

# Homecoming...from page 1

and Ryan Tallent. Claire Wilson and Wesley Bloodworth were crowned Princess and Prince.

The Freshman Princess Court was well represented by Cadi Olin and Makayla Underwood, while Garrett Bradshaw and

Cesar Bustamante made up the Prince Court. Makayla Underwood and Garrett Bradshaw were crowned Princess and Prince.



Bradley Swanson and Jordan Moss, the 2011 Basketball Homecoming King and Queen with the 2011 Homecoming Court following Saturday night's ceremony. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Peak season for home fires isn't over, use caution

Half of all U.S. home heating fires occur in December, January and February. That's according to the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment report, which shows that heating equipment is a leading cause of winter fires. In fact, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 66,100 reported home structure fires in 2008, causing 480 civilian deaths, 1,660 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage.

NFPA and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) are working together to remind everyone that home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season. For more information about the organizations' joint safety campaign, "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires," and a complete list of winter safety tips, visit [www.nfpa.org/winter](http://www.nfpa.org/winter).

"Winter fires are highly preventable," says Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of communications. "Every tragic news story about a devastating winter fire is a reminder that simple precautions can prevent deadly consequences."

Audio available: USFA Acting Fire Administrator

Glenn Gaines and NFPA's Sharon Gamache explain how to stay safe when it is cold outside. Winter Safety Podcasts (Episode 6: Winter Storms).

Space heaters resulted in far more fires and fire fatalities than central heating devices. Between 2004 and 2008, fixed (stationary) and portable space heaters (excluding fireplaces, chimneys, and chimney connectors, but including wood stoves) annually accounted for, on average, one-third of reported U.S. home heating fires and four out of five associated civilian deaths.

Meanwhile, an estimated 15,200 reported creosote fires – 23 percent of all home heating fires – annually resulted in an average of four civilian deaths, 17 civilian injuries, and \$33 million in direct property damage. Creosote is a sticky, oily, combustible substance created when wood does not burn completely. It rises into the chimney as a liquid and deposits on the chimney wall.

One in four heating equipment fires started due to a failure to clean equipment. Other causes include placing a heat source too close to combustibles, and unclassified mechanical failures or malfunc-

tions. Roughly half of all home heating fire deaths resulted from fires started by heating equipment that was too close to something that could burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, or a mattress or bedding.

In addition to heating fires being a concern in the coming months, NFPA would like to remind the public that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires all year round. This time of year, whether you are feasting on Super Bowl Sunday or simply cooking to warm up on a bitter cold day, it is important to stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires.

About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): NFPA is a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. Visit NFPA's website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

## Young Harris College students participate in Martin Luther King, Jr. day of service



Approximately 70 faculty, staff and students engaged in a variety of volunteer efforts in the local community throughout the day.

Young Harris College recently hosted a special day of service on Jan. 22 to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day which took place on Jan. 17. Approximately 70 faculty, staff and students engaged in a variety of volunteer efforts in the local community throughout the day. The event was sponsored by S.E.R.V.E. (Service, Empowerment, Responsibility, Voice and Engagement), a committee comprised of student and staff representatives from the College's Bonner Leaders Program, Office of Religious Life and Office of Campus Activities.

"It's important to host events like the MLK Day of Service every year because it helps the College build community partnership," Director of Campus Activities Rouseline Emmanuel said. "Also, the experience and joy students get from helping others in need is irreplaceable and will be something they always remember."

The group of volunteers finished construction of affordable housing in the

Wesley Meadows neighborhood; helped complete an outdoor adventure-based training course for Niyelo at Towns County High School by painting, mulching, repairing and organizing the course; and walked, bathed and fed animals at the Mountain Shelter Humane Society.

"Serving at the Humane Society was a blast," said senior business and public policy major Matthew Kammerer of Loganville, GA. "With such a huge turnout we were able to help in many different ways, from scrubbing dog runs to making enrichment treats to walking each and every one of the dogs."

"One of the goals of YHC is to contribute to the quality of life of our local community. Participating in this event provided us with an opportunity to contribute, in a small way, to our community," added Assistant Professor of Education Mark Brunner, Ph.D. "The fact that so many students turned up in cold temperatures to assist the community was inspiring to me."

S.E.R.V.E. sponsors one major service-oriented event each month. The organization will host an outreach excursion to the Hike Inn at Amicalola Falls State Park on Feb. 4-6, sponsor a clean-up day of the Lake Chatuge shore on March 26 and collaborate with the Col-

lege's Sustainability Committee, Roots & Shoots and Student Government Association to host service events to celebrate Earth Day on April 16.

### Appalachian Duplicate Bridge Club news

On Monday, January 31, ten and one half tables played a Mitchell movement at All Saints Lutheran Church in Blairsville, GA, with the following results: First, North-South, Joe and Joan Lane; second, Dee Short and Dorothy Smith; third, Gwen Weaver and Jim Bell; fourth, Eleanor Rank and Mary Talbert; and fifth, Anne Mincey and Sally Miller.

