

# Crossroads Chronicle

Serving Cashiers, Glenville, Sapphire and Tuckasegee

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## Former GCRS chairman pleads no contest to felony charge

BY MICHAEL O'HEARN  
Staff

Former Glenville Cashiers Rescue Squad chairman Brandy Lee Sullivan has entered a plea of no contest to a felony charge of malfeasance.

On Aug. 20, District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch said in a written statement that a no-contest plea means that while “the defendant does not expressly admit guilt, his right to a trial is waived and the

court is authorized to treat him as if he were guilty of the charge.”

Superior Court Judge Marvin Pope sentenced Sullivan, 52, to a suspended sentence of six to 17 months, along with 18 months of unsupervised probation.

Welch said that Sullivan, while serving in June 2017 as chairman of the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad board, “used agency funds to falsely inflate his

company’s financial condition.”

Sullivan transferred rescue squad funds to his company’s bank account to meet conditions of the state’s Licensing Board for General Contractors.

He was seeking an increase from the general contractor board in his license limitations as a general contractor. He needed an unlimited license to enter into a \$1.9 million building contract with the

rescue squad to construct a new building. He then returned the funds to the rescue squad six days after the transfer.

Sullivan was arrested on Sept. 15, 2020, by the Buncombe County Sheriff’s Office following an investigation by the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation into the alleged theft of GCRS money. He was then released via \$2,500 bond, according to the arrest report.

Following an investigation by the State Board of Investigations, a Jackson County grand jury issued an indictment that month, charging Sullivan with one count each of theft of property and corporate malfeasance – both felonies.

He was charged with two crimes around the alleged receipt and presentation of \$152,000, which came from the GCRS bank account, according to documents provided by a grand

jury, according to a Sept. 22, 2020, article in the *Crossroads Chronicle*.

He allegedly transferred these funds into his corporate account, claiming these funds came from his own personal accounts in order to complete a successful application via the state’s Licensing Board for a contractor’s license that would allow his company to build the new GCRS

See **FELONY** page 3A

## Golf tournament benefitting first responders postponed to Aug. 31 due to rain

BY MICHAEL O'HEARN  
Staff

A golf tournament benefitting first responders at Burlingame has been postponed to Aug. 31 in the wake of heavy rains and flooding that battered the Cashiers area.

The first annual First Responders Cup, benefitting first responders in Transylvania and Jackson County, will be raising donations for local first responder projects across the three pillars of emergency response, including fire and rescue, EMS and law enforcement.

The event was originally scheduled for Aug. 17, but Tropical Depression Fred brought several inches of rain and flooding to the Plateau, forcing event organizers to move the date two weeks.

The sign-in period for the event will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the country club, event organizer and spokesperson Russ Small said.

Golfers will be treated to a putting contest after signing in and get the opportunity to meet and greet some of the area’s first responders before starting their rounds on the first tee at noon.

The event, which is being organized by Small, tournament director Bruce Snyder and Mark Klimko, includes golf, a luncheon and awards to follow the event. These awards will go to the golfers who can sink a hole in one, hit the longest drive or have the best short game on the putting green, among other contests.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Transylvania EMS and Sheriff’s Departments and the Cashiers and Lake Toxaway Fire and Rescue squads.

“It’s a way we can all say, ‘thank you’ to the men and women who protect us and, in some cases, save our lives,” Small said.

Small said that while the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau does not have a “fire station on every corner” like major

See **GOLF** page 3A

## Harmel to host author talk on new “Forest of Vanishing Stars” book

BY CHRISTOPHER SMITH  
The Highlander

Author Kristin Harmel hopes to inspire strength with her new novel “The Forest of Vanishing Stars.”

She began writing professionally at the age of 16, as a sportswriter for a local magazine in Tampa Bay, Fla. While in college, Harmel was writing articles for *PEOPLE* magazine.

“I was cleverly omitting my age from the query letters,” Harmel said. “So, technically they didn’t realize that they were assigning stories to a 16-year-old. By the time I was in college, I was writing for American baby, Men’s Health and did an internship with Woman’s Day. I wound up with a job at *PEOPLE*. By the time I was 21, I was writing for *PEOPLE*.”

Writing novels is something that Harmel said she has always wanted to do. She released her first novel in 2006.

“That has always been the end goal for me,” Harmel said. “As a teenager, I thought that I didn’t have the maturity yet to write a novel. So, I knew that I needed to

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Michael O’Hearn/Staff

## Tropical Depression Fred drops heavy rain on Cashiers, causing flooding and tree damage

Tropical Depression Fred caused flooding across Western North Carolina on Aug. 18, including Cashiers, which led to a mudslide in Sapphire, water buildup around the crossroads and multiple trees down – including some on power lines, which knocked power out for residents for as long as 24 hours on Wednesday and Thursday.

## Blue Ridge Early College prepares for another fall sports season amid COVID-19 pandemic

BY CARTER GIEGERICH  
Special to the Crossroads Chronicle

Sports are back at Blue Ridge Early College.

This year’s athletics schedules look a lot more like the pre-pandemic matchups of yore than last year’s, with girls volleyball and boys soccer facing a full slate of opponents and seasons already underway for the Bobcats.

Blue Ridge Athletic Director Tim Mayse said he thinks the school’s teams are ready for a full schedule this year, after last year’s seasons were cut short and restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic were put in place.

“It is a great feeling to have regained some sense of normalcy to this year’s sports seasons since last year was cut short due to the modified seasons,” Mayse said. “I don’t see any negative impacts from the modified seasons of last year on this year’s seasons.”

The 2020-21 sports schedule was heavily modified to accommodate



Photo by Carter Giegerich

The fall sports season at Blue Ridge Early College is underway despite a mask mandate at all Jackson County Schools due to the Delta variant of COVID-19.

COVID-19 restrictions statewide, with fall sports put on hold until early November and some teams forced to wait until spring to compete outdoors.

While schedules have returned to their full length for the coming sea-

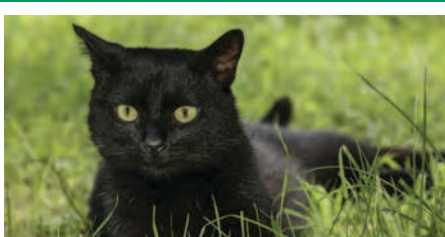
son, a number of holdovers from last year’s COVID-related modifications remain. Mayse said there will still be some mask requirements in place, although they have been relaxed

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### SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION



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# Crossroads Chronicle

Directory

## • Hours/Location

The office is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 94 U.S. Highway 64 West, Suite 1, in Cashiers' Shop-pes on the Green plaza.

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## • Submissions

The *Chronicle* news team encourages readers to submit items of community interest to the newspaper for publication.

There is no charge for sub-missions involving community activities or announcements, such as weddings, births, land-mark anniversaries and birth-days of children 1-10 years old.

We will print photographs with such announcements for free. Items should be submitted as far as possible in advance of the event's date. The *Chronicle* attempts to run all items as close to the date as possible.

Since there is no charge for these items, they appear in the newspaper when space allows. The latest that items should be submitted is 4 p.m. each Friday.

## • Advertising

For pricing information on classified ads, see the classified section. Ads should be ordered online at [CrossroadsChronicle.com](http://CrossroadsChronicle.com) or submitted via email. The deadline for classified ads is at 4 p.m. each Friday.

Display ads and inserts may be ordered by calling us at 828-743-5101. The deadline for ads is 4 p.m. each Friday.

## • Obituaries

Obituaries are published at a rate of \$7 per column inch. Photos are an additional \$5. Death notices are published at no charge.

Email obituaries and death notices to: [classifieds@CrossroadsChronicle.com](mailto:classifieds@CrossroadsChronicle.com).

## • Subscriptions

The *Chronicle* is delivered to mail boxes via U.S. mail on Wednesdays.

Subscriptions in Jackson and Macon counties are \$34 for one year. Subscriptions for seasonal residents are \$43 annually, and for out-of-state residents, \$53. All subscriptions include e-Edition access.

To start your print or digital subscription, visit [CrossroadsChronicle.com](http://CrossroadsChronicle.com), call 828-743-5101 or send a check to P.O. Box 1040, Cashiers, NC 28717.

## • Photographs

We accept digital photos for publication. Photos should be emailed to [editor@CrossroadsChronicle.com](mailto:editor@CrossroadsChronicle.com).

Photographed people should be ID'd by full name and age.

## • Accuracy Policy

We strive to produce error-free news reports. When mistakes occur, it is our policy to correct them as soon as they are brought to our attention. To request a correction, call 828-743-5101.

In the event of errors in advertisements, the *Chronicle* will be responsible only for the space occupied by the actual error. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for omissions.

## • Back Issues

We maintain copies of back issues for sale for up to one year. When requesting mail delivery, back copies are \$3 each, plus postage. In-person sales are still \$1.

To research or review news articles published more than one year ago, bound copies of the newspaper are available for review at the *Chronicle* office and at Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library.

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# Public Record

## Arrests report

The following is the Jackson County Sheriff's Office's most recent arrest report available for Cashiers, Cullowhee, Glenville, Sapphire and Tuckasegee. All persons listed are innocent until proven guilty in a courtroom. Arrests include:

Tabitha Lynne Klier, 33, Cullowhee, possession of Class IV scheduled drug, possession of drug paraphernalia, misdemeanor larceny, possession of stolen property, \$1,000 secured bond.

Charles Edward Henson, 43, Cashiers, breaking and entering motor vehicle, felonious larceny, possession of stolen property/goods, attempted larceny, attempt to break/enter into a motor vehicle, \$15,000 secured bond.

## Blue Ridge Public Safety report

The following are the most recent calls responded to by the Blue Ridge Public Safety department:

One accident, seven alarm responses, one animal nuisance, two citizen assists, one incomplete 911 call, two medical assists, one noise complaint, one parking complaint, one property damage and three vehicle unlocks.

## Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad report

The following are the most recent calls responded to by the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad:

Aug. 16 10:06 a.m. – responded to a motor vehicle collision in Cashiers.

Aug. 16 11:20 a.m. – responded to a standby in Macon County.

Aug. 16 11:26 a.m. – responded to a sick person in Cashiers, transported to Highlands-Cashiers

Hospital.

Aug. 16 12:05 p.m. – responded to a traumatic injury/vehicle accident in Cashiers, transported to Harris Regional Hospital.

Aug. 16 1:02 p.m. – transported patient from Sapphire to Eckerd Living Center.

Aug. 17 4:42 p.m. – responded to person with abdominal pain in Sapphire, transported to Transylvania County Hospital.

Aug. 17 12:15 p.m. – responded to a sick person in Glenville, transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Aug. 17 2:14 p.m. – responded to a mud slide in Sapphire.

Aug. 18 12:59 p.m. – responded to a sick person in Cashiers, transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Aug. 18 1:15 p.m. – responded to an unknown call in Cashiers, transported by Mountain Area Medical Airlift.

Aug. 18 8:28 p.m. – responded to a person with chest pain in Glenville, transported to Harris Regional Hospital.

Aug. 19 11:29 a.m. – responded to a fall in Cashiers.

Aug. 19 12:30 p.m. – responded to a fall in Cashiers, person transported to Harris Regional Hospital.

Aug. 19 1:05 p.m. – transported person from Glenville to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Aug. 19 8:09 p.m. – responded to a fall/public assist in Sapphire.

Aug. 20 2:14 a.m. – responded to an unknown call on U.S. 64 West.

Aug. 20 6:28 a.m. – responded to a hemorrhage in Cashiers, person transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Aug. 20 8:59 a.m. – responded to a motor vehicle collision in Sapphire.

Aug. 20 9:59 a.m. – responded to an unknown problem in Cashiers, person transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Aug. 20 4:23 p.m. – re-

sponded to an unknown problem in Cullowhee.

Aug. 21 8:03 a.m. – responded to a walk-up at the 500 Base.

Aug. 22 4:41 a.m. – responded to a person with chest pain at Yellow Mountain, person transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Aug. 22 8:01 a.m. – responded to a fall in Glenville.

Aug. 22 8:20 a.m. – responded to a person with chest pain in Sapphire.

Aug. 22 1:40 p.m. – responded to a motor vehicle collision in Sapphire.

Aug. 22 3:05 p.m. – responded to a sick person in Glenville, transported to Harris Regional Hospital.

Aug. 22 10:39 p.m. – responded to a public assist call in Cashiers.

## Glenville-Cashiers Fire Department report

The following are the most recent calls responded to by the Glenville-Cashiers Fire Department:

Aug. 15 9:36 p.m. – Responded to a fire alarm on Yale Drive.

Aug. 16 5:44 a.m. – Responded to a tree in the road on Hwy. 107 North, five miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 16 6:45 a.m. – Responded to a tree in the road on Tower Road, one mile from the crossroads.

Aug. 16 10:08 a.m. – Responded to an accident on Hwy. 107 South, eight miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 16 4:10 p.m. – Responded to a public service call on Hwy. 107 North, three miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 16 5:01 p.m. – Responded to a public service call on Hwy. 107 South, one mile from the crossroads.

Aug. 17 – 10:40 a.m. – Responded to a fire alarm on Big Sheep Cliff Road, 0.4 miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 17 1:16 p.m. –

Responded to a tree in the road on Cherokee Trail.

Aug. 17 1:20 p.m. – Responded to a power line down on Silver Run Road.

