

# Crossroads Chronicle

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**Inside:** Mountain Homes is the area's premier real estate section featuring unique homes of the plateau.

## Jackson County sees spike in COVID cases with new delta variant

BY MICHAEL O'HEARN  
Staff

Jackson County has seen a more than 150 percent increase in COVID cases in one week as a result of the Delta Variant sweeping across the country, according to officials.

The county's health department reported seeing 49 new cases across Jackson County in a single week as of July 30, a 157.89 percent increase from the previous week. Of these, 13.31 percent were positive cases. This data comes from the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its COVID Data Tracker.

A "Friday Snapshot" of the week's COVID cases is posted each Friday to the Jackson County Department of Public Health's Facebook page. On Aug. 6, the snapshot showed Jackson County had 94 new cases.

Concerns for the new delta variant of COVID has Jackson County Deputy Health Director and Public Information Officer Anna Lippard urging people to

wear their masks in public and getting their vaccines.

Based on wastewater sampling, Lippard said the health department can "without a doubt" determine the delta variant has made its way to Jackson County. On Thursday, she said the delta variant accounted for 80 percent of all new cases and noted she feels it will be more than that as new data is released.

Delta, a highly contagious SARS-CoV-2 virus strain, was first identified in India in December. It

then swept rapidly through India and Great Britain before making its way to the U.S. The first delta case in the United States was diagnosed in March and is now the dominant strain in the U.S.

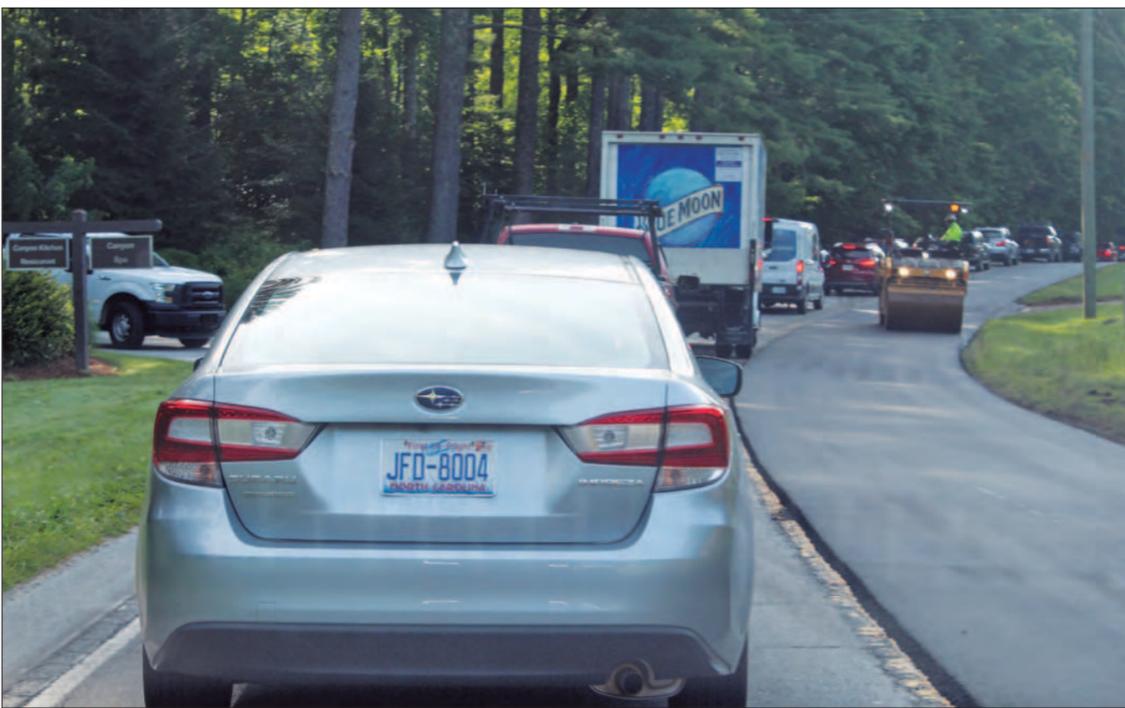
"I don't necessarily know where they are coming from," Lippard said. "The most important thing is that cases are increasing and it's not just in those that are unvaccinated. The majority of those that are hospitalized are ones that are

See **DELTA** page 3A



Michael O'Hearn/Staff

The Ingles in Cashiers is one of several ways that Plateau residents can get their vaccines – if they choose to get one.



