

Inside

IN FOCUS



Skiers and snowboarders: a rivalry decreasing?

In Focus, Page 3

OPINION



Students must unite, cheer on Mountaineers

Opinion, Page 8

ENTERTAINMENT



'Constantine' has appeal that may suck in viewers

Entertainment, Page 5

SPORTS



Streak comes to screeching halt: Apps drop 92-73 shocker

Sports, Page 7

ONLINE

- ◆ SGA president on education issues
- ◆ Faculty Senate Chair tells his side of story
- ◆ Check us out online at theapp.appstate.edu

WEATHER



Partly Cloudy

High 56° F
Low 35° F

Your detailed forecast, Page 2

INDEX

Classifieds.....	2
In Focus.....	3
Entertainment.....	5
Sports.....	7
Opinion.....	8
Events.....	9

Old, new faces highlight SGA race

ANNA OAKES
Senior Staff Writer

Three tickets will campaign for the positions of Student Government Association president and vice president at Appalachian State University.

Last week Chelsea M. Hunt and Benjamin "Rico" Diaz, Jud Watkins and Chris R. Pereira, Jason S. Radford and John B. Artman declared they will run for SGA's highest positions during March's campaign.

"I expect [this year's campaign] to be highly competitive," Elections Board Chair H. Dustin Bayard said.

Last year four tickets campaigned for SGA president and vice president. With only three tickets this year, there is less of a chance for a run-off election, Bayard said.

Bayard said this year's tickets are not the "stereotypical tickets we usually have." Last year, all four tickets had some previous SGA involvement, he said.

Neither Hunt nor Diaz has been in SGA before.

Watkins and Pereira each have SGA cabinet experience. Watkins, formally the

director of External Affairs, was dismissed from the position in December. Pereira is the Rules Committee chair.

Radford, a senator last semester, replaced Watkins as director of External Affairs in January. Artman has no previous SGA experience.

"It's a good mixture," Bayard said.

SGA Vice-President Nick V. Albu had no previous experience in the Senate before mounting a successful campaign with President Miriam N. Makhyouon last year.

Campaigning begins March 14. A debate between candidates will occur March 15 at 7 p.m. in the Grandfather Mountain Ballroom in Plemmons Student Union.

All tickets met with the Elections Board for a mandatory candidates' meeting yesterday.

Until campaigning begins, Bayard said he will train the Elections Board, make sure candidates have a good understanding of election rules and by-laws and advertise for the both the election and the textbook rental system referendum.

"We're trying to get people hyped and educated," Bayard said.

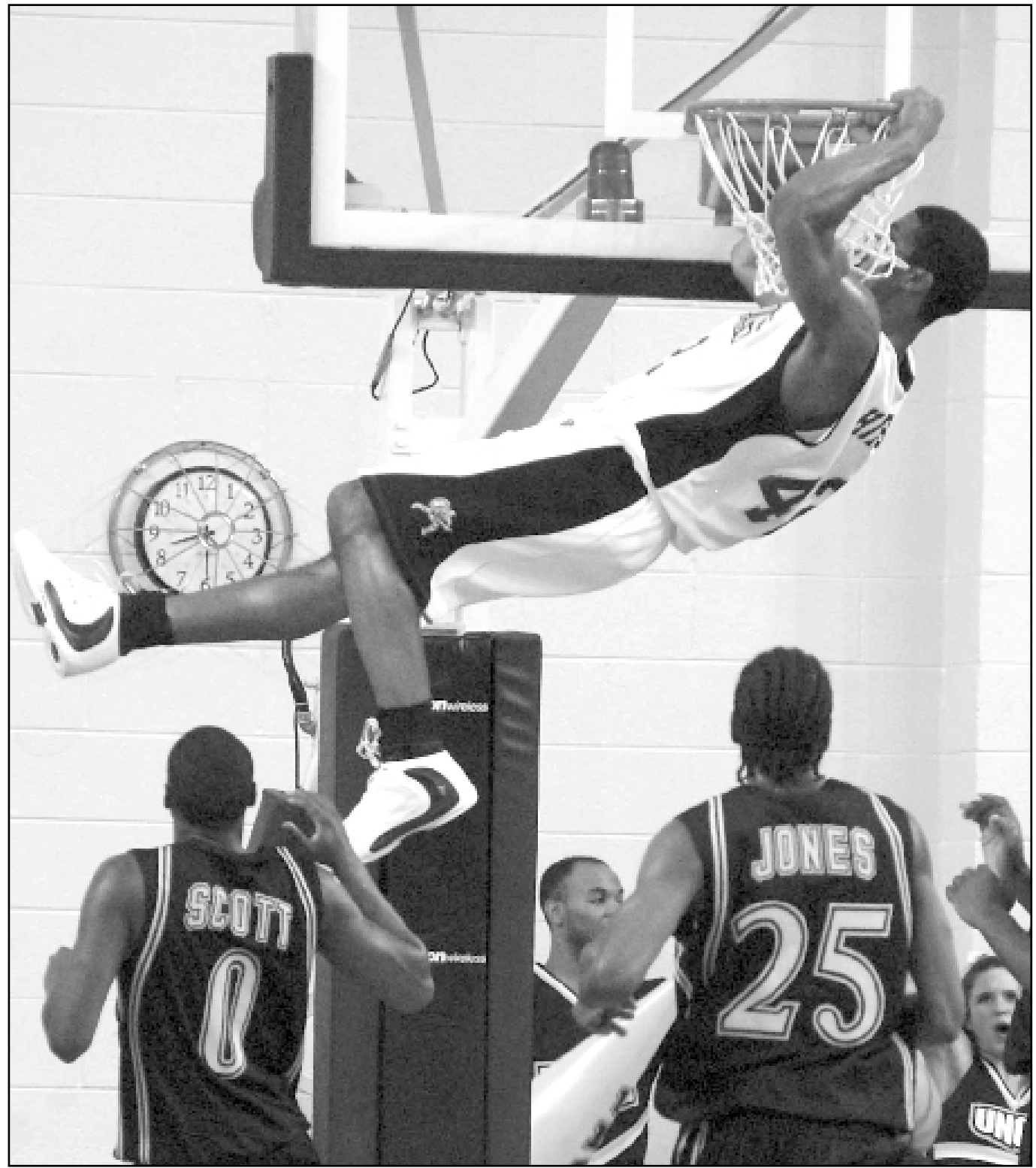
SGA President/ Vice-President Candidates