Aug. 17 2:06 p.m. – Responded to flooding on U.S. 64 East, five miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 17 2:06 p.m. – Responded to a condo flooding on Sapphire Valley Road, one mile from the crossroads.

Aug. 17 2:15 p.m. – Responded to flooding on U.S. 64 East, four miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 17 3:11 p.m. – Responded to a power line down at the Country Club of Sapphire.

Aug. 17 3:30 p.m. – Responded to a tree in the road on U.S. 64 East, seven miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 17 3:40 p.m. – Responded to a tree in road on U.S. 64 East, five miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 17 3:50 p.m. – Assisted a motorist on U.S. 64 East, seven miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 17 4:10 p.m. – Responded to a tree in the road on Norton Road.

Aug. 17 4:44 p.m. – Responded to a fire alarm on Mac's View Drive.

Aug. 17 6:57 p.m. – Responded to a fire alarm at High Hampton.

Aug. 17 8:43 p.m. – Motorist assist at Lake

Toxaway.

Aug. 18 10:34 p.m. – Responded to a fire alarm on Old Edwards.

Aug. 18 11:19 a.m. – Tree on power lines on North Norton Road, three miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 18 1:45 p.m. – Responded to a landing zone at the Old Edwards Clubhouse.

Aug. 18 5:24 p.m. – Responded to a fire alarm on High Pinnacle Road.

Aug. 19 2:18 a.m. – Responded to a motorist assist on U.S. 64 East, eight miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 19 5:22 a.m. – Responded to a fire alarm on Woods Summit Lane, one mile from the crossroads.

Aug. 19 10:30 a.m. – Responded to a public assist at the Old Edwards Clubhouse.

Aug. 19 11 a.m. – Responded to a search on Whiteside Mountain.

Aug. 19 1:42 p.m. – Responded to an accident on U.S. 64 West, one mile from the crossroads.

Aug. 20 8:59 a.m. – Responded to an accident on U.S. 64 East, six miles from the crossroads.

Aug. 20 9:47 a.m. – Responded to a fire alarm at High Hampton.

Aug. 20 11:40 a.m. – Responded to a fire alarm on Golf Drive.



## Community blood drive to be held Sept. 1 at Western Carolina University

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive on Sept. 1 at the Western Carolina University Hinds University Center, 1 University Way, from noon until 6 p.m.

For more information and to schedule a blood drive appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

The American Red Cross is in need of power red and blood donations. Power red donations collect the red cells but return most of the platelets and plasma to the donor, according to the Red Cross website. These donors must meet specific eligibility criteria and have either A Negative, B Negative or Type O blood to donate.

In October, the Red Cross will be at the Glenville-Cashiers Fire Department and the Community Bible Church.

## CORRECTION

In last week's story on the community health forum led by four of the Plateau's medical providers, Dr. Walter Clark's title was incorrectly listed as the Blue Ridge Health Foundation chair. He is the chair of the Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation. Additionally, a subhead that said "The support of the Blue Ridge Health Foundation" should have read "The support of the Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation."

## Cashiers Area 4-Day Weather Forecast

**Today:** Sunny skies during the morning hours. Scattered showers and thunderstorms developing in the afternoon. High 79.

**Tonight:** Scattered thunderstorms during the evening, then partly cloudy overnight. Low 61.

### THURSDAY



**Hi: 74°**

**Lo: 61°**

15% chance of precipitation.

### FRIDAY



**Hi: 78°**

**Lo: 61°**

24% chance of precipitation.

### SATURDAY



**Hi: 78°**

**Lo: 60°**

30% chance of precipitation.

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# FELONY

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headquarters on U.S. 64.

A month later, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners reviewed the results of a forensics audit completed in November 2019 regarding the irregularities uncovered between Sullivan, his company, Sullivan Custom Homes, and the GCRS.

Because Jackson County has annual contracts that exceed \$1 million annually, the county requested the forensics audit to ensure other such inappropriate financial transactions had not occurred.

Sullivan told state license officials the funds were a short-term loan from his personal finances to his business and, according to the audit, he began positioning his company as the primary contractor to build the rescue squad's new headquarters in early 2016, according to another article in the Oct. 20, 2020, edition of the *Crossroads Chronicle*.

The GCRS began raising the funds needed and

considering contractor bids for the \$1.8 million project in early 2017, and due to the nature of the project, the work required an unlimited general contractor's license as outlined by the N.C. general contractor statute.

An independent auditor generated an audit report in June 2017 that said Sullivan Custom Homes had more than \$150,000 in working capital, and the company was eligible to apply for an unlimited contractor's license and therefore, eligible to perform the work on the new headquarters.

In August 2017, Sullivan Custom Homes was approved for that license by the N.C. Licensing Board for General Contractors. Sullivan proceeded with grading work on the U.S. 64 site intended for the new headquarters, a contract that did not have the GCRS Board of Directors' approval.

He also engaged with engineering firms for designing and planning related to the construction project, signing and accepting a proposal from T.E. Allen Engineering to design initial structural plans for the project which

included structural, plumbing, mechanical and electrical plans for the project.

He rerouted invoices for this work from the GCRS post office box address to the Sullivan Custom Homes address, but under the rescue squad's name. GCRS leaders said in a Jan. 22, 2020, *Crossroads Chronicle* article they were misled by Sullivan regarding the signing of the contract and its validity.

"He used his position to misapply funds to perpetrate fraud," wrote assistant attorney Andy Buckner, the attorney who prosecuted the case.

"The fact that he returned the funds to the rescue squad does not change the nature of the fraud he committed," Buckner wrote.

Nat Turner, the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad's public affairs officer, said that once certain financial irregularities were discovered by the squad's board, the information was immediately disclosed to Jackson County officials.

"Since that time, multiple-year financial and forensic audits have been

conducted to review our financial transactions, procedures and cash positions," Turner said. "Other than those issues previously disclosed, we are pleased to report that our finances are in well order and that no other issues were discovered."

"The Rescue Squad takes very seriously the stewardship of the funds it is entrusted to manage and the performance of the critical Emergency Medical and Rescue services we provide to those of southern Jackson County."

In an Oct. 13, 2020 letter to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, Jackson County Manager Don Adams wrote GCRS leadership informed county officials of concerns in late 2018 and early 2019 of "concerns related to potentially inappropriate transactions that had taken place within their organization."

"Once it was understood there were potential criminal accusations that could be made, both the county and the squad leadership requested that law enforcement investigate the issue," Adams wrote.

At the time of that letter being written, Adams wrote the county contracts with the squad to provide rescue services for the area at an annual cost of \$116,421. The county also contracted with the squad to provide EMS services for the county at an annual cost of \$1,093,257.

"Since there is a significant financial relationship between the county and the squad, it was decided to hire an independent forensic auditor to investigate," Adams wrote. "The county engaged Dixon Hughes Goodman to perform investigative services in May 2019. This investigation took place with the full cooperation of the squad leadership. The forensic investigation covered the years 2016, 2017 and 2018."

The investigation identified potential issues with financial transactions that took place between the rescue squad and Sullivan Custom Homes. Those issues were adjudicated through the court system and licensing boards.

"The report concludes that no other items of concern were identified other than the issues associated

with Sullivan Custom Homes," Adams wrote in that letter. "The report also states that all other transactions appeared appropriate and reasonable."

Amanda Owen, GCRS chair, said now that the investigation has been closed, the rescue squad can proceed with planning an additional base of operations closer to the Cashiers crossroads. Over the next few months, the GCRS will be working with county officials and their donor base to finalize plans for the new facility.

"The population and visitor growth to our area has obviously been very strong, and we are seeing an ever-rising call volume for our services," Owen said. "For 2021, we are now on track to exceed 1,000 medical, trauma and rescue calls. This call volume growth has specifically been very strong along the areas of Highway 64 and 107 South. The construction of an additional operations base near the crossroads could significantly reduce life-saving response times to those within our service area."

# SPORTS

Continued from page 1A

compared to last year's mandates.

"We have a mask mandate for athletes and coaches for indoors – players and coaches must wear masks at all times. The only exception is players do not wear masks while engaging in physical activity on the court," he said.

The mask mandate for players and coaches on the sideline is in place for both games and practices, he said.

With more time to work with student athletes, and more games for students to gain gametime experience, Mayse said he expected to see the Blue Ridge athletics program continue to excel and build on the momentum they've seen growing in recent years.

For the past two seasons, the BREC volleyball team has finished at or near the top of the Smoky Mountain

Conference and competed at the state level in impressive playoff bids. Mayse also pointed to both girls basketball and boys soccer as programs that could see major success this season, with high-ranking performances for both teams in recent years creating a foundation for growth.

"We have had major success at the conference and state level with a few programs in the past, and we look to continue that success this year," he said.

Boys basketball is also set to perform well, Mayse said, after a "much more competitive season" last year gave the team the experience and leadership skills necessary to excel at the conference level and beyond.

Mayse also expressed a commitment to continue the school's relationship with college recruiters and coaches for students who express an interest in continuing to compete at the next level once they gradu-

ate. "We have had a lot of college interest in our teams and players over the last few years. We are constantly in communication with college coaches for some of our players as well," he said. "It helps to have three former college athletes on the coaching staff with connections to the next level. Last year we had four athletes with chances to continue playing at the college level with one athlete choosing to do so."

The Lady Bobcats volleyball team began their season with a 3-0 loss at home against Robbinsville on Aug. 18. The team's next match will be in Cherokee on Aug. 26 at 6 p.m. before returning to face cross-platform rivals Highlands at home on Aug. 31 at 6 p.m.

The Blue Ridge boys soccer season kicks off Aug. 25 at home against Summit Charter School, with Blue Ridge facing off against the Bears at home at 4 p.m.

# GOLF

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metropolitans do, he appreciates having the first responders available from departments such as the Blue Ridge Public Safety station in Sapphire.

"Nobody wants to need EMS, but the community knows we are there when needed," said Transylvania County EMS Director Kim Bailey. "We really appreciate all the people who are giving back this

way." Snyder said the tournament was born out of a discussion among area residents about how to raise money and support local law enforcement officials.

The money raised can be used by these departments for new vehicles, uniforms, equipment or whatever their needs are.

The Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad, for example, would like to build a new headquarters, which would replace the current station on near the intersection

of North Norton Road and N.C. 107, Small said.

Toxaway Fire and Rescue Chief Carmon West said there are things the department needs, and the golf tournament will help his team acquire them. The department is trying to purchase a small truck.

"We really appreciate what the community is doing, and the sponsors and the people who have signed up to play are really helping us," Transylvania County Sheriff David A. Mahoney said.

# Historical View



File photo

Lenville and Ellen Monteith's children build a snowman on an Old Glenville hillside in the 1930s, before the power company flooded Glenville Valley to create a reservoir for power generation for an out-of-state manufacturing client. In the background is the Fowler House and various guest cottages. The inn attracted an international clientele.

Historical View highlights photos from throughout Cashier's colorful history. Submit your own photo by emailing editor@crossroadschronicle.com, mailing them to P.O. Box 1040, Cashiers, NC, 28717 or bringing them to our office at the Shoppes on the Green on U.S. Hwy. 64 West.

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# Crossroads Chronicle

# VILLAGE VOICES

## EDITORIAL

### Weathering the storm and several inches of rain

While sitting in our office building last week during the heavy rain that came down during Tropical Depression Fred, the iconic opening verses from the Led Zeppelin song, “When the Levee Breaks” rang true, “If it keeps on raining, levee’s going to break. When the levee breaks, I’ll have no place to stay.”

“When the Levee Breaks” was released by Led Zeppelin in 1971, and the lyrics to the song written by Memphis Minnie in 1927 are based on The Great Mississippi Flood of that same year.

With Tropical Depression Fred, the rain started on Aug. 17 and continued into Aug. 18. The power in our office building flickered a bit Wednesday afternoon, and flooding was the most of our worries – not just here but all over Cashiers, Highlands, Glenville and Sapphire.

Driving around the area, we could see that flooding closed a section of Frank Allen Road, an abundance of rain flooded parts of The Village Green, water was rising on U.S. 64 outside our building, and a mudslide forced a condo to be evacuated in Sapphire.

Downed trees, busted power lines and heavy flooding in some areas was the extent of the damage here. We got lucky, unlike a county nearby in Western North Carolina.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those living in nearby Haywood County, where 30 people were initially unaccounted for and, unfortunately, some did not make it. We weathered the storm, downed trees and power lines, to emerge pretty much safe and sound for the remainder of the week.

And even at the time of this writing on Tuesday morning, the sun made its return to the Plateau to remind us that even the strongest of storms will eventually pass over us.

Several inches of rain may have caused things to careen into a tailspin for a few days, but everything seems to have returned to normal this week. The rain has mostly dried up, and no lasting damage was done in our area.

Many thanks go out to those with the Glenville-Cashiers Fire Department, the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad and Duke Energy for helping those on the Plateau get through one of the worst storms we have seen this year.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### It's not rocket science

If you tell criminals they can steal up to \$1000 in goods without prosecution, of course they will steal. How is that fair to retail store owners?

If you defund and defame the police, of course crime will go up and police officers will seek a different career. How does that help any community?

If you do not prosecute rioters

who loot, burn, assault, and even murder, of course they will continue to do so.

If you tell immigrants they are welcome to come into our county and we'll give you free everything, of course they will come. How is that fair to taxpaying American citizens?

If you tell people not to trust the vaccine if it is developed during Donald Trump's presidency, of course some people will be reluc-

tant to get it.

