HR 1591: U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007—

The Senate gave final approval to this \$124 billion bill that funds military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and sets a timetable for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq—Vote Passed (51-46, with 3 not voting)

Elizabeth Dole voted no; Richard Burr voted no

S761: America COMPETES (Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science) Act—The Senate approved this bill to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy—Vote Passed (88-8, 4 not voting)

Elizabeth Dole voted yes; Richard Burr voted yes

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Kiwanis Donate Books to Cove Creek School



Carolyn Walters, media director for Cove Creek School receives donated books from Gerry Staninger at the Boone Kiwanis meeting on Tuesday. Photo by Ron Fitzwater

STORY BY RON FITZWATER

Carolyn Walters media director for Cove Creek School, received a donation of four books for the school's library at the Boone Kiwanis meeting held at the Broyhill on Tuesday. Kiwanis donate books every week to area schools in the name of the guest speakers who appears at the meeting.

Cove Creek's books were donated in the name of this week's guest speaker Shannon Stapleton, Watauga County Community Service Manager, who spoke about court-ordered community service.

Kiwanis International is a thriving organization of service- and community-minded individuals who support children and young adults. Key aspects include evaluating both children's issues and community needs on an ongoing basis, conducting service projects to respond to identified needs and

maintaining an active membership roster of professional business people who have both the desire and the ability to serve their community. Service projects often are linked to the Kiwanis program, Young Children: Priority One. This initiative places continuing focus on the needs of children in pediatric trauma, safety, childcare, early development, infant health, nutrition and parenting skills. Service projects also can address other needs within the community, such as working to stop substance abuse, helping the elderly, promoting literacy, supporting youth sports and recreation, responding to disasters and supporting specific persons in need.

Weekly meetings are held at 11:45 a.m. every Tuesday at the Broyhill. For information about Kiwanis click www.kiwanis.org and select club locator or stop by the weekly meeting.

PHOTO FEATURE



Keith Honeycutt presents ASU Book Store employees Trixie Furman, visual and promotions manager; Lorraine Childers, assistant director and merchandise manager; and Jody Fox, rental textbook sales manager with a framed photo of children from El Salvador who received 2005 ASU Championship T-shirts donated by the book store. The trio was responsible for donating of the shirts, that the children received as part of Honeycutt's mission work. Persons interested in additional information about the El Salvador mission program can contact Johnny Wilson at 828-297-3638. Photo by Ron Fitzwater



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PHOTO FEATURE

Broyhill Inn executive chef Bill Morris was one of three chefs who emerged victorious in the Fire on the Rock Chef's Challenge on April 14, an event held in conjunction with the Blue Ridge Wine Festival. Assisting Morris were executive sous chef Danny Bock and line cook Matt Slezak. The team scored 419 out of possible 450 points from a panel of three judges. Each chef was given a secret ingredient and had two minutes to develop a meal selection highlighting the ingredient, five minutes to gather additional ingredients and 30 minutes to prepare the meal. Morris' secret ingredient was catfish. The winning meal consisted of poached catfish Provencal-style soup, salad with grilled catfish wrapped in collard greens and a main entrée of catfish pinwheel fillets with cheese and vegetables inside, topped with a red pepper cream sauce and cheese-filled tomato poppers. For information about the Broyhill Inn or Jackson Dining Room, call 828-262-2204.



Letters To The Editor

Continued from page 4

Thanks from the Children's Council

Dear Editor:

I would like to send out a heart felt thanks to all who came and made The Children's Council's 30th Anniversary celebration a huge success. It is the very people of this community who have devoted so much time and energy in making The Children's Council what it is today. I would particularly like to thank and honor those people who were instrumental in the beginning of The Children's Council and those who have been active for many years: Bruce Richter, Janet Mears, Pam Wilson, Sharon Rucker, Peggy Eller, Ruth Petrey, Joan McGregor, Shirlee Edwards, Mary Reichle, Gail Hawkinson, Delores Wilder, and Pheobe Pollitt. Thanks to all who are not named for your commitment to the children and families of Watauga County!

Jennifer Wilson-Kearse

Executive Director, The Children's Council

A Warning to Smokers

Dear Editor:

My class has been talking about tobacco use and how it is dangerous. I'm very concerned about all the smokers out there who think, "I'll just have one; it's not hurting me." Most people think that, and the worst part is that most of these smokers are under 18, which is illegal! These people are hurting themselves and those around them.

I'm sure you've heard this before: smoking is wrong and it can cause cancer. That's not all. This horrifying drug hurts your respiratory system badly. Your respiratory system is your lung system. Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas created by fire. When you light a cigarette, the carbon monoxide goes into your system and stays there.

The tar in smoke covers your cilia or coughing starter. When this happens you cannot cough anything bad out of your system. Another bad thing about this is secondhand smoke. Secondhand smokers get cancer too. I want to warn smokers what you are getting yourself into. Please make the right choice.

Sincerely,

Emily Macdonald

7th grade, Green Valley School

Would Christ Have Approved?

Dear Editor:

In America civilian deaths aren't "important" unless they are ours. We hear our nation was founded upon Christian principles. Would Christ have approved of slavery, the Native American genocide, and the millions of "savages" we have slaughtered to expand our borders? How about our many wars, police actions and other assorted military adventures?

Bush has called Christ his most important moral teacher. The current administration regards itself as deeply religious. In spite of the plentiful professions of piety, it is difficult to avoid the feeling that something is wrong somewhere. Christ taught humility, meekness, loving one's enemies, turning the other cheek and sacrificing one's life for others. The Bush administration acts for one world of American empire, fights wars, tortures prisoners, defends that torture, builds an all-powerful presidency under "unitary executive" and viciously character-assassinates those who disagree with it. How can team bush present itself as Christian while acting in ways totally contrary to Christ's teaching? We are left to assume modern Christianity has lost the virtue of humility and a sense of the sin of pride. Humility is almost totally missing from today's popular religious literature.

Virtually every department, from the FDA to the EPA, is a mockery of its former self. The Labor Department obliterates whistleblower protections. The EPA lobbies against its own obligation to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The FDA approves drugs against its own advice. The US-DA's lax inspection practices allow contaminated produce and Mad Cow meat to enter our food supply. And now they're killing our pets.

All of this is too much of a distraction from the truly important work that remains to be done in this country like electing the next American Idol?

My heart breaks for those people who died at Virginia Tech. It also breaks for the estimated 50 Americans who died on the same day as a result of inadequate health coverage.

If a South Korean student is regarded as a berserk killer for murdering thirty people what is to be thought of the decider, whose invasion to control oil-rich Iraq has cost nearly three quarters of a million lives, created four million refugees, and plunged the Middle East into turmoil? Iraqis experience several Virginia Tech massacres a day which we have provided them with.

Craig Dudley

Boone Clean-Up Day Participation Highest Ever

High Country Press Wins Third Place in Unusual Litter Contest

STORY BY KATHLEEN MCFADDEN

The largest turnout ever of community members and Adopt-A-Street/Stream organizations headed out on Saturday, April 21, to clean up the Town of Boone and packed 3,280 pounds—that's 1.64 tons—of trash and debris into 254 garbage bags.

The town holds a most unusual litter contest on Clean-Up Day, inviting volunteers to bring in the weirdest thing they find on their routes. This year, High Country Press won third place in the contest for a sign reading "Traveling, Broke and Sockless" on one side and "Traveling Broke and Cold" on the other. High Country Press's adopted street is Boone Heights Drive.



Members of the High Country Press team pose with their trash after cleaning Boone Heights Drive. From left are David Brewer (who was really in a good mood despite his expression), Katharine Osborne, Nathan Giles, Kathleen McFadden, Mary Baker, Ron Fitzwater and Beverly Giles. Not shown, but also participating, were Jamie Goodman (who was still picking up cigarette butts on the driveway next to the creek) and Sam Calhoun who took this picture.

Winning first place were the Whitley and Miller families for finding a fishing pole, and the ASU Math Club took second place with an 8-track tape.

The town awards \$100 to the first place finisher, \$50 to second and \$25 to third.

While the town always designates a specific Saturday clean-up day, the larger Spring Litter Sweep spans a two-week period that coincides with the statewide effort. During the two-week Spring Litter Sweep campaign, community members and Adopt-A-Street organizations collected an additional 481 pounds of garbage.

Taken together, Boone Clean-Up Day and the Spring Litter Sweep resulted in a collection of litter totaling approximately 3,761 pounds or 1.88 tons.

Spring Cleaner-Uppers

Boone's a cleaner town thanks to the following volunteers who took to the streets and streams in April to pick up other people's garbage.

- Catholic Campus Ministries
- Lovill House Inn
- The Bond Family
- High Country Press
- Delta Sigma Theta
- ASU Math Club
- Jocelyn Elliott
- Epsilon Pi Tau
- Rotary Club of Boone
- ASU Women's Center
- ASU H.E.M.P. Club
- The Pitts Family
- Barbara Woodrow
- The Mullinex Family
- RBC Centura Bank
- Circle K @ ASU
- Alpha Phi Omega
- Kraut Creek Committee
- Boone Sunrise Rotary Club
- Karen Hendrix
- Barry Hoffman
- Watauga Christian Outreach
- Boone Gardenette Club
- WHS Key Club
- The Collins Family
- Barbara Latta
- Boy Scout Troop #194
- The Herman Family
- The Whitley Family
- The Miller Family
- Fred Milano
- Kelly Cherry-Leigh
- Lauren Stamey
- Jane Penley
- Al Hines
- Fred & Beverly Stahl
- Blue Ridge Garden Club
- ASU Student Ambassadors
- Spann Family
- Baha'i Faith of Boone
- The Smith/Haury Family
- APPS
- Chi Alpha Omega
- Western Youth Network
- Expressions
- Boone Taxi
- Morgan Story
- Laura Gulliver
- Valesia Powers
- Victoria Freeman
- Gay Underwood
- Moose Lodge #1805
- ASU Risk Management & Ins. Students

Marsha Story, the Town of Boone's Adopt-A-Street/Stream Coordinator, extends a big thank you to everyone who participated, to local media for publicizing the event and to Wallace Propane and Domino's Pizza for their donations.

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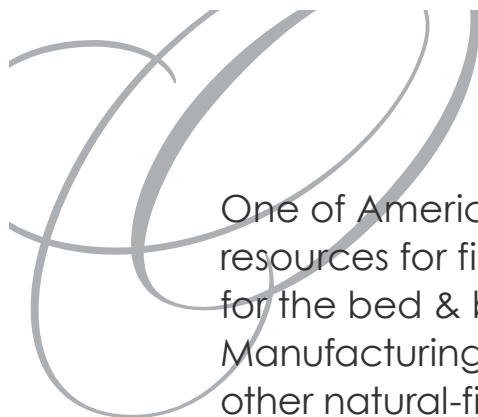
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Instructions for submitting bids and complete specifications for the equipment, supplies, or services desired may be obtained at the office of:

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During regular office hours.

The Department reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

PLANTING VEGETABLES IN THE CONGO

STORY BY LOIS CAROL WHEATLEY

They met at a shelter for battered women in Charlotte. Following that introduction, Marilyn Uhl of Mountain City legally adopted Riziki Mastaki of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"She was 17, but when she was 14 her parents had married her off to a guy who was 42," Uhl said.

Uhl's new daughter yearned to go home again, even if just for a visit, but Uhl strongly advised against it. There were civil wars all through the region as well as the very real possibility she might not be able to get back into the States. Uhl advised her to get her citizenship first, a process that took about seven years. Mastaki became a citizen in December.

"I have a teaching job so I have the summer off," Uhl said, "and we both kind of got the idea to go back home and start a gardening project."

Their last letter from the Congo planted the seeds of that idea. Mastaki's mother wrote that she fully expected, by the time the letter arrived, that she, her husband or some of the 11 kids would be dead.

"They had only a cup of tea for each kid for three days. They had no money coming in. They had nothing to expect, nothing to wait on and no help coming," Uhl said.

The two women wired money to the family and ran through a few other schemes to help out with various crises, until at last they hit on a more long-term solution. Seed Programs, Inc., affiliated with the Rotary Club, runs a worldwide seed distribution program that they could take to the Congo in a box.

"We get 14 packs of seeds per garden and there are 100 gardens in a box," Uhl said. "Each garden under normal circumstances is supposed to feed four to ten people, so this one box could affect up to a thousand people."

Seed Programs, Inc. got its start with a Rotarian who was a retired executive of a large seed company. He had managed seed inventories and knew that hundreds of pounds of good quality vegetable seeds were destroyed each year. He realized the



Riziki Mastaki and Marilyn Uhl will take seeds to the Congo later this year to plant vegetable gardens and address widespread issues of malnutrition and disease. Photo by Lois Carol Wheatley

cost of shipping would be negligible and recognized the potential to save lives.

In 1998, the program launched with shipments of seeds to 11 Caribbean and Latin American nations. The Peace Corps pitched in with training and hands-on assistance, as did Partners of Americas, the largest volunteer organization in the western hemisphere.

Over the last seven years, Seed Programs, Inc. has provided seed assortments for more than 800,000 gardens worldwide. The organization solicits seeds from large commercial companies, repackages them, prints instructions in multiple languages on the garden packets and makes them available at a low cost to a variety of humanitarian organizations. Simple gardening books and other training materials are included with each seed shipment.

According to a video furnished by the Rotary Club, 100 packets of tomato seeds weigh half a pound and can produce more than one ton of fresh tomatoes. The project also builds a community's self esteem by allowing poverty-stricken regions to take pride in being responsible for its own food security.

"The ripple effect of these contributions from Rotary is felt throughout the hemisphere," the video says.

"Our goal is to plant 40 family gardens in 60 days," Uhl said, and added that she plans to stay considerably longer than that—a year or maybe two, and repeating the process as many times as possible.

Samaritan's Purse is backing her up, kicking in \$3,500 to buy a hoe and a rake for each of the families in her adoptive daughter's village.

As for the social unrest in that entire geographic vicinity, she said it's not as bad as it was. Additionally, she and Mastaki will be among family, friends and neighbors.

"I'll have 200 people who are going to watch out for me and not let me get into trouble," she said.

Airfare, passports, vaccinations, visas, medical insurance, and land travel from the airport remain a concern. Send donations to Marilyn Uhl c/o Faith Gardens, 168 Cressview Road, Mountain City, TN 37683. For more info about the project, contact Uhl at 423-727-8816 or uhlm@jocoed.k12tn.net.

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MerleFest 2007 Attracts Big Crowds and Big Spenders

STORY BY DAVID BREWER

Graced by a second consecutive year of predominately rain-free weather, the twentieth edition of MerleFest again welcomed tens of thousand of music pilgrims to the campus of Wilkes Community College for a wonderful week-end of Americana bliss.