First, East-West, Chris Thompson and Madelin Seiferman; second, Peter Cohn and Mike Knowles; third, Jean Pittman and Barbara Mitchell; and fourth, Myrna Ponkauskas and Kitty Tomkinson.

On Thursday, February 3, seven full tables played a Mitchell movement with the following results: First, North-South, Joe and Joan Lane; second, Sally Forest and Shirley Scrivner; and third, Jim Bell and Gwen Weaver. Coming in first for East-West, Ned Cahill and Madelin Seiferman; second, Joyce Geiger and Pat Mosteller; third, Marilyn Demers and Kitty Tomkinson; and fourth Anne Mincey and Martha Brewer.

It was nice to have Mary Anderson and Marilyn Towns playing with us on Monday. We enjoy having old friends join us that we haven't seen in a while. We would love to see new friends at our tables as well. If you are interested in spending a fun-filled afternoon playing bridge and making new friends, please call Myrna Ponkauskas at 828-389-8065 for more information about our Monday and Thursday games or to have her find you a partner. We would love to have you.

## Catch 'em being good for February 2, 2011



Back row L-R: Kata Kosovic, Ashleigh Duffey, Jace Vinez, Carson Williams, Victoria Winkler, Allie Langford. Front row: Grand Ingram, Ciara Upchurch, Tyler Blackwell.



By Janice Boling

### Recipes and household goodies

Many people are looking for products that don't pollute the environment and don't cost a fortune. For anyone interested in natural household products and other herbal goodies, here are a few ideas and recipes to try at home.

Natural furniture polish is simple and inexpensive to make. Just add a few drops of lemon or orange essential oil to a quarter cup of vegetable oil. Rub into wooden surfaces for protection and glossy shine. Make spray glass cleaner by mixing a quarter cup of white vinegar, a tablespoon of cornstarch, and two cups of warm water. Use with old newspapers for streak free results.

Freshen carpet and rugs with a mixture of baking soda and crushed lavender flowers. Sprinkle liberally, wait thirty minutes, then vacuum. Upholstery shampoo is easy to make. Mix six tablespoons of soap flakes, two tablespoons of borax, and a pint of boiling water. Stir well. Let cool, then whip into foam with an egg beater. Brush dry suds on furniture. (Test on hidden part of fabric first to see if results are as expected.) Quickly wipe off with damp sponge and repeat if needed.

Natural toilet bowl cleaner can be made at home, too. Just mix a cup of borax with a half cup of vinegar.

Complete bathroom cleaning chores with a paste made from borax, vinegar, and water. This mix is a good mold remover and can be used on most surfaces.

If drains or septic tanks start acting up, try a septic tank activator before calling a plumber. Dissolve one cup of sugar in a pint of hot water. When lukewarm, stir in three teaspoons of dried yeast. Wait a couple of minutes and then flush entire mixture down toilet.

Another remedy for sluggish drains is baking soda and vinegar. Pour a half cup of baking soda down the drain. Then pour in one cup of vinegar. Wait several minutes and then rinse with a gallon of hot water.

Herbal sachets make linen, closets, and drawers smell fabulous. Use bags of lavender, patchouli, and other favor-

ite herbs (alone or mixed). The sachet bag can be as simple as a brown paper sack or as elaborate as embroidered silk. To protect from moths, use wormwood, thyme, lavender, patchouli, and sage. Sachets make nice gifts and the choices of herbs and fabrics are unlimited.

A sleep pillow also makes a nice gift for a loved one or friend. Sew an eight by eight inch pouch (or larger), leave an opening, and stuff loosely with herbs like lavender, chamomile, and rose petals. Add mugwort for enhanced dreaming. Sew up opening and sleep with it under (or in place of) a regular sized pillow.

\*Homemade products do not contain preservatives and should be kept in a cool, dark place if not used immediately. Use within a few weeks. Discard if mold appears or scent becomes rancid. Always consult with a healthcare professional before using any herbal remedy especially if pregnant, nursing, or taking other medicines. For more information, visit [www.EveryGreenHerb.com](http://www.EveryGreenHerb.com).



**FASHION TIP of the week**

By Sarah Bavero

**Q:** How do I style my casual husband; all he wears are t-shirts and jeans. I would love it if he could look as nice as me when we go out.

**A:** He sounds like a laid-back kind of guy. Keep the look simple with plain white button down shirts, his favorite jeans, and a black pair of super comfy loafers. He will never know the difference and you will look great together no matter how fabulous your own style is!

Send your fashion inquiries to: [sarabhavero@gmail.com](mailto:sarabhavero@gmail.com) Sarah Bavero has a degree in fashion design.