If you pay workers more in unemployment benefits than they make by going to work, of course they will stay home. How is that fair to small business owners?

If you teach children that race is a determining factor on where your destiny lies, of course children will judge others by the color of their skin.

Patti LoGrippe  
Sapphire

## Voters would end racial preferences



John Hood  
Columnist

The University of North Carolina systemically discriminates by race and ethnicity in student admissions and faculty hiring. Arguably such behavior is already forbidden by federal and state law. Now a group of state lawmakers has proposed an amendment to the state constitution that would eliminate all doubt on the matter.

Senate Bill 729 is admirably brief. Here's the pivotal paragraph: "The State and its political subdivisions, including the free public schools and public institutions of higher education, shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting."

This is the proper policy for a free and just society. It

is also broadly supported by the general public. That's why defenders of racial preferences will fight tooth and nail to keep the issue away from voters. That's why they call it a "ban on affirmative action," which it most assuredly is not.

I guess I should explain that the anti-discrimination amendment in question was proposed by a Republican, Senate leader Phil Berger, and has attracted only Republican sponsors to date. They believe, correctly, that no agency of state government should take race or other extraneous factors into account when hiring public employees or determining access to public services.

After generations of discrimination against African-Americans and other minority groups, Congress banned the practice more than half a century ago. In doing so, Congress explicitly did not authorize public – or private – institutions to remedy past discrimination by engaging in ongoing discrimination against whites or, more recently, against "privi-

leged" minorities such as Americans of Chinese, Japanese, or Indian descent.

Yes, some courts have reinterpreted civil-rights laws to allow for just such discriminatory acts, while often stipulating that such an extreme remedy should remain rare and disappear quickly. It did neither. That's why the residents of places such as California and Michigan stepped in years ago to ban racial preferences by state law or constitutional amendment. That's why North Carolinians should be given the opportunity to do the same today.

To ban the use of race, ethnicity, sex, or national origin in university admissions or hiring is not to ban affirmative action in the form of vigorous outreach efforts to ensure that pools of applicants are as diverse as possible. It is a ban on making the final decisions based on such characteristics.

In other words, affirmative action does not equal racial preferences. When supposedly neutral news media described Berger's proposal as a "ban on affirmative ac-

tion," they were either exhibiting their ignorance or willfully misleading their audiences.

Fortunately, their audiences are not so gullible. Polling confirms that the vast majority of people understand this distinction. In surveys by the Pew Research Center, for example, most Americans say they're worried about race relations and continue to support the concept of "affirmative action."

But only 26 percent of respondents said race should be a factor in university admissions. Most African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and Asian-Americans said it shouldn't be a factor.

Similarly, a 2019 Pew survey found that most Americans think it's good to promote diversity in the workplace. But here's another question from the same poll: "When it comes to decisions about hiring and promotions, do you think companies and organizations should take a person's race and ethnicity into account, in addition to their qualifications, in order

See **VOTERS** page 5A

## LETTERS POLICY

We welcome letters from our readers. We urge brevity, both for the sake of effectiveness and the demands of space; letters should be no longer than 500 words. All letters are subject to the same editing for clarity applied to our staff contributions. We will not publish anonymous letters; letters praising or criticizing businesses by name; letters making intensely personal attacks or intensely personally hurtful statements; endorsements of or letters from political candidates; or copies of letters to other publications. Because we want to provide access to a variety of viewpoints, each letter writer will generally be limited to one letter every four weeks.

All letters should include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published but will be used to verify letters. We reserve the right not to print any letter.

Letters are due in by 4 p.m. Friday to appear in the following week's paper.

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Letters may be mailed to P.O. Box 1040, Cashiers, NC 28717.

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## VOTERS

Continued from page 4A

to increase diversity in the workplace (or) should only take a person's qualifications into account, even if it results in less diversity in the workplace." Just 24 percent favored the first option, to take race and ethnicity in account in hiring, with

74 percent saying employers should take only the applicants' qualifications into account.

Polls by Gallup and other organizations generally produce the same results. If Senate Bill 729 passes the legislature, North Carolina voters will approve it. That's why its comparatively few — but powerful — foes are so desperate to keep it off the ballot.

# What's on your end of summer to-do list?



Elvira's Back Porch

Sandi Rogers

It may be the middle of August and the children are back in school but there is still time to make summer memories. What's still on your Summer To-Do List? Do you want explore a new waterfall, go on a scavenger hunt, ride on a bike trail or visit this year's Cashiers Designer Showhouse?

### The 2021 Cashiers Designer Showhouse

Cashiers Designer Showhouse under the leadership of Kat Ford and Kirk Moore, this year's co-chairs have put together a two-week event of must see and do activities that enable you to get the most out of this year's showhouse. The showhouse began Saturday, Aug. 21 and will continue until Saturday, Sept. 4.

There is a variety of special events, including workshops, panel discussions and several single day events. A few of the events include an opportunity to meet and enjoy the art of Shannon Whitworth, artist resident, or watch a basket weaving demonstration by award-winning basket weaver Mary Thompson.

There is also an opportunity for you learn all about dahlias from Drew English or watch Justin Allman demonstrate the carving of one of his trademark forms, lanterns. There are many more special events and all at this year's Cashiers Designer Showhouse.

But what makes a designer showhouse in 2021? A collection of glamping tents, showcasing the designs of several talented designers that embraced the challenge to "design in an exciting and fun alternative to the traditional showhouse design".

Visitors will also find a curated selection of shopping vendors. There is something for everyone. Residents from Jackson, Macon or Transylvania counties can attend the showhouse on Sunday, Aug. 29 for a half-price admission of \$20. A local ID is required, such as a utility bill.

### Geocaching day

Something else to add to your Summer To-Do

list- geocaching. This season fourteen individuals have searched and found one or both of the stashes at CHS.

I am repeating some earlier information about geocaching- It was President Clinton that ended GPS for military use only. On May 2, 2000, just after midnight, GPS signals were unscrambled. On May 3, 2000, Dave Ulmer decided to test the accuracy of the new non-scrambled GPS signals by hiding an object and posting its coordinates online with the simple instructions that the finder was to "Take some stuff and leave some stuff."

And so, geocaching was born! On the third Saturday of every August International Geocaching Day is celebrated and this year's International Geocaching Day was Aug. 21.

Maybe you can add to your Summer-To-Do List a search for one of the many "stashes" in the Cashiers area including the two at CHS. Geocaching has now turned into a worldwide phenomenon with stashes on four continents and an average of two to three new stashes per week.

### Another week under our belts

It's been hot, humid and almost daily rain showers and many of us are beginning to look forward to the end of summer. And I know we are still firmly planted in summer, but maybe it's time to slowly transition into fall. And what better way than to begin plans for Founders Day and the return of third and fourth graders from Blue Ridge School and Summit Charter School for a full day of activities including the making of apple cider, corn husk dolls, a bitty broom and much more. This year Founders Day will be celebrated on Thursday, Sept. 23.

Another fall activity and new this year will be the Art in the Park program. This pro-

gram is in collaboration with Western Carolina's School of Stage and Screen under the direction of Dean George Brown and Erin Tapley, Director of the School of Stage and Screen and the Cultural Task Force of Vision Cashiers. The program will provide a hands-on multidisciplinary program for all manner of artistic learning and fun endeavors for children. The children will take home a "work of art" with the assistance from WCU staff and students.

### FYI

While driving by the Farmers Market the other day I saw the large, colorful sunflowers. Did you know each sunflower is made up of smaller flowers? The center of the flower where the seeds develop is made up of numerous blossoms that bees love. And more interesting is that sunflowers move with the sun as it arcs across the sky from east to west.

The sunflower's bloom always faces the sun. This term for a plant's ability to follow the sun is heliotropism. Be sure to plant some sunflowers in your garden next year to attract bees and other pollinators. I guess that can be your first Summer To-Do List for 2022!

After a long week of many ups and downs at CHS we received a wonderful and surprisingly generous gift from a couple and the Heartbeat Foundation in support of our educational programs. I read that gratitude is especially important because it requires us to acknowledge how others have supported us. Thank you for your gift and support.

*Cashiers Historical Society is a 501c3 organization. To find out more information about CHS, our mission or to volunteer contact the office at 828-743-7710. Sandi Rogers is a staff member of CHS and coordinates events and educational activities. She is a retired educator and former lead teachers at Blue Ridge School.*

## Cashiers Designer Showhouse

The 2021 edition of the Cashiers Designer Showhouse opened Saturday, Aug. 21 and runs through Saturday, Sept. 4.

There is a variety of special events, including workshops, panel discussions and several single day events to attend.

# Splendor in the grass

BY DAVID STROUD  
Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society  
Executive Director

Sixty years ago, Warren Beatty made his big screen debut in the 1961 film "Splendor in the Grass." I thought of that movie title when I first saw this stunningly beautiful picture by photographer Marty Boone. So, 60 years after the release of the film comes another debut – today marks the newspaper debut of the sweet and playful cat we named TJ.

TJ got his name after his personality and behavior reminded us of a cat named Taylor who we rescued several years ago – and was featured in this column in January 2019. Instead of our spacious cageless cat rooms and porches, Taylor preferred to stay in the lobby of the CHHS Feline Adoption Center to serve as the official office greeter kitty, a duty he took quite seriously and performed quite well.

Taylor then expanded his jurisdiction outside the building and promoted himself from office kitty to overall shelter kitty. Countless visitors to our campus were delighted to be greeted by Taylor within moments of existing their vehicles. Although we loved Taylor very much, we always believed the perfect forever home and forever family were waiting for him someday, and he found both in July 2020.

Then along comes this rambunctious young two-year-old in January after he was found abandoned under a home in Glenville. Within days, this new kid on the block started exhibiting the exact same affection and mannerisms as our beloved Taylor. He started running out the door of his playroom just so he could be the first to greet people in the lobby, and soon thereafter started running out the lobby door so he could be the first shelter pet to greet visitors outside. His name came to us naturally – TJ, short for "Taylor Junior."

TJ loves all humans, dogs, and most other cats, especially if they are friendly and on the submissive side. He has a heart of gold, a huge personality, and a whimsical, playful spirit. Marty was able to capture that

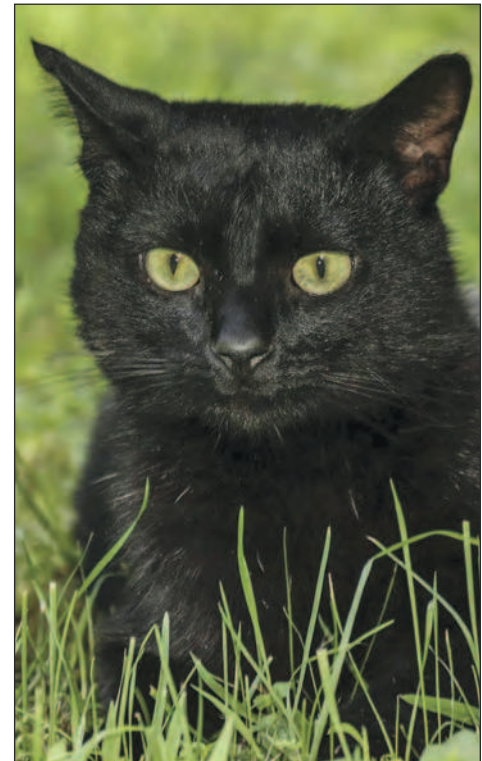


Photo by Marty Boone

Official shelter kitten TJ has a heart of gold, a huge personality, and a whimsical, playful spirit.

spirit when she found TJ in the lens of her camera as he was frolicking with splendor in the grass outside our feline building. TJ's eyes have never looked so brilliantly green as they appeared when his handsome face is framed by the green blades of grass.

As a longer-term resident CHHS Hero Pet, the adoption fee for TJ is only \$50 which includes already being neutered, microchipped, up to date on vaccinations, tested negative for FeLV, FIV and heartworms, 30 days of free pet health insurance, a free ID tag and a free starter bag of food. For a lifetime of unconditional love and unending splendor with TJ, please complete the adoption application on our website at [chhumane-society.org](http://chhumane-society.org), or call us at 828-743-5752 for more information.

*Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society is located at 200 Gable Drive in Sapphire, one and a half miles east of the Cashiers Ingles supermarket in between Cedar Creek Club and Lonesome Valley on Highway 64 East. The no-kill shelter is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.*



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## AUTHOR

Continued from page 1A

have a practical job in the meantime. Journalism had always appealed to me for a number of reasons. It would give me the opportunity to write, which I have always felt passionate about, and it gave me the opportunity to get to know people, which people are at the heart of every novel. I loved being a journalist. It was such a wonderful experience for me.”

“The Forest of Vanishing Stars” released July 6, and Harmel was able to get back into the touring world after the COVID-19 pandemic, having several book signings and meet and greets in the southeast.

“The feedback for the book has been great,” Harmel said. “I had the opportunity to go on a small tour around the Southeast, which was great, because with COVID, everybody has been stuck at home. It was strange to toss myself into the world again, but it was wonderful to be able to talk to so many people. This is my first time coming to the Highlands-Cashiers area, but I am excited for the opportunity to meet everyone.”

After being stolen from her wealthy German parents and raised in the unforgiving wilderness of eastern Europe, a young woman finds herself alone in 1941 after her kidnapper dies. Her solitary existence is interrupted, however, when she happens upon a group of Jews fleeing the Nazi terror. Stunned to learn what’s happening in the outside world, she vows to teach the group all she can about surviving in the forest—and in turn, they teach her

some surprising lessons about opening her heart after years of isolation. But when she is betrayed and escapes into a German-occupied village, her past and present come together in a shocking collision that could change everything.