Michael O'Hearn/Staff

Those heading toward Sapphire on U.S. 64 will need to add additional time to their commute as crews continue to pave the road. A spokesperson for the state transportation department said all activity in the Cashiers area will be completed in the next month.

## Paving on U.S. 64 continues

BY MICHAEL O'HEARN  
Staff

Cashiers visitors and residents may want to allow themselves more time for their commutes in the coming weeks with paving ongoing on U.S. 64.

Heading east on U.S. 64 through Sapphire toward Brevard will add extra time to people's commutes, as vehicles begin to back up at Cedar Creek Road onward to Lonesome Valley and the Sapphire Valley Ski Resort.

According to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the Cashiers area paving projects are making progress, but drivers can expect a

few more weeks of temporary delays. Asphalt paving began last month on U.S. 64 East from Cedar Creek Road to the Jackson-Transylvania County line.

"A contractor resurfaced NC 107 from Cashiers to the South Carolina state line earlier this summer," NCDOT spokesperson David Uchiyama said. "Then they moved to improve 8.1 miles of U.S. 64 in an area prone to heavy rainfall, which can slow down progress."

Uchiyama said crews should complete all tasks of the project within the next month, with delays improving in two weeks when resurfacing is complete. Crews will then improve the

shoulders, add pavement markings and snow-plowable markers to help create the brand new riding surface.

The work on both arteries to and from Cashiers is receiving mixed reactions in the "Cashiers-Highlands Plateau Road Conditions" Facebook group, with some users asking why the NCDOT decided to complete the work during the summer months when more visitors come to the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau.

Some residents questioned why the work cannot be completed at night. Paving is not permitted to be completed at night given residential prox-

See **PAVING** page 3A

## Students kicking off new academic year next week

BY MICHAEL O'HEARN  
Staff

Summit and Blue Ridge School students will be returning to their classrooms next week amid a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the wake of the new delta variant.

Blue Ridge School students go back to school starting Aug. 16, while Summit Charter School students will return on Aug. 19.

Students at Blue Ridge will be starting the new school year with Kheri Cowan as the school's new principal, who started on Aug. 2. Cowan was the assistant principal at Blue Ridge School for two years before JCPS Superintendent Dana Ayers selected her this summer to fill the role of principal.

Former Blue Ridge School principal Teri Walawender has been chosen to lead the Jackson County Public School's human resources department.

Meanwhile, Summit Charter School is entering its 25th school year and will have its first graduating senior class in 2022.

"The 2021-22 school year will be a momentous one at Summit as we celebrate our 25th school year," Head of School Kurt Pusch said. "In honoring this milestone, we are especially grateful for the legacy of our founders and the countless students, families, faculty and supporters who have sustained and grown Summit to who we are today. We enter this year inspired to continue to innovate and strengthen Summit's program from the lasting foundation built at Summit over the last 25 years."

Pusch said while he and the student body will embrace these "important milestones," navigating the pandemic will be a challenge.

"As we do, Summit remains committed to protecting the health, wellness and safety of our students, families and faculty while ensuring the continued education of our students with integrity to our mission and the unique qualities of a Summit education," Pusch said.

In a recent interview, Cowan said she is looking forward to equipping students with the knowledge they need to enter the real world as successful adults.

See **SCHOOLS** page 3A

## Runners preparing for Twilight 5K race in Highlands Aug. 14

BY CHRISTOPHER SMITH  
The Highlander

It's time to lace up your running shoes for a cause as the Twilight 5K is gearing up for next weekend.