- Chelsea M. Hunt/
Benjamin "Rico" Diaz

- Jud Watkins/
Chris R. Pereira

- Jason S. Radford/
John B. Artman

With authority



Hugh Kellenberger | The Appalachian

Spartan Kyle Hines goes up for a vicious dunk late in the second half of Saturday's game at UNC Greensboro. Greensboro won the game 92-73 and Appalachian dropped to second place in the North Division. ASU will return to action tonight at home against Western Carolina University at 7 p.m. in Holmes Convocation Center.

Budget cuts threaten Upward Bound, GEAR UP programs

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

President George W. Bush's proposed 2006-07 budget has met harsh resistance at Appalachian State University.

Bush suggested cutting a variety of programs in order to expand standardized testing through his "No Child Left Behind" act. Two national programs proposed to go under the knife are Upward Bound and GEAR UP.

"To me, nothing is as important as educating our youth and preparing them to one day lead their families and our country," junior

communication major and Upward Bound alumna Jillian L. Pyatte said. "Cutting out vital programs like Upward Bound and GEAR UP will do nothing to make sure 'no child is left behind.'"

The programs are designed to create educational opportunities for low-income students and help parents understand that college can be an affordable option for their child.

Upward Bound was first funded in 1972.

Matt W. Ruble, assistant director of Upward Bound, said the program provides tutoring, mentoring and college preparation for low-

income high school students who will be the first in their family to attend college.

"Upward Bound is just this really intensive, group-oriented college preparation experience that does amazing work," Interim director for College Awareness Programs Chuck D. Bowling said.

According to a mandatory annual study done by Upward Bound, 90 percent of all Upward Bound graduates from 1994-2003 have received a college degree or are currently enrolled in college.

"Without Upward Bound, I would not be in college

right now," Pyatte said. "This program gave me the tools and the resources I needed to make my dreams come true."

GEAR UP is a similar program designed to work with an entire class of students.

Appalachian State University has been working with Ashe County Middle School and High School since the program began in 1999.

"There have been a lot of programs that have worked together, but GEAR UP has been a huge piece of bringing together all of those resources to make sure that those students are being prepared for the next step,"

"Without Upward Bound, I would not be in college right now."

JILLIAN L. PYATTE
JUNIOR COMMUNICATION MAJOR
UPWARD BOUND ALUMNA

Bowling said.

According to this year's annual GEAR UP study, 79 percent of 7th-12th grade students were performing at grade level before the GEAR UP program.

In 2004, Ashe County Middle School was designated an Honor School of Distinc-

tion when over 95 percent of their students scored at or above grade level.

"We create this atmosphere of achieving this goal of going to college," Ruble said.