“The Forest of Vanishing Stars” is the third book centered around the World War II theme, which Harmel said is a way that she can connect with her grandparents.

“I think I have a really personal connection and fascination with the history of WWII,” Harmel said. “I’m 42, and I think a lot of people in my generation, and the generation ahead of me, feel a strong connection to that war because of our grandparents. I think reading about that specific war is a personal connection to our own past. I think it is also a war and a period of time that still feels very recent and relevant. It still has a lot of lessons for us in the modern day.”

With being a New York Times best-selling, USA Today bestselling and No. 1 international bestselling author, Harmel has taken the literary world by storm with dozens of novels that have been translated into 29 languages and sold all over the world.

“This journey has been amazing and gratifying,” Harmel said. “I am so grateful. I’m not one of those authors who had instant overnight success. I worked for a lot of years, building my career up and I still have a long way to go. It is tremendously rewarding to be able to find this success and broad audience of readers now. I think there is a lot to be said about not being an overnight success because it teaches you a lot of lessons about striving to become a better writer with every single book



Submitted photo

Author Kristin Harmel will be presenting her new book, “The Forest of Vanishing Stars” in Cashiers on Sept. 3.

and about never taking any of it for granted.”

Harmel will hold a book signing in Cashiers at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library on Friday, Sept. 3, at 3 p.m. The next day, she will hold a book signing at the Highlands Hudson Public Library at 12:30 p.m.

“I always like to remind people through my books and through my talks that we all have the ability to find strength within ourselves that we didn’t know was there,” Harmel said. “I think that is a lesson that a lot of people were forced to learn during WWII. I think that is why WWII novels seem to be resonating so powerfully with people today. It is also a lesson that we need to be reminded of, particularly now, during these difficult times. We all face challenges, but I think it is helpful to be reminded that we are all stronger than we think.”

Harmel’s books can be found online at kristinharmel.com.

# Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad seeking administrative employee

BY MICHAEL O’HEARN  
Staff

The Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad has been given approval by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to hire a new employee.

In June, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners approved the 2021 fiscal year budget, which allowed the county’s two rescue squads to add a full-time employee at a combined cost of \$108,597 per year to the county.

Jeff Stewart, the chief of the rescue squad, asked county officials in July for the payout for the employee so that he or she could be employed with the rescue squad. This is a 40 hour a week position, and worker’s compensation has been set up for the individual.

“The county has agreed to fund an employee not only for us but the squad in Sylva, and each fire department is

getting an employee as well,” Stewart said. “It’s just getting to where volunteer time is precious so you can’t, it’s hard to get people that are volunteers to work on stuff and keep things up to date. It’s getting to where it’s hard to expect that out of volunteers, and I think that the county is realizing that a paid person is just invaluable.”

Stewart said two of his workers needed to take time off last week to take an ATV to Seneca to get it worked on. He said these individuals could have been on the job working and getting paid while the new employee got that work completed.

“They can keep the grounds clean, the grass mowed, the equipment up to date and organized,” Stewart said. “When we have a call, we can come in and we’re ready to go. We don’t have to worry about whether there’s gas in [the vehicle] or if there’s a piece of equipment missing. It’s just going to

be a value to us.”

The Rescue Squad has more than \$3 million in equipment that saves lives and 25 volunteers who are certified for a variety of things ranging from search and rescue and hazardous material to the jaws of life.

With 1,000 calls a year between the two branches of the Rescue Squad, volunteer time is “precious” and Rescue Squad officials want to use that time for training and proficiency. With a county-funded employee, the gear used by the squad members can be easily maintained.

“Not only will this person be used as an operations employee, let’s say there’s a wreck here at the intersection, then we have a person that’s available and not out taking some equipment somewhere,” Stewart said. “They would get in the crash truck and be here. It would be en route at the same time probably as the ambulance.”

# Wolfe scholarship endowed for SCC nursing students

The call for medical students has become much more prevalent since the pandemic began.

Charles and Wanda Wolfe heeded that call by giving a gift of \$18,000 for Nursing students at Southwestern Community College to create the Charles and Wanda Wolfe Family Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“I was a Registered Nurse for 30 years before retiring, including several years at Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva,” said Wanda Wolfe. “I experienced first-hand all that was involved in the profession and was able to personally see the difference that nurses can and do make in patients’ lives. We chose the nursing profession in part because of my career.”

Her husband, an SCC Foundation board member, also had a personal reason for wanting to support those joining the nursing profession. Last year, he stayed at Harris Regional Hospital for nine days due to a severe case of COVID-19.

“The scholarship is a way for the two of us to express our appreciation

for the committed and professional care I received while I was being treated for this illness,” Charles said. “I was greatly impressed by – and grateful for – the selflessness of the nurses who were there for me even at the risk of their own health.”

The Wolfes have been involved with SCC for several years. Charles acted as the chair of the Student Success Scholarship Campaign, which created SCC’s first endowed scholarship valued at over \$1 million.

He also serves as an active member of the SCC Foundation Board of Directors and their “Boots, Blue Jeans, and Bling” gala committee. Additionally, both have annually provided financial support to SCC’s New Century Scholars program since its inception.

“Charles and Wanda have been close friends and generous supporters of SCC and our students for a very long time,” said Brett Woods, director of the SCC Foundation. “They are passionate, engaged, and very committed to helping

young people improve their lives through education.”

New endowments like the Wolfes’ scholarship are a big reason why the SCC Foundation set all-time records by awarding support of more than \$250,000 to 142 students in the current academic year.

“We’re extremely fortunate to have such great supporters and friends like Charles and Wanda,” said SCC President Dr. Don Tomas. “This gift they are providing to our students says so much about them. They’ve seen and experienced firsthand how SCC can change lives, and they want to make sure even more students have opportunities in the future.”

For more information about the SCC Foundation, contact Woods at b\_woods@southwesterncc.edu or 828-339-4241.

For more than 50 years, Southwestern Community College has served Jackson, Macon, Swain Counties, and the Qualla Boundary by offering a wide range of educational options for residents in all stages of life. SCC has been ranked No. 1 by Bestcolleges.com

in its listing of “The Best Community Colleges & Trade Schools of 2020,” marking the fourth time in the past 15 years Southwestern has ranked among the nation’s Top 10 community colleges.

# NCDOT crews cleaning up after Tropical Depression Fred last week

About 70 N.C. Department of Transportation workers from across the state have traveled to western North Carolina to help respond to the devastation left by Tropical Depression Fred.

State Transportation Secretary Eric Boyette visited the storm-ravaged area Friday.

“Our hearts go out to the families who lost loved ones and everyone who has been impacted by this storm,” Boyette said. “It’s impossible to replace what many people have lost, but we are here for the long haul to help these communities recover as quickly as possible.”

Fred washed out multiple bridges and closed dozens of roads, largely in Haywood, Transylvania, Swain and Buncombe counties. Many roads and bridges were covered by trees, mud and water. The number of roads closed decreased from around 60 Wednesday to 13 on Friday morning. Earlier in the week, crews successfully restored access to many roads, including U.S. 19/74 through the Nantahala Gorge in Swain County. Friday’s closures included mostly secondary roads and several highways, including N.C. 197 South in Yancey County and U.S. 276 in Haywood County. Twenty-three bridges remained closed Friday in western North Carolina.

“This is devastating for the communities we serve,” said Wanda Austin, highway division engineer for the state’s 10 westernmost counties.

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2500 Winchester Pl, Ste 103  
(Next to Kanpai of Tokyo)

ALL LOCATIONS  
CDC COVID  
COMPLIANT

SOUTH CAROLINA LICENSE NUMBERS: HTP-1029, HTP-1024, HTP-1031, HTP-1023, HAS-0573, HAS-0642, HAS-0637, HAS-0638, HAS-0633

GEORGIA LICENSE NUMBERS: HADS000995, HADS000996, HADS001001, HADS001003

\*Acosta, Kim, and Abram Bailey. "Best Hearing Aids From Audiologists 2021." Forbes, Forbes Magazine, 11 June 2021, www.forbes.com/health/healthy-aging/best-hearing-aids/.



# Summit Charter School celebrates beginning of school year with open house festivities

Summit Charter School teachers and parents celebrated the beginning of a new academic year last week, the institution's 25th year as a school, with an open house event on Aug. 18. During this time, families dropped off school supplies and met their teachers and toured the facilities. The Summit Family Association hosted a picnic, including food trucks and a special meeting for new families.



Photo submitted by Melissa Hudson

Head of School Kurt Pusch and teacher assistant Kate Qemali greet students in a classroom.



Photo submitted by Melissa Hudson

Sarah and Cord Strawn enjoy the Open House with their two sons Hunley and Huxley. Hunley Strawn is a first grader and his father Cord is a Summit alum.



Photo submitted by Melissa Hudson

Sarah Jennings, Richard Jennings and their two sons Richard and Edward arrive to the open house to drop off school supplies and meet their teachers.

# Tropical Depression Fred impacts Pisgah Education Center and Fish Hatchery

The devastating storm that hit western North Carolina on Tuesday, Aug. 17 had a major impact on two facilities operated by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. The Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education is currently closed to the public and all classes are suspended until further notice. The Bobby N. Setzer Fish Hatchery remains operational but closed to the public.

The education center and hatchery are located on the same tract of property in Pisgah National Forest outside of Brevard. Several staff, a volunteer and one member of the public were at the education center when it began to take on water last Tuesday. They moved to higher ground immediately and were successfully evacuated by local emergency medical services. Hatchery staff and their families safely remained to care for the fish and the facilities.

An assessment of the impacts on the education center and the hatchery is ongoing, however Wildlife Commission officials have confirmed that many buildings sustained some level of water damage. In addition, flash flooding caused the hatchery raceways to be overtopped. While some of the one million trout survived and remained in the raceways, many were displaced by the rising water and stranded on hatchery grounds. Others died in the raceways due to poor water quality caused by the flood waters. Some fish may have even washed into the Davidson River.

Once staff fully understand the extent of the fish losses due to the storm, plans will be developed to address trout stockings for both this fall and next year. Wildlife officials will release those details as they are determined.

Updates about both facilities will be available on the agency's website, ncwildlife.org. Information related specifically to the educational center will be posted to the Pisgah Center for Wildlife's Facebook page.

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# Crossroads Chronicle Community

## Cashiers Designer Showhouse kicks off with glamping theme

The Cashiers Historical Society's 24th annual Cashiers Designer Showhouse has gone glamping this year with six individual Diamond Brand Gear tents and six uniquely renowned interior designers. Designers were asked to give a little insight into their design process with these two glamping questions. Visit the Cashiers Designer Showhouse from Aug. 21 – Sept. 4 to discover just how luxurious glamping can be.

1. What camping logistics did you need to consider in designing for a glamping experience, and how are you turning them into design strengths?

2. How have the natural resources in Western North Carolina inspired your glamping design?

**Douglas Hilton**  
DWH Interiors  
Atlanta  
dwhinteriors.com

1. First, I am not a camper, so all this was new to me. I am known for my use of art, wool rugs, and luxurious fabrics. You can't hang art on a canvas wall, I knew, but I didn't know that you can't let anything touch the tent wall either. Now I am using a large screen and sculptures on the tables, and all the furniture will float. Stanton Carpet has supplied the faux sisal for the floor to look good and be water-resistant. Who knew that if you don't do the right wiring, your chandelier electrifies the metal tent poles? Luckily for me, Cowtan and Tout has introduced wonderful outdoor fabrics just in time.

2. North Carolina is surrounded by natural beauty – so I have deliberately left the windows uncovered. Focused the sofa to the view and designed a comfortable front porch to relax and enjoy nature. I am very lucky to have an apple orchard as part of my area to attract birds and wildlife.

**Holly Laughridge**  
Old Edwards Inn & Acorns Boutique  
Highlands  
oldedwardsinn.com

1. The size and style of the tent have been an interesting challenge. The pitch of the roof, as well as the short sidewalls, makes art and furniture placement more important. I'm using the smaller space to create a more intimate, relaxing space that feels luxurious as well as comfortable.

2. We have some of the most beautiful flora and fauna in the world, and I am happy to incorporate the neutral colors and brilliant greens so you feel wrapped in the beauty that is WNC.

**Melanie Couch and Nancy Dyleski**  
Spruce Interiors  
Highlands

1. Logistically speaking, the lack of true surface space and structure creates the greatest challenge when designing a glamping experience. We have to account for the low slopes and minimum standing room, along with unlevel ground surfaces. Scale of furnishings had to be adjusted to accommodate those challenges. The beauty of these challenges is that it naturally lends itself to a relaxed and more organic aesthetic.

2. The natural beauty of our surroundings and land-

See **SHOWHOUSE** page 2B

## Third dose of COVID vaccine now recommended for immunocompromised people

Individuals who received the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and are moderately to severely immunocompromised may now be eligible to receive an additional dose.

Based on recommendations by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration updated the Emergency Use Authorization for both vaccines to allow for the use of an additional dose in some immunocompromised people. More specific information on the immunocompromised conditions can be found on the CDC's website.

In order to increase the body's immune response, it is recommended that the additional dose be administered at least 28 days af-

ter completion of and of the same brand of vaccine as the initial two-dose series. If the same brand is unavailable, either the Pfizer or the Moderna can be used.