Local performers The Forget-Me-Nots and The Worthless Son-In-Laws performed successfully while local songwriter Laura Kaufman placed second in the gospel category of the Chris Austin Songwriting Competition.

With preliminary total participation figures showing an estimate of 76,558 festivalgoers, musicians, volunteers and staffers, the festival's actual paid attendance was down nearly five percent from 2006. According to a press release from festival organizers, the decrease was due primarily to an intentional decrease in unpaid participation, as well as guests buying single-day tickets rather than three- and four-day passes.

Ticket sales, however, were up on both Friday and Saturday, with Saturday attendance being the second largest sin-

gle-day attendance in MerleFest history. According to MerleFest Stage Manager Randy Kelly, the festival's single biggest day was during Dolly Parton's appearance at MerleFest in 2001.

Preliminary financial calculations estimate that the regional economic impact of MerleFest 2007 will set a record with a total impact of \$17,144,109.70, nearly \$2 million more than the 2006 record.

Wilkes Community College will present MerleFest 2008 next April 24 to 27.



Friday night MerleFest headliner Elvis Costello peppered his first-ever MerleFest with selections spanning his career while welcoming guests Sam Bush, Jim Lauderdale and Jerry Douglas, among others. Photo by David Brewer



One of many memorable moments at Merlefest 2007 was this collaboration by keyboard master Jeff Little and his dad, Mr. Little, on the Austin Stage as sun was setting on Saturday. (Jim Morton photo)

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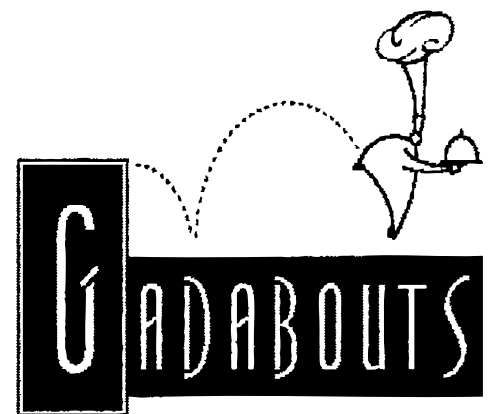
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Seventy-Six Trombones Parade into Watauga High School May 17 to 19

STORY BY RON FITZWATER

Watauga High School's theater department will present Meredith Willson's Broadway Classic *The Music Man* at the school on Thursday to Saturday May 17 to 19. All shows begin at 8:00 p.m.

The Music Man tells the story of traveling salesman Harold Hill (played by senior Luke Nelson) and his visit to a small Iowa town in 1912. While there he meets and falls in love with the willful, spinster librarian, Marian Paroo (played by senior Maggie Saunders). With his fast-talking style, "Professor" Harold Hill convinces the town that unless they embrace his innovative music program, the youngsters of River City will be lost forever. Hill flimflams the parents into buying expensive instruments and uniforms in order to form the River City Boy's Band, and chaos ensues as his credentials are questioned and he is called upon to prove himself to the town.

People who attend the show should be ready for a fast paced energetic program full of big songs and big voices. Director Sarah Miller did not hesitate to take on the challenge of the production. "It is a very complex show, but I knew we had the vocal and acting talent to pull it off," she said.

Rehearsals to this point have been done in small groups and individually. "We are right at the point where we are putting it all together," said Miller.

Miller's pride in the ensemble's progress thus far is evident as she speaks of the hard work done by the cast members. "We are just polishing off the rough edges and putting it all together now, but things are great."

The entire ensemble, according to Miller, is fabulous. Nelson said, "I really enjoy playing Hill, he is a fun and challenging role." For people familiar with the film version, Nelson said they should not expect him to mimic Robert Preston's portrayal, but rather to expect a fresh approach to the role. "I really enjoy this role," said Saunders on playing Marian. "It is challenging because this role is older than anything else I have played so far." The role according to Saunders is very broad and allows for a lot of character development. "It is wonderful to have a role I can dig my hands in to and really get into playing someone so different from me."

"Everyone has really taken

to their roles," said Saunders. "You could not have picked a better show for the cast members we have this year and that created a show unlike others because of the hard work and dedication needed to do it."

Will Barbour plays Marcellus, Hill's friend and cohort, and according to Nelson "has really stepped up to the role. It was surprising because he is only a sophomore, but he has come in to his own."

Emily Hopkins plays Eulalie Shinn, wife of River City's mayor. However, her talents go well beyond her role. "Emily has stepped into the role as musical director; she is a wonderful singer and piano player and has really helped me arranging the music for the show," said Miller. Additionally,

Hopkins has earned the respect of her fellow cast members who welcome and respect her direction.

One of the favorite performances in the history of the show has been the barbershop quartet, and this performance promises to continue the tradi-



Seniors Maggie Saunders and Luke Nelson will portray Marian Paroo and Harold Hill in the Watauga High School production of the Broadway classic *The Music Man*, May 17 to 19 at the school. Photo by Ron Fitzwater

tion. "We have four great young men as our quartet: Jason Krontz, Murray Nickel, Jonathan Hopkins and Drayton Aldridge. I never knew that four teenage boys could have that kind of sound," said Miller. "It is just amazing, if I didn't know them, I would think by their sound that they were ten years older, the pieces are just so complex."

Tickets for all shows are \$10 and go on sale beginning Monday, May 14, from 11:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. daily, and will also be available at the door.

Want To Go?

Dates: Thursday to Saturday, May 17 to 19

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Location: Watauga High School

Cost: \$10 per person

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Relay for Life Team Fundraisers 2007

Watauga County Relay for Life teams have loads of fundraising events planned in the coming weeks, including breakfasts and dinners, a car wash, bake sale, dog wash, handbell concert, yard sales and a bowling tournament. In addition, take a chance in a Relay raffle to win a handmade quilt, gas outdoor fish cooker, leather travel bag, hand-knit scarf and a 10-speed trail bike.

All proceeds benefit Watauga County Relay for Life. For more info about the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life, call Glenda Hodges (828-264-8529) or Sharon Trivette (828-297-1691).



Events

Friday, May 4: A Day at Cici's Pizza, 10% of proceeds from collected receipts are donated to Relay For Life, 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., sponsored by Boone Drug Crusaders team, captains Martha Caldwell (828-266-1445) and Amber Wideman (828-264-3055)

Friday, May 4: Caps Against Cancer, Parkway Elementary School, sponsored by Patriot Pride team, captain Laura Carson (828-265-2326)

Saturday, May 5: Pancake Breakfast/Yard Sale, Howard's Creek Baptist Church, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. breakfast, 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. yard sale, sponsored by Howard's Creek Searchers team, captain Sandy Jones (828-264-9295)

Saturday, May 5: Yard Sale, Mabel United Methodist Church, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and baked goods available

Saturday, May 5: Car Wash, NAPA Auto Parts, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., sponsored by Cove Creek Relay Raiders team, captains Allison Townsend (828-963-7304) and Tara Trivette (828-297-1691)

Saturday, May 5: Bake Sale, Belk Mall entrance at Boone Mall, begins at 10:00 a.m., sponsored by Mountain Doers team, captain Kay Wynne (828-264-3886, ext. 285)

Sunday, May 6: Strike For Life Bowling Tournament, Boone Bowling Center, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., \$20 per person, two games of Scotch Doubles, sponsored by Joyce's Memory Walkers team, captains Betty Hayes (828-264-8798) and Deborah Kirksey (828-262-0804)

Sunday, May 6: Dinner at Hardees (taste many of our sandwiches!), Hardees on Blowing Rock Road, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., \$10 per person and all goes to Relay For Life, sponsored by Deerfield Dream Team, captain Karen Hastings (828-264-7115)

Monday, May 7: Parkway Relay For Life, Parkway Elementary School, sponsored by Patriot Pride team, captain Laura Carson (828-265-2326)

Monday, May 7, to Thursday, May 10: Chocolate Roses For Mother's Day, Cove Creek Elementary School, sponsored by Cove Creek Relay Raiders team, captains Tara Trivette and Allison Townsend

Friday, May 11: Caps Against Cancer, Cove Creek Elementary School, sponsored by Cove Creek Relay Raiders team, captains Tara Trivette and Allison Townsend

Saturday, May 12: Dog Wash, Yard Sale and Barbeque, Animal Medical Center of Boone, 1582 Old U.S. Highway 421 S., just past the new Food Lion beside Carroll Leather Goods, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., sponsored by Paws for a Cause team, captain Celia Roten (828-264-7007 or 828-264-9254)

Saturday, May 12: Help Us Create Hope, every luminaria you buy will help a family create hope, Boone Drug at Deerfield and Boone Drug Downtown, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00

p.m., \$10 per luminaria (luminaria will be displayed and lit at Relay For Life June 15), sponsored by Boone Drug Crusaders team, captains Martha Caldwell (828-266-1445) and Amber Wideman (828-264-3055)

Saturday, May 12: Spaghetti Supper and Singing, Valle Crucis United Methodist Church, supper will include spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert, singing features the Arnold & Roten Family, supper at 5:00 p.m.; singing at 7:00 p.m., sponsored by Mast Store Miracle Force team, captains Janet Mahala and Briana Boone (828-963-6511)

Friday, May 18: Talent Show, Cove Creek Elementary School, sponsored by Cove Creek Cares team, captain JoAnn Laney (828-963-6959)

Saturday, May 19: Donkey Dung Bingo, Cove Creek Elementary School, begins at 10:00 a.m., sponsored by Cove Creek Relay Raiders team, captains Allison Townsend (828-963-7304) and Tara Trivette (828-297-1691)

Sunday, May 20: Country Breakfast, Deerfield United Methodist Church, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., sponsored by Deerfield Dream Team, captain Karen Hastings (828-264-7115)

Sunday, May 20: Ringing For Relay Handbell Concert, First Baptist Church, 6:00 p.m., donations accepted, sponsored by First Baptist Church Crusaders team, captain Wynne Strickland (828-265-1856)

Monday, May 28: Cove Creek Mini-Relay, Cove Creek Elementary School, sponsored by Cove Creek Relay Raiders team, captains Allison Townsend (828-963-7304) and Tara Trivette (828-297-1691)

Saturday, June 9: 5K Run/Walk Race, Boone Greenway Trail, 8:00 a.m., registration fee \$15 before May 15, \$18 after May 15 (includes long-sleeved T-shirt), sponsored by Jerry's Intimidators team, captains Paula Ward (828-297-4876) and Becky Younce (828-264-9583)

Luminaria & Raffles

• **Luminaria Sales:** Purchase a luminaria in honor or in memory of someone with cancer. Luminaria will be lit all night June 15 at Watauga County's Relay For Life at Watauga High School. The cost is \$10 each and forms are available from any team member or from the Luminaria Chair, Gail Fox (828-297-2795).

• **Handmade Queen Size Quilt** (made and donated by Jane Holaday), 1st ticket drawn; **Gas Outdoor Fish Cooker** (donated by Suburban Propane), 2nd ticket drawn; **Leather Travel Bag with Shoulder Strap** (donated by Carroll Companies), 3rd ticket drawn; **Hand-knit Scarf** (donated by Evelina Idol), 4th ticket drawn, tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5, sponsored by Friends For Life team (Laurel Springs Baptist Church), captain Kathy Idol (828-264-5240)

• **10-Speed Trail Bike**, drawing to be held at Relay For Life June 15, tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5, sponsored by BACC Walking with Spirit team, captains Sara Speed (828-262-2533) and Becky Roark (828-264-2783)

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What North Carolinians Are Thinking—and Not Thinking—About

STORY BY KATHLEEN MCFADDEN

The staff and students at the Elon University Institute for Politics and Public Affairs have been busy lately, asking 476 North Carolinians to give their opinions on a slew of issues ranging from elections to war to smoking to hurricanes—with a few more subjects thrown in as well.

The poll was conducted from April 16 to 19 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.6 percent. The sample was of the population in general and did not restrict respondents by their voter eligibility or their likelihood of voting in an election. The questions concerning the 2008 presidential and gubernatorial races were open-ended; in other words, respondents were not asked to choose from a list of candidates. Additionally, pollsters asked the questions without regard to party affiliation.

2008 Presidential Election

When asked an open-ended question about whom they plan to support in the 2008 presidential election, 57 percent of respondents said they do not know or it is too early to tell.

Ten percent said they plan to support Hillary Clinton, followed by Barack Obama (9 percent), John Edwards (8 percent) and Rudy Giuliani (5 percent). John McCain, Fred Thompson, Mitt Romney and Al Gore were each named by 1 percent.

2008 Gubernatorial Election

When asked an open-ended question about whom they plan to support in the 2008 North Carolina governor's race, 87 percent of respondents said they do not know or it is too early to tell.

Three percent of respondents named Beverly Perdue, followed by Richard Moore (2 percent) and Bill Graham (1 percent).

Elizabeth Dole's Approval Rating

North Carolina citizens were also asked if they approve or disapprove of the way Elizabeth Dole is handling her job as U.S. senator. Fifty-two percent approve or strongly approve of her performance, 30 percent disapprove or strongly disapprove and 18 percent do not know. Dole has announced plans to run for reelection in 2008.

George Bush's Job Performance

The poll also asked citizens about George W. Bush's job performance as president. Sixty-one percent disapprove or strongly disapprove

Elon Releases Latest Poll Results

of Bush's performance. Thirty-six percent approve or strongly approve of his job performance, down from 45 percent in a September 2006 Elon Poll.

George Bush's Handling of Iraq

Twenty-eight percent approve or strongly approve of the way Bush is handling the war in Iraq, down from 38 percent in the September 2006 Elon Poll. In this latest poll, 70 percent disapprove or strongly disapprove of Bush's handling of the war in Iraq.

Sixty-five percent disapprove or strongly disapprove of Bush's plan to increase the number of troops in Iraq; 32 percent approve or strongly approve. When asked whether they support or oppose plans for setting a timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq in 2008, 60 percent support or strongly support such a plan, while 35 percent oppose or strongly oppose such a plan.

Safety from Terrorism

Fifty percent said they believe the war in Iraq has made the United States less safe from terrorism, while 32 percent said the United States is more safe. Sixty-one percent said the country is now more at risk for future terrorist attacks, while 23 percent said the country is less at risk of an attack. Twelve percent said the risk remains about the same.

Smoking in Public Places

Sixty-two percent of those surveyed said they would support or strongly support a statewide law against smoking in public places, such as public buildings, offices, restaurants and bars. Thirty-four percent would oppose or strongly oppose such a law.

A follow-up question asked citizens if they would support or oppose letting local governments in North Carolina pass laws against smoking in public places. Sixty-two percent would support or strongly support allowing local governments to enact smoking bans, while 34 percent said they would oppose or strongly oppose such laws.

Sixty-seven percent of respondents said individual business owners should make the decision to not allowing smoking in public places; 30 percent said elected officials should make the decision.