The Highlands Twilight 5K was founded in 2013 as the Twilight Rock n Roll 5k by the Rotary Club of Highlands as a fundraiser for youth activities in Highlands. Their first year had 130 runners and the Rotary Club raised \$8,500 to put new free weight equipment at the Highlands Civic

Center. In 2014, the race grew to 250 runners, and they raised \$11,000 towards the new running track and softball field at Highlands School. In 2015, 300 runners showed up and over \$14,000 was raised for equipment for the Highlands Hurricanes swim team. 2016 proceeds went to finish the skating area at Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park. In 2017, \$18,500 was raised to finish the new track at Highlands school. For 2018 and 2019, the club raised \$25,000 each year to improve

youth mental health services in Highlands and improve technology.

This year, organizer Derek Taylor hopes to raise as close to \$20,000 as he can.

"Every year we basically pick a different youth program to donate to," Taylor said. "Last year we partnered with AHEC and bought new technology for the schools and this year, we plan to do the same. Next year, we will shift our focus and look for another business to donate to."

In 2020, the club had to

cancel their annual event, but was able to make it up in May of this year.

"Hopefully we will have a normal event this time around," Taylor said. "We want everyone to have a great time and have fun at the concert. I think this is a nice family fun event where you can bring the kids out and have an amazing time."

Registration and check-in will start at 4 p.m. Early packet pickup on Friday the night before the race from 4-6 at Highlands Recreation Park.

Parking will be available around the Kelsey Hutchinson Park, Highlands Recreation Park, Highlands Ballfield, and Highlands Post Office. Bring chairs, coolers, refreshments, blankets to join in for the evening music, starting around 7:30 p.m.

Kids under five run 5K for free. Kids five to nine cost \$10 for the 5K. The day of race price will be \$40 for 5K.

This year's Twilight 5K is scheduled for Aug. 14 at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit highlandstwilightrun.com.

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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' Shoppes 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 submissions involving community activities or announcements, such as weddings, births, landmark anniversaries and birthdays 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.

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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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## Jean Whitby



Jean Whitby, 88, died on July 27, with her family close by in Highlands after a long and well-lived life.

She was born to the late Jean and Sheffield Smith in New York and spent many happy summers sailing on Long Island Sound.

While at college, a mutual friend arranged a blind date with (the late) Ed Whitby, who became her loving husband of 67 years.

They moved to Warsaw, Indiana in 1955, and then to the Highlands-Cashiers area in 1977, where they became completely besotted with their mountains and vowed never to move again.

Jean and Ed delighted in seeing the world, especially with their children and their spouses, and were fortunate to have had many wonderful and exciting adventures in Peru, Africa, Egypt, Croatia, Germany, Thailand, China, Scotland, and New Zealand.

They were particularly fond of narrow-boating on the canals of England. Jean had a wide artistic streak.

She worked in ceramics, stained glass, needlepoint and dabbled in painting. She loved duplicate bridge - both playing and teaching it. She and Ed were life masters and played in a variety of tournaments in far-flung places.

She volunteered in many ways, most notably as a member of the board of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, the Hudson Library and the Community Care Clinic.

She was a member of the Country Club of Sapphire Valley and the Episcopal Church of the

Incarnation.

Jean is survived by her children, Cindy Ware (Jim) of Lexington, Kentucky and Ted Whitby (Georgia) of Wexford, Pennsylvania, and grandchildren, Allison Whitby, Sara Whitby, and Daniel Ware (Nicole), two great-grandchildren, Ruby and Orié Ware, and nieces Jennifer Friedhoff and Stephanie Healy.

Jean's family especially wants to thank all those who showed much love and care for her at Chestnut Hill, the aides from MyChoice Home Care, and everyone at Four Seasons Hospice.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. on Sept. 15.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are welcomed at Four Seasons Foundation, 221 N. Main Street, Hendersonville, NC, 28792, and the Church of the Incarnation, 520 Main Street, Highlands.

## Frances Clark Jennings



Frances Clark Jennings was born on Feb. 15, 1929.

Her parents were Frances Binford Garlic of Asheville and Dewitt Hudson Clark of New York, New York.

Frances had one sister, Mary Eyre Durfee, who preceded her in death.