At this time, it is not recommended that immunocompromised people who were originally vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine get an additional dose.

To further protect the immunocompromised, the Jackson County Department of Public Health will be offering third dose vaccines on Tuesday mornings by appointment only.

Both Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are available. Call 828-587-8289 to schedule an appointment or visit [www.myspot.nc.gov](http://www.myspot.nc.gov) to find another vaccine provider.



Christopher Smith/The Highlander

Owners Lori Lacy and Steve Yuzzi with farm managers Noah Miller and Josh Brandes at the Franklin-based Appalachian Growers are offering an alternative to the opioid epidemic.

## Franklin-based hemp farm offering opioid alternative

BY CHRISTOPHER SMITH  
The Highlander

With the opioid epidemic raging across the nation, Franklin-based Appalachian Growers are offering a different solution, CBD.

Owner Lori Lacy came from a wellness background and said she got into the hemp business because of the stories she heard from other women.

"I was a trainer for 21 years and saw a lot of people that had a lot of different health issues," Lacy said. "So many people are struggling with either cancer therapy, arthritis and pain. I worked with a lot of women that had sleep issues or issues with anxiety. My daughter has two autoimmune diseases that she addressed using CBD oil. I started using it to fix my sleep issues and it worked."

When Lacy met Steve Yuzzi, the two said they wanted a "midlife crisis" they could feel good about.

"It definitely was scary, because we didn't know

anything about it," Lacy said. "I didn't know anything about farming, the parts of the plants or anything."

Before breaking ground in Franklin, the couple spent six months in Colorado and Maine learning about the trade.

"We were kind of the newbies on the block," Lacy said. "Now, we are the people helping the newbies out saying, 'Hey, it's not a competition, we are all just trying to save money.' We knew we had to build a building to dry the plants. If we didn't have a building, we would have failed."

With 23,000 plants in the ground for their first year, Lacy said there should have been a film crew behind them to tape the mistakes they made.

"Every year we have learned a substantial amount," Lacy said. "Steve and I committed wholeheartedly to this business, putting all of our life savings into it. At the end of the day, what keeps us going are the testimonials."

The 2018 Farm Bill allows hemp cultivation broadly, not simply pilot programs for studying market interest in hemp-derived products. It explicitly allows the transfer of hemp-derived products across state lines for commercial or other purposes. It also puts no restrictions on the sale, transport, or possession of hemp-derived products, so long as those items are produced in a manner consistent with the law.

However, the new Farm Bill does not create a completely free system in which individuals or businesses can grow hemp whenever and wherever they want. There are numerous restrictions.

First, hemp cannot contain more than 0.3 percent THC, per section 10113 of the Farm Bill. Any cannabis plant that contains more than 0.3 percent THC would be considered non-hemp cannabis—or marijuana—under federal law and would thus face no legal protection under this new legislation.

Second, there will be significant, shared state-federal regulatory power over hemp cultivation and production. Under section 10113 of the Farm Bill, state departments of agriculture must consult with the state's governor and chief law enforcement officer to devise a plan that must be submitted to the Secretary of USDA. A state's plan to license and regulate hemp can only commence once the Secretary of USDA approves that state's plan. In states opting not to devise a hemp regulatory program, USDA will construct a regulatory program under which hemp cultivators in those states must apply for licenses and comply with a federally run program. This system of shared regulatory programming is similar to options states had in other policy areas such as health insurance marketplaces under ACA, or workplace safety plans under OSHA—both of which had federally-run systems for

See **HEMP** page 2B

## Curtains Up! continues run at Highlands Playhouse

BY CHRISTOPHER SMITH  
The Highlander

Written as a love letter to the Town of Highlands, the Highlands Playhouse has opened Curtains Up!, created by the Playhouse's artistic team, Marshall Carby and Jimmy Lewis.

"We really wanted to focus on Highlands," Carby said. "We talked a lot about the history of the Highlands Playhouse and how important it is to us. This show is really a love letter and a thank you to the community that comes out to support us."

With shows being so close together and often using the same actors, Carby said they decided to create a show based around their ranges.

"We wanted to put our best foot forward and create a show based around the actors that we already have," Carby said.

Assistant artistic director Jimmy Lewis has spent his summers in Highlands since 2013.

"When we were planning, post COVID, about how we wanted to reopen the theater, we thought, what better way to celebrate not theatre itself, but celebrate the town we are in. We came up with songs that not only



Submitted photo

Curtains Up! will continue its run at the Highlands Playhouse through Sept. 5 and is written as a love letter to the Town of Highlands.

we love to sing, but that Highlands would love, as well."

Lewis said transitioning from CASH: Ring of Fire to Curtains Up! used all parts of his brain.

"We actually rehearsed Curtains Up! during the day and then performed CASH at night," Lewis said. "All of the actors had to use all different parts of the brain, because we were transitioning between two very different styles. With Curtains Up!, we sing higher parts and then in

CASH we would sing very low. We definitely got our vocal athletics in to say the least."

With a rigorous rehearsing schedule, Lewis said all of the actors had to stay prepared.

"Sleep is definitely a priority," Lewis said. "Water was another priority. Our director Sarah Poole Wilhelm was really conscious about how we were using our voices. We were all rebuilding our stamina especially after

See **CURTAIN** page 2B



# HEMP

Continued from page 1B

states opting not to set up their own systems.

Third, the law outlines actions that are considered violations of federal hemp law (including such activities as cultivating without a license or producing cannabis with more than 0.3 percent THC). The law details possible punishments for such violations, pathways for violators to become compliant, and even which activities qualify as felonies under the law, such as repeated offenses.

Ultimately, the Farm Bill legalizes hemp, but it doesn't create a system in which people can grow it as freely as they can grow tomatoes or basil.

Though they may look similar, the plants growing at Appalachian Growers' farms do not contain THC, the chemical that causes a psychoactive reaction.

"Basically, the plants that we have are bred to not have as much THC," Farm manager Josh Brandes said. "The hemp plant that we have has to meet a certain threshold of THC, 0.3 percent, and if it goes over that, then it would be considered illegal."

Brandes got into the businesses after a long stint doing landscaping.

"I owned a landscaping and design business prior to this," Brandes said. "I thought I could do both, but

here I am."

Farm manager Noah Miller decided to get into the hemp business after finding out that there was a farm in Franklin.

"This is something that I love doing," Miller said. "I heard that there was a hemp farm in Franklin, and I couldn't believe it. I've been coming here for a while and there was nothing like that here. I came out to the greenhouse, and they had 23,000 little seedlings. So, I was in the brewing industry earlier and I decided to switch over."

A typical day on the farm consists of several walk throughs and scouting the plants.

"Most of what I do during the day is just walk the farm and scout the plants," Brandes said. "With our certification, we have to make sure that the rows are nice and tidy. That way, the plants have enough airflow."

Spraying the plants with organic, natural insecticides is something Brandes said takes up most of his time.

"I usually spray at night until 2 a.m.," Brandes said. "Spraying is a huge endeavor. We also have mites that we put on the plants that eat the other predators. These mites even eat the eggs of the bugs that eat the plants. We are a certified organic farm, which is why we do things like that."

Another thing the group tries to do other than grow the company is actively

spread awareness about the positive effects of CBD.

"It really is a grassroots type of initiative," Lacy said. "Steve and I travel every weekend to make sure that we are in front of people talking about CBD. We try to do all of the speaking engagements that I can. I was also appointed to the North Carolina Agriculture Hall of Fame Board of Directors."

On Aug. 24, Lacy will give a presentation to the Center for Life Enrichment in Highlands with the topic of debunking the mysteries of cannabis vs. CBD.

"There are a lot of people that know about CBD, but there are also a lot of people that don't," Lacy said. "We want to explain the differences between the two, telling people that it won't get them high and that they can take it and not be labeled a pothead. We already have so many clients in Highlands, and we want to help them, and more Highlands residents, live an organic, healthy lifestyle."

To look at Appalachian Growers' products or to find more information, visit [appalachiangrowers.com](http://appalachiangrowers.com).

The presentation at the CLE is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will carpool from the Peggy Crosby Center at 9 a.m. to the farm in Franklin. The cost is \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members, with lunch included.

# CURTAIN

Continued from page 1B

COVID."

Since Lewis has been with the Playhouse since 2013, he gets to revisit some of his favorite characters in Curtains Up!

"For example, we do a song from Annie, like back when I was here in 2013," Lewis said. "Not only will the audience have a positive reaction to the play, but I get to revisit some of my favorite moments on stage here at the Playhouse."

Coming back for his second year at the Playhouse, Drew Harvey said this play is unique because they mostly play themselves.

"I think we play ourselves for the most part because we all had so much to do with putting this play together," Harvey said. "There are some short monologues scattered here and there to introduce the numbers, but we are pretty much ourselves and that has been a unique experience."

Having to transition from country to intense musical theatre numbers, Harvey said it worked out in his favor.

"The rule is technically to start low and go higher," Harvey said. "But it technically worked out in my

favor because we were singing such high songs in the morning during rehearsal, then during CASH my voice was already low and warmed up."

Lewis is from Baltimore, Maryland, but has been living in New York City since 2013 and spends his summers in Highlands. He graduated from Rider University in New Jersey.

"I always come back to Highlands during the summer because of the team that we have built here for one," Lewis said. "This town is so accepting and loving of the arts to the point where we can walk down Main Street and somebody will shout, 'We saw you in CASH!' The fact that in such a small town, not only is there such a natural beauty, but there is such a strong support for the arts that you don't find in other places."

Harvey is from Buffalo, N.Y., and attended Marymount Manhattan College. He has lived in New York City since 2017.

"I love this community," Harvey said. "Especially the community at this Playhouse. We are able to walk that thin line in theatre where, yeah, we get our work done, but we are having a blast doing it. We are able to work and enjoy

this town that we are in and not a lot of people doing what we are doing are able to do that."

Harvey describes Curtains Up! as a musical that has everything rolled into one.

"For me, this show is everything that I love about musical theatre all rolled into one show," Harvey said. "It's funny, you've got tons of group numbers with crazy harmonies and also very intimate duets and solos. There is really something for everybody."

With more than 30 of the best musical theatre songs, Lewis said this is the play to see.

"Our music director is wonderful, and she has made arrangements specifically for this cabaret, for this group," Lewis said. "We made this show with Highlands in mind. Yes, it's songs that we love, but Highlands was at the forefront of why we chose these songs."

Curtains Up! opened to the public on Aug. 19 and is playing until Sept. 5. Shows are scheduled for Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sundays at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit [highlandisplayhouse.org](http://highlandisplayhouse.org).

# SHOWHOUSE

Continued from page 1B

scape is the perfect backdrop to our glamping design. Everyone who enjoys the summers here does so outdoors surrounded by our lush greenery and bright florals. Entertaining becomes more relaxed and impromptu – often a surprise. Our space is one of gatherings and appreciation of both good company and luscious surroundings.

**Parker Platt and Katie P. Jackson**  
**PLATT**  
**Brevard**  
**platt.us**

1. We created a fully functioning space for sleeping, cooking, cleaning, gathering, and entertaining – all the comforts of home against the beautiful backdrop of Cashiers.

2. We designed with the

natural elements in mind, seamlessly blending the indoors with the outdoors, ultimately creating a comfortable, casual camping environment.

**Susan Peace-Vernon**  
**Tribus**  
**Cashiers and Greenville,**  
**South Carolina**  
**tribusinteriordesign.com**

1. When Tribus Interior Design was first approached to participate in this year's glamping event, we immediately thought of the logistics regarding moisture and weather. We have been carefully selecting each product based on its ability to be outside and in the elements.

2. The natural resources of Western North Carolina have influenced our color palette in everything we have selected. We have also taken into consideration the outdoor living that only this area provides and included a swing bed

in our design.

**Tori Alexander**  
**Alexander Interiors**  
**Highlands and Nashville**  
**alexanderinteriors.net**

1. Designers had to not only build their space from the ground up – literally – we had to also consider that the "walls" and "ceiling" were just a canvas tent. While we typically begin a design by first considering the existing architectural elements, since in this case there were none, we decided to give the tent a sense of "walls" by draping all walls and ceilings in two different fabrics. It was a unique challenge, but our team was up for it.

2. Our design was inspired by the beautiful flora and fauna of Western North Carolina. We were inspired by the beautiful fern green and hydrangea blue that cover our beautiful mountain area in the summer.

# Zonta Club teaming up with Franklin Fire Department for infant car seat program

The Zonta Club is proud to announce its upcoming fundraising event to aid the Franklin Fire Department's infant car seat program and the Special Liberty Project. Now headquartered in Macon County, the Special Liberty Project is a non-profit organization serving the entire veteran family, focusing on Gold Star families, spouses of suicide victims and healing veterans.

The nature-based, therapeutic programs offered include fun, educational activities for children with Veteran Mentors, retreats and support groups for Gold Star families and family members of suicide victims, as well as peer-supported outdoor pursuits to help veterans return to civilian life.

The Taste of Tuscany event will be held on Sept. 11 at 5 p.m. at 757 Harrison Avenue in Franklin and will honor our first responders. It will feature an open air wine tasting of Slanted Window wines from SenAmore Vineyards in Tellico, accompanied by food and music. There will be a live

auction, as well as a silent auction featuring artwork and designer goods. Slanted Window wines will be available for purchase. A limited number of tickets are still available at \$100 per person, to include a wine tasting flight and commemorative wine glass. VIP tickets are available for \$150 that feature an exclusive evening with the vintner and more. Tables of eight, including two VIP tickets, may be reserved.