Sixty-four percent said they prefer to visit

restaurants and entertainment places that do not allow smoking; 17 percent said they prefer venues that allow smoking. Eleven percent said it made no difference, and 7 percent said they don't care as long as smoking is not allowed in the dining area.

Fifty-five percent said they are less likely or much less likely to visit a place for eating or entertainment if smoking is allowed; 20 percent said they were more likely or much more likely. Twenty-three percent said it did not matter.

Real Estate Transfer Tax

Citizens were also asked about the real estate transfer tax and impact fees, two proposals being considered for raising revenue for local governments in North Carolina. Sixty-nine percent oppose or strongly oppose the real estate transfer tax, assessed when someone buys or sells real estate. Twenty-four percent said they would support or strongly support such a tax.

When asked if they would support or oppose the real estate transfer tax if all revenues went to education, 50 percent said they would support or strongly support such a tax; 42 percent said they would oppose or strongly oppose it.

Fifty-five percent of residents said they would support or strongly support the use of impact fees, collected to offset costs incurred by counties from new housing developments. Thirty-six percent would oppose or strongly oppose impact fees.

Public Schools

Forty-four percent of respondents said they believe public education in North Carolina has gotten off on the wrong track, compared with 42 percent who believe public schools are going in the right direction. Fourteen percent said they didn't know.

When asked about the public schools in their community and the most important issues facing them, 17 percent said the quality of education and/or teachers was the top issue. Ten percent said overcrowding was an important issue, followed by discipline (9 percent), adequate funding (8 percent), violence and gangs (8 percent), standardized testing (4 percent) and teacher salaries (4 percent). Twenty-three percent said they did not know.

North Carolinians were also asked about state involvement in public schools. Forty-seven percent said the state should take over

schools that do not meet state academic performance standards; 36 percent said the state should not take over such schools. Seventy-five percent agree or strongly agree that the state should continue funding school districts whose students do not meet standardized test goals; 18 percent disagree or strongly disagree.

Hurricane Season

The poll also surveyed residents about their preparation for the upcoming hurricane season that officially begins June 1. Sixty-five percent of residents said they have not done anything to prepare for hurricane season, while 29 percent said they have made preparations.

Those who said they had made preparations were asked to identify the most important thing they have done to be ready for hurricane season. Thirty-seven percent said they had purchased supplies of water and food, while 16 percent had improved home safety by removing trees or establishing a safe room in their home. Fourteen percent had purchased a generator; another 14 percent had purchased a hurricane kit with items such as batteries, flashlight, water and food.

When asked how prepared they and their families are for the upcoming hurricane season, 15 percent said they are very prepared, 42 percent said they are somewhat prepared, 25 percent said they haven't given it much thought, and 12 percent said they are not prepared.

Crime and Punishment

Several questions dealt with crime and punishment issues. Residents were asked if they support or oppose raising from 16 to 18 the age when someone can be treated as an adult for criminal offenses. Forty-seven percent oppose or strongly oppose raising the age, while 37 percent support or strongly support such a change.

Forty-eight percent said the death penalty is the most appropriate punishment for first-degree murder, down from 61 percent in a November 2005 Elon Poll. Thirty-eight percent said life in prison without parole is the correct punishment, compared with 27 percent in the 2005 poll.

When asked if they support or oppose the death penalty for first-degree murder, 58 percent said they support it; 31 percent oppose it. When asked if they support or oppose life in prison without the possibility of parole for first-degree murder, 66 percent said they support it and 29 percent were opposed.

Student Group Wins EPA Award for Solar Greenhouse Research

Continued from page 2

night, the liquid foam system was plagued by freezing temperatures and often failed to fill the cavities between the double polyurethane walls. The system also was difficult to automate.

By capturing heat stored in the earth's subsoil and piping the heat into the greenhouse,

air and soil temperatures were raised by several degrees resulting in more than doubling of plant growth, the students found.

The subsoil system was easy to install and simple to operate. It is estimated the subsoil heat system would pay for itself in two to four years based on the value of the energy it stores and releases.

In addition to the ongoing research at the existing test site, proposed future research will examine ways to improve cavity design, as well as foam mixture and foam-generating devices for the liquid foam insulation. It will examine the effectiveness of a subsoil heat system combined with argon insulation. In addition, the students will study the benefits of capturing

exhaust heat from composting by retrofitting a greenhouse at Lily Patch Farms, a local organic farm, and comparing it to the traditional greenhouses operated there.

The group's research results will be shared via a website and through a workshop that focuses on evaluating the payback period of various greenhouse energy technologies.

May Is National High Blood Pressure Education Month

Heart Disease Number One Cause of Death in Watauga County



STORY BY FAITH HAYWOOD, R.N., CHRYSANTHI MITCHELL, R.N. AND SAM CALHOUN

The leading cause of death in all counties in the Southern Appalachians is heart disease. According to a 2003 Appalachian District Health Department opinion survey, 46 percent of Watauga County residents stated that they or members of their household have high blood pressure, a leading cause of heart disease.

In an effort to help inform the public about the dangers of high blood pressure, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has developed the campaign Mission Possible, declaring May as National High Blood Pressure Education Month. Mission Possible provides activity materials to community leaders, businesses, religious congregations, civic groups and individuals, offering diverse and creative suggestions for educating the local community. A simple example is Take the Stairs Day. For more information, click to hp2010.nhlbihin.net/mission/.

Blood pressure is the force of blood against the walls of arteries. When that force stays too high, it becomes a life-threatening condition—high blood pressure, also called hypertension. In simple terms, high blood pressure makes the heart work too hard, hardens the walls of arteries and leads to heart disease and other organ damage. It can cause the brain to hemorrhage and severely damage the kidneys. High blood pressure is a factor in 67 percent of heart attacks and 77 percent of strokes. Because high

blood pressure affects circulation, the condition creates a higher risk for Alzheimer's disease. African Americans are more likely to develop high blood pressure than any other racial or ethnic group and tend to develop it earlier and more severely than others.

High blood pressure is called "The Silent Killer" because people can have it for years without knowing it. Normal blood pressure is less than 120/80. Prehypertension is 120 to 139 over 80 to 89. A reading of 140/90 or higher is considered high blood pressure. The only way to find out if you have high blood pressure is to have your blood pressure checked regularly.

More than 65 million Americans, over age 18, have high blood pressure. If you are an American over age 55, you have a 90 percent likelihood of developing high blood pressure in your lifetime. But high blood pressure is not a part of healthy aging. Age is the risk factor that cannot be controlled, but obesity, smoking, physical inactivity, high salt intake, low potassium intake (from not eating enough fruits and vegetables), excessive alcohol intake and controlling blood sugar if diabetic are controllable risk factors.

High blood pressure can be controlled. Better yet, it can be prevented. The best preventive measure is to establish healthy habits. Even simple and often modest lifestyle changes can help prevent and control high blood pressure, as well as improve overall health and quality of life.

Simple Steps to Curb High Blood Pressure

- Lose weight, if overweight, and maintain a healthy weight.
- A healthy diet.
- If you drink alcoholic beverages, do so in moderation.
- Incorporate physical activity in your day.
- Quit smoking.
- Control your blood sugar if you have diabetes.
- Take medication as directed.

Calling All Actors

All aspiring actors are invited to E. H. Sloop Chapel on The Crossnore School campus on Monday, May 7, and Tuesday, May 8, at 6:00 p.m. to audition for the upcoming outdoor drama, *Miracle on the Mountain*. The play is an adaptation of *Miracle in the Hills*, the memoir of Crossnore School founder Dr. Mary Martin Sloop. It recounts how the Sloops sought to realize their personal mission of bringing education, medical care and other improvements to the western North Carolina mountains from the early 1900s to the '60s.

The drama will premiere the first and third weeks of August in The Crossnore School's newly created amphitheater.

"We are looking for everyone from mountain folks to city slickers and stage crew," said Laura Laughridge, chief advancement officer at The Crossnore School. "This is our initial production of the play, and we want to showcase local talent. We are hoping to make the

production an annual event," Laughridge said.

Performing artist professionals are already supporting the production. Writer Bill Wilson created the script for the play. Keith Smith will direct, and actor Cathy Stallings will star as Mary Martin Sloop.

The Crossnore School is a 94-year-old children's home and school serving approximately 300 of North Carolina's abused, abandoned and neglected each year. For more information about *Miracle on the Mountain*, The Crossnore School or its programs, call 828-733-4305 or click to www.crossnoreschool.org.

Want To Go?

Dates: Monday, May 7, and Tuesday, May 8

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: E. H. Sloop Chapel, The Crossnore School

Cost: Free

Graduation Day Buffet

Sunday, May 06, 2007 - from 11:30am to 4:00pm

Adults: \$29.95 10 and Under: \$14.95 2-4yrs: \$4.95 Under Two: FREE	Some Menu Items: Omelets and Waffle Station Roast Beef Ribeye Almond Crusted Mahi Mahi
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Internationally Acclaimed Artist Creates ASU Library Mural

STORY BY BLAIR O'BRIANT

Internationally known artist Brenda Mauney Councill has been commissioned to create a mural for Appalachian State University's Carol Grotnes Belk Library and Information Commons. The final product will be revealed in late June 2007.

Councill, specializes in large-scale murals, domed ceilings and theme rooms, has long been familiar with the area and often spends time at her family's summer home in Blowing Rock. Councill's extended family also has strong ties to western North Carolina communities.

Councill said the idea for the project began more than two years ago when a community member first saw the new library building.

"The initial idea was the brainchild of community activist and ASU alumna, Mrs. Betty Howe. She toured the opening of the library and immediately phoned the chancellor, Dr. Peacock, with an idea to create a ceiling mural to cover the unsightly sprayed-on insulation," Councill said.

Councill said the chancellor loved the idea and proposed it to well-known philanthropists Irwin and Carol Grotnes Belk. The Belks offered to fund the project with assistance from the ASU Foundation.

Councill said Librarian Dr. Mary Reichel and Mr. Jerry Hutchens, ASU Foundation

president, have also been involved in the project. Both are members of the approval committee, along with Chancellor Peacock and Mr. and Mrs. Belk.

Councill said the preparation stage has been a two-year struggle over what the ASU Design and Construction Department would allow. After the department refused to allow Council to paint the actual ceiling or to apply her own canvas over it, which would require scraping off certain materials, Councill had to rethink her initial idea. She finally decided on an alternate plan that involves only painting the walls and an angled ceiling of the building. "All solutions offered were negated and disputed by Design and Construction department decisions, therefore disallowing the ceiling mural project to proceed. This was a devastating decision which altered the course of the entire project," Councill said.

Councill said she and the Belk family plan to make the mural project representative of the area and its natural beauty by including features such as famous mountain peaks. The theme of the mural is The Quest for Knowledge.

"An iconographic relationship of symbols and representational forms will dominate the lower mural. These will focus on Appalachian States' academic and athletic programs, laced with plenty of history in the community of Boone and ASU's continued

PHOTO FEATURE



A portrait of Frank Borkowski, ASU's fifth chancellor, was unveiled last Wednesday during a special ceremony in Belk Library and Information Commons. The portrait, painted by artist Danny Filippone, is located on the first floor of the library in the Francis T. and Kay Borkowski Reading Room that was dedicated in the Borkowskis' honor during the event. Borkowski, a classically trained

musician, now teaches in the Mariam Cannon Hayes School of Music. Since arriving in Boone with her husband, Kay Borkowski has been an active volunteer in the community and has taught flute in the Hayes School of Music. The Borkowskis live in Valle Crucis. Pictured with the Borkowskis is artist Danny Filippone. Photo courtesy of Appalachian State University



legacy," Council said.

Council said the project is currently on schedule, and she will begin painting on May

10. She said she is under contract to finish her work in 45 days and only plans to have one assistant help her a few days a week.

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A wall in the Watauga High auto tech shop is dedicated to the program's achievements, prominently displaying numerous awards garnered by talented students. Photo by David Brewer

Watauga High's Auto Tech Students Win Awards at Recent Competitions

STORY BY DAVID BREWER

Recently, High Country Press reported on a number of students excelling in Watauga High School's award-winning welding program. It turns out that the welding students aren't the only ones getting their hands dirty, winning awards and gaining valuable skills in a hands-on setting.

Spearheaded for the last 10 years by head instructor Larry Jones, the WHS auto tech program recently sent students to the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association competition and the Skills USA competition, and the students brought home awards from each. The students, including sophomores, juniors and seniors, earned thousands of dollars in scholarship money, as well as new tools.

In years past, the WHS auto tech program has won six state championships and has placed 10th and 11th in national competitions.

From teaching fewer than 50 students when first arriving at WHS in the late 1990s, Jones' auto tech program is now bursting at the seams with approximately 120 students. Recently, the school hired former NASCAR fabricator Jim Lusk as an additional instructor for the program.

"We don't usually have room for all the students that enroll," said Jones. "We don't have as much space as we need."

One aspect of the program that has changed since Jones' first year is the enrollment of female students. Six female students are currently studying in the WHS auto tech program, and Jones said that females are extremely likely to get hired, especially by dealerships, that have largely female customer bases.

Certified by the National Automobile Technical Education Foundation (NATEF) and the Automotive Youth Education System (AYES), the program focuses on four areas—brakes, electronics, steering and suspension, and engine performance—the basic skills that employers look for in potential mechanics.

All students enrolled in the program receive both

high school and college credit through Caldwell Community College and are eligible for college-level under-car and engine performance certificates.

"That shortens the amount of time and money they have to spend to receive an associate's degree," said Jones.

According to Jones, an advisory committee of businesspeople and educational personnel has helped the program achieve its continuing level of success.

"It takes a lot of people to make this type of program successful," said Jones. "You have to have support from the businesses, parents and administration, all working together."

Jones said that many graduates of the WHS auto tech program are currently employed at local dealerships while others are receiving further technical training in programs including five students at the NASCAR Technical Institute.

Several Watauga High students have recently joined the school's award-winning auto tech tradition, winning tools and scholarship money while bringing home prizes in recent competitions.

