



**INSIDE TODAY**  
Christmas In July Festival special section

# Nature at play

## Summer camp will be open to autistic children

BY HEATHER CANTER

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The number of children being diagnosed with autism has grown exponentially during the past 40 years, studies show. KAMPN, a local nonprofit group, wants to help.

Kids with Autism Making Progress in Nature or KAMPN was formed as an overnight, summer camp. It was incorporated on May 1, 2011.

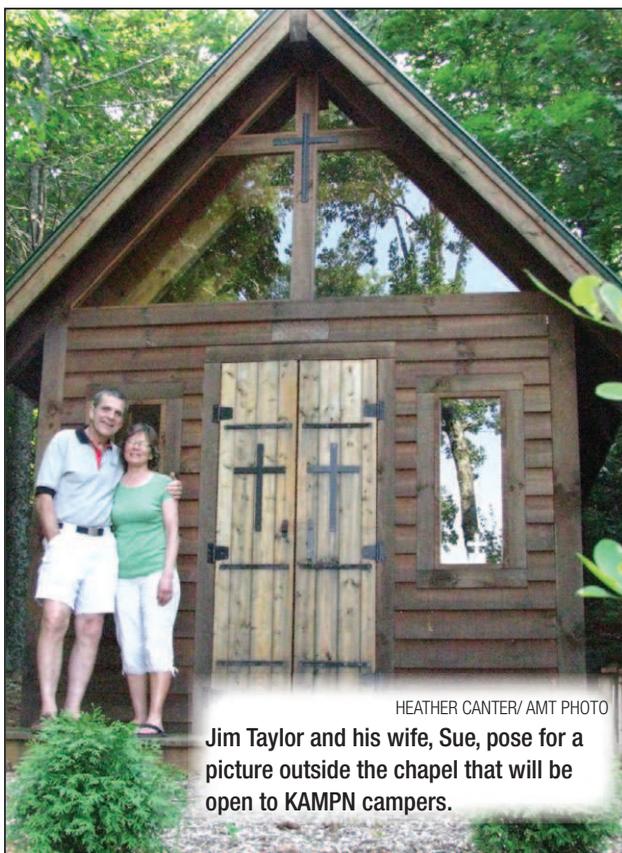
KAMPN's board of directors' president Jim Taylor, who heads the program with his wife, Sue Taylor, quoted their group's lawyer as saying he had never seen a nonprofit status go through so quickly.

"I told him they had a little help from upstairs on this one," said Taylor, refer-

ring to his belief that God led him to do this project.

KAMPN's mission is "to provide an option rarely available for families having children with autism to experience activities in nature together. KAMPN will not only provide a program for the child with trained staff at the site and an opportunity for parents to venture off on their own during the weeklong overnight summer camp."

SEE **CAMP**, PAGE 3



HEATHER CANTER/AMT PHOTO

Jim Taylor and his wife, Sue, pose for a picture outside the chapel that will be open to KAMPN campers.

# Fireworks, food and music to add July Fourth thrill

BY HEATHER CANTER  
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Ashe County will again celebrate the Fourth of July with the annual fireworks show with music and fun for the kids.

The event is sponsored by Ashe County Parks and Recreation and is hosted at Ashe County Park in Jefferson. The park opens at noon.

Throughout the afternoon and evening, Thunder Valley Band, The Southern House in Transit and Summit Band will perform.

Second Class Petty Officer Cat Darnell of the U.S. Navy will sing the national anthem. Concessions will be



sold, and bounce houses will be available for the children. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the park. Those guests attending the events are asked not to bring pets.

A shuttle service will be provided, beginning at 3 p.m. from the Ashe County Courthouse. The shuttle is provided by the Ashe County

SEE **FOURTH**, PAGE 2

# Seventy years later: the Millers share a deep love

During their 70 years of marriage, Wayne and Blanche Miller raised seven children; Bill, Robert, Brenda, Monty, Michael, Gregory, and Marla while later enjoying the company of five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



BY JESSE CAMPBELL

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Few people can even hope to know the love that Wayne and Blanche Miller have enjoyed.

Through 70 years of marriage, the Millers have learned the value of hard work and how to enjoy the fruits of their labor while relying on their faith and virtue to see them through life's daily tests.

Whether through the long separation brought on by a world war, or the everyday

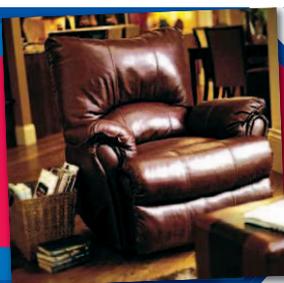
struggles that come with raising a family, Wayne and Blanche have weathered every storm while praising God for being given another day to take on the next challenge.

"As a couple, they have shared the trials of life, but both agree that the blessings of life far outweigh the other," said one of their seven children, Rob Miller.

The Millers, both of whom have roots firmly embedded in small Ashe County communities

SEE **MILLERS**, PAGE 2

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