For more information visit the Zonta Franklin NC Facebook page or their website, [zontafranklinnc.org](http://zontafranklinnc.org).

# Webb to be guest pastor at St. Andrews By-the-Lake church

The Rev. Shelly Webb will be the guest minister at St. Andrews By-the-Lake Chapel in Lake Toxaway on Sunday, Aug. 29, at 11 a.m. The service will also feature guest musicians Pat and Mike Dunham on fiddle and hammered dulcimer.

Webb currently serves as the executive director of Sharing House, Transylvania County's faith collaborative ministry for crisis assistance with low-resourced neighbors. Sharing House offers basic life necessities such as food, clothes, utility and rent assistance, empowerment programs and advocacy. Previously, she served for 12 years in local church pastorates in Davidson, Brevard

and Asheville and served in extension ministry as chaplain to Brevard College for eight years.

Webb is a native of Hendersonville and is a graduate of Wofford College and Duke Divinity School. She is an ordained elder in the WNC Conference of The United Methodist Church.

All are welcome at the summer outdoor chapel in Lake Toxaway where ministers from different denominations conduct services. The chapel is located on Route 281 North, 0.6 miles from U.S. 64 West, at 546 Blue Ridge Road. For more information, follow the chapel on Facebook or visit [www.laketoxawaychapel.org](http://www.laketoxawaychapel.org).

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8	4	7	1	6	2	9	5	3						

# ON THE MENU

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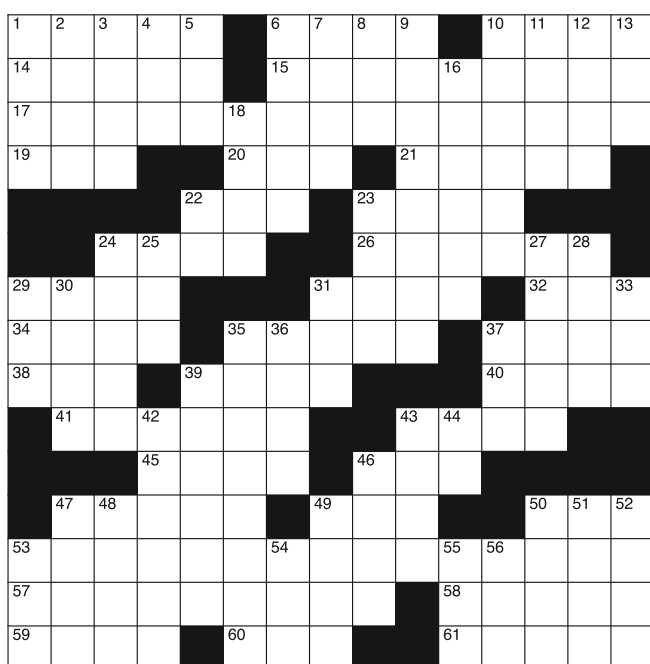
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Puzzle Solutions On Page 2B



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Secret clique
6. Earliest in and out
10. Ancient Egyptian symbol of life
15. Olfactory property
17. Kidnapping
19. Helps little firms
20. Cast a spell on
21. Panama is one
22. Dishonorable man
23. Sea eagle
24. Part of the healing process
26. Vin's last name
29. Wings
31. Made older
32. Political device
34. Looks like a rabbit
35. Gurus
37. Philippine Island
38. Not or
39. Hindu model of ideal man
40. Exam
41. Making less difficult
43. Without
45. Dravidian ethnic group
46. A baglike structure
47. Buenos Aires capital La \_\_\_
49. Dab
50. Singers who perform together
53. Pirates' saying
57. OK to allude to
58. Somaliland diplomat
59. Has to pay back
60. Felix is one
61. Intestinal pouches

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Harsh cries of a crowd
2. Type of horse
3. \_\_\_ fide: authentic

4. Doctors' group
5. Fugitives are on it
6. Forged
7. Wild goat
8. Influential American president
9. Calls for help
10. Repents
11. Palm tree with creeping roots
12. Black powder used in makeup
13. Happy New Year
16. Stretched out one's neck
18. Whale ship captain
22. Atomic #20
23. Border
24. River that borders India and Nepal
25. After B
27. Fencing swords
28. Where researchers work
29. Expression of satisfaction
30. Broadway actor Nathan
31. Heavy, heat-retaining stove
33. A way to eliminate
35. Type of tree resin
36. Russian river
37. Children's TV network
39. Troublemaker
42. Averts or delays
43. Self-immolation by fire ritual
44. It cools your home
46. Satisfy to the fullest
47. Stinks!
48. Popular board game
49. Attack by hurling
50. A vale
51. Type of acid
52. Tasmania's highest mountain
53. No seats available
54. Licensed for Wall Street
55. Family of genes
56. Constrictor snake

# HOROSCOPES

**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**

Aries, this week will challenge your flexibility. It's possible you will have to change plans on the fly to accommodate developments at work or at home.

**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**

Taurus, rather than trying to figure out why everyone is acting as they are, accept things and go with the flow. You will be much happier for it.

**GEMINI – May 22/June 21**

You are capable of dealing with intense emotional energy most of the time, Gemini. So when someone needs a friend to confide in, you are the right person for the job.

**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**

Cancer, normally you are an easygoing person. But something this week has you rattled and you may be all fired up about it. Redirect that energy to some projects around the house.

**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**

Leo, try to stay away from conflict this week; otherwise, you may be pulled in one direction or another. It is important to remain neutral, especially at work.

**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**

Virgo, don't worry too much about what other people consider to be right and wrong. Stick to your ideals and you won't be guided off course. You will find someone in your corner.

**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**

This is a great week to bring your mind into focus and set a firm plan for the next several months, Libra. Now is the time to make an important decision.

**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**

Scorpio, if your emotions suddenly seem more intense, you may need to change your social circle and find one that aligns better with your point of view.

**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**

Strong forces may be working against you, Sagittarius. But you won't let them derail your plans. Stay the course and things will work out just fine.

**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**

Capricorn, keep conversations light and away from any controversial topics as you meet new people in the days ahead. Let them take the lead in conversation.

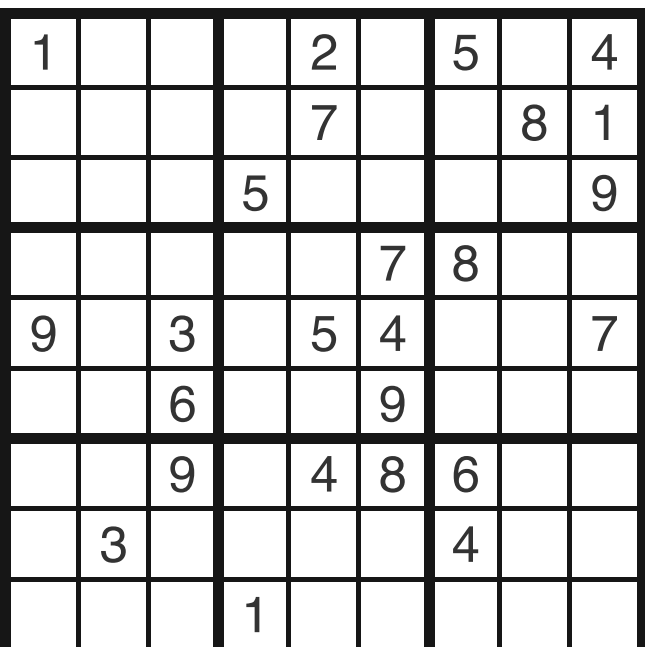
**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**

There is a great deal of opportunity and potential to follow through on some major projects this week, Aquarius. It's up to you whether you're looking for work or fun.

**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**

Pisces, this may be an eventful week marked by some disruptions to your normal routine. Stay calm in the face of conflict.

# SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

## Life and Religion

# Water more powerful than Fred



**Deacon's Column**

Christine Maddux

In the aftermath of the record-setting deluge brought to our area by Tropical Depression Fred, we know firsthand about the impressive power of water.

We are blessed to have the Western North Carolina Flooding Home Cleanup Hotline – 828-222-3975 – aiding those dealing with the damage it caused.

The sunny scene outside my window as I write is a marked contrast from the storm, as birds peacefully sip fresh rainwater from the birdbath, continuing their lives apparently unfazed by the storm that tore through their habitat just yesterday.

As I once again recall Jesus' instruction to "consider the birds" (Luke 12:24), fresh lessons come to mind.

These small, vulnerable creatures survived the storm by the grace of their Creator, just like we have. And like us, they continue to rely on Him for whatever they need this day, including fresh water to drink. Water, although sometimes a fearsome force of nature, is also the most essential element for life and God's priceless gift to us.

Is it any wonder, then, that the Bible is awash with references to water, from beginning to end? At the beginning of the Bible, we see

that "the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" at creation, and at the spectacular ending we see "the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God of the Lamb through the street of the city" in eternity (Genesis 1:3; Revelation 22:1-2).

In between we see water as both the sustainer and symbol of life, vividly illustrated against the backdrop of an arid land where water is scarce and precious.

For example, God temporarily restrained the Red Sea to enable the ancient Israelites to cross it and escape their oppressors (Exodus 14). Later, He miraculously provided water from a rock to slake his people's thirst in the desert (Exodus 17:1-7).

In another life-giving miracle, He provided a well for Hagar and her son who were dying of thirst (Genesis 21:9-21). Such events prefigured the even greater miraculous water that was to come, to slake an even deeper thirst – the universal human thirst for meaning that can only be satisfied by God.

Issuing God's sweeping invitation, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters", and conveyed God's promise that by following Him "You will be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail" (Isaiah 55:1; 58:11). Later, God lamented through his prophet Jeremiah that his people "have forsaken me, the spring of living water" (Jeremiah 2:13). But

God was faithful nonetheless, and sent the consummate source of living water: Jesus Christ.

Jesus verified this truth about Himself in his encounter at Jacob's well, where He was thirsty and so was a Samaritan woman. Knowing her even deeper thirst for something to satisfy her soul, Jesus reached out to her in a conversation that changed her life, saying, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. Indeed, the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:13-14).

Notice that Jesus' invitation is again a sweeping one, issued to "whoever" drinks his water to sustain their spiritual life, now and forever. All people everywhere may have it.

As the Bible comes to a close, we read God's compassionate offer one more time: "Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life" (Revelation 22:17).

Like the birds freely sipping water at my birdbath, we too are welcome to drink freely of his priceless Living Water, "welling up to eternal life." Just come.

*The Rev. Christine Maddux is a deacon at Christ Anglican Church in Cashiers and lives in Sapphire. She welcomes your questions and comments at: aclmaddux@mac.com.*



*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

Matthew 22:37-39

**Please check directly with the local churches for closures or changes in worship schedules due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Cashiers Baptist Church**  
Come worship with us at Cashiers Baptist Church and experience the life changing power of Jesus Christ. Sunday services- Sunday school 10:00 a.m., worship 11:00 a.m., Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday prayer meeting 7:00 p.m. For more information go to [www.cashiersbaptistchurch.com](http://www.cashiersbaptistchurch.com). 828-743-3040.

**Cashiers United Methodist Church**  
Cashiers United Methodist Church, located one mile south of the Crossroads on Hwy 107, invites you to worship with us Sundays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. beginning Memorial Day Weekend. We will have overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall and the Commons as needed. Check our website at [cashiersumc.org](http://cashiersumc.org) for upcoming summer events and small group opportunities! You may also find us YouTube or Facebook Live.

**Christ Anglican Church**  
828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC 28717 [www.christanglicancashiers.com](http://www.christanglicancashiers.com). Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship (no music); 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Monday Night Bible Study & Dinner, 6 p.m. Call for details.

**Christ Church Of The Valley**  
Join us 10:45 a.m. SUNDAYS for fellowship, coffee, Spirit-filled worship and Biblical teaching. Men's Bible Study Tues., 9:00 a.m. in person and online at [www.cashiers.church](http://www.cashiers.church). Women's 11:30 a.m. Monday. Located Hwy 64W towards Highlands past crossroads on right. 828-743-5470 Lead Pastor Brent Metcalf.

**Community Bible Church**  
[www.cbchighlands.com](http://www.cbchighlands.com) – 828-526-4685 – Pastor Gary Hewins, 3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC. Sundays: Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship Service 10:45 a.m., Children's Program 10:45 a.m., Youth 12:15 – 2:30 p.m. (lunch provided). Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study 10 a.m. – Noon. Thursdays: Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd**  
Good Shepherd welcomes you to join us for worship, learning, and service. Our mission is to "reflect God's love through our faith in action." Sunday Services are at 8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 11:00 am. Visit our website [www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com](http://www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com) for schedules of both virtual and in-person activities. Our Bazaar Barn is open Fridays and Saturdays, 10-2 pm, which supports outreach in the community. The Rev. Rob Wood, Rector. Call at 743-2359

or come by Monday-Thursday at 1448 Highway 107 South.

**Glenville Wesleyan Church**  
Join us for Meet and Greet at 10:45 to 11:00 then Energetic Worship and Children's ministry with a message you can use in your daily life. We are located 5.4 miles north of Cashiers on Hwy 107. Where everyone is welcome, yes that means you! Pastor Ralph Campbell, 828-506-1163, connect on Facebook.