Many current Appalachian

Continued on page 10



File Photo

Members of North Carolina's Band of Distinction, otherwise known as the Marching Mountaineers, prepare for their halftime show before Homecoming this year. The band will travel to London to perform in the 2006 New Year's Day Parade.

Band of Distinction receives royal invite direct from Queen

JULIA MERCHANT
Intern Writer

The Appalachian State University marching band recently received news that was music to their ears.

North Carolina's Band of Distinction, the Marching Mountaineers, were formally invited to perform in the prestigious London New Year's Day Parade in 2006. Groups cannot apply to take part in the parade; instead, they must be nominated by a previous parade participant and have their program reviewed by a Selection Committee.

Upon selection, the band received an invitation from Queen Elizabeth II.

"It's a great opportunity for the school to get its name out there ... and for us to experience various cultures, styles and bands with varying takes on music," junior music major and clarinet player Derrick P. James said.

The parade is part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the London Parade and Gala Concert Series. It is the largest event of its kind in the world and features over 10,000 performers from 12 nations.

London's Metropolitan Police estimate that one million people will line the streets for the parade and millions more will view it worldwide via satellite.

The band will depart Dec. 28 for the seven day trip to London, Marching Mountaineers director Dr. Scott Tobias said.

The band will have an opportunity to get tickets to the London Symphony or a theater production. Sometime during the week, a 50-piece group will be pulled from the band to perform a separate indoor concert.

This is the first time the Marching Mountaineers have traveled to perform at an international event.

"For students themselves, it is an opportunity to travel abroad and gain exposure from both a cultural and historical standpoint," Tobias said.

Tobias said he was excited about how participating in such an event could bring recognition to the March Mountaineers and Appalachian. Information about the band and a picture will appear in the official, widely-distributed parade bulletin.

"This will be yet again another extension of the Hayes School of Music and a showcase of the talents of our incredibly gifted students," Assistant Dean Jay Jackson said.

The two-mile parade route begins at Big Ben and Westminster Abbey and passes through the famous London sites of Trafalgar Square, Regent Street and Piccadilly Circus before ending at Berkley Square.

NEWS

News briefs

Asian Festival Friday in Student Union

An Asian Festival will take place Friday. The festival will be held to learn Asian cultures through skits, dance, songs, games and more. The festival will be in the Summitt Trail Solarium and food will be served in the Grandfather Mountain Ballroom of Plemmons Student Union. The festival begins at 6:15 p.m. and admission is \$5. The food ticket must be purchased in advanced. 50 percent of the proceeds go toward tsunami relief efforts. The festival co-sponsored by the Asian Student Association and the Council for Cultural Awareness.

It's magic ... resume magic from CDC

The Career Development Center is hosting Resume Magic this week in Plemmons Student Union. Students are encouraged to bring their resume by the contact table for review and assistance.

Trail Maintenance Club to hold meeting

The new Appalachian State University Trail Maintenance Club will hold its first meeting tomorrow at 5:15 p.m. in Room 62 of the Holmes Convocation Center.

Follow yellow brick road to conference

The Women's Center and the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership will host the annual Women's Leadership Conference "Follow Your Yellow Brick Road" Saturday from 12 - 7 p.m. in Plemmons Student Union. The cost is \$10.

Blood drive Thursday in Linville Falls Room

The Black Student Association and the Multicultural Student Organization will host a blood drive Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the Linville Falls Room, which is located in Plemmons Student Union. Donors must have signed up already and an ID will be required.

'Mental Health Issues' discussed Thursday

The Black Student Association and the Multicultural Student Organization will host a blood drive Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the Linville Falls Room, which is located in Plemmons Student Union. Donors must have signed up already and an ID will be required.

'Get a Job, Get a Life' with ACT tomorrow

"Get a Job, Get a Life, or both ..." is an event sponsored by Appalachian & the Community Together and will be held Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. in the Table Rock Room, located in Plemmons Student Union. A discussion will be held on the civil role of higher education and a free dinner will be provided by Quizno's Subs. To attend, register in the ACT office, which is located on the second floor of the student union, by the end of today.

'Raise Your Voice' month to facilitate discussions on campus

ANNA OAKES
Senior Staff Writer

The Student Government Association will host several events as part of March's "Raise Your Voice" month.

SGA hopes to facilitate discussions about the college experience, sex, the textbook rental system, oppression, athletics and renewable energy at Appalachian State University.

Events begin tomorrow at noon with a "Speak Out" on Sanford Mall focusing on the textbook rental system. The "Speak Out," which ends at 2 p.m., will have amplified sound and is open to all students. Students may also write comments on a poster.