NCADA Competition, 2nd Place

Kyle Trivett

Creston Triplett

Skills USA Competition

Auto Service Tech. 1

First Place-Daniel Miller

Second Place-C.K. Goldenfields

Fifth Place-Jessica Lawrence

Auto Service Tech. 2

Third Place-Kyle Triplett

Power Equipment

Fifth Place-Thomas Bolick

Diesel

Third Place-Dusty Hartsoe

Fourth Place-Nathan Hodges

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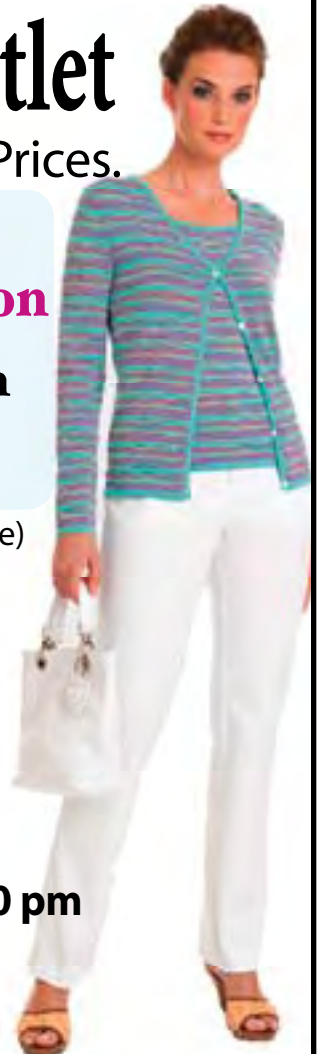
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Tweetsie Celebrates 50 Years of Family Fun

Continued from page 1

and have a great time. There's a lot of family memories that can be made here at Tweetsie."

The Wild West theme park features live shows, amusement rides, the Deer Park—the theme park's petting zoo that contains deer, goats, pigs and lamas—concerts and much more. The heart of the park is the action-packed three-mile train ride behind Tweetsie Railroad's historic steam locomotives. Visitors can walk the streets of a Western town, learn about the lives of cowboys and Indians of the past and take a scenic chair lift ride to Miner's Mountain and pan for gold.

Visitors of all ages can enjoy live entertainment including Diamond Lil's Can-Can Revue, Hopper and Porter's Musical Celebration and the imaginative Professor Peppercorn's Magical Extravaganza. Tweetsie's Country Clogging Jamboree is also sure to get your toes tapping.

One of Tweetsie Railroad's 2007 additions will be The Hacienda, an all-new section of the park with a Southwest American theme. With a planned mid-2007 opening, The Hacienda is the park's first major expansion in several years and will be home to Tweetsie Railroad concerts, special events and group functions, as well as new restaurants and restroom facilities.

The heart of The Hacienda will be The Den of Lost Thieves, an interactive pirate-themed ride. The 14-scene ride will feature interactive

game elements, cartoon-style design, characters and music, colorful pirates and bristling British naval officers whose ship has been robbed of its treasure. The ride takes visitors on a chase through a secret island in search of the hidden treasure.

The Country Fair will get three new thrill rides this season: the Tornado, a new hands-on twirling attraction where riders control how slowly or quickly they want to spin; the Free Fall, an attraction perched on a ledge overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains that shoots riders up above the tree line followed by a 50-foot free fall; and the Round-Up, an attraction that takes park attendees in a circular motion using centrifugal force while simultaneously tilting for an exhilarating experience.

"Tweetsie fans are really going to enjoy the interactive nature and entertainment of these new rides and attractions," said Chris Robbins, Tweetsie's vice president and general manager. "As one of the most significant expansions in Tweetsie's history, it's fitting that it should happen during the 50th anniversary season when we're celebrating the park's past and future."

Tweetsie Railroad will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays starting Friday, May 4, and seven days a week from May 25 through August 26 before returning to the weekend schedule from August 31 through November 4, including Labor Day Monday. The park's regular hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., but will be open until 9:00 p.m. on July 4th and nightly

TWEETSIE'S 2007 SPECIAL EVENTS

The 2007 season includes several special events at the park. Here's a quick look at each one:

DAY OUT WITH THOMAS™—JUNE 1 TO 10

Hop aboard with Thomas the Tank Engine™ as he chugs through the Blue Ridge Mountains. During Thomas' visit, children will have the opportunity to meet and take pictures with Sir Topham Hatt, listen to Thomas and Friends™ storytelling and tour Imagination Station. Advance tickets are required because this event frequently sells out.

TWEETSIE'S FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA—WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

Celebrate Independence Day with great family-friendly fun! Tweetsie's Fourth of July event features spectacular fireworks that light up the evening sky, and this year will be bigger and better than ever. The park will remain open until 9:00 p.m. on July 4.

BOB THE BUILDER™—JULY 21 TO 22

Join the Can-Do Crew and meet Bob the Builder during his first visit to Tweetsie Railroad. The hardhat-wearing, hard-working builder will perform three 20-minute shows each day at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. When Bob the Builder is around, the fun is in getting it done!

JUMP: THE ULTIMATE DOG SHOW—JULY 28 TO AUGUST 5

These four-legged friends leave spectators in amazement. Don't miss the chance to see these dynamic dogs perform their gravity-defying tricks that are sure to dazzle Tweetsie guests at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

RIDERS IN THE SKY—AUGUST 18 TO 19

America's Favorite Cowboys will bring audiences a mix of comedy and Western tunes. The Grammy award-winning quartet's shows are at noon and 3:00 p.m. each day and are included with the regular admission fee.

TWEETSIE'S RAILFAN WEEKEND—SEPTEMBER 8 TO 9

The weekend will include special historic trains and an exclusive train shop tour. See the lost art of steam locomotive restoration and repair in one of the few remaining locomotive shops in North America.

GHOST TRAIN HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL—OCTOBER 5 TO NOVEMBER 3

Take a ride on the frighteningly fun Ghost Train with engineer Casey Bones. There is also the haunted house, trick-or-treating and other Halloween-themed attractions to provide a memorable night of safe and scary fun for the entire family.

during the Ghost Train Halloween Festival in October. In addition, the park will open at 8:00 a.m. each Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the popular Day Out With Thomas event.

Daily admission is \$29 for adults and \$21 for children ages 3 through 12. Children 2 and

under are admitted free. The 2007 season ends Sunday, November 4.

For more information about the 2007 season at Tweetsie Railroad, call 828-264-9061 or 1-877-TWEETSIE or click to www.tweetsie.com.

Architects Present High School Site Plan

Continued from page 1

In addition to the school building and parking, the site includes baseball and softball fields, football stadium, soccer field and tennis courts, as well as a site at the north end of the property set aside for a future community recreation center.

The commissioners and school board members anticipate site preparation work to begin in August or September this year and the school's opening in fall 2010.

On April 19, Nelson, Sisak, Board of Commissioners Chair Jim Deal, Watauga County Schools Superintendent Dr. Bobbie Short and Board of Education member Deborah Miller attended the Boone Town Council meeting, and Nelson presented three requests related to the new high school on behalf of the two boards.

Road Closures

The county has petitioned the town council to close portions of Daniel Boone Drive Extension and Hill Top Drive to preclude cut-through neighborhood traffic, but residents of another adjacent street expressed cut-through concerns at the council meeting.

Some residents of Delmar Street attended the meeting, upset about the clear-cutting of a tree buffer between

the street's dead end and the beginning of the high school tract and the rumor that Delmar Street was planned as an access road to the school. Both the county and the school board responded that no such access was planned and that the county was not responsible for the clear-cutting.

During discussion of the neighbors' concerns, Boone Public Works Director Blake

Brown reported that the town had cleared a small right of way through the tree buffer for a new power line, but a private property owner had cut the trees—without right or permission—to provide heavy equipment access to his property. Brown said that the town would plant new trees to replace the ones that had been cut and install a guardrail at the dead end.

With that concern addressed, Delmar Street resident Greg Simmons pointed out that Delmar Street could still potentially be used as a drop-off point for high school students who could simply walk through the buffer area and access the rear of the high school.

Miller assured Simmons, other residents and the town council that the commissioners and school board are "very sensitive to the neighbors" and willing to install fencing or some other impediment to ensure that Delmar Street is not used as a drop-off point.

"We want to ensure our kids use the proper entrance," Short said. "It's a safety issue for us."

Members of the town council asked that the county meet with residents of the neighborhoods surrounding the high school tract to address their issues and concerns. Deal said that members of the boards would hold a meeting with residents in early May, followed by a general community meeting about the high school a few weeks later.

That meeting has been scheduled for

Wednesday, May 23, at 6:00 p.m. at Watauga High School.

Conditional Zoning Request

Nelson also asked the council to approve a conditional zoning request for the property that would permit school construction on the site. Development Services Director John Spear pointed out that the county had two choices: applying for a special use permit or for conditional zoning.

"Since it's going to be a school for the next 50 to 100 years," Deal said, "I think conditional zoning is the way to go."

The Town of Boone Unified Development Ordinance gives the town council the power to approve conditional zoning requests, but the proposed use must meet all the development standards of the ordinance. In addition, the town council can apply additional requirements beyond those required by the ordinance in the conditional zoning approval.

The permitting authority for special use permits is the Board of Adjustment, not the town council.

Public Hearings

The county's street closure and conditional zoning requests require public hearings. Those hearings will all take place on the same night, Thursday, May 31, at 7:00 p.m. in the Watauga High School auditorium. The members of the town council, board of commissioners and board of education will be present at the hearings.

UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL MEETINGS

Three public meetings related to the high school are scheduled in May.

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 4:00 P.M.— SITE PLAN APPROVAL

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners and Board of Education will hold a joint meeting to consider and vote on the final site plan for the new high school.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 6:00 P.M.— PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

The Watauga County Board of Education will hold a public meeting to present the site plan for the new Watauga High School, including the planned location of the high school building, parking areas, driveways, athletic fields and other major features of the 94-acre property.

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 7:00 P.M.—PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners and Board of Education and the Boone Town Council will hold public hearings at the Watauga High School auditorium to consider the county's requests for street closures of Daniel Boone Drive Extension and Hill Top Drive, as well as the county's request for conditional zoning of the high school site.

things ² know

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS - Volunteer Opportunities

Gear for Garhwal Needs Your Used Hiking Gear...

Mast General Store is again partnering with the study teams from ASU and Georgia Southern University in a mountain-to-mountain initiative to aid the Garhwal people near the Tibetan border. Bring your used hiking gear—boots, trekking poles, packs, fleeces, and other items—to any Mast General Store location by Sunday, May 6, to help the Mountain Shepherds, who act as guides on treks into the Himalayas. Particular needs include synthetic shells, shoes (boots, sandals, flip flops), packs, 20* to 30* sleeping bags, sleeping pads, headlamps, stoves (international styles that can accept multiple fuels) and 4-person 3-season tents. Smaller sizes are important because the average Indian man is 5 feet to 5 feet 6 inches tall. Women's sizes fit particularly well. The collected items will be delivered in mid-May. For more info, contact Lynn Willis at 828-963-6511.

Volunteer Trail Workdays May 12 and 19...

Elk Knob State Natural Area will hold volunteer trail workdays on two consecutive Saturdays, May 12 and 19. These days will be used to help build a new trail to the summit of Elk Knob. Experience is not necessary;

just bring a willingness to do a little hands-on labor. Elk Knob is located 5.5 miles up Meat Camp Road, off Highway 194 North. Both work days will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will run until 2:00 p.m. Be sure to bring water, lunch/snack (if you feel you will need it), work gloves (leather preferred) and boots or shoes that cover all toes. If you are interested in helping, call 828-297-3804 and let the staff know what date you are able to work.

Volunteer at the Library...

The Watauga County Public Library needs a few dedicated volunteers to help cover, tape edges and repair books and also needs volunteers to run the DVD/CD cleaning machine. They train! Contact Rebecca Moore for book work and John Blake for cleaning at 828-264-8784.

Help Sponsor Boone Pride 2007...

The High Country's Third Annual GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) celebration will be held Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9, and Boone Pride, the nonprofit organizing the event is "hungry for sponsors," according to a spokesperson. To help, email info@boonepride.org.

JOIN THE CLUB - Meeting Notices

Local Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting Thursday...

The Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 3, at the Wellness Center at 12:00 p.m. The LICC is a collaboration of agencies that provide services to children and families in Watauga County. The group encourages anyone interested in joining the LICC to contact the Children's Council for more info at 828-262-5424.

NAMI Meeting May 7...

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of the High Country will meet on Monday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Watauga County Human Services Center on the Poplar Grove Connector in Boone. The public is invited to attend this business meeting. For more info, call 828-264-9007.

Watauga Beekeepers May 7...

The next meeting of the Watauga County Beekeepers Association is Monday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Agricultural Conference Center on Poplar Grove Road in Boone. The topic is current-season hive considerations and open questions. For info, call 828-963-7196.

Newcomers Club May 9...

The High Country Newcomers Club begins its 2007 season with dessert and coffee at the home of Gail Lund on Wednesday, May 9, at 2:00 p.m. The group will discuss plans for the monthly meetings. Guests and new members are welcome. The 2007 officers are Lila Jean Taylor, president; Marilyn White, vice president; Ellen Caron, secretary; Goldie Nabatoff, treasurer. Call Gail at 828-264-1943 by May 7.

Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association Meeting May 7...

The first meeting of the Boone Chapter of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) will be held Monday, May 7, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the classroom at the Wellness Center. Mountain bikers of all levels and ages are welcome. At this meeting, the group will discuss SORBA and potential trail-building projects, as well as schedule group rides. SORBA is the largest nonprofit mountain biking organization in the Southeast. For more info about SORBA, click to www.sorba.org. For info about the meeting, call Boone Bike and Touring at 828-262-5750.

High Country Writers May 10...

Monty Joynes, regional author of the Booker Series, will be the High Country Writers guest speaker on Thursday, May 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Watauga Public Library. Joynes co-authored *The Celestine Prophecy: The Making of the Movie*. His second making-of-the-movie book was released in September 2006 to coincide with the October release and the national promotion tour of the feature film, *Conversations with God*. For more info contact Judith Banks at 828-773-5653.

GENERAL INTEREST - Opportunities

Models Needed for Haircut 101 Classes...

Haircut 101 needs models for various classes on Wednesday mornings at 9:00. Cutting classes will last until 11:00 and color classes until 12:00. Services are free of charge. On May 16 is women's short cut with texture. May 23 is medium length (above the shoulders) foil color class. May 30 is women's long layered cut. If you are interested in participating in these classes, call 828-262-3324 for availability. Haircut 101 is located at 174 South Depot Street in downtown Boone.

Musicfest 'N Sugar Grove Offers Early Bird Special...

The 10th Annual MusicFest 'N Sugar Grove is offering a special two-day general admission ticket price of \$25 until May 31. Two days of the Kruger Brothers, Jim Lauderdale's Bluegrass Band, Steep Canyon Rangers, Shannon Whitworth Band and 18 regional favorites for only \$25? What a deal! Our famous Bar-B-Q and other festival foods and crafts plus workshops will be available both days. To take advantage of this super discount for a magical musical experience on July 13 and 14, call 828-297-2200 or order online at www.musicfestnsugargrove.org.

ASU Annual Spring Plant Sale Continues Through May...

The ASU Biology Department greenhouse is holding its 26th Annual Spring plant sale on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 12:00 until 6:00 p.m. at 333 Dale Street, off State Farm Road. The sale began April 26 and continues through May or until sold out, and plant selections include annuals, perennials, tropical foliage of all sizes and fuchsia baskets. Plant care info will also be available. For more info, call 828-262-4025.