**Grace Community Church**  
A non-denominational body of believers located on Hwy 107N, 1/2 mile from the crossroads in Cashiers. Sundays: 10:00 a.m. service includes contemporary praise music, sermon, communion and special prayer following the service. Wednesdays: catered dinner at 6:00 p.m. - Service at 7:00 p.m. Call 828-743-9814 for info or visit [www.gracecashiers.com](http://www.gracecashiers.com). Steve Doerter, Pastor.

**Mountain Bible Church**  
Mountain Bible Church meets at 4536 Big Ridge Road, Glenville, on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. for Sunday School, 10:45 a.m. service and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. We are committed to exalting Jesus Christ by teaching truth and loving people. Facebook: Mountain Bible Church WNC.

**Pine Creek Baptist Church**  
Pine Creek Baptist Church welcomes you to join us for Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday worship 11:00 a.m. Wednesday night Bible Study 6:00 p.m. 4338 Pine Creek Rd. Cullowhee. Pastor Aaron Langston.

**St. Jude Catholic Church**  
[www.stjudeofsapphirevalley.org](http://www.stjudeofsapphirevalley.org) — Saint Jude Catholic Church 3011 Hwy. 64 East, Sapphire (across from Sapphire Valley Resort.) Tel: 828-743-5717. Mass schedule: Sunday, 9 a.m.; Tuesday, Noon (Latin Mass); Thursday, 9 a.m.; Friday, Noon; Saturday, 5:30 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m.

WORSHIP WITH US IN PERSON OR ONLINE AT

**Cashiers United Methodist Church**

See website [www.cashiersumc.org](http://www.cashiersumc.org) for links to:

- Weekly Worship Services
- Meditative Music by Bryan Heller
- Mission & Community Connection

**FAITH, HOPE & LOVE IN ACTION**

Puzzle Solutions On Page 2B



# Real Estate & CLASSIFIEDS

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## HOME REPAIR / MAINTENANCE

Pressure Washing/Home Maintenance, Locally Owned, (828) 337-6667

Residential Carpet Cleaning, Locally Owned, (828) 337-6667

## GENERAL EMPLOYMENT

Bryson's Food Store is now taking applications for Front End and Deli positions. Experience is preferred but not necessary. Starting pay is \$14.00/hour. Also need a full-time butcher with experience and excellent selling skills (starting pay is negotiable). Also need an experienced Maintenance Associate. Please apply in person or call Terry Watson for details @ 828-526-3775.

FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE support position available in the Office of the Registrar on WCU's Cullowhee campus! See job description and apply at: <https://jobs.wcu.edu/postings/17006>

Full-time Staff Accountant, Cashiers, NC. Licensed CPA with 3+ yrs public acct'g experience preferred. QB exp. needed and Pro Adviser designation beneficial. Preparation and review of tax returns for individuals, partnerships, corps, estates, trusts, etc.; review of client financial stmts, including knowledge of payroll support services. Must be a self-starter with the ability to communicate well with clients. Email resume or CV to [emoody@ericmoodycpa.com](mailto:emoody@ericmoodycpa.com) or fax to (828)743-3138.

**FULLTIME OFFICE WORK**  
Real Estate Office Reception - Some Computer Experience Helpful, Pay commensurate w experience, Sapphire Valley, 9-5 M-F, [billkruck@gmail.com](mailto:billkruck@gmail.com) or (828) 506-8398

**HIGHLAND'S REAL ESTATE** Company. Full time property management assistant. Needs good communication skills and computer experience. Training and competitive pay with bonuses. (828)787-2002 x302.

Hospitality Mindset: Highlands Country Club is looking for a few individuals for food service, bartending, and housekeeping, who have a heart for service, want to be respected as professionals and know how to earn to your ability. Competitive pay, tips for F & B Staff, uniform provided, and meals per shift to all. Golfing privileges are available. Wonderful, busy working atmosphere. Appreciative management to work with each person. Go to [www.highlandscountryclub.com](http://www.highlandscountryclub.com), select the Career tab at the top of the tool bar to fill out an application. Or call 828-787-2782 and leave a message for Greg.

**JACKSON COUNTY** is recruiting for a permanent, full-time **Recreation Programming Coordinator - Cashiers/Glenville** to plan, organize, implement, evaluate daily/seasonal leisure and recreation programs for youth and adults. Includes special events; youth, adult and senior programs; youth and adult leagues; daily operations of the Cashiers/ Sylva Pools; and assists with outdoor programming and other recreational events. Develop program budgets, promotional marketing materials, recruit and train volunteers, conduct event registration. Prefer bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation or related field with at least one-year experience in program planning, sports leagues, budgeting and volunteer recruitment. Must possess and maintain a valid NC driver license. Possess or willing to obtain CPR/ First Aid and AED certification along with Certified Pool Operator's license. For salary, benefits, application and submission instructions visit <https://www.jacksonnc.org/employment-opportunities> Closing Date: 9/1/2021. EOE

Joel Rice Excavating, Inc. is now hiring equipment operators, truck drivers and laborers to join our team. If you are looking for a change of scenery or perhaps a new opportunity, give us a call or stop by our office. We are located at 327 Hunter Rd., Cashiers. 828-743-5801

**OFFICE ASSISTANT**  
Reception position. Greet showroom customers, answer incoming telephone calls, light filing, follow up with customers. This is a full time position and is not seasonal. Monday-Friday. Office hours are 9-5. Call Roman's Roofing (828)743-5291#

Veterinary Clinic accepting applications for full/part time help. Heavy lifting involved. No experience needed, but punctuality, good attendance, and work ethic required. 828-577-4883

<b>Place Your Ad Today!</b>		<b>Fair Housing Act</b>
<p><b>Call or come by our office:</b>  <b>94-1 US Hwy 64 West, Cashiers, NC 28717</b>  <b>(828) 743-5101 • Fax (828) 743-4173</b></p> <p><b>The Crossroads Chronicle</b>  <b>P.O. Box 1040, Cashiers, NC 28717</b></p> <p>E-mail for more information:  <a href="mailto:classifieds@CrossroadsChronicle.com">classifieds@CrossroadsChronicle.com</a></p> <p><b>Did you know you can place your ad online?</b>                  Visit our website: <a href="http://www.CrossroadsChronicle.com">www.CrossroadsChronicle.com</a>                  All classified liner ads appear on the website.</p>		<p>All real estate advertisement herein is subject to the Federal Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, family status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. The publisher reserves the right to reject any real estate advertising.</p> 
<b>Classified Deadlines, Payment, Incorrect Ads</b>	<b>Classified Rates</b>	<b>Chronicle Policy</b>
<p><b>Deadlines:</b> Ads for the Wednesday edition must be faxed, e-mailed or brought in by 4 p.m. on the preceding Friday. Office hours are 8:30-5:00, Monday-Friday.</p> <p><b>Incorrect ads:</b> It is the responsibility of each customer to notify the paper of any mistakes in an ad before it runs again. Credit will be given for the first incorrect insertion only!</p> <p><b>Payment:</b> The Chronicle requires cash in advance or payment by MasterCard, Visa or Discover (account number and expiration date needed) unless an active account is on record at time of placement.</p>	<p>Regular line classified ads are \$8.00 for 10 words and 30 cents for each additional word. Classified display ads are charged by the inch rather than by the word. Contact the retail advertising department for size and price.</p>   	<p>For the protection of our readers, The Chronicle attempts to screen classifieds and display advertising before the information is published. Occasionally, the accuracy of some advertisements cannot be verified, or an ad cannot be refused. We encourage you to use caution in responding to ads that appear to be of questionable nature.</p>

## GENERAL EMPLOYMENT

**HOUSEKEEPING STAFF NEEDED**  
Cashiers/ Glenville Private Community looking for housekeeping staff. Experience as a Cleaner or Housekeeper is desired. Customer-oriented and friendly. Working quickly without compromising quality. Position is year round. Must have reliable transportation. Pay based on experience. Full or Part time available. Please call 828-771-7750 or email [cqadmin@waterfrontgrp.com](mailto:cqadmin@waterfrontgrp.com)

## LANDSCAPE GARDENERS/INSTALLERS

Alex Smith Garden Design, Ltd has multiple positions available in our landscape installation and garden maintenance departments. These are exciting opportunities for qualified individuals who want to work in a unique environment in a growing company. Must have a valid drivers license and a clean driving record. 2-3 years prior relevant experience or education a plus. Experience in proper pruning, maintenance and installation techniques. Flexibility and a strong work ethic. Must be able to work outside in all types of weather including inclement weather. Must be able to safely climb a ladder and lift 50lbs. Competitive pay and benefits: medical, dental, paid vacation holiday and sick days, 401(k). Please contact [leeanne@alex-smithgardendesign.com](mailto:leeanne@alex-smithgardendesign.com) 770-455-8878

The Summer House by Reeves is hiring professional appearing **warehouse and delivery** team members who can lift 60 lbs and are interested in excellent starting pay as well as full benefits for full-time employees. Come by in person to 2089 Dillard Rd. in Highlands and ask for Sam or Janice.

## The Region A Partnership for Children (RAPC)

seeks qualified applicants for a full time Early Literacy Specialist position responsible for the coordination and management of the RAPC Early Literacy activities, including Raising a Reader and Reach Out and Read programs, covering seven western counties: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain. The position will assist RAPC with the advancement of Early Literacy through multiple community initiatives throughout the region. A Bachelor's Degree in a related field and at least 2-3 years of relevant community experience is required. Ability to lift up to 40 lb. book boxes is necessary. Position located in the RAPC Sylva office with extensive travel within the seven surrounding counties. See [www.RAPC.org/employment](http://www.RAPC.org/employment) for full job description and submission information.

## GENERAL EMPLOYMENT

**Old Edwards Inn & Spa Highlands NC**  
Catering & Conference Services Mgr, Sales Mgr, Asst F&B Mgr, Banquet Captain, Banquet Supervisor, Banquet Server, Host, Server, Busser, Bartender, Sous Chef, Cook, Asst Pastry Chef, Dishwasher, Reservations, Front Desk Supervisor, Front Desk, Bellman, Night Audit, Housekeeping, Laundry, Cosmetologist, Spa Attendant, Massage Therapist, Spin Instructor, Graphic Designer, P/T Marketing Asst. Apply online: [www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers](http://www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers)

The Summer House by Reeves furniture store in Highlands is looking for full and part time positions in sales and warehouse & delivery personnel. Must be professional appearing, friendly, self-motivated and enthusiastic. Previous sales and/or customer service experience preferred. Competitive starting pay. Generous benefits for full-time positions. Apply in person at The Summer House, 2089 Dillard Rd. in Highlands.

The Summer House by Reeves is looking to add a motivated and hard-working team member to our staff for **shipping and receiving** responsibilities that include checking in and price tagging merchandise and working close with other departments such as sales and delivery. We offer excellent starting pay and full benefits for full-time staff. Must be able to lift 40 lbs and have basic computer skills. Come by in person to 2089 Dillard Rd. in Highlands and ask for Sam or Janice.

Local landscaping company needs full time seasonal help. Must have valid drivers license and reliable transportation. Call 828-226-6844 for an interview.

## RETAIL

**RETAIL MANAGER**  
Full Time, Exempt. Manage both the strategic planning and daily operations of the retail shop at The Bascom. 3+ years of retail experience with progressive responsibilities required or a combination of 5+ years of retail and successful college classes. Bachelor's degree preferred. Experience and creativity in merchandising, guest services, client relations, sales, marketing, and strong communication skills are essential. Must be able to work a flexible schedule, including some nights, holidays, and weekends.

## PART TIME

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD Shepherd is hiring a Nursery Care Provider.  
Hours: Sundays from 8:30AM-1:00PM & Tuesday from 5:45PM-8:00PM  
Requirements: Candidates should be outgoing, organized, dependable & must have experience working with children of all ages.  
Compensation: \$20/hour.  
Please email your resume to [GoodShepAdmin@frontier.com](mailto:GoodShepAdmin@frontier.com)

## MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

The Church of the Good Shepherd Bazaar Barn is open Friday and Saturday from 10-2. Offering gently used home furnishings. Near the crossroads at 118 HWY 64 W, Cashiers. Donations also accepted - call Skip at 828-226-2588. Look for the sign!

## WANTED TO BUY

BEST PRICES PAID. CASH for Gold, Silver, Coins, Jewelry or we can sell your jewelry on consignment. Highlands, Gold-N-Clipper. 828-526-4989. 410 Main St.

## HOMES FOR RENT

Lovely 3/2 cottage at Cedar Creek Club. Available approx 9/25 for long term. Master on main. 561-308-0718 or [scrapy50@rocketmail.com](mailto:scrapy50@rocketmail.com) for pictures.

## COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

Office for Rent  
Professional office Suite, 2 private offices, and large open work area 1,550 sq. ft. Private bath all professionally appointed. \$850.00 per month. Call 828-399-0519.

## LAND & LOTS FOR SALE

4 Tracts - 3.33 acres, mountain top at 3340' elevation bordering USFS land in Sapphire. Also 2.68 acres, 2.32 acres and 3.97 acres with good view of Satulah and Fodderstack Mtns., all on Rockhouse Rd. in Highlands. 828-974-1137.