Frances married Richard Gundry Jennings, Jr., from Pittsburgh, in 1951. After Frances and Dick married, they moved to Cashiers, where he farmed mink and trout. They lived in a small house which Dick had built in 1948.

Frances took on the duties of wife and mother

## OBITUARIES

and made a wonderful home.

That house was not only the one in which she would raise her three children, but it also served as a refuge to friends of the family, many of whom would spend summers and school breaks there working on the farm, living with the Jennings.

There was never a lock on her door. Frances filled the house with love, warmth, and laughter.

Frances attended St. Genevieve's of the Pines in Asheville and The Fassifern School for Girls in Hendersonville, prior to attending St. Mary's College in Raleigh.

She married right after that, spending the first eight years of marriage in Cashiers where she became an integral part of the community.

She served on the altar guild at the Highlands Church of the Incarnation and The Church of The Good Shephard in Cashiers where she and Dick attended as a family all the years they lived in Cashiers.

While the children's formal education was in Asheville, Cashiers, especially "Lonesome Valley," would always be considered home to the Jennings family.

While living in Asheville, Frances immersed herself in volunteer work with the Junior League and later The Children's Welfare

League, which her mother had a part in starting at its inception in 1923, sewing clothes for an orphanage on Merrimon Avenue.

Frances, like her parents, sang in the Trinity Church Choir and served in other capacities at Trinity as well.

As an offshoot from her Trinity involvement, she was asked to sit on the board of Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community in the late 1970's during its early years. She could not have foreseen that she and Dick would move there in 1999 and enjoy 22 years as residents.

A friend to many, she was always ready to lend a listening ear, and give words of hope and encouragement.

Those that knew Frances would say "you'll never meet a more genuine or loving person." Kindness was her essence and she will be missed by all.

Frances is survived by her three children, Sally Hudson and her husband, Charles, of Cashiers, Dick Jennings of Asheville, and Binford Jennings of Asheville.

She is survived by nine grandchildren: Wes Eason and fiancée, Ryn, Ben Eason and wife Anna, Katie Hughes and husband, Clay, Richard Jennings IV and wife, Sarah, Sarah Kowalski and husband, Jim,

Corbin Jennings and fiancée, Julia, Rachael Jennings and partner, Chelsea, Nick Sievers, Tim Sievers and fiancée, Emily, and step-granddaughter, Ellie Hudson.

She is also survived by eleven great grandchildren: Wes Fleischer, Taylor, Mollie, and Emory Eason, Henry and Bennett Hughes, Edward and Richard Jennings V, Grayson, Crosby, and Clementine Kowalski.

The family will receive friends on Friday, Aug. 13, 2021, from 4:30-6 p.m. at Groce Funeral Home at Lake Julian.

A funeral service will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, 60 Church Street, Asheville, on Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. with a coffee reception immediately following the service in the courtyard of Trinity.

The graveside service will be held at 12 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Churchyard in Fletcher following the coffee reception.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Frances' favorite charitable organization in Asheville, the Children's Welfare League.

To leave a message of comfort or to share a fond memory of Frances with the family, please visit her obituary page at [www.grocefuneral-home.com](http://www.grocefuneral-home.com).

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## Cashiers Area 4-Day Weather Forecast

**Today:** Mixed clouds and sun with scattered thunderstorms. High 78.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, winds light and variable. Low 64.

### THURSDAY



**Hi: 78°**

**Lo: 62°**

60% chance of precipitation.

### FRIDAY



**Hi: 79°**

**Lo: 62°**

50% chance of precipitation.

### SATURDAY



**Hi: 78°**

**Lo: 61°**

50% chance of precipitation.

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# DELTA

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unvaccinated, but we have seen some what they are calling breakthrough cases – those that are vaccinated and test positive.”

In a recent interview with *The Highlander*, Highlands internal medical physician Dr. Richard Ellin said there are many different COVID-19 viruses currently at play and said the viruses mutate on a regular basis.