Prevent A Litter...Fix Your Critter...

The Watauga Humane Society may have money available to assist people with financial need in covering the cost of spaying or neutering their dogs or cats. Call 828-264-7865 between 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, or from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and tell the person you talk to that you would like to use grant money to cover part of the cost of spaying your dog or cat. Act quickly because financial assistance is available on a first-come, first-served basis.



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Watauga Surgical Group Offers Treatment for Varicose Veins

STORY BY SAM CALHOUN

When symptoms of varicose veins—swelling and pain in the legs, discoloration of skin around the ankle or ulcerations around the ankle—become a problem, two minimally evasive treatment options are offered in Watauga County.

The first—covered in the March 22 issue of *High Country Press*—is EVLT, endo venous laser treatment, that involves inserting a laser fiber through an incision to the sapheno femoral junction near the groin. The laser energy seals off the vein for about two minutes, cutting the blood flow to tributary varicose veins, and then the laser actually melts the vein from inside the leg.

The other method is called RFA, radio frequency ablation. A catheter placed into the greater saphenous vein is advanced to the sapheno femoral junction. Once there, prongs at the end of the catheter open and come into contact with the vein wall. The radio frequency is then turned on and the catheter is pulled back slowly. The catheter heats the inside of the vein to 85 degrees Celsius, resulting in fibrosis of the vein. “It literally glues the vein together,” explained Dr. Paul Dagher, FACS (Fellow of the American College of Surgeons), of Watauga Surgical Group, 965 State Farm Road in Boone.

The old, painful method of removing varicose veins was called ligation and stripping. Patients were put to sleep and their varicose veins were literally yanked out of their legs. As an alternative, VNUS Medical Technologies developed RFA almost a decade ago, and EVLT was developed five years later as another alternative.

If RFA is used to treat symptoms and not used for cosmetic reasons, all consultations and procedures are covered by insurance.

“The reason for doing this is to improve quality of life,” said Dagher. “The pain of varicose veins is just a symptom of high pressure due to malfunctioning veins.”

Varicose veins are bad valves in the superficial veins of the leg that fail over time. Blood deep within the leg backflows into these faulty veins and causes pressure that results in pain.

“Instead of blood flowing from the foot to the heart, the blood flows back down, creates pressure and dilates the veins until they become varicose,” said Dagher.

When Dagher began treating varicose veins two years ago, he had a choice between offering EVLT or RFA. At the time, 75 percent of physicians used RFA and 25 percent used EVLT.

Dagher chose RFA because it had been around longer, because data suggested that it works better and because it is minimally evasive.

Of the patients who underwent the old procedure of ligation and stripping, 45 to 60 percent could expect their varicose veins to recur after treatment. Almost ten years of data on RFA, however, shows a recurrence rate of between 2 and 10 percent. Five years of data on EVLT indicates a recurrence rate of between 2 and 30 percent, but Dagher said that five years is not enough time to definitively determine the recurrence rate.

Around 85 percent of RFA patients are able to return to work the next day. Dagher’s staff also polls patients the day after the procedure and asks them to rate their pain on a scale of 1 to 10. The highest rating reported in two years is 3 out of 10. The procedure takes roughly 45 minutes per leg and can be done in the office.

“In about 24 hours, [RFA] leads to the alleviation of the majority of patients’ symptoms,” said Dagher.

After the procedure, 50 percent of patients have resolution of varicose veins altogether and 92 percent have resolution of symptoms, according to Dagher.

For more information, call the Watauga Surgical Group at 828-264-2340 or click to www.wataugasurgicalgroup.com.

White Oak Vaulters Host Mountain Spring Fest May 26

STORY BY CELESTE VON MANGAN

Equestrian vaulting—a combination of dance and gymnastics performed on the back of a moving horse—dates back to 1500 BC in South Scandinavia, but the International Equestrian Federation has only recognized it since 1983 by as one of seven official equestrian disciplines.

If you’d like to see what equestrian vaulting looks like, you’re in luck. On Saturday, May 26, the White Oak Vaulters will host a Mountain Spring Fest at Leatherwood Stables, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Admission to the fest is free to spectators, and the fee for vaulting participants is \$7 per class. Dana Van Vranken is traveling from New Jersey to judge, and Saddlewood Restaurant will sell food.

Classes in the horse division include a standing contest at the walk, trot or canter; a freestyle costume class; vaulting parent’s class for compulsories at the walk and a seated and standing ball toss.

In the barrel division, participants perform on a piece of equipment designed to simulate the horse’s body. Classes include mirror pairs, parent/child pairs, sibling pairs and pairs costume freestyle.

Equestrian vaulters compete as individuals, as pas de deux (pairs) or in team events. Beginning vaulters compete at the walk and also at the trot in the United States, while copper, bronze, silver and gold medal level vaulters perform on a cantering horse. Vaulting competitions include both compulsory exercise and choreographed freestyle exercises performed to music.

“Our club is one of three in North Carolina,” said head coach Amy Albertson, “and it is an American Vaulting Associa-

Want To Go?
Date: Saturday, May 26
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Leatherwood Stables
Cost: Free for spectators/\$7 per class for vaulting participants

tion (AVA) registered club. We started a year ago last summer and it is a growing sport.” The White Oak Vaulters recently competed in an AVA recognized vaulting fest at South Lake Farm in Huntersville. Albertson describes vaulting as one of the safest equestrian activities, with vaulters experiencing few injuries or accidents.

Anyone can participate in the Mountain Spring Fest. Participants do not have to be AVA members.

“I’ve been vaulting for two years,” said Amanda Dereng, team member of White Oak Vaulters, “and I’ve done some pretty amazing things that I didn’t think I could do. Some of my favorite moves are shark, star and arabesque. I think vaulting is fun, challenging and exciting at the same time.”

“I agree on that one,” said fellow team member Eve von Mangan. “My favorite moves are standing, backbends and jump-off dismounts. I especially like to do these at the trot; it is hard, but fun! I cannot wait until I can stand at the canter.”

Albertson has openings in her weekly vaulting classes on Mondays from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. at White Oak Stables in Purllear, home of the Wilkes Therapeutic Riding Program that her mother Diana Albertson runs. The White Oak Vaulters currently includes members from



The White Oak Vaulters competed at the Southern Sunshine Fest in Huntersville on April 7. Team member Eve von Mangan demonstrates a move. Photo by Celeste von Mangan

the High Country as well as from Wilkes County, and Anderson said that if enough people express interest, she will form a separate class for adults. Albertson also teaches a therapeutic vaulting class on Thursdays and will be coaching a five-day vaulting day camp from June 4 through June 8.

Albertson is looking for sponsors for Mountain Spring Fest, specifically to help purchase ribbons and to pay the judge’s fee and expenses.

For more info about the fest, to become a sponsor or to join a practice class or vaulting camp, call Albertson at 336-903-0016. Click to www.wtrp.org for information on the Wilkes Therapeutic Riding Program.

For directions to Leatherwood Stables, located between Boone and Blowing Rock, click to www.leatherwoodmountains.com.

2003 Kawasaki Prairie 360	2003 Yamaha Big Bear 400	2004 Kawasaki Vulcan 1500 Stk.#P1120	2004 Yamaha V-Star Classic 654 Stk.#P1118A	2004 Yamaha XT 225 Stk.#P128
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NEW Dini 50 Diamond Back, only 3 left!	2004 Suzuki Eiger Quadrunner 600 4x4, Stk.#P132	2006 Kawasaki Ninja 650R, only 1,600 miles. Like new!	2005 Yamaha Virago 250, only 1,400 miles. Nice!	2001 SeaDoo GTU Stk.#Y2347A
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Shelter

May 3, 2007

High Country Press

Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust Celebrates Ten Years of Service



STORY BY RON FITZWATER

On May 13, 1997, the League of Women Voters of Boone and Blue Ridge Resource Conservation and Development (BRRCD), concerned about the spiraling loss of rural land and culture in the High Country, met to discuss the creation of a regional land trust. By August, the Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust (BRRLT), had been established.



The Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust works to protect lands in Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey counties (above).



The BRRLT protected 63 acres on the Swansie Shepherd Farm in Ashe County (right). Photo Courtesy BRRLT

In the beginning, the BRRLT struggled to get on its feet. Executive Director James Coman initially took control of the trust without compensation until funding could be secured to pay salary. "Very fortunately we obtained initial funding from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation within a few months, and have been going from strength to strength ever since," Coman said.

Initially, some issues arose between landowners and BRRLT, but Coman and the board worked to build trust. Trust is crucial for the BRRLT to accomplish its mission. Coman explained that the trust adopted a "very low-pressure, low profile, farmer-friendly and somewhat laid-back method of operation, result-

ing in very good landowner and community relations."

The official mission of the BRRLT is to "preserve rural communities and culture in northwestern North Carolina (Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Wilkes, Watauga and Yancey counties) through the protection of the land resources upon which they depend." This is completed without government assistance as BRRLT operates as a nonprofit organization. Aid comes from private citizens, landowners and friends of the program from national, state and local organizations. The list of friends of the program is extensive and is posted in full at www.ctnc.org/partner.htm. However, some of the more recognizable

names are the National Parks Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, N.C. Parks and Recreation, N.C. Conservation Tax Credit Program, Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, N.C. Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, National Committee for the New River and the High Country Conservancy.

To date, according to Coman, the BRRLT has protected nearly 6,500 acres through conservation easements. This land will remain as farmland with some tracts managed by the North

Continued on page 28

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Bouquet Florist

STORY BY SAM CALHOUN

For 30 years, a local company has made Mother's Day just a little more special by delivering smiles in the form of flowers. But it's not just Mother's Day memories that Bouquet Florist, 240 Shadowline Drive, Suite 12AA, helps create—the all-purpose florist brings flowers from all over the world to Boone year-round,

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designing arrangements for weddings, parties, memorials, anniversaries, births and special events.

"We can help with any occasion that you can imagine," said Jack Raby, co-owner of Bouquet Florist. "Even if you just want to say 'I love you.'"

Bouquet Florist employees Steve Pace (left) and Teresa Hartzell (middle) join co-owner Jack Raby (right) by one of the florist's flower arrangements inside the business in the Shops at Shadowline in Boone. Bouquet Florist celebrates 30 years in business in 2007. Photo by Sam Calhoun

Raby and his wife Dee bought Bouquet Florist 15 years ago from the original owners who began the high-end floral and gift store in 1977. The store was located on Boone Heights Drive

Continued on page 28



BUSINESSbriefs

FOR AVERY & WATAUGA COUNTIES

Local Photographer Wins Award...

The Professional Photographers of North Carolina honored local fine art photographer Melanie Burton with the Best of Show award for her image Desolate—a painted interpretation of a landscape image photographed in Lancaster County, Penn. More than 650 images were entered into the state competition held in Durham. Desolate also won first place in the Scenic and Fine Art category and was chosen for inclusion in the 2007 traveling loan collection. Burton works in Boone where she owns Moonspeed Photographic Design & Artistry.

Dorian Gallery Opens May 4...

The Dorian Fine Art Gallery will open Friday, May 4, at 1245 Walt Clark Road in Crossnore. Gallery hours are Friday through Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and anytime by appointment. The gallery features oils, acrylics, watercolors and prints. For info, call 828-737-9044.

Tanner Grand Opening Celebration This Weekend...

The Tanner Ladies Outlet is now open at its new location in the Shops at Shadowline in Boone and is hosting a grand opening celebration on May 4, 5 and 6, with a ribbon cutting planned for 12:00 p.m. on May 4. The store recently moved to Shadowline from Highway 321 in Blowing Rock. New store hours are 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. For more info, call 828-268-2142.

Avery-Banner Elk Chamber Quarterly Breakfast May 8...

The Avery-Banner Elk Chamber of Commerce is hosting its quarterly breakfast at Mildred's Grill in the Nature Museum on Grandfather Mountain on Tuesday, May 8, at 8:00 a.m. Cost is \$5. Future Chamber of Commerce plans will be discussed. For more info, call 828-898-5605.

Boone Business Expo May 10...

The Boone Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Boone Business Expo on Thursday, May 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the Boone Mall. The show is open to all area organizations and businesses, but a limited number of booths is available. For info, call 828-264-2225.

AF Insurance Services Welcomes Lance McInturff...

Lance McInturff—seven-year manager and co-owner of Alpine Collections Credit Information Bureau—is now a commercial lines producer in the Boone office of AF Insurance Services, 1675 Blowing Rock Road. McInturff is a graduate of Watauga High School and has a degree in finance from Appalachian State University.

Loan Workshop May 10...

The SBA will present a workshop focusing on the basics of small business loans at the Watauga JobLink Center in Boone on Thursday, May 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The session is free and open to the public. For more info and/or to register, call 828-265-5385, ext. 205.

Watauga Farmers' Market Opens for the Season

GOOD EATS, GORGEOUS PLANTS, GREAT CRAFTS COMING YOUR WAY SATURDAY

Watauga County Farmers' Market will open for its 33rd season this Saturday, May 5. All of the vendors have been busy planning for an especially fine market this year and are all looking forward to seeing their old friends and making new ones. The market will be at the Horn in the West parking lot in Boone, Saturday mornings through the end of October, rain or shine.

Look for a good selection of fresh local vegetables for opening day. Watauga River Farms hopes to have baby garlic, spring onions and broccoli. Shelton Lindau and Carol Miller will have plenty of salad greens; Shelton will also have nice spring violas while Carol will bring all the usual suspects for opening: jam, herbal jellies, vinegars, baked goods, granola, baking mixes and peanut butter.

Richard Boylan should be very popular this weekend with gourmet Asian pea tendrils for salads and stir fry, as well as a nice supply of fresh local asparagus.

New to the market this year is Jason Brooks, who will have Watauga County



beef for sale. Liza Plaster will return with her fresh goat cheese.

Also be sure to check out the selection of home-baked foods to eat on the spot or to enjoy later. Joan Knox and Bryan Selby will bring fresh breads and other treats, and

The Watauga County Farmers' Market just gets better every year. Celebrating its 33rd season, the market opens this Saturday at Horn in the West. Photos by Kathleen McFadden

Rebecca Kaenzig will have coffee, juices and cookies, as well as some new little individual-size cakes. Yum!

Gardeners can choose from plenty of healthy ornamental and vegetable plants. Alicia Breton has lilacs and bedding plants ready to grow and bloom. Andy Bryant has a good variety of vegetable starts on hand, and Reba Greene will have garden plants along with a good supply of squirrel corn.

Don't forget the great lineup of crafts for opening day. Selections include nature photography and note cards by Annlynn Ward, gourds and woodworking by Kim Miller, painted wood and gourds by Mary Prewett and a great selection of jewelry made by April Graham, Karl Doege, Katy Wilson and The Rocky Fellows.

Head to the Horn this Saturday to support local businesses and join in the fun.

