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# Student murdered; Sheriff's Department, SBI investigating

**BRIAN DEKLE**  
Staff Writer

The Watauga County Sheriff Department and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation are investigating the homicide of an Appalachian State University student.

Sheriff deputies were called to Crocker Road around 11 p.m. last Thursday night in reference to a white male being found on the roadside.

When deputies arrived they found the body of Joseph W. McClure, senior recreation management major, lying face up on the shoulder of a gravel road. Watauga County Sheriff Shook said the murder occurred at this location and the body was not moved or dumped there.

Two unidentified residents of that area were going home when they saw the body and called 911, Shook said.

McClure had been shot once in the side of the head with a

small caliber firearm, Shook said. He added that there is no evidence that McClure attempted to move, and the bullet wound probably killed him instantly.

A small, light brown or beige vehicle, possibly a Toyota, was seen in the area before the incident occurred. A white male with brown hair who was clean-shaven



McClure

and possibly in his 20's drove the vehicle, according to a news release from the sheriff's department. Investigators are currently combing the crime scene for evidence.

"The crime scene analysts did find several key things, and any physical evidence is icing on the cake when you

get in court. We're looking at some pretty vital evidence discovered there at the scene," Shook said.

Crime scene analysts are using several investigation methods to analyze evidence, including DNA testing.

Shook said investigators are conducting a search on a possible suspect vehicle at this time.

Shook reported no suspects in the crime but said friends of McClure have come forth and talked with investigators. When an arrest is made, the suspect will be charged with first-degree murder, Shook said.

Shook said the investigation is expected to continue for at least another two weeks. "After you arrest someone you still have weeks of tying up loose ends," Shook said.

About one or two murders usually occur in Watauga County each year, Shook said.

The last time an Appa-



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Joseph McClure's body was found near Crocker Road Thursday night.

lachian State student was murdered in 1999, when Kimberly Christeen Kammeter was found dead in her apartment after being stabbed 24

times in the face, neck, chest and back.

Shook added that nine times out of 10 alcohol or drugs are involved in homicides, as

was the case in Kammeter's murder. Shook did not specify whether or not he believed alcohol or drugs were involved in McClure's murder.

## Erosion eats into ASU checkbook

Hardin Street  
site may bring  
heavy fines

**ANNA OAKES**  
Staff Writer

Appalachian State University is subject to thousands of dollars in fines due to violation of its erosion control plan for the future Hardin Street parking lot. North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) Environmental Technician Tim

D. Garrett discovered the violation during an inspection Oct. 21.

Garrett works in NCDENR's Winston-Salem regional office.

"What we have is a violation of the 25-foot undisturbed trout buffer which runs along that creek [which runs through the property]," Garrett said. "[This creek] feeds into Boone Creek, which has been classified as Class C Trout Plus ... because it is leading to trout waters."

Before beginning any type of construction, a public entity like Appalachian State

must develop an erosion control plan for the site, Garrett said.

NCDENR approved Appalachian's plan for the Hardin Street site Oct. 13, Garrett said.

The erosion control plan designates 25 feet on both sides of the stream as a trout buffer zone not to be disturbed by construction, Garrett said. This is to prevent sediment from flowing into the stream.

In some places, workers dug a trench only three feet away from the stream, Garrett said.

"The number one pol-

lutant of surface waters is sediment," Garrett said. "People don't think of mud as a pollutant, but sediment in the water can affect water quality in a lot of adverse ways."

Sediment pollution can carry harmful materials through water, damage trout gills, cover stream bottoms (cutting off food sources), and suffocate trout eggs, Garrett said.

Garrett said there were three violations cited on the inspection report: failure to follow the approved erosion

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## Registered voters increase by 10 percent

**JASON SECREST**  
Staff Writer

Watauga County saw a 10 percent increase in voter registration this presidential election compared to the 2000 election.

Republicans have seen a large increase of about 1,500 party members in Watauga, with Democrats losing voters, according to an article in the Mountain Times. The largest increase has been those registering unaffiliated.

According to the Mountain Times, Republicans make up 39 percent of registered voters in Watauga County. Democrats make up 34 per-

cent with unaffiliated voters making up 27 percent.