"Students can express themselves through writing as well as through voice," SGA Director of Student Affairs David C. Humphrey said.

Tomorrow at 5 p.m. in Plemmons Student Union's Table Rock Room, SGA and Appalachian & the Community Together will present "Get a Job, Get a Life, or Both ... A National Discussion on Higher Education's Civic Mission."

Students may participate in a nationwide teleconference and interact with other groups, Humphrey said. After the teleconference, Appalachian students will have their own discussion about higher learning, Humphrey said.

"[The purpose of the event] is

to investigate why exactly we are in college - what's the purpose of higher learning, and where are we going?" he said.

Humphrey said SGA, ACT and the Parents Association will host a weekly series of breakfasts, tentatively titled "Breakfast of Champions." Breakfast will be provided for each event.

The first breakfast will take place Friday at 9 a.m. in the Table Rock Room. Sponsors have invited members of the new University Bookstore Committee to speak with students about the committee's purpose.

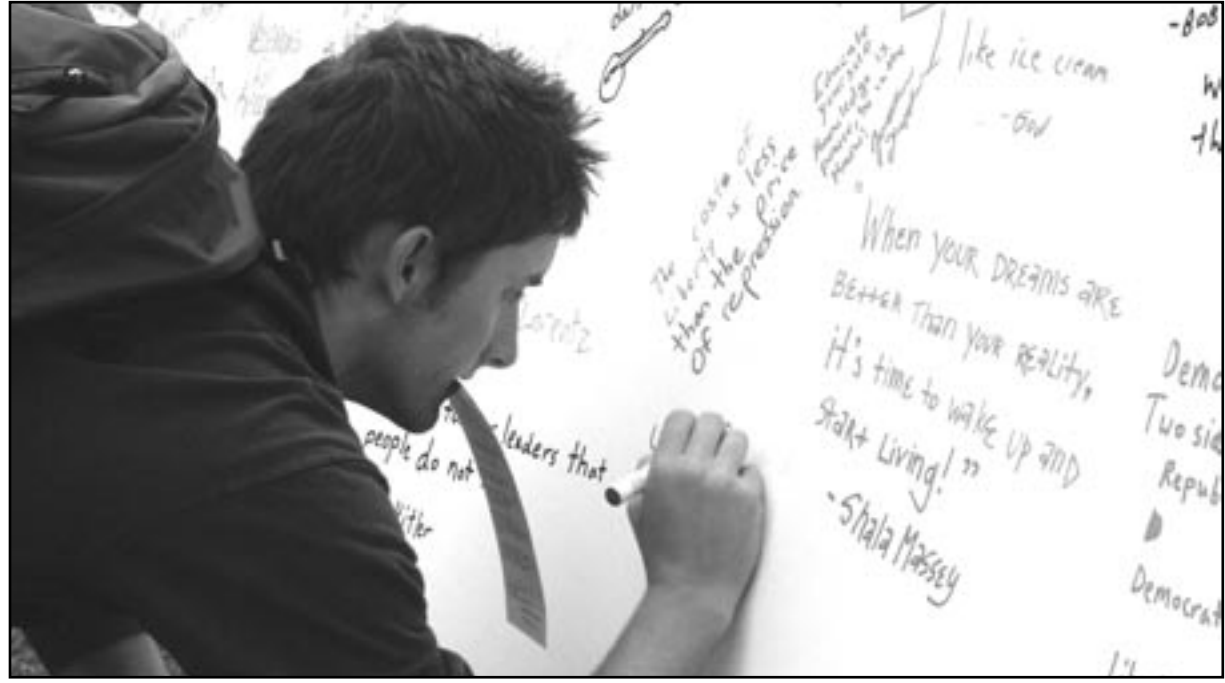
"We want students to understand what the bookstore committee is for," Humphrey said. "Everyone assumes it is the automatic abolishment [of the textbook rental system], but they're looking at what the best system really is."

A breakfast will be held March 3 to discuss the possibility of a Burger King and Starbucks in the new library. The topic for March 18 is the question of Division I and where athletics is going, he said.

Students may discuss the Renewable Energy Initiative March 25.

"This is the second annual 'Raise Your Voice' [event]," Seth B. Moser-katz said. Moser-katz is an SGA senator from Winkler Hall and also an ACT Impact Team co-chair.

This year's month-long event is



A student writes his speech on a board at the first "Speak Out" event, sponsored by SGA. They will host a second event tomorrow on Sanford Mall until 2 p.m.

larger than last year's, which was only a week, Moser-katz said.