CHAMBER & CIVIC MEETINGS

Boone Area Chamber of Commerce

5/4, Friday—Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Tanner Retail Store, Shops at Shadowline, noon

5/8, Tuesday—Business After Hours and Business of the Year Award, Broyhill Inn & Conference Center, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

5/10, Thursday—Boone Business Expo, Boone Mall, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Avery-Banner Elk Chamber of Commerce

5/8, Tuesday—Quarterly Breakfast, Grandfather Mountain, \$5, 8:00 a.m.

5/10, Thursday—Chamber After Hours, The Lodges at Elkmont, Banner Elk, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Avery County Commissioners

5/7, Monday—Commissioners' Boardroom, 3:00 p.m.

Watauga County Commissioners

5/8, Tuesday—Commissioners' Boardroom, 4:00 p.m.

Boone Board of Adjustment

5/3, Thursday—Town Council Chambers, 5:30 p.m.

Blowing Rock Town Council

5/8, Tuesday—Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Boone Quarterly Public Hearing

5/10, Thursday—Town Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.

Banner Elk Town Council

5/14, Monday—Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Seven Devils Town Council

5/14, Monday—Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.

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Spring Naturalists' Rally at Roan Mountain Friday through Sunday

STORY BY KATHLEEN MCFADDEN

The Spring Naturalists' Rally at Roan Mountain is the ultimate field trip for those with an unnatural interest in wildflowers, birds, butterflies, ferns, geology, history, medicinal and edible plants, mushrooms, salamanders, stream ecology and astronomy. And doesn't that sound like just about everyone?

Sponsored by the Friends of Roan Mountain, the 49th annual rally is this Friday through Sunday, May 4 to 6.

Friday

Activities don't get started until 6:30 p.m. on Friday, although registration begins an hour earlier at the Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center. Friday night's program is a dinner and presentation double header.

The dinner, catered by City Market in Elizabethton, includes baked chicken, two vegetables, salad, dessert selection, bread and drinks. The cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under.

After dinner at 7:30, Dr. Pete Lemiszki, chief geologist for the State of Tennessee, will present *Rummaging in the Basement of the Appalachian Mountains: Appraising the Rocks for Rare Clues about the Geologic History of the Roan Mountain Area*.

Saturday

Saturday morning is for the early birds—literally—with a birdwalk beginning at 6:30 at Sycamore Shoals State Park in Elizabethton.

If you can't make it out quite that early, several morning tours convene at 8:30 at Roan Mountain State Park in the first field on the right after the Visitors Center. Choose from another birdwalk, forest ecology, wildflowers, Cate's Hole Trail, salamanders, Hack-Line Road Historic Trail, Twin Springs to Carver's Gap and nature observation for kids.

For folks who have always wanted to get into birding, a beginners' birding field-shop is scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Noon brings a lunchtime workshop on Managing the Highland Balds. Bag lunches are available by reservation only and include your choice



of sandwich, chips, cookie and a drink for \$5.

All the Saturday afternoon tours begin at 2:00 and also meet in the first field on the right after the Visitors Center. Choose from three different wildflower tours, as well as aquatic insects as water quality indicators, morels on the mountain, highland geology, nature discoveries for young folks and ecological adventures in Twin Springs.

Dinner on Saturday is at the Conference Center at 6:30 p.m. and includes lasagna, salad, breadsticks, dessert selection and drinks. Also catered by City Market in Elizabethton, Saturday's dinner costs \$8.50 for adults and \$4 for kids 12 and under.

After-dinner programs include an update from the Friends of Roan Mountain and a presentation by Dr. Jay Franklin, assistant professor at East Tennessee State University, entitled *Cave Archaeology In Southern Appalachia*.

For those who aren't too tired, Saturday concludes with a 9:00 p.m. field trip to view the summer skies.

Sunday

Sunday's activities include a birdwalk, an Appalachian Trail Conservancy Rare Plant Slide Show and Walk, a rare plant hike and a butterfly and wildflower tour.

More Info

Membership in Friends of Roan Mountain is \$15 for an individual, \$20 for a family or \$250 for a lifetime membership. For rally participants who join the organization and support the group's nature education efforts, the \$4 weekend fee to attend the rally will be waived.

For a complete schedule of events, click to www.etsu.edu/biology/roan-mtn/. For more info, contact Jennifer Bauer at 423-772-4772 (home), 423-543-5808 (work) or highlandlady@naxs.net. If you email Bauer, type Roan Mtn. Nat. Rally in the subject line of your message.

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DOG VERSUS GARDEN: *An Informal Forum on a Down-and-Dirty Topic*

STORY BY LOIS CAROL WHEATLEY

The subject came up at the April meeting of the Johnson County Garden Club, sort of a continuation of an earlier discussion focused on horse manure. "It's good stuff," the guest speaker said, "but your dog will roll in it."

"Fish emulsion is even worse," said a member. "They'll lick it and roll in it. They'll eat it. They just can't help it."

"They'll dig it all up looking for the fish," chimed in someone else.

This discussion led to some reflection as to whether or not there are any soil amendments dogs don't like. It was generally agreed that bone meal and blood meal tend to fend off the deer somewhat, but just about all dogs love anything at all involved with dirt and digging—the more revolting the better.

"This is Penellee," said meeting host Kathleen Gehr, introducing her standard schnauzer. "She takes my tools and she buries them and hides them. Even when the workers come to do things or people come to help me in the garden, I tell them not to leave their tools sitting around because they'll be gone. She takes their tools too."

Some speculation ensued as to dog psychology, and someone suggested that maybe we literally invade their turf, robbing them of one of their primary functions by getting out there and digging our own dirt.

"No, that's not why," one woman said (this



Artist Kathleen Gehr, president of Johnson County Garden Club, said her dogs Penellee, a standard schnauzer, and Pati, a wire-haired terrier, chronically steal her garden tools and bury them, but they also stand guard every night against deer incursions in her garden. Photo by Lois Carol Wheatley

being an all-female gathering). "She wants you to quit working in the garden so much and give her attention."

Well, what if it's not even your dog? Is it still all about getting attention?

"I have this neighbor dog that comes and gets my plants before I put them in the ground. I bring them from the nursery and I just set them in some pots on the deck and I keep find-

ing them halfway between her house and my house."

"My neighbor's dog made sure none of the tulips in a pot on my porch got cold this winter. This was her favorite spot to sleep, and of course you know tulips need to get cold. So I have no flowers in that pot."

"The neighbor dogs all come to my yard to fertilize my garden even though I don't have a dog."

Now was this kind of thing a problem, we wondered, especially in light of the earlier horse manure discussion?

"My dogs go all over the place in my garden and I haven't had any problems with anything dying on me," said our hostess with the missing gardening tools. "And the deer come through this field every night and they all sit and look at one another for half an hour or whatever, because the dogs don't go in the field and this is kind of a cat-and-mouse game that goes on every night. The deer love when the hostas first come out, those tender young shoots, and I have a lot of hostas. And they haven't touched any of my plants. The dogs won't let them."

"I can't imagine gardening without a dog," said a woman who had earlier announced that she was going on a seed-planting mission to the Congo. Obviously she won't be able to take her dogs, so she'll just have to imagine it.

"My dogs have always been trained to protect the garden," she continued. "They chase out the deer, the groundhogs, the rabbits, and I just wonder how this is going to work."

Continued on next page

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New River Zoo in Fleetwood Reopens

STORY BY CELESTE VON MANGAN

New River Zoo in Fleetwood has reopened, and the zoo's owner, naturalist Keith M. Stroud, invites all community members to come and visit the animals. The park-like zoo has picnic tables and a large parking area.

The zoo closed for several months a woman from Hamilton, N.C. put her hand in a leopard's cage and the animal bit her wrist in October 2006.

The construction of the zoo began ten years ago, and since it opened to the public in fall 2001, the zoo has provided organizations, schools and individuals with a fun and educational experience. The zoo inhabitants include exotic pets from private owners who could no longer care for them, as well as animals rescued from research laboratories or from situations of neglect, abandonment or abuse.

Patrons of the New River Zoo can meander along the winding paths to reach the various animal habitats and view more than 70 species of mammals, primates, reptiles and birds indigenous to Africa, Australia, Asia and the Americas. Ring-tailed lemurs, monkeys, a lilac crowned Amazon parrot, Siberian lynx and Fennec foxes chatter, cavort or doze in the dappled sunlight. Other permanent residents



The New River Zoo has reopened. The public is invited to view animals such as this ring-tailed lemur. Photo courtesy of the New River Zoo

include a caracal, spotted leopard, African serval, emu, rhea, Reeves pheasants, Muntjac deer, water buffalo, eland, Siberian chipmunk, Burmese python, red-tailed boa constrictor, Patagonian cavy and wolves.

Before opening his own zoo, Stroud worked at the Concord Zoo following graduation from Lees-McRae College where he earned his bachelor of science degree in biology with a naturalist concentration. While working at Concord, Stroud attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, studying conservation, biology and zoology.

New River Zoo is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Sundays from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m.

Admission costs \$6 for adults and \$4 for children ages three to twelve. Special group tours are available for ten or more people, and discounts are available for groups that book their visit two months in advance. New River Zoo is located at 3581 Big Flatts Church Road in Fleetwood. For more info, call 336-877-9219 or click to www.newriverzoo.com.

ADOPT AN ANIMAL

An adoption program for members of the New River Zoo and the general public is designed for people to maintain a special bond with their favorite animal. Sponsorship of an animal helps preserve and enhance its future, and the one-year adoption fee helps provide housing, food, veterinary care, medicine and extra needs for that animal. Prices range from \$25 to \$100 depending on the species, and adopters receive a number of perks including an adoption certificate, a photo of your animal an individual season pass to the zoo and your name engraved on The Pathway to Conservation.

Dog Versus Garden

Continued from previous page

Another woman was shaking her head vigorously. "I have a one-foot fence around my garden and my dog LEARNED from the rabbits how to jump it. She jumps over that fence exactly like she's seen the rabbits do it."

"My daughter had the most misbehaved beast you'd ever want to meet and he could get out of anything we put him in. So his favorite stunt was to get off the leash and go bury his collar in the flower bed."

"Oh, smart dog."

"Hey, that's nothing. My neighbor had a Great Dane, and every afternoon when I came home he would have dug up everything I planted and then planted something else. I have found a loaf of bread, a baseball mitt, a size 14 sneaker, all sorts of things. He took out everything I had

in there. We did this for two years."

"I had a dog that would go in my garden and find these greens and chew them. They like the chlorophyll if their stomach is upset. My other dog will eat all kinds of vegetables—carrots and greens."

A discussion followed of dogs that ate strawberries, blueberries and a variety of flower blossoms, and then it became apparent we were running out of time. Next month, the club's May 16 meeting will be a road trip to Thomas Hollow Nursery Indoor Gardens. Also, stories have been promised involving horse versus garden, goat versus garden and, in a surprise twist, beaver versus garden.

Monthly meetings rotate among members' homes and gardens except when a road trip is scheduled. For a complete 2007 schedule, call 423-727-1565.

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High Country Business Network Meets at Appalachian Enterprise Center May 17

The High Country Business Network will hold a business networking event from 5:15 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, at the Appalachian Enterprise Center located at 230 Poplar Grove Connector in Boone.

This event is an opportunity to learn about the services and vision for the Appalachian Enterprise Center, where business service providers SCORE and the Small Business and Technology Development Center, as well as the Appalachian Regional Development Institute, ASU Energy Center and AdvantageWest's northwest office are located in the same place. Construction will be beginning soon to remodel the build-

ing to accommodate new business startups by providing physical space and technical advice while they establish their "legs." The goal is to support these young businesses by helping them overcome obstacles while they develop their product or service.

The free networking event is open to everyone connected to business, including those currently in business or wishing to start their own business; professionals such as lawyers, accountants and insurance agents; public and private

Want To Go?

Date: Thursday, May 17

Time: 5:15 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Appalachian Enterprise Center, Boone

Cost: Free

service providers; county and town officials; economic developers; and community and nonprofit leaders. The HCBN offers networking opportunities for regional business people to get together and share ideas about their business development and growth. Aspiring entrepreneurs are especially encouraged to attend.

The Blue Ridge Entrepreneurial Council, a program of AdvantageWest, is a partner with the High Country Business Network for this event.

The High Country Business Network,

a regional support system for small business and entrepreneur development in the High Country, is committed to promoting a culture of entrepreneurship by providing networking and educational opportunities to the region's emerging and established business communities. The counties in the HCBN area are Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey.

To sponsor this program or the other HCBN events across the region, contact Brian Crutchfield, sponsorship chair, at bcrutchfield@blueridgeemc.com.

For questions, call Chilton Rogers at 828-262-6662. To RSVP, email ardi@ardi.appstate.edu or call 828-262-6662.

Aging Conference To Focus on Preparing for Retirement

Event Scheduled for May 17 and 18

The High Country Area Agency on Aging's second annual regional conference on aging will be held Thursday and Friday, May 17 and 18. This year's focus is Adventures: The Coming Years. The regional conference on aging provides a forum to bring to the forefront opportunities and challenges for older adults and the community, as well as to promote solutions for improving the lives of older adults in the region.

On Thursday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the High Country Council of Governments office in Boone, the High Coun-

try Area Agency on Aging will feature Blowing Rock Mayor J.B. Lawrence, who will kick off the conference and introduce local certified public accountant Bryce Holder, who will discuss how the baby boomers approaching retirement can financially plan for their retirement years. This session is free to the public as well as professionals who work with older adults in the community. To preregister, call 828-265-5434, ext. 113 because seating is limited.

On Friday, May 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the AHEC Auditorium at Watauga Medical Center in Boone, a lineup of speakers, both local and statewide, will present topics that will assist with pre-

paring for the full scope of retirement.

Diana D. Hatch, president of NC AARP, will share ideas for Creating Viable Options for Boomers. Other presenters include Sally McLeod from Senior Services of Winston-Salem and Pat Hilgendorf with the Alzheimer's Association of Western North Carolina. Local presenters include Pastor Kirk McNeil, Dr. Stephen Cook and Dr. Bunk Spann who is a retired ASU professor and Boone Town Council member. All three are currently and successfully working in our communities to improve the lives of older adults. Ruth Price, a nationally sought-after speaker on care-giving and aging issues, will wrap up the educa-

Want To Go?

Dates: Thursday and Friday, May 17 and 18

Times: 7:00 p.m. Thursday/8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday

Location: Council of Governments office/AHEC Auditorium

Cost: Free

tional experience.

High Country Council of Governments' Chair Kenny Poteat will close the conference by presenting the second Annual Beacon and Bright Horizon Awards.

To preregister for the conference, contact the High Country Area Agency on Aging at 828-265-5434, ext. 113

Valle Country Fair Grant Applications Deadline June 15

The Valle Country Fair will be held Saturday, October 20, in Valle Crucis. Holy Cross Church in Valle Crucis is seeking applications from nonprofit organizations that would like to be recipients of funds from the fair proceeds.

