

PARK

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ication.

On the same day, he noticed a mother and two children trying to have a picnic in the area. When the children went swimming, a game warden told them a few minutes later they had to get out.

That was in 1998.

"I'm just proud we accomplished what we accomplished," Braun said.

But expanding and improving the park took the work of thousands of people, including conservationists, state lawmakers and local elected officials from Burke and McDowell counties.

N.C. House Rep. Mitch Gillespie, R-McDowell/Burke, said, "These kind of projects just don't happen."

He said at any time in the process it was as if the project was hanging by a thread while he and former Rep. Walt Church and others were trying to get funding for the state to buy the land from Crescent Resources. They got the money, thanks to a united vision and everyone's coming together with a unified voice, Gillespie said.

Throughout the years, those wanting to expand the state park were told they couldn't get the land or the money to buy it or build it, said Ken Harris, chairman of the Lake James Park Advisory Committee.

"Well, we found it," Harris said. "Over the years, we found it all."

The state in 2004

NEW BUSINESS



Buford's

Buford's Family Barber Shop is open on Main Street in Marion at the site of the former Terry Beam's Family Barber Shop. Owners Gary Millard (left) and Doug Ross said that the two chair shop will be open on Wednesdays for the first time in 28 years. Ross said they chose the name in honor of his late father, Buford Ross. Buford's Family Barber is open Tuesday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the shop at 652-9330.

PHOTO BY BRITT COMBS | JCOMBS@MCDOWELLNEWS.COM

Landlord's parenting skills questionable



Annie's
Mailbox

Dear Annie: I believe the manager in our building is abusing his 11-year-old daughter. One tenant saw him walk into a dark, empty apartment earlier this year, and she was crouched on the floor next to the door. We reported this to the police, but it turns out they are not allowed to simply take her in. Instead, they asked the school authorities to keep an eye on her. The school reported that she was fine.

The father of this child is bipolar, and he harasses a lot of the women in the building. Under his so-called supervision, this building has fallen apart. The tenants have reported him to the management company for his rude

to use the air conditioner. They have no social life. The wife's older children moved out last year and no longer

come into the house. They honk and Mom comes to their car.

This child used to be happy, but Dad won't let her speak to the tenants now, nor does she play outside. She has been locked out of the apartment, and her mother claimed she must have forgotten her key. Yesterday, I found out the father dressed her up in high heels and a top of makeup

happens, not after the fact. Do we have enough to contact Child Protective Services to investigate? — Glendale, Calif.

Dear Glendale: You don't need proof for Child Protective Services, only a report of suspected abuse. Keep in mind that what you have told us could indicate a girl who is depressed rather than

abused, but her father's parenting skills are questionable. Bless you for caring enough to keep an eye on this child.

Set boundaries about
wintertime visits

Dear Annie: My husband and I retired to Florida a few

tabs, incidental expenses still add up.

This year we moved to a larger home and have heard from even more people about their upcoming visits, and not all of them have been invited. How do we tactfully limit the time they can visit or, better, stop being the winter-getaway for more people than we can handle?

— Feeling Chilly

Dear Chilly: You have to set boundaries and stick to them. When someone says they are planning to visit, reply with sincere regret, "We wish we could accommodate you, but we're booked up that week. Would you like us to find you a nearby hotel?"

We'd love to meet you for

upset that the men in her family didn't help out during family get-togethers.

When my wife and I first met 13 years ago, I was appalled to find the very same thing, although her family took it a step further. The men ate first, and then the women ate while the men played cards, napped and watched TV. Then the women cleaned up.

I was the first man to help in the kitchen and eat with the women because I was raised to see men and women as equals. Now, after more than 12 years of marriage, both men and women, young and old, sit together. — Raised Proper

Dear Raised: Bravo!