Jane Hodges, Watauga County board of elections director, said although there has been an increase in voter registration this presidential election, it seems about the same amount of people are registered this year as there were in 2000.

Hodges said because Boone is a college town, the board of elections expected a large registration turnout. She said Appalachian State University students have comprised about half of the people who registered.

Ron Chambers, a volunteer at the Watauga County Demo-

crat Headquarters, said he has worked with registration a lot during this election and has seen a lot of people come in. Chambers, who is volunteering with the Democrats for the first time, said at times there have been so many people at the headquarters many have had to wait in line to register. "It's been fun," he said.

Chambers said at least half of the voters who registered at the Democrat headquarters were Appalachian State students.

Chambers said he feels a big reason why more people have registered for this year's presidential election is because of the nature of the

election.

"I think it's simply a more heated election on both sides," Chambers said.

"You hear a lot of different opinions."

Almost 5.4 million people have registered to vote in North Carolina, according to the North Carolina State board of elections. That's an increase from 5.1 million registered voters in 2000.

The majority of voters registering for the first time this election are Democrats, making up about 40 percent of new voters. However, the Libertarian Party continues to grow the fastest, almost doubling its size in four years.

## Head over heels



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Belly dancer Mizilca of the group "Origins of Ecstasy" demonstrates the flexibility involved in dancing Tuesday night in the Blue Ridge Ballroom.

## The search to replace Durham as provost begins

**JUSTIN BOULMAY**  
Senior Staff Writer

A search committee was charged last Wednesday with finding a provost, a search that, at the earliest, will not be done until next semester.

"The charge by the chancellor ... is to conduct a process and the outcome would be to recommend a few names to the chancellor," Director of Institutional Research & Planning Dr. Bobby H. Sharp said.

Dr. Stanley R. Aeschleman currently serves as interim provost.

Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock appointed him in March 2004.

The provost, who also serves as vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, is responsible for the quality of the educational program and also serves as Chancellor in the chancellor's absence, according to Appalachian's organizational structure.

The committee's first meeting is today. The group will discuss the nature of the search, Sharp said.

"From our point of view, it's a new search. It's a new day."

The committee received a second charge from Compliance Officer Dr. Richard D. Howe. He instructed the committee of the legal aspects of the search, including what questions could and could not be asked.

Sharp said the earliest the committee would have candidates to recommend to Peacock would be next semester.

One of the most important qualities sought in a provost is the relationship between that person and the chancellor, Sharp said. The provost must also have a good relationship with the university, he said.

"The chemistry between a provost and a chancellor is essential," Sharp said.

Dr. Paul H. Gates, Jr., a member of the committee and an associate professor in the department of communication, said that in light of the relationship between the faculty and the provost, it was important for faculty opinions to be heard.

"Since the provost is the administrator most directly connected with the faculty as a group, as a whole, I

think it's very important for faculty to be involved in the process, to have a chance to ask questions like we've done in the last couple of times," Gates said.

"The openness of a search is very important."

Gates is a former chair of the Faculty Senate.

Two years ago, a search committee was formed to find a new provost, but the process was put on hold after Chancellor Francis T. Borkowski resigned in June 2003, Sharp said.

Sharp also served as the chair for the provost search committee two years ago. Most of the members of that committee have returned, although a couple of members are new.

Student Government Association (SGA) President Miriam N. Makhayoun is the student voice on this year's committee.

Aeschleman said there was

a good chance he would submit an application.

"The probability is high that I will [apply]," Aeschleman said.

"I think what I like the most is, with this juncture in the university, with all the new leadership that will be coming on board this year and next year and the chancellor also, is the opportunity to lead the university to a higher level," he said.

"I would relish the opportunity to be a part of that."

Aeschleman said, from his perspective, he had a good relationship with Peacock and with the faculty. Aeschleman first came to Appalachian State University as a faculty member in 1989.

Before being named interim provost, he had also served as the chair of the psychology department and the interim dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Howe said several dozen searches besides the provost search are going on right now, including searches for faculty and staff.

"These are on-going. We have a lot of those every year," Howe said.



Aeschleman