Since 1979, the Valle Country Fair has been an annual event, organized and run by volunteers from Holy Cross Church and the surrounding community. More than 100 artisans from North Carolina and surrounding states display and sell their work. These

artisans, along with food vendors, contribute a portion of their receipts to a fund, all of which, after fair expenses, is used to support the outreach mission of Holy Cross Church.

Those desiring to apply should do so without waiting for further notice, and the grant application deadline is June 15. Late applications will not be considered. Recipients are selected later in the summer and awards are disbursed in November. Applications are now being sought so that recipients can be selected in time for inclusion in Valle Coun-

try Fair publicity.


All applicants must be registered nonprofit organizations, and applications—limited to four pages—must include the following:

- Name, street address, mailing address if different, phone number of organization
- Nonprofit organization ID number
- Organization's mission statement
- Organization's sources of income
- Amount requested
- How funds will be used if approved

- Names and phone numbers of organization's director and treasurer

Applications must be submitted in writing to Claire McDonough, Mission & Outreach Commission, Holy Cross Church, P.O. Box 645, Valle Crucis, NC 28691. Applicants must be willing to appear before the Mission & Outreach Commission grant review panel if requested.


For more info, call Chair Claire McDonough at 828 963-4475, or Robin Byerly at 828-265-2443 or 828-262-6227, or click to the Valle Country Fair website at www.vallecountryfair.org.



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Buckeye Recreation Center Celebrates First Anniversary

STORY BY RON FITZWATER

The Town of Beech Mountain celebrated the first anniversary of the Buckeye Recreation Center Tuesday with an old-fashioned covered dish supper. Town residents gathered in the center's multi-purpose room to talk and enjoy an array of home-cooked favorites.

Craig Colistra, recreation director, reflected on the first year in operation. "We had a great and successful year and we wanted to get together and recognize the hard work that has been done and the future we are looking forward to." According to Colistra membership has grown at a steady pace since the opening and is quickly approaching the 1,000-member mark. "For our first year that was great; it exceeded a lot of our expectations," Colistra said.

The center offers many services to the public, including indoor basketball and tennis courts, an indoor children's playground, a multipurpose room, outdoor ball field and tennis courts and a fitness room.

Memberships are not limited to residents of Beech Mountain. "Anyone can join," said Colistra. "The cost for membership is \$150 per year per family and



Beech Mountain residents and Buckeye Recreation Center members gathered Tuesday for an old-fashioned covered dish supper to celebrate the center's first year anniversary. Photo by Ron Fitzwater

\$75 per year per individual for Beech Mountain taxpayers. Non-taxpayer memberships cost \$300 per year per family and \$150 per year per individual. Daily usage fees depend on the activity but range from \$2 to \$10."

Every other Friday night is kids' night.

Kids can watch a movie, play in the recreation areas and enjoy a pizza party for \$5. Anyone interested in more information or scheduling services can call 828-387-3003.

Upcoming Events at Buckeye Recreation Center

Upcoming events at the recreation center include summer day camp, basketball camp and a dog show.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

The Town of Beech Mountain's Summer Day Camp will take place in two sessions July 11 to 13 and July 16 to 20. The camp is for children ages 5 to 12 and is open to residents and non-residents. Sport activities and games that encourage teamwork, friendship building and physical and social development will be the basis of the program.

The cost of the camp is \$125 per week and early registration is encouraged, as only 40 openings are available.

BUCKEYE BASKETBALL CAMP

The Town of Beech Mountain's Buckeye Basketball Camp is designed to enhance the skills of incoming 2nd to 9th graders through games, drills and scrimmages. The camp will operate from July 23 to 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The camp is open to all skill levels and will be run by Coach Kirk Stewart formerly of ECU. The cost of the camp is \$50 for the week.

DOG SHOW

In conjunction with Friends for Life, the center will host a dog show on July 21. All dogs are welcome to compete. Additional information will be available soon.

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

In addition to special events Buckeye Recreation Center offers an array of weekly classes in, aerobics, spinning, yoga, pilates and martial arts.

For the latest camp and class information, call 828-387-3003.

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Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust Celebrates Ten Years of Service

Continued from page 21

Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation.

The amount of protected land has grown steadily over the ten years that BRRLT has been operating. "In the '90s there was only one easement closed per year, but today we are closing 15 to 20 per year," said Coman. Future growth is expected to keep pace with that in recent years. "We are on the verge of our best year ever," Cowan said. "We have three large projects and about 15 smaller projects that are expected to close in 2007, totaling 3,500 to 4,000 additional acres of protected land."

Individuals interested in additional information about conservation easements and rural land preservation in northwestern North Carolina can contact the Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust at P.O. Box 2557, Boone, N.C. 28607, or call 336-359-2909, email info@brrlt.org or click to www.brrlt.org.

As the Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust celebrates its tenth year in operation, Executive Director James Coman proudly points to the nearly 6,500 acres the trust has helped to protect through conservation easements in Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Wilkes, Watauga and Yancey counties. But, what exactly is a conservation easement?

A conservation easement is a written agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or public agency in which the landowner promises to keep the land in its natural condition without extensive disturbance, and the conservation organization or public agency can enforce the covenants of the easement and monitor the property.

Conservation easements seem to work best when the landowner is motivated by con-

cern to conserve and preserve land that does not require intensive management, and the owner's plans for the current and future uses of the land are compatible with its natural features. In return, the landowner receives certain tax advantages for the easements.

Restrictions are tailored to the particular conservation values of the land. Some examples of activities that may be prohibited or restricted include industrial and commercial use, mineral exploration and development, subdivision/residential use, access for road or power line construction or extensive timbering. Depending on the size and character of the land, easements may allow parceling of the land, selective timbering, agricultural use, maintenance of water impoundments, hunting and



The BRRLT protected 30 acres on the Lavola Carender Farm in Watauga County. Photo Courtesy BRRLT

fishing or the construction of a limited number of new homes.

Under state property law, a conservation easement may be created for a period of time or in perpetuity. However, if the landowner wishes to claim

federal and state tax deductions, the easement must be granted in perpetuity.

For more information on conservation easements and the Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust click to www.brrlt.org.

Bouquet Florist

Continued from page 21

from 1977 to 2002 in the current location of Joe's Italian Kitchen before moving to Shadowline. The Rabys now have seven employees helping to run their business, a cornerstone of the Boone floral industry and a member of the Society of American Florists.

Raby, 66, has been in the floral industry since he was 18. He always knew he wanted to be an artist and toyed with the idea of being an architect. But knowing that he wanted a profession in which he used his hands, he enrolled in floral school in Houston, Texas, and never looked back. He has been designing bouquets, picking flowers and delivering smiles now for 48 years.

"Most of the time, it's very soothing to design bouquets," said Raby. "I get a feeling of satisfaction when I correctly interpret a customer's request with a bouquet."

Raby prides himself and his employees on being able to listen to what a customer wants and then being able to customize a bouquet for that purpose using the freshest flowers available.

Bouquet Florist staff put forth the greatest effort, Raby said, to protect flowers from the time they enter the store to the time they leave.

"Our customers say that it's not unusual for flowers to last 2 to 3 weeks after they are delivered," said Raby, who includes a card with care instructions as well as flower food with each purchase.

Raby orders quality flowers from around the world. Flowers from Holland, South America, Central America, California, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Columbia, Hawaii and Florida, are regularly in stock. "With jet travel, I can often get



flowers the day after they're cut," said Raby.

Raby's specialties are his roses—heralded as some of the best around—and his mixed seasonal bouquets and mixed garden bouquets, but that's just the tip of the colorful iceberg.

Bouquet Florist also creates custom silk flower bouquets for interior decorating, offers plant rentals for special occasions, has a large inventory of growing plants and sells a multitude of gift items, such as antique vases, decorative lamps and bowls. The store also has a wide selection of chocolates, as well as fruit and candy baskets custom made by one of Raby's employees.

For special occasions, Bouquet Florist can make corsages and match balloons to any floral arrangement. The store also offers wedding

consulting, going as far as setting up flowers on location and working with pastry artists to match wedding bouquets to the wedding cake.

Bouquet Florist will deliver almost anywhere in Boone and offers free delivery to Watauga Medical Center and area funeral homes. The store is also part of the Teleflora wire service, a network that allows customers to send flowers anywhere in the world.

Bouquet Florist can usually have orders completed and ready for pickup within one to two hours, but Raby recommends giving as much notice as possible, especially with orders involving hard-to-find flowers.

For the upcoming Mother's Day holiday—historically the biggest for florists around the na-



Fresh flowers from all over the world, including Holland, Central and South America, Hawaii and Ecuador, will be used in Mother's Day bouquets. With the busiest floral holiday of the year approaching, co-owner Jack Raby reminds customers that they'll get a better selection of flowers if they order as soon as possible. Bouquet Florist is located at the Shops at Shadowline at 240 Shadowline Drive, Suite 12AA, in Boone. Photo by Sam Calhoun

tion—Raby explained that customers will get a better selection of flowers if they order now and don't wait until the last minute. However, orders placed before May 10 should be ready in time.

Bouquet Florist is located in the Shops at Shadowline at 240 Shadowline Drive, Suite 12AA, in Boone. The shop is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday. For more info, call 828-264-3313 or click to www.bouquetfloristandgiftshop.com.



Jack, Kack, Lack, Mack, Nack, Ouck, Pack and Quack enjoy a swim in our pond. Photo by Amy Cooke

Mountain Living

Make Way for Ducklings

A COLUMN BY AMY COOKE

Despite the trees still dripping frozen brown leaves, spring definitely arrived this morning. Nothing breathes spring back into the valley like a family of baby ducks out for a swim in the pond. The mother mallard is slightly cautious, but allows us to admire her bobbing flotilla.

Each duckling is a tiny ball of golden brown fluff that investigates each inlet and cove, always swimming in tight formation with her siblings, never far from their mother.

Although the male mallard is showier with his shiny emerald head, the female has that beautiful cobalt patch that catches and reflects each ray of sunshine. Only the female offers that familiar quack, often very loudly whenever she sees something that may be a threat to her family.

The mallards summer with us and arrived just a few weeks ago to begin laying their large greenish eggs. They can be a little overenthusiastic when eating water hyacinths or watercress, but they also love to consume large quantities of the terrible slugs.

In case it has been a few years since you enjoyed children's literature, *Make Way for Ducklings* is that wonderful book by Robert McCloskey. He wrote about Jack, Kack, Lack, Mack, Nack, Ouck, Pack and Quack and did the expressive drawings that helped tell their story.

Let's hope that our new little duck family's story is full of adventures all summer long and has a very happy ending.

Spring meals need to be fresh and full of flavor and nutrition, but we all want to be outside with the ducklings instead of inside a hot kitchen for hours. Try this Italian salad that can be assembled in a few minutes or even made ahead of time.

Traditionally, Italian cooks assemble everything an hour or two before dinner. The bread soaks up all of the juices and becomes soft. I like it both ways. Serve it as soon as it is made with the crispy croutons the first night and then again as a side salad the next night when everything has wilted and the flavors have mellowed into beautiful combinations.

ITALIAN SALAD

Variations on the classic panzanella Italian salad are endless. The addition of creamy beans and cheese makes it even more delicious and adds enough substance to turn this into a main course. Think of the recipe as more of a guide than an edict. Use your favorite sturdy bread, select canned or dried cannellini or navy or pea beans and substitute fresh baby lettuce or spinach if you don't have arugula in the market or garden this week. Lately the Roma tomatoes have been good and juicier than usual, but use any flavorful tomato until the

local ones begin ripening. Find fresh mozzarella in the deli case, usually packaged in water. The little bocconicini are my favorite kind of fresh mozzarella to use in this recipe, but all of them are good. Many classic recipes do not call for toasting the bread, but toasting adds flavor and texture and can be done while you prepare the rest of the ingredients.

- 1 medium loaf Italian or whole grain bread
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt
- 8 medium tomatoes
- 1 large English cucumber
- 1 medium purple onion
- 2 red bell peppers
- 2 cups cooked cannellini or other white beans
- 8 ounces fresh mozzarella
- 1/2 cup or more extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup or more fresh lemon juice
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 1 bunch fresh basil
- 8 cups baby arugula leaves

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. Cut the bread into cubes and spread out in a single layer on a baking sheet. Toast until golden and then cool.

While the croutons are toasting, mince the garlic with the coarse salt until it becomes smooth and almost like a paste.

Place the garlic-salt mixture into a very large bowl. Cut the tomatoes into large bite-sized pieces, add to the bowl and toss gently so the tomatoes are covered with the garlic-salt mixture. Peel the cucumber if the outside seems tough, cut into thin slices and add to the bowl. Peel the onion, cut it into very thin slices and add it to the bowl, along with the peppers that you've cut into small dice.

Cut the bocconicini in halves or cut a large fresh mozzarella into cubes and add with the beans. Stir everything together carefully so that none of the ingredients falls apart. By now the salt has drawn liquid from the vegetables and your dressing has begun. Add enough olive oil and lemon juice to make a juicy, liquid mixture. You need enough dressing for all of the vegetables, plus the bread cubes and arugula leaves.

Add a generous amount of pepper and taste for salt. Again, you need enough salt to flavor the entire large salad.

At this point you can hold the vegetable mixture and the toasted bread until ready to serve or mix immediately. Toss the vegetables with their dressing with the bread cubes and the basil leaves. Arrange the arugula on a large platter and pour the salad over the leaves, making sure to drizzle dressing over everything.

Makes four large, main course servings, or eight side salads.

To make a comment, ask a question or find out more about sources, contact Amy at amycookehpc@bellsouth.net.

THINK GREENS

LIKE JUST PICKED BABY SALAD GREENS
LIKE PEA TENDRILS
LIKE THE FIRST ASPARAGUS OF SPRING
LIKE CRISP ORGANIC BROCCOLI....

THINK SPRING

LIKE SPRING ONIONS
& SPRING SALAD MIX
AND OH-MY-GOSH SPRING FLOWERS
THINK RAINBOWS OF PERENNIALS
AND ALL SORTS OF FUNKY.
COOL, HARD-TO-FIND
HERB & VEGETABLE SETS
TO GET YOUR GARDEN GOING RIGHT

THINK MOMMA'S DAY

LIKE PHOTOGRAPHY &
POTTERY &
NEATO NIFTY HERBAL COMFORTS &
SWEET SMELLIN SOAPS & STUFF

AND THINK REAL,
LIKE REAL FREE RANGE EGGS,
GRASS FED BEEF

HONEY MADE BY FRIENDLY LOCAL BEES
GOOD-AS-GRANDMA PICKLES
LIKE HERBED GOAT CHEESE
REALLY GOOD COOKIES, NEAT LITTLE CAKES
& A KILLER CUP OF COFFEE.