FOR SALE BY OWNER. 2.03 Acres (2 Continuous) lots off Whitewater Road (SC #130) near Salem SC. City water, electricity and one installed septic system. Under 30 minutes from Cashiers and Sapphire. Average 10 degrees warmer winter readings, no vehicle inspections, \$0.30-\$0.40/gal cheaper gasoline prices, no state sales tax on food and no inflated property tax values. Under 10 minutes from Lake Keowee and Jocassee Lake. \$25,000 (total) (Lots 12&13) Whitewater Woods. Call Steve Foster (828) 743-4154 or (828)743-3771.

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# CULLASAJA

HIGHLANDS, NC

## Security Gatehouse Attendants

The Cullasaja Club security team is offering a full-time year-round position to a personable, dependable, and detail-oriented individual. Customer service strengths, good judgment, and a hospitable manner are also necessary. Benefits include health care, dental, vision, PTO, vacation time, 401k, rec center privileges, and bonuses. Also available is an equally important part-time fill-in position with varying hours.

Please pick up an application at the  
Cullasaja Security Gatehouse.  
Contact the Director of Security at 828-508-2050.



# Get Outside with Fresh Grilled Flavors

FAMILY FEATURES

When bright, sunny days offer opportunities to take it outside for a celebration or casual weeknight dinner, take advantage with the fresh flavors of grilled fare. Good food and good company can combine for a meal to remember with loved ones while enjoying the outdoors.

Try taking your grilling game to the next level with Atkins Ranch grass fed ground lamb – available at Whole Foods Market – for lean, delicate flavor perfect for burgers, skewers, meatballs and sausages. Grass fed lamb is a versatile option that's easy to cook, even on the grill – simply treat it the way you would beef.

If you're new to cooking lamb, consider these Grilled Lamb Burgers that showcase 100% grass-fed lamb topped with a light herb salad, sliced tomato and yogurt sauce on a brioche bun. Or you can combine a robust herb dipping sauce with Lamb Meatball and Veggie Skewers for a customizable meal hot off the grates. Visit [Take-It-Outside.AtkinsRanch.com](http://Take-It-Outside.AtkinsRanch.com) for more grilling inspiration.

## Grilled Lamb Burgers

Total time: 1 hour, 20 minutes  
Servings: 4

- 1 1/2 pounds Atkins Ranch ground lamb
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

### Spread:

- 2/3 cup full-fat Greek yogurt
- 1 clove raw garlic, grated
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

### Salad:

- 1 small English cucumber, thinly sliced
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons chopped flat leaf parsley
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint leaves
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
- 1/4 cup microgreens
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 4 brioche buns

- 1 medium tomato, sliced into rounds

Gently divide lamb into four parts, 6 ounces each, and shape into rounds slightly larger than buns. Place covered in refrigerator, 1 hour.

To make yogurt sauce: In small bowl, mix yogurt, garlic, mayonnaise and Dijon mustard; refrigerate until ready to assemble burgers.

To make salad: In medium bowl, mix cucumber, onions, parsley, mint leaves, dill, microgreens, lemon juice, lemon zest and olive oil; refrigerate until ready to assemble burgers.

Preheat grill to medium-high heat with direct and indirect zones. Salt patties then add to grill, cooking about 6 minutes on each side until internal temperature reaches 150 F. As patties near this temperature, or start to brown, move to indirect zone to regulate doneness. Transfer to plate and let rest about 5 minutes.

To build burgers, add dollop of yogurt spread to bottom buns. Top each with tomato slice, lamb burger, herb salad and top bun.



## Lamb Meatball and Veggie Skewers with Herb Sauce

Total time: 1 hour, 30 minutes  
Yield: 6 skewers

- 6 wooden skewers
- 1 pound Atkins Ranch ground lamb
- 2 large eggs
- 2/3 cup Italian breadcrumbs
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/2 cup finely minced yellow onion
- 1 clove minced garlic
- 1/4 teaspoon coriander seeds, crushed
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 medium red onion, cut into 1-inch stacks
- 1 medium green bell pepper, cut into 1-inch stacks
- 1 medium red bell pepper, cut into 1-inch stacks

### Herb Sauce:

- 1 cup flat leaf parsley
- 2 teaspoons fresh rosemary leaves, minced
- 2 tablespoons capers
- 1 lemon, juice only
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- grilled Italian bread, for serving

Soak skewers in water 10 minutes.

In large bowl, break apart ground lamb; add whisked eggs and breadcrumbs.

In small saute pan, add olive oil then saute yellow onion, garlic clove, coriander seeds, red pepper flakes, salt and pepper, to taste, about 5 minutes, until onion is translucent and spices are fragrant. Add to bowl with lamb. Mix until combined and form into roughly 1 1/2-ounce balls.

Add meatballs to skewers, alternating with onions and peppers. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour to ensure meatballs hold together during grilling.

To make herb sauce: In immersion blender, blend parsley, rosemary, capers, lemon juice, garlic and olive oil until smooth. Refrigerate until serving.

Preheat grill to medium-high heat.

Grill skewers about 3 minutes on each side, or until meatballs reach 150 F internal temperature. Rest 5 minutes. Serve with dipping sauce and grilled Italian bread.



**On the spot offers!**

## Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Walk-In Wednesdays Hiring Event

### Interviewing for:

- RNs
- CNAs
- Allied Health Professionals
- Support Service Professionals

### What to bring to this event:

Please bring an updated resume

### What to wear:

Casual (come as you are, but please be presentable)

### About Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Join a team that's dedicated to improving more lives in more ways – there's a place for you here!

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### What is a Hiring Event?

Think of it like a job fair, but for one company and more personal. Hiring events are a great way for employers to fill multiple roles quickly. Hiring is a human process, and they would like to meet you to see if you're a fit!

## Event Details

**The First Wednesday** of every month from 1pm- 3:30pm, starting September 1st

## Location

190 Hospital Drive  
Highlands NC, 28741  
Front Entrance



# Can business owners ask if you have been vaccinated against COVID-19?

BY LEONARD BAER  
Columnist

Now that fully vaccinated people are no longer mandated to wear face masks or practice physical distancing, many businesses owners are now asking customers about their COVID-19 vaccination status. Many have asked whether this is an invasion of their privacy rights under HIPAA.

This misconception is dangerous as it could potentially mislead individuals who do not fully grasp what HIPAA actually entails. To understand why asking about someone's vaccination status isn't a privacy violation, it's crucial to know what sort of information is protected under HIPAA.

The HIPAA is a federal law that aims to protect your privacy by restricting how sensitive information about your health can be used or disclosed. It also gives you the right to examine and obtain a copy of your medical records. Contrary to popular belief, HIPAA does not provide protection for all sorts of information in every kind of situation. In addition, not all individuals and organizations are required to comply with it.

Only certain individuals and organizations with access to your medical information are subject to the HIPAA Privacy Rule, such as, healthcare providers, doctors, health insurance companies and hospitals. Saying that, is it a violation of HIPAA to ask you about your vaccination status?

The simple answer is no. Anyone can ask your healthcare provider about your vaccination status, but it would only be a violation if they disclose it without permission. When non-covered entities such as family or friends ask you directly about your status, that's not a violation. You are also allowed to disclose that information yourself.

Another point to repeat and remember is the HIPAA doesn't prevent businesses, companies, schools, or airlines from asking whether or not you have been vaccinated. If they ask for your vaccination status before allowing you to enter a facility, attend classes or come to work in person, or even book a flight, that's not a violation. It's still up to you whether you want to share that information.

Employers are also within their rights to ask employees about vac-

ination status or to require proof of vaccination as a condition of continued employment. Similarly, colleges and universities can require proof of vaccination for faculty, staff, and students. That means an individual may lose their job or forfeit their college admission if they refuse to disclose their vaccination status.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, it's understandable to feel the need to protect your privacy and health information. HIPAA is not something an individual can attempt to invoke as a shield if employers or schools ask about vaccination status, but you can still refuse to disclose your vaccination status if you wish, but there may be consequences.

*Leonard Baer is licensed in the states of North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, New York, and the District of Columbia. He has been selected for inclusion in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers and North Carolina's Top-Rated Lawyers. He is a North Carolina Certified Superior Court Mediator. His offices are in Highlands & Wellington, Fla. Visit him on the web at www.legalbaer.com.*

# Grains of Sand Band to play at Smoky Mountain Center for Performing Arts Sept. 4

The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts will welcome The Grains of Sand Band, a doo-wop group specializing in music from the '60s and '70s with a touch of the '50s, in concert on Saturday, Sept. 4. This group of talented musicians are bringing the beach to the Carolina mountains an providing a trip back to the good old days as they celebrate the sounds of summer. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$18 each.

The Grains of Sand Band is composed of seven musicians, including a three-piece horn section. They play the best of Motown, R&B, Soul, Beach, and classic hits that have been enjoyed for multiple decades. The Grains of Sand Band has performed with music legends such as Marvin Gaye, The Platters, Pattie Labelle, and many others.

A fresh and energetic sound allows The Grains of Sand Band to give concertgoers a warm feeling, like sand between their toes. Some of their most requested songs include, "Dancing in the Street," "Unchained Melody," "Carolina Girls," "Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie," "Kiss and Say Goodbye," "Get Ready," and "Too Late to Turn Back Now."

This group of musicians, who hail from the Northeast Georgia area, are Scotty Piotrowski on trumpet, Donny Whitehead on sax, Phil Boleman on trumpet, Jody Worrell on lead guitar, Greg Smith on keyboard, Greg Veale on bass guitar, and Deane Quinter on drums. Many of these men take on lead vocals in various songs while others provide backup.

The Grains of Sand Band has been described as seven of the finest musicians in the country. To purchase tickets to see this phenomenal band in concert at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, or to find out more information about this or any other show at the theater, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call 866-273-4615.

# Highlands Biological Foundation hosting Equinox Environmental member for stewardship presentation

Join the Highlands Biological Foundation on Thursday, Aug. 26 at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building for the next installment in their annual Zahner Conservation Lecture Series.

This event will feature Owen Carson of Equinox Environmental as he presents "Supremacy or Stewardship? An Exploration of Modern Day Anthropocentrism."

For millennia human beings have shaped their surrounding environment to make their lives simpler. From the clearing of forests to the removal of mountaintops, to the straightening of streams, shortcuts have been created that expedite the exploitation of resources and further the ability of

our societies to grow and expand. However, only within the recent past have scientists begun to realize and address the ramifications of our actions. This lecture will explore major anthropogenic changes made to the southeastern landscapes over the past century, the lasting ecological impacts those changes have created, and our recent attempts to mitigate, restore, and prevent further large-scale destruction of natural habitat. This lecture is sponsored by Kathleen and Jim Milby.

For the past decade, Carson has been working with Equinox to provide ecological and botanical expertise in support of environmental planning, design, and restoration projects in the southern

Appalachian Mountains. He loves to share his passion for and knowledge of plants and the ecosystems that contain them – montane rock outcroppings and bogs are two of his favorites.

For the past four years, Carson has also devoted his time and knowledge in support of the NC Invasive Plant Council, where he is the current sitting president. Overall, he relishes in the enjoyment of collaborating with individuals and organizations to develop unique solutions

for complex problems. In his free time, Carson enjoys gardening, climbing, and exploring the outdoors with his wife, Sarah, and twin second-graders Hazel and Liam.

The public is invited to participate in HBF's free Zahner lectures which will be held on Thursday evenings through Sept. 9. For a full schedule of lectures and how to participate in each, please visit [www.highlandsbiological.org](http://www.highlandsbiological.org) or call the Highlands Biological Foundation at 828-526-2221.

# Jackson County BOC recognizes opioid awareness month

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners has signed a proclamation designating September as Opioid Awareness Month. Throughout the month of September, the Health Department will promote the CDC's Rx Awareness Campaign to shed light on opioid misuse in our nation and community. A series of articles, videos, and resources will be shared on the Health Department's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/JacksonCoDPH/> and through local news outlets.

The opioid epidemic continues to devastate families across our nation, with the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating misuse and overdoses. In 2019, nearly five North Carolinians died each day from an unintentional opioid overdose. Data from 2020 shows Jackson County in the state's highest quantile for opioid overdose deaths (19), community naloxone reversals (65), children in foster care due to parent substance use (55), with a high number of opioid overdose emergency department visits (42). In contrast, Jackson County was in the low quantile for patients receiving opioid pills and people served by treatment programs.

The North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services Opioid Data Dashboard tracks each county's strategies based on the state's Opioid Action Plan. Jackson County is implementing DHHS resources, has permanent medication drop boxes to reduce supply, low/no-cost sterile syringe access through the NC Harm Reduction Coalition, some naloxone access services, and some Medication Assisted Treatment providers. Additional beneficial strategies could include community response teams that assist families impacted by substance use, non-medical drivers such as Housing First and Fair Chance Hiring, pre-arrest diversion and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in jails for justice-involved persons, and peer support specialists to support and promote harm reduction, recovery and resilience.

While the statistics and media reporting around substance use are startling to say the least, it is important to recognize that change can and does occur. Everyone can start by recognizing each of us likely know someone struggling with substance use disorder, whether we know it or not.


With that in mind, the Jackson County Department of Public Health asks everyone to continue forward in this effort in a non-judgmental mindset. Throughout September, JCDPH will share resources on overdose prevention, treatment, and recovery. For more information or to get involved, contact Janelle Messer Health Education Supervisor at 828-587-8238 or [janellemesser@jacksonnc.org](mailto:janellemesser@jacksonnc.org).

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**Literary Council of Cashiers**

is looking for volunteers to lead a story time at local preschools. You will be assisted in how to plan and carryout story time with ideas of books, games, songs, use of puppets-whatever you are comfortable with!

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