

Tryon Daily Bulletin

The World's Smallest Daily Newspaper

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Tryon, N.C. 28782

Friday, November 8, 2002

Only 35 cents



Here's what is happening:
Arts Palette is exhibiting the paintings of Terry Doerge, artist of the month for November. The Palette is located on Melrose Avenue next to the Tryon Fine Arts Center.

Co-dependents Anonymous meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at Columbus Presbyterian Church. Information: 859-2454 or 457-5699.

Polk County Chapter of the American Red Cross offers free blood pressure screening from 10-noon every Friday at Owens Pharmacy in Tryon.

Foothills Astronomical Society is holding a new moon astronomy program at sunset Friday, Nov. 8, at FENCE. All are invited to learn more about astronomy.

American Legion weekly Bingo games, 7 p.m. Fridays at the Post, 43 Depot St., Tryon. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. All are invited.

Caregiver's Fair will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, at Columbus Baptist Church. Free admission, lunch and door prizes. All are invited. Information: 859-2230.

Steps to HOPE presents Crafts for HOPE from 9-3 Saturday, Nov. 9 at Stearns

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SALUTING THOSE WHO SERVED

The *Tryon Daily Bulletin* salutes area veterans with a special pull-out edition inside today. "Those Who Served" contains photos and stories of veterans who served in wars from World War I through Desert Storm, as well as those whose duties kept them within our nation's borders. At right, Marcy Coughlin Hughes, whose story is inside the special edition, says she is especially proud of this photograph, taken by Alfred Eisenstaedt, one of Life magazine's great photographers.

Other Veteran's Day stories inside are Bob Witty's "Military Chronicle" on page 63 and an essay on What it Means to be a Veteran in 2002 by George Scofield on page 10.



New site raises hopes for Veterans Plaza

Land donation offered in Columbus

by Chris Dailey

After five years of repeated delays due to indecision and legal roadblocks, a proposed Veterans Plaza may be much closer to finding a home.

The project received new life recently thanks to a proposed donation of a downtown lot, located across from the Columbus Post Office at the corner of Ward and

Gibson streets.

The vacant lot, used each 4th of July for a singing stage at the Columbus Barbecue, has been offered to the town specifically for the Veterans Plaza, according to local officials.

Town Administrator Glenn Rhodes says there are two people willing to buy the lot and give it to Columbus. He says they wish to remain anonymous.

"They would like to see the Veterans Plaza go there," he says. "I think it's a natural location. We could have the plaza and the vet-

erans memorial and maybe a stage and picnic areas."

Rhodes says he has discussed the proposed site informally with town council members and received support to proceed with the project.

Now he's waiting to hear back from local veterans groups after recently proposing the idea to them.

On Monday the American Legion Post 250 in Polk County voted to support the location.

Post commander Tom DeVries


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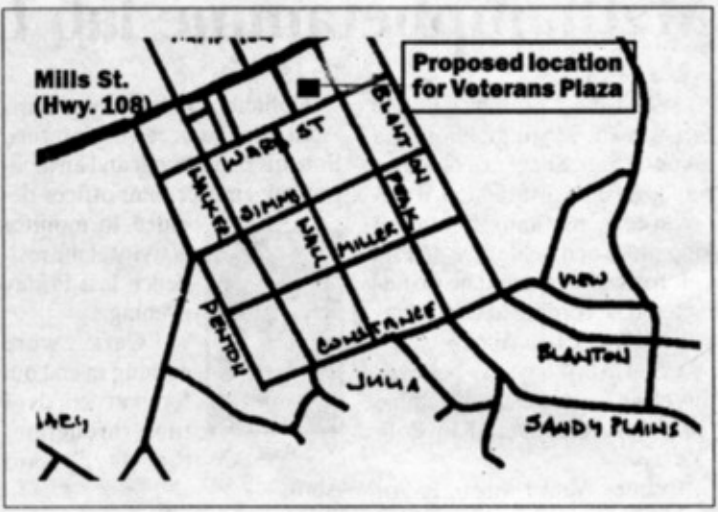
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F. Nelson Stover will discuss the *Foundational Understandings for the Ecozoic Era* at the Tryon Youth Center at 10:30am this Sunday, November 10. The ordering principle of the universe involves continual differentiation coupled with reintegration of this diversity into dynamic systems. Stover anticipates a result that will be a sustainable approach to the finite resources of the planet and a clear understanding of the processes that created them.

For information about our twice monthly meetings, call 894-5776.



