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The Tryon Daily Bulletin



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TRYON, N. C. 28782

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The weather Wednesday, high 42, low 30, hum. 48 percent.

Norfolk Southern officials told the *Hendersonville Times-News* this week that they are looking for alternative routes to the Saluda Grade.

The grade, which rises 885-feet in a three mile section, with a steepness gradient ranging from 3.7 to 5.9 percent, was shut down for a month or so starting last November. Although it is back in service, the Saluda Grade may be carrying the last few trains in its illustrious history.

"It's certainly a formidable grade. It requires special care, special handling of trains and special handling of the right of way because it is a demanding route," Norfolk Southern public relations officer Don Piedmont told the *Times News*.

Speaking of that right-of-way, Bill Janes of Tryon said he wondered why Norfolk Southern recently invested so much in upgrading the track, the crossings, and even the expensive trestle at Melrose Junction if they were going to turn around and close the line.

Janes says if the line does close, there are grant programs
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Rural Communities: Use Your Hospital Or You May Lose It

Radiologist Dr. Richard Gentry's resignation has raised fears that more specialists will follow and that St. Luke's Hospital is in trouble.

There are serious problems:
* new Medicare fee schedules in effect since Jan. 1 have lowered the Medicare reimbursement for many specialists by 6 1/2%;

* Polk County physicians and St. Luke's Hospital receive lower Medicare reimbursements than their urban counterparts because of a "rural" payment schedule;

* St. Luke's Hospital service area is largely populated with Medicare patients. There aren't enough full-pay patients to offset government underpayments.

But don't panic.
"We're holding our own," said St. Luke's Hospital president Thomas Bradshaw. "We're putting forth a lot of effort to recruit doctors to the community," he said.

The St. Luke's Hospital Board of Trustees recently hired a physician recruitment consulting firm, Tyler and Co. of Atlanta, Ga., to recruit another surgeon and a hospital-based internist.

In addition, hospital administrators have contacted several radiology groups in surrounding communities to provide
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New Ownership At Links O' Tryon

Fore-Links, Inc. of Greenville, S.C. has sold Links O' Tryon golf course, clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts and croquet field to WWP, Inc., a South Carolina corporation in the golf course management business. Fore-Links, Inc. retained ownership in the residential community surrounding the golf course.

"Since Links O' Tryon opened four years ago, the golf course has been recognized as one of the best in the Upstate, but the residential area did not meet with the same measure of success," said Clarence Edwards, President of Fore-Links, Inc.

Fore-Links, Inc. recently purchased the real estate from the Litchfield Company of South Carolina and "now that there is no debt on the project, people will have the financial confidence to invest in our beautiful property," Edwards said.

The residential property includes 69 lots, 2 villas, one patio home and 21 undeveloped acres. Lots range from .6 to one acre in size and will be priced from \$16,500 to \$46,500. Because of the t-shaped property layout, all lots have a golf course view and most have a spectacular view of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

"First, I'm offering the property to Links O' Tryon Club members. Then property will be
(Continued On Back Page)

County Recreation Director Hired

Homer Loudermilk has been hired as the new recreation director for Polk County.

Loudermilk has a degree in business management from Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. and also studied at Bible College in Charlotte.

He is pastor of the Tryon Church of God, and is the basketball coach at Tryon Middle School.

Loudermilk served as athletic director and physical education teacher at Paul Creek Christian Academy in Charlotte.

No Bulletin Monday

Monday is the Martin Luther King Day national holiday and there will be no postal service, so there will be no *Tryon Daily Bulletin* published that day.

The Bulletin offices will be closed as well so that the staff can catch up on its work.

New Arrival

Jimmy and Cathy Elder of Columbus are parents of a daughter, Brigette Lynn, born Jan. 14 at Mary Black Hospital. She weighed 6 lbs. 8 ozs.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Elder of Columbus. Great grandmother is Mrs. Emma Elder of Taylorsville, N.C.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Fricks of Landrum.