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Tickets on Sale for An Appalachian Summer Festival's 2007 Season

An Appalachian Summer Festival announces its 2007 season, packed with world-class arts events, including music, dance and theatre performances; visual arts exhibitions and events; workshops for children and adults; and educational lectures and seminars.

Held July 6 to 28, this summer arts celebration will feature artists as diverse as they are talented, from Dame Evelyn Glennie, Julia Fischer and the Eastern Philharmonic Orchestra to the Mystical Arts of Tibet, Ellis and Defaye Marsalis and the Mark Morris Dance Group to Bruce Hornsby,



Ellis Marsalis

Old Crow Medicine Show and Wynonna. The dynamic summer season includes five visual arts exhibitions, including two national competitions and a season filled with hands-on educational opportunities.

Presented annually by ASU's Office of Arts & Cultural Programs, An Appalachian Summer Festival is attended by more than 25,000 people, and has emerged as one of the nation's most innovative and highly regarded regional, multidisciplinary arts festivals. Now entering its 23rd season, the festival is committed to showcasing American talent, commissioning new works and building new audiences for the

fine arts. For many years, the festival has been named one of the Top 20 events in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society.

Tickets are now on sale for all festival performances. Ticket prices for most festival performances are \$18 to \$30 for adults; \$10 to \$20 for students; and \$5 to \$10 for children 12 and under. Many events are offered at no charge. For tickets or to request a festival brochure, call 800-841-2787 (ARTS) or 828-262-4046, or click to www.appsummer.org.

Watch *High Country Press* for full coverage of An Ap-

palachian Summer events. For now, check the 2007 Festival At-a-Glance Schedule for the events you want to attend.



Julia Fischer

An Appalachian Summer 2007 Festival At-a-Glance Schedule

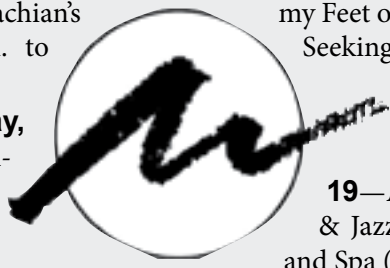
All events are at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- Monday, June 4**—Silent Auction Opens
- Friday, July 6**—Summer Exhibition Celebration at the Turchin Center (7:00 to 9:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, July 7**—Shen Wei Dance Arts
- Sunday, July 8**—Eastern Philharmonic Orchestra, JoAnn Falletta, conductor; Evelyn Glennie, percussion (Schwantner, Rimsky-Korsakov)
- Monday to Friday, July 9 to 13**—Visual Arts Workshop: Figure Drawing (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- Monday, July 9**—Broyhill Chamber Ensemble (Beethoven, Penderecki, Brahms)
- Wednesday, July 11**—Lunch & Learn at the Turchin Center: Joseph Patrick (12:00 to 1:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, July 12**—Broyhill Chamber Ensemble (Schulhoff, Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Golijov)
- Friday, July 13**—Mystical Arts of Tibet: Sacred Music, Sacred Dance
- Saturday, July 14**—Celebrating New Orleans with Ellis and Delfeayo Marsalis and Friends
- Sunday, July 15**—*Rapunzel*: An Appalachian Young People's Theatre

- Family Matinee (3:00)
- Sunday, July 15**—Broyhill Chamber Ensemble (Kuhlau, Regner, Gubaidulina, Bartók, Händel/Halvorsen, Dvorák)
- Monday, July 16**—Appalachian Retired Faculty Seminar: A Day With Some of Appalachian's Rock Stars (9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
- Monday to Friday, July 16 to 20**—Visual Arts Workshop: Glass Beads (10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.)
- Tuesday, July 17**—Mark Morris Dance Group
- Wednesday, July 18**—Lunch & Learn at the Turchin Center: The Music of An Appalachian Summer

- Festival with Dr. Bill Harbinson (12:00 to 1:00 p.m.)
- Wednesday, July 18**—Broyhill Chamber Ensemble (Schubertiade)
- Thursday, July 19**—Belk Distinguished Lecture: Dr. Gloria Houston, *With my Head in the Clouds and my Feet on the Mountain Tops: Seeking Universal Creativity in Commonplace Events* (3:30 p.m.)
- Thursday, July 19**—An Evening of Dinner & Jazz at Westglow Resort and Spa (6:00 p.m.)
- Friday, July 20**—Old Crow Medicine Show
- Saturday, July 21**—Bruce Hornsby in Concert
- Sunday, July 22**—Eastern Philhar-

- monic Orchestra, Gerard Schwarz, conductor; Julia Fischer, violin (Glaunov, Dvorák)
- Sunday, July 22**—Silent Auction Closes (10:00 p.m.)
- Monday to Friday, July 23 to 27**—Visual Arts Workshop: Papier-mâché Creatures (1:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
- Monday, July 23**—Broyhill Chamber Ensemble (Liszt, Still, Frank, Schumann)
- Wednesday, July 25**—Lunch & Learn at the Turchin Center: Independence is the Word (12:00 to 1:00 p.m.)
- Wednesday, July 25**—North Carolina Symphony Pops, William Henry Curry, conductor (Williams, Johann Strauss Jr., Richard Strauss)
- Thursday, July 26**—*Brother Wolf*, A Triad Stage Original Production
- Friday, July 27**—*Brother Wolf*, A Triad Stage Original Production
- Saturday, July 28**—21st Rosen Outdoor Sculpture Walk (10:00 a.m.)
- Saturday, July 28**—North Carolina Symphony with Cannon Music Camp (12:30 p.m.)
- Saturday, July 28**—Outdoor Fireworks Concert featuring Wynonna Judd (7:30 p.m.)



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FRACTURE (R)

ANTHONY HOPKINS, RYAN GOSLING, DAVID STRATHAIRN, ROSAMUND PIKE, EMBETH DAVIDTZ

When Ted Crawford finds out his wife is cheating, he plans her murder. As cops arrive at the crime scene, not only does he confess, but the detective handling the case recognizes his mysterious lover who's true identity he did not know.

Ratings: B, C, B, and B from Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Boston Globe, Chicago Sun-Times, and Chicago Tribune.

NEXT (PG-13)

NICOLAS CAGE, JULIANNE MOORE, JESSICA BIEL, TORY KITTLES, MICHAEL TRUCCO

A Vegas magician makes a living under a false name to avoid the government and medical establishments that are aware of his condition: he can see a few moments into the future. When a terrorist group threatens LA with nuclear device, he is tracked by government agent Callie Ferris for his help.

No ratings available.

HANNIBAL RISING (R)

GASPARD ULLIEL, GONG LI, RHYS IFANS, IVAN MAREVICH, DOMINIC WEST

The prequel to the Silence of the Lambs, Hannibal traces the beginnings of a serial killer in Eastern Europe after WW2.

Ratings: C-, D, D+, and D- from Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, slimcritic.com, Hollywood Reporter.

LUCKY YOU (PG-13)

ERIC BANA, DREW BARRY-MORE, DEBRA MESSING, ROBERT DUVAL, HORATIO SANZ

A professional poker player draws his luck in his ability to avoid emotional entanglements. However, on his path to the 2003 World Series of Poker, he encounters his father, the man who abandoned his mother.

No ratings available.

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13)

TOBEY MAGUIRE, KIRSTEN DUNST, THOMAS HADEN CHURCH, TOPHER GRACE, JAMES FRANCO

The third installment of Spider Man finds Peter Parker balancing his life between his girlfriend, MJ and his job as a hero. When Spider Man's suit suddenly changes colors and encourages the dark, spiteful side of Peter, he is forced to reconcile his new power with the public serving hero in him while battling two new villains.

No ratings available.

MOVIES

REGAL CINEMAS

After 5/4

Lucky You (PG-13)
Fri-Thurs: 12:40 • 4:00 • 7:10 • 10:00
Fri-Sun: 9:50am

Spider-Man 3 (PG-13)
Fri-Thurs: 12:30 • 1:00 • 1:30 • 3:45 • 4:15 • 4:45 • 7:00 • 7:30 • 8:00 • 10:15 • 10:45
Fri-Sun: 9:15am • 9:45am • 10:15am
Fri/Sat: 11:15pm

Next (PG-13)
Fri-Thurs: • 1:20 • 4:30 • 7:35 • 10:05
Fri-Sun: 10:20am

Fracture (R)
Fri-Thurs: 12:50 • 3:50 • 7:20 • 10:30
Fri-Sun: 10:00am

Disturbia (PG-13)
Fri-Thurs: 1:10 • 4:05 • 7:15 • 9:50
Fri-Sun: 10:05am

Hannibal Rising (R)
Fri-Thurs: 2:00 • 4:30 • 7:00 • 9:00



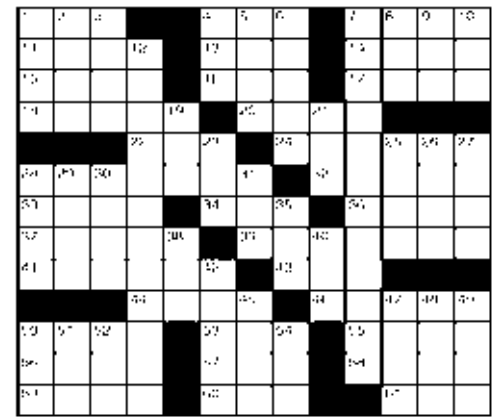
APPALACHIAN TWIN

Hannibal Rising (R)
Fri-Thurs: 2:00 • 4:30 • 7:00 • 9:00

King Crossword

ACROSS

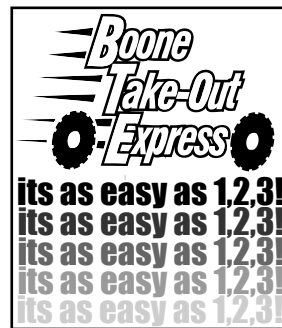
- 1 Kuchman, for short
- 4 Prepare for battle
- 7 Computer image
- 11 Juan's maker Strauss
- 13 Grazing area
- 14 Exploding star
- 15 Mideast gulf
- 16 Varnish ingredient
- 17 Collier Bob
- 18 Throng
- 20 Famous lily
- 22 Sort
- 24 "The Complex Angler" writer
- 28 Brunch stack
- 32 People's cousin
- 33 "A likely story"
- 34 Astronaut Grissom
- 36 Wading bird
- 37 Bowing ally
- 39 Meredith who played Rocky's trainer
- 41 Die
- 43 Slapstick missile
- 44 Duet lead
- 46 Attack dog's



- 50 Deserve
- 53 Lingerio item
- 55 Florentine farewell
- 56 United nations
- 57 Omelet necessity
- 58 Tired fox
- 59 Champ
- 60 Bill's partner
- 61 Super Bowl highlights
- 1 Every last iota
- 5 Paper quantity
- 6 Showy parrot
- 7 Smarts
- 8 Intimate
- 9 Future aves
- 10 Aye cancer
- 12 Apathy
- 19 Right angle
- 21 U.K. floors
- 23 Small barrel
- 25 Lootheaste dispenser
- 26 Elevator name
- 27 Loch —
- 28 Near the
- 29 On the briny
- 30 Clenched hand
- 31 Replacement
- 35 Dine
- 38 Gracuity
- 40 Oil-drilling equipment
- 42 Mediterranean
- 45 Therefore
- 47 Verdi opera
- 48 Incursion
- 49 A great deal
- 51 "The Greatest"
- 52 "Pippscock"
- 54 Past

DOWN

- 1 Medicine
- 2 Take it from the top
- 3 Finished



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Read the Stars

Horoscopes



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Temper your typical Aries urge to charge into a situation and demand answers. Instead, let the Lamb's gentler self emerge to deal with a problem that requires delicacy.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You are aware of what's going on, so continue to stand by your earlier decision, no matter how persuasive the counter-arguments might be. Money pressures will soon ease.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) By all means, have fun and enjoy your newly expanded social life. But don't forget that some people are depending on you to keep promises that are very important to them.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Congratulations. Your energy levels are coming right back up to normal -- just in time to help you tackle some worthwhile challenges and make some important choices.

Top Ten

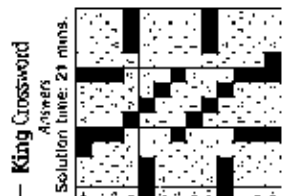
Video Rentals

1. **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13) Will Smith (Sony)
2. **Happy Feet** (PG) animated (Warner)
3. **Blood Diamond** (R) Leonardo DiCaprio (Warner)
4. **Eragon** (PG) Edward Speleers (Fox)
5. **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Daniel Craig (Sony)
6. **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Sylvester Stallone (Sony)
7. **The Holiday** (PG-13) Cameron Diaz (Sony)
8. **Children of Men** (R) Clive Owen (Universal)
9. **Borat** (R) Sacha Baron Cohen (Fox)
10. **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13) Will Ferrell (Sony)

Top Ten

DVD Sales

1. **Eragon** (PG) (20th Century Fox)
2. **Blood Diamond** (R) (Warner)
3. **Casino Royale** (PG-13) (Sony)
4. **Rocky Balboa** (PG) (Sony)
5. **Borat** (R) (20th Century Fox)
6. **The Holiday** (PG-13) (Columbia)
7. **Peter Pan** (G) (Walt Disney)
8. **The Nativity Story** (PG) (New Line)
9. **The Departed** (R) (Warner)
10. **Everyone's Hero** (G) (20th Century Fox)



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- 10+ acres
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Grandfather views!



Grandwood Lane
\$1,400,000



Wildwood Lane - \$349,500

- 4 bedrooms, 3 baths
- 2 fireplaces
- 3 living areas
- Spacious & In-town
- 2-car garage
- Large private lot

Breckonshire Dr. - \$750,000

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- Large bonus room •
- Heated workshop •
- Beautiful setting •
- Extensive landscaping •



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- 3BR/3BA
- Stone fireplace
- Game room
- Master on main
- Great rental potential

Log Cabin Lane - \$379,000

- Beautiful log cabin •
- 1.23 wooded acres •
- Minutes from downtown Blowing Rock •
- Stone fireplace w/gas logs •
- Rental cabin potential •
- Two living areas •



Cliffwood Drive - \$315,000

- 3 bedroom/2.5 baths
- Fireplace
- Hardwood floors
- Air conditioned
- Stream
- 1.05 acre

Tract 3 Grace Meadows - \$389,000

- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths main house •
- Totally renovated •
- Mountain view •
- Bold creek •
- 1 bedroom, 1 bath
- 1800's log cabin •



Grace Highlands - Starting at \$85,000

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- Mountain views
- Partially wooded
- Streams and/or springs
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Grace Meadows - \$125,000

- 3.66 acres •
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- Small pond •
- Good for horses •
- Barn •
- * Broker interest



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