"Let's Talk About Sex," a discussion about sexual awareness, will take place in the Grandfather Mountain Ballroom in the student union March 3 at 7 p.m. The Watauga County Health Department, Student Health Services, B-GLAAD and SGA will sponsor the event.

A panel of speakers will lead discussion about AIDS/HIV, safe sex, testing and other issues, Humphrey said. Someone with HIV will

likely speak about the dangers of unprotected sex, he said.

"Students go around not knowing all the venues they can take for protection," he said. "It's important not only for themselves, but they have a responsibility not to harm another person."

Light refreshments will be served.

SGA's Diversity Committee has a "Tunnel of Oppression" planned for March 18-19, SGA Director of Diversity Alex E. Elliott said.

The event, located in the student

union's Blue Ridge Ballroom, will be from 7-10 p.m. March 18 and from 9:30-10:30 a.m. March 19.

Participants may walk through an interactive tunnel in the Blue Ridge Ballroom to learn about different forms of oppression, Elliott said. The tunnel will feature video, music, theatrical role-plays, individual monologues, statistics and pictures, she said.

Humphrey said he also secured a student discussion with Boone Town Council members for April 15.

theapp.appstate.edu

Boone Area Ski Report

Appalachian Ski Mountain
9 slopes, 5 lifts open. 40+ inches. Groomed.

Ski Beech
14 slopes, 7 lifts open. 32-44 inches. Variable conditions.

Hawksnest Golf & Ski Resort
13 slopes, 3 lifts open. 20-35 inches. Wet Granular.

Sugar Mountain Resort
20 slopes, 6 lift open. 37+ inches. Wet granular.

Ski information courtesy of skiNC.com

Annual Polar Plunge on Thursday

AMY BURNETTE
Staff Writer

The Appalachian State University community and members of the Boone community are invited to jump into Appalachian's frigid Duck Pond Thursday.

The seventh annual Polar Plunge will raise money for Special Olympics in Watauga County. The fundraiser is designed to help special athletes in Watauga County.

"All funds go directly for the training and competition efforts of the athletes of Special Olympics in Watauga County," Special Olympics Watauga County coordinator Keron J. Poteat said.

Last year's Polar Plunge drew 170 plungers and raised \$3,662, University Police Chief Gunther E. Doerr said.

University Police, ASU Medical Center Police, Boone Police, Blowing Rock Police, Watauga County Sheriff's Office, Watauga County Parks and Recreation and the Watauga County Special Olympics sponsor the Polar Plunge.

"The Polar Plunge for Special Olympics is a way for ASU students to show their support for one of the many local community special service," Doerr said. "I would like to invite students, faculty and staff to come out and join us."

"I have taken the plunge four times," Doerr said. "Last year, we had to break the ice covering Duck Pond and the water temperature was about 32-33 degrees."

The cost is \$25 per plunger or \$20 in groups of five or more. Plungers will receive a Polar Plunge beach towel for participating.

Registration for plungers will be from 3-4:15 p.m. at Duck Pond and plunging will begin at 4:30 p.m. Anyone who wishes to sign up early can visit Watauga County Parks and Recreation between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

"Anyone who would like to take the plunge for Special Olympics is welcome and encouraged to attend the event," Poteat said. "Also, folks are encouraged to simply come out and watch if they don't want to brave the icy waters."

Those not interested in taking the plunge are still welcome to attend the event and give donations, Doerr said.

"I am really excited about taking the plunge this year," freshman Ashley E. Reges said. "It will be a lot of fun and the money is going to a great cause."

The Appalachian Forecast for Boone and surrounding areas

Local 4-Day Forecast

Today
Partly Cloudy
56-35

Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
47-29

Thursday
Mostly Cloudy
38-27

Friday
Partly Cloudy
40-25

Local weather information courtesy booneweather.com

Regional Travel Weather

City	Today		Wed.		Thursday		Friday	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Asheville	63	38	54	33	48	26	52	31
Charlotte	69	42	63	36	53	29	55	31
Johnson City	61	34	51	29	46	25	49	31
Greensboro	60	40	58	34	47	27	47	30
Raleigh	66	40	58	34	46	26	48	29
Winston	60	41	58	32	49	29	47	32

Sun
Today Rise 7:07 a.m. Set 6:14 p.m.

Moon Phases
Full Feb 23, Last Mar 3, New Mar 10, First Mar 17

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The Appalachian Classifieds

Volunteers needed to work awesome thrift store run by Watauga Humane Society. Different days and hours needed. Will work around schedule. Great place to volunteer and have fun! Call Penny at 264-7339.

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