



**Kyle Vardo, his mom Kathy (right) and his aunt Nancy Driscoll enjoy times together just after her cancer diagnosis in 2003. Driscoll died last year and Vardo is raising money for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society in her memory. Kyle is now 15.**

## Car wash raises money for cancer

Hayesville High School student Kyle Vardo is organizing a car wash to honor an aunt who lost a valiant battle with cancer last year.

Vardo's friends and family will pitch in to raise money for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society Saturday, Aug. 21. Proceeds will be used to support his mother and five

other aunts who plan to take part in an endurance race in San Francisco to raise money for a cause close to the family's hearts.

The carwash begins at 10 a.m. at Hayesville First United Methodist Church near the square.

All donations are welcome.

## Preventing moisture important for healthy home

Summer in the mountains — a lovely time to see the rain fall and nourish our garden plantings. Thunderstorms build in the west and create amazing cloud formations. The bushes we planted last year are taller, fuller. The foliage is thick and green. Water from the fresh rain is trickling down the slopes past our home. All is well. But is it?

Do you have a crawlspace or basement? In the mountains it is common to have our homes on a slope and our crawlspace or basement is half in, half out, of the mountainside. Or we might be in the floodplain next to a gurgling stream with our home foundation set up a few feet from the meadow. Unless you have a basement and detect a musty odor, the telltale sign of high humidity, you may not pay any attention at all to the crawlspace until the advanced signs of the No. 1 enemy of your home — moisture — making its way into your home's rooms. You may notice wet carpeting, stale odors, damp baseboards, or damp foundation walls.

As a home inspector, this time of year I encounter damp basements and crawlspaces about a third of the time. If left uncorrected, the humidity in these spaces can cause HVAC components to rust, wood flooring structure to deteriorate, bolts and metals to corrode. It can also cause termites to make these spaces their new home and encourage the growth of mildew, fungus and mold.

Here's a tip that will help keep your home healthier. Along with spring planting and cleaning tasks, go into your basement or crawlspace (OK, get someone else to go into your crawlspace) and take a moment to observe everything you see. Do you smell moisture or mildew? Is the humidity high? Do you see any condensation on the walls or the HVAC duct work? Is water dripping anywhere?

Taking the time to inspect

these areas periodically will pay off in fresher air, less pest intrusion and longer system component life. All it takes is a clogged gutter or drain, or a wet spring as we had in Clay County, to generate damaging moisture intrusion in your home.

If you discover a wet basement or crawlspace, there are some simple things you can do yourself. First, check the ventilation ducts (basement) or vents (crawlspace). Make sure these vents are not closed or sealed during the summer, as ventilation is one of the keys to lowering humidity. You can try putting a box fan in your crawlspace to dry it out, or consider vent fans.

If you have a crawlspace and see condensation, make sure you have a plastic vapor retarder installed over the dirt. Bare dirt generates gallons of moisture and you don't want this moisture hanging around under your house. Next, check the water runoff around your home. Are gutters working and are they depositing water away from the foundation? Is there a gap between the soil around your home and the siding? If there isn't, then the soil is retaining water against your foundation and adding moisture to the space behind it. Pull the soil back from your home so that you have at least 6 to 8 inches between the ground and the siding.

Are your beautiful bushes growing right up the sides of your house? Vegetation can hold moisture and deposit it on your siding and next to the foundation. Trim the bushes back so there is at least 12 inches of horizontal clearance between plants and the foundation wall or siding. This will also help prevent termites from deciding that your siding will be their next food stop.

Next, wait for a heavy rain. Go outside and look at where the water is going. Is it running against your home? You may need some

# Grant helps college go green

By ROBERT M. PAYNE  
Guest Writer

Tri-County Community College will receive \$100,000 grant, funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission through its Southwestern North Carolina Planning and Economic Development Commission. The money has been earmarked to assist the college with its hybrid automotive technology program.

The new Appalachian Regional Commission resources along with existing allocations will enable the college to expand its green technology course and program offerings.

The Appalachian Regional Commission announced the award during a special ceremony held on the campus of Western Carolina University which was attended by federal and state officials.

At the event, Dr. Donna Tipton-Rogers, president of Tri-County Community College, was joined by Gov. Beverly Perdue, U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler, Appalachian Regional Commission Federal Co-Chair Earl F. Gohl and Dr. Scott Ralls, president of the North Carolina Com-



**Dr. Donna Tipton-Rogers, president of Tri-County Community College (third from right), is joined by other dignitaries at the announcement ceremony for the ARC grant. Pictured, from left, are Bill Gibson of the Southwestern Commission, ARC co-Chair Earl Gohl, Gov. Beverly Perdue, U.S. Congressman Heath Shuler, North Carolina Community College System President Dr. Scott Ralls, Rose Johnson, president of Haywood Community College, Tipton-Rogers, Janet Burnette, interim president of Southwestern Community College and N.C. State Senator John Snow.**

munity College System.

Tipton-Rogers said the college plan will include skill training for hybrid and diesel technology. The equipment purchased by the grant money will prepare students for the automotive workforce which is rapidly increasing production of energy efficient vehicles.

Student training associated with the automotive program expansion will assist economic development efforts in recruitment for the automotive manufacturing

sector as well as providing skilled employees for the advanced automotive service industry.

The full grant consisted of \$300,000 to be divided equally among three colleges. The funds awarded will be matched by another \$494,000 in local funding for a total of \$794,000 to develop the training program that anticipates nearly 400 students enrolling among three colleges.

Shuler explained that as the nation continues to move

towards an economy concerned with green technology, a green workforce training plan is not only essential, but will ultimately help keep jobs in this region.

Tri-County Community College will focus on hybrid automotive technology, but ARC officials explained that the overall training curriculum will include civil engineering, sustainable technology, green weatherization and retrofitting, biofuel production and sustainable horticulture.

## Cheerleading camp result of senior project

Senior and varsity cheerleading captain Abby Chester will conduct the free Hayesville Yellow Jacket Cheer Camp as her senior project.

The camp is open to peewee, termite and mite cheerleaders, from 8 a.m.-12

p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21 on the Hayesville High School track.

Chester has been cheering since age 7 and hopes to share her love of cheering to younger girls through the clinic.

The camp will focus on having fun,

being confident and feeling good about cheerleading.

During registration participants will be required to fill out a liability and medical release form. Participants register the first day of camp.

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