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# The Tryon Daily Bulletin



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THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1992

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*The weather Tuesday: high 92, low 67, hum. 65 percent. There was quite a light show in the skies Tuesday night.*

Jacque Minick was on the front page of the *Hendersonville Times-News* Wednesday morning sporting a Ross Perot For President t-shirt with a large dark blue, electrical tape "X" across the lettering.

Minick, Polk County coordinator for the Ross Perot campaign, is pictured at the Blue Grotto Pub where she and other mourning Ross Perot supporters attended a *Ross Perot Wake* Tuesday night. In the background can be seen Lili Hahn and Virginia Baldwin.

"I hate to give up on it because I think he has some really good ideas," Minick said of Perot. Polk County Perot supporters have no formal plans at this point to carry on beyond Perot's self disengagement from the race, she added.

**What's happening:**

The Polk County Athletic Boosters Club will meet today at 7:30 p.m. at Stearns Educational Center. The club represents all children in athletic programs grades 7 to 12. Any parent who has a child in ath-

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## Communication:

Dear Jeff:

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Luke's Hospital, I want to clarify some of the issues that impact the future of the hospital.

I have served on the hospital board in various capacities for 11 years and have seen the hospital evolve into an exceptional healthcare facility. Throughout our history we have faced difficult situations. Let me assure you, we are currently in a far better position to meet the present challenge than we have been at any time in the past.

St. Luke's has over \$3 million in liquid assets. Those assets allow us time to analyze our role within the healthcare delivery system and make responsible choices. None of those choices includes closing the hospital. **THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A ST. LUKE'S.**

True, St. Luke's has lost a considerable amount of money this year, but we are not alone. There is a national crisis in rural healthcare delivery which is compounded by a number of factors beyond our control -- declining inpatient volume, inadequate Medicare reimbursement, and the choice of physicians to practice elsewhere. All rural hospitals are reexamining their alternatives.

As a result of our strategic planning process, a committee of trustees and physicians has been established to develop a

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## Tryon Valley 411

Tryon Valley Chapter 411 will meet today (Thursday) at 5:00 p.m. at the Lodge Hall on Markham Road. WM Sister Louise Payton, Sec. Sister Betty Thompson.

-Community Reporter

## Democrats To Meet

Polk County Democratic Men's Club will meet Sat., July 25 at 8:00 a.m. at the Democratic Headquarters in Columbus. Biscuits and coffee will be served. All Democrat men are invited.

-Community Reporter

## Buy New Home

Bob and Olga Balme, from Cobleskill, N.Y., have purchased the home of Ed and Lucille Woodruff on Warrior Dr., Tryon. The Balmes were enticed to Tryon by their good friends, Dick and Janet Cannon.

Bob is a retired journalist and newspaperman and hopes to do some writing and consulting after they are settled in Tryon. He also does woodworking in his spare time, most specifically building whimmy-diddles. Olga loves horses and animals.

Penny Kessler of First Real Estate sold the Woodruffs home, which was listed by Veda Pullen of Bailey-Pullen.

-Community Reporter

Read The Bulletin  
For Local News

## Records Show Consistent St. Luke's Admissions by Drs.

Low inpatient admissions are causing financial shortages at St. Luke's Hospital, yet use of other hospital services have increased.

Inpatient admissions are down 13% for the first nine months of the 1991-92 St. Luke's fiscal year, reported President Thomas Bradshaw. From October through June of this year, 922 patients have been admitted to St. Luke's compared to 1,061 during the same time the prior year, he pointed out.

Surgical cases have been down 20% this year compared to the same period last year, Bradshaw said. Only 628 surgical procedures have been performed at St. Luke's from Oct. through June this year, compared to 784 the year before, he said. However, St. Luke's has only had one surgeon for the last year and a half, he added. A new surgeon, Dr. Martin Fischer, comes on board Aug. 1.

In the same time period, emergency room visits have risen 4% and the Caregiver Program is up 30%, Bradshaw said.

"The real dollars are in admissions to the hospital," explained Bradshaw.

According to admissions records, the problem is not that physicians are referring less patients to St. Luke's. The

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