• Plaza

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

says he's hopeful that it will gain further backing. "It's a real nice spot," says DeVries. "It's still on the main flow (of traffic) right behind the courthouse, and a lot of people come by there to the post office."

Local VFW posts, including those in Mill Spring, Tryon and Columbus, are expected to take similar votes this month and report to a Veterans Committee, which was set up to oversee the plaza project.

Scott Camp, commander of the Columbus VFW Post, says his post has not formally discussed the proposed location, but it's expected to do so later this month. He said it's good to have another option and many veterans appear to be leaning toward the new site.

Yet, some veterans still have concerns.

Veteran Robert Weiner says he's not against the new site, but he would like to see the town formally commit to putting the plaza there before veterans proceed with fund-raising for the project.

Other veterans have reportedly said they still prefer putting the plaza near the Veterans Memorial on the Courthouse lawn.

That site remains an option, although it failed to draw a consensus among veterans.

One reason is that many veterans are still pushing for the plaza to be located in the middle of Courthouse Street, between the courthouse and the Womack

Building. That was the original site of the plaza when it was designed in 1997.

Polk County and Columbus proceeded with the Courthouse Street site at the veterans' request. The county even deeded a portion of the street earlier this year to Columbus so it could be closed to through traffic.

However, the proposed street closure was legally challenged by Columbus property owners. With a long and expensive legal battle pending, the county and town dropped the idea.

Since then, the plaza has been in limbo while local officials waited to hear a new plan from the veterans. Nearly 800 bricks purchased through an initial fund-raising effort have been sitting in storage in the old Columbus fire house.

Until recent weeks, it appeared they would stay there indefinitely.

Now, if the new site is backed by veterans, Rhodes says the project could proceed quickly. He says the town would obtain a deed to the land and work on design plans for the plaza.

In fact, Rhodes says he's planning to meet with an architect next week to go over general ideas.


"This has been so drawn out, I just think it would be wonderful to see it happen there," says Rhodes. "Our first priority would be the memorial and plaza, but maybe we could build on that."

Rhodes says it would be nice to have a stage so the town could

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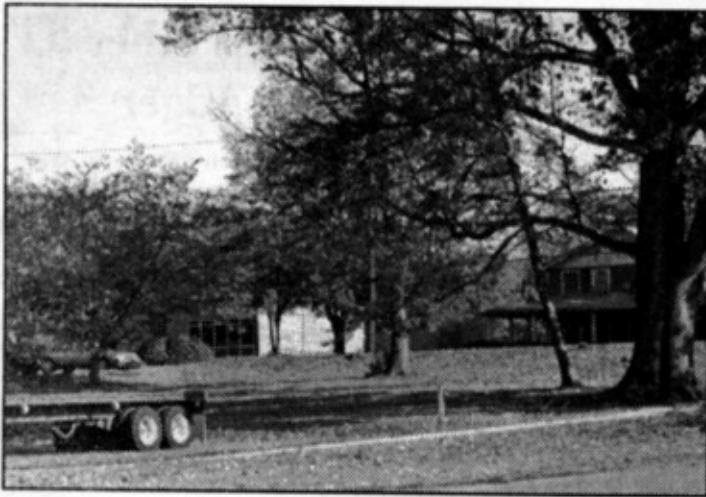
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A home for the Polk County Veterans Plaza and Veterans Memorial (right) may have been found. A large lot located on Ward Street in Columbus, across from the Columbus Post Office, has been offered to the town for the plaza by two anonymous donors. (photo by Chris Dailey)



• Plaza

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

maintain the gospel singing tradition over the 4th of July holiday.

Polk County commissioner Bill McKaig, a member of the Veterans Committee, says the town and veterans groups could apply for grants to help fund plans for the entire lot.

McKaig says it's important to first plan what the lot would look like when the project is done, and then take it in stages.

"We don't have to do it all at once," he says. "We can get the planning done and then start with

the plaza."

McKaig says he's planning to see what the county can do to help. He says he plans to discuss the project with a new board of commissioners once three newly elected members take office in December.

"Once we get the commissioners installed I'll take the lead on this and go back to work with it," he says.

McKaig says he thinks the new site could be an ideal location, but he remains open to any site that's supported by the veterans.

"It doesn't really matter to me. I just want to see it get done," he says.

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Skyland Arts Cinema

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(PG)

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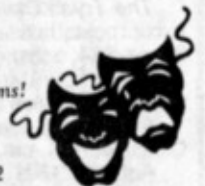
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