“Viruses are basically like little round balls with spikes that come off of them,” Ellin said. “There are actually many different COVID-19 viruses now. These viruses mutate on a regular basis. Every time somebody is infected, and the virus starts to multiply in a human’s cells, there is a potential for random mutations. Most of those mutations occur in the spikes that come off of the core. They are worse for the virus than the original virus. So, they die off very quickly.”

Though some of the mutations die off, Ellin said sometimes the mutations can make the virus even better.

“It can make it easier to infect a cell, easier to multiply faster and makes it more transmissible to other people,” Ellin said. “Now, we have several of these viruses. The original one that started infecting people in December of 2019 is called the Alpha virus. The Delta variant and a number of others are simply the same kind of virus, but different types of mutations of the proteins that come off of the virus.”

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital CEO Tom Neal and HCA Healthcare Chief Medical Officer Dr. Bill Hathaway hosted a question-and-answer panel on Aug. 2 during a special Highlands Town of Commissioners meeting.

“We definitely have seen a rise in cases,” Neal

said. “More importantly, the Delta Variant is more contagious than Alpha. Most people are aware that I am fully vaccinated, and I am still able to catch it and spread it to other residents. That is why I am taking precautions to protect the residents, workers and patients of the hospitals.”

Hathaway added the hospital had 140 to 160 patients hospitalized at once for COVID before dipping to a low number of eight patients at the beginning of last month. That has since shot up to 40 to 50 patients on a regular basis in the past three weeks.

It was during the first three weeks of July that Lippard said she and the Jackson County Health Department began noticing that the number of people coming to get their vaccine had hit a plateau. This could be due to a variety of reasons from people getting their vaccines elsewhere to personal choice, she added.

But then something happened at the state level last week that Lippard said might help incentivize more people to get their shots. The state health department announced on Aug. 3 that those age 18 and older who got their vaccine between Aug. 4 and 31 would get \$100 to get their first dose, and anyone who drives someone else to get their shot would receive \$25.

Lippard said she is already seeing an increase in people signing up to get at least their first dose of the vaccine.

As of Aug. 6, more than 61 percent of North Carolina adults had received at least one dose of the vaccine. In Jackson County, 46.9 percent had received at least one dose and four out of 10 people were fully vaccinated.

Lippard said while the vaccines are not going to prevent people from getting COVID, the shots will prevent those who do get sick from having a severe

illness and possibly being hospitalized. In addition, she said that while some people might feel like they can put their masks away, she advised not to ditch them entirely just yet.

“We still are not as high as we were last July when we saw a spike, we still aren’t at the peak of where we have been, but it is increasing much faster than we saw before,” Lippard said. “We definitely have cause for concern with how swiftly we have seen this thing increase and we don’t know how long it will continue to increase before it starts to decrease. We are definitely taking pause.”

Robin King Austin, who has been leading an initiative to get more residents on the Plateau vaccinated, wrote in an email the surge in cases is “sad” and could have been avoided.

Austin assists with the COVID call center to get more vaccine shots into people’s arm. The clinic is open mornings Mondays through Fridays, and Austin said there will be several new vaccine clinics on the Plateau in the coming weeks.

On Aug. 12, there will be an evening clinic from 4 to 8 p.m. in the parking lot of the Community Care Clinic next to the ball field on Buck Creek Road. This clinic is organized by Vecinos and the International Friendship Center. They will have the Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson vaccines.

Appointments are also available for all three vaccines at the Cashiers Valley Pharmacy on Tuesdays through Saturdays from adults and teen Pfizer on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Meanwhile, the Ingles in Cashiers is giving Moderna shots and accepts walk-ins.

“The COVID call center has picked up and we are busy again making appointments,” Austin wrote. “Cashiers Valley Pharmacy has been very dedicated to the cause and great to work with.”

# PAVING

Continued from page 1A

imity to these major roads, and the work is also highly dependent on the weather, according to the NCDOT.

# SCHOOLS

Continued from page 1A

“I’m really passionate about just equipping our kids, and we have a great school here,” Cowan said. “This community is amazing. They’re so supportive. And I know that our students are going to leave here in the elementary and be ready for the middle school, which then prepares them for high school, and they’re going to be productive members [of society], happy and successful.”

