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# The Tryon Daily Bulletin



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TRYON, N. C. 28782

THURSDAY, FEB. 6, 1992

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The weather Tuesday: high 73, low 33, hum. 35 percent - "A beautiful day."

This just in from Houston Road: Snakes are out crawling. One reader killed two Tuesday afternoon.

David Riddle, former nature program director at FENCE, said it is not unusual when the weather warms up in winter for snakes who have been hibernating to wake up and move around. They will go back into hibernation once the temperature drops, unless it drops so quickly that they do not make it back to shelter.

Unlike some animals who hibernate by an internal clock, staying in their burrows a set period of time, snakes respond to temperature to determine the length of their winter's nap.

However, until the temperatures range up to the 70s, even the snakes who do awaken will remain sluggish, Riddle said.

Riddle says he always attempts to calm people's fears about snakes. Even when the reptiles get back to full power this summer, they won't be chasing after people, he said.

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## Grady Searcy Dies In Tractor Accident

Grady Searcy, 71, died Tuesday morning while plowing the fields he has farmed for over 40 years.

Polk County Emergency Medical Services director Lisa Wilson said Searcy was found pinned underneath his tractor. It had apparently rolled over while he was plowing a terraced portion of his property on Hwy. 9 near Polk Central High School.

The rescue call came in at 11:19 a.m., she said. Searcy was dead when the ambulance arrived.

Searcy was a prisoner of war for 14 months during World War II. He served in the Army Air Force during the war and was the recipient of five Bronze Stars and numerous other medals.

A complete obituary for Mr. Searcy appears elsewhere in today's Bulletin.

## Civic League Meets

The Landrum Civic League will meet on Friday, Feb. 7th at 3 p.m. at the Civic Center.

The guest speaker will be Jessie Ann Wingo of New Prospect who will present a program on "Quilts of the Bible".

Hostesses for the meeting will be Mrs. Betty Blom, Mrs. Mary Lou Burch, Mrs. Virginia Knudson, and Miss Anne Sevier.

## Heart Conscious Dinner Date Draws Near

Excitement is running high over the annual Heart Fund Conscious Dinner to be held at Holy Cross Episcopal Church Thursday, Feb. 13, with seatings at 6 and 7:30 p.m., and take-outs available from 5 p.m. until 7:30.

The dinner, which is being catered by Linda Campbell, will consist of chicken parmesan or stuffed flounder, tossed salad, stir-fry vegetables, rice pilaf, fresh fruit compote, wheat and garlic rolls, lemon cake with topping, or yogurt pie, along with appropriate beverages, including a glass of wine. A professional wine steward will circulate among the dining tables with a vintage that will perfectly complement the meal.

Expert table service will be provided by a dedicated group of volunteers, according to Carrie Lee Massey, who has arranged for the service. They will include Heywood Hannon, Darrell Counts, Larry McDowell, Lacey Coats, Frank B. Brown, Theodore King, Frances Woods, Rosalie Avery, Ann Douglas, Robin Staggs, and Naomi Foster.

And that's not all! There will be dinner music, too, provided by Janet Larson, well known local pianist.

Tickets at \$12.50 each are on sale at NationsBank, Carole's Shoes, Blue Ridge Weavers, Cowan's Supermarket, and Photo Graphia Gallery. Or for

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## Stearns Receives \$7000 Grant Award

The Committee for Stearns Park is pleased to announce that they have been approved by the Polk County Foundation to receive a \$7000 Matching fund

grant for the playground equipment to complete the plans for Stearns Park. Sue Cochran, Playground Fund Raising Chairman stated "Letters will be sent to many residents of Polk

County asking that they support this project with their contributions. The Park has become a very popular place for walking exercise, picnic lunches and community activities. We are thrilled that so much has been

accomplished this last year, the playground equipment is the last phase to complete the project. We hope to have the equipment installed and the playground area ready by April."

"We would like to challenge all former Stearns School students to send a contribution towards this project, at just \$5 each they could become a part of this project and help complete the park. This could give a real boost to the fund raising to complete Stearns Park for the benefit of all Polk County," Chairman Sue Cochran said. Contributions are tax deductible and they can be mailed to: Stearns Park Playground Fund, P.O. Box 308, Columbus, N.C. 28782.