But although Cowan has a sunny outlook on starting her new role, she said getting students back into the classroom five days a week amid the COVID-19 pandemic is going to be challenging.

Ayers said, however, that the students who came for the school’s Summer Academy “slipped right back into [wearing masks]” and added they were excited and engaged in their learning.

The Jackson County Public Schools Board of Education voted last month to require masks for students and visitors to the county’s schools. This is something Cowan said she agrees with because she said it will get students back into the classroom five days a week, and the BOE will be reviewing that mandate at every other meeting through spring 2022.

During the 2021-22 school year, the JCPS will

The roads cannot be wet as a result of the rain and the temperature must be above 50 degrees for crews to be able to pave.

Others are saying now is the right time to pave and are thanking the state department for fixing the potholes on the roads.



Michael O’Hearn/Staff

Jackson County Public Schools Superintendent Dana Ayers met with students and their parents at Blue Ridge School during a “Meet the Super!” event last month.

be following an academy recovery model concentrating on increased use of assessment data to guide instruction, research-based core instruction, and specialized professional development in reading and math for all teachers.

Student academic progress and growth will be the focus of providing core instruction and interventions.

The JCPS will also continue their safety and sanitation protocols throughout each school building during the school year and follow guidance provided by the North Carolina Department of Human Health Services

regarding school sanitation to protect against COVID-19.

Ahead of the school year, students and their families were given the opportunity to meet with Ayers and talk with her about the upcoming school year.

“I feel like, even if that is an issue, we are just encouraged for kids to come back,” Cowan said. “They want to come back. I think our families want our children to come back five days a week. And so, I think we’ll have a really good partnership with families just working out how we can get them here and get them back to face-to-face learning.”

# Historical View



File photo

In April 2002, Frances Elliott and Cotton Cloyd, pictured above, planted flowers in front of the Cashiers Post Office, a project that was funded by donations and not the government.

*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

### Students returning to school after summer break

The days before students return to school in Cashiers are numbered, and that might mean a tornado of emotions for parents and their students when they re-enter the classrooms next week.

Both Summit Charter School and Blue Ridge School have something to celebrate this year. Blue Ridge School welcomed a new principal in Kheri Cowan this month, while Summit is commemorating a milestone 25th school year and the first senior class to graduate in 2022.

But amid the celebrations, school safety is now more important than ever in terms of protecting children from the new delta variant and potential school violence.

Last month, we reported that Blue Ridge is making efforts to convert the campus into a “single point entry” school. This month, Jackson County is reporting a massive spike in COVID cases in the wake of the delta variant and how it can easily spread among those students who are currently unable to get vaccinated.

And, to top all of that off, school officials in Macon and Jackson County differ on how to protect their students when it comes to the mask mandate. Macon County officials declared it optional last week, while the officials in Jackson County mandated it for students, staff and visitors entering their schools – at least at the start of the school year.

The discussion about face coverings has gotten so heated, so divided and so political these days that even the mention of requiring masks for students at the beginning of the new school year turned into a screaming match at last week’s Board of Education meeting in Buncombe County.

Several members of the community who were in attendance stood against having another mask mandate, and one lady shot upward to demand the BOE conduct an immediate recount of the vote. Rep. Madison Cawthorn was also in attendance at that meeting and backed those individuals who protested the mandate.

Despite all this, something we should not be divided on is the safety of our students when at school. These students are spending eight hours a day inside their classrooms with teachers and administrators who care only for the best interest of these children and not contributing to the rising number of COVID cases.

Here in Cashiers, as our students step off the bus and out of their vehicles ready to begin their next school year, these teachers will greet them with open arms, masks on and ready to equip them with the tools they need to be successful and autonomous adults in the real world. That’s something we hopefully all want, masks or no masks.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Thanks to the Mountain Wildlife Days organizers

Sapphire Valley’s Mountain Wildlife Days came to a bittersweet close on July 17 and 18.

John and Phyllis Edwards, the annual event’s founders, are retiring from their lead role of organizing Mountain Wildlife Days – something they have put heart and soul into since the first program in 2002.

The Edwards always had a passion for “wild things and wild places” and, upon

arriving in Sapphire Valley, thought their new home would be a great place to initiate a program to educate and remind residents and visitors of the importance of preserving our native wildlife and the beauty of our mountains for future generations.

From the very first Mountain Wildlife Days event, the schedule has included hikes and a bird walk with experienced trail guides, a special Friday afternoon children’s event, an adult-oriented Friday evening program, and a Saturday filled with colorful and informative presentations featuring many

live animals.

But the real story of Mountain Wildlife Days is not just a two-day, once a year happening. Thanks to area merchants’ gifts to the MWD Silent Auction and those involved in the bidding, the Edwards’ vision nearly 20 years ago has been able to provide financial assistance and aid in finding skilled wildlife experts for a variety of presentations throughout the year.

These presentations are part of a program called Mountain Wildlife Outreach, which provides wildlife education to schools and orga-

nizations in western North Carolina.

The Edwards were honored at both programs with a plaque reading: “Thank you, John and Phyllis Edwards, for 18 years of Mountain Wildlife Days programs, educating Western North Carolina on the vital importance of wildlife preservation. Your friends, MWD committees, wildlife presenters, Sapphire Valley Resort and every creature in our mountains are forever grateful.”

Jeff Alt  
Sapphire

## Some revealing “Deweyisms” in our nation’s education system



John Hood  
Columnist

Just about everyone has an opinion about how to improve education, and it’s usually an opinion passionately held and forcefully argued. It’s not hard to see why. After all, schools are the single-largest expenditure of state taxpayers’ funds.

Educational mediocrity is the common denominator of many other social maladies. Most folks have spouses, siblings, parents, or other family members in the teaching profession. And everyone has been a student.

In one sense, this very-broad, very-public chatter-

ing about educational policy can be seen as bad news. Because district-run public schools so long enjoyed an overwhelming monopoly in the delivery of education, issues were thrust into the public discourse that, if related to any other profession, wouldn’t be heard outside of professional circles.

Politicians and political activists must debate such matters as critical race theory or the proper role of phonics in reading instruction, given the current environment. But in a more diverse and competitive market for education services, parents and educators would gravitate toward the schools that best reflect their preferences and best succeed at teaching students what their parents and educators wish to teach them.

That’s not the world

we live in, at least not yet. Educationally, we live in a world created in large part by policymakers and educators inspired by the “progressive education” notions of philosopher John Dewey. The extent to which the public-school establishment venerates Dewey, purveyor of some of the most noxious ideas of the past century, is the extent to which it is destined to fail at its appointed task of imparting knowledge, skills, and understanding.

Some years ago, Henry Edmondson, a professor of political science at Georgia College, chronicled Dewey’s wrongheaded approach to education policy – and to many other issues, economic and political – in a book entitled “John Dewey & the Decline of American Education.” His subtitle

read, “How the patron saint of schools has corrupted teaching and learning.” The book delivered on that promise.

One of the ironies Edmondson explored is that despite Dewey’s saintly status – or perhaps because of it – is that his ideas are typically encountered second-hand and accepted as doctrine rather than consumed directly from his books and articles. One could devote whole tomes to arguing with Dewey, who was at least prolific, but Edmondson chose to spend much of his book simply laying out Dewey’s stated philosophy and providing extensive quotations. That’s damning enough.

Here are some of the most revealing Deweyisms:

See HOOD 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.

Email letters to Editor@CrossroadsChronicle.com.

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

## Crossroads Chronicle

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believe that strong newspapers build strong communities, “Newspapers get things done!” Our primary goal is to publish distinguished and profitable community-oriented newspapers.

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Photo by Marty Boone

Prior to his rescue, the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society believes Wilson suffered many days of desperation, fear and loneliness.

# When is a volleyball like a shelter dog?

**BY DAVID STROUD**  
Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society  
Executive Director

Fans of the movie “Cast Away” will fondly remember Tom Hanks’ beloved non-human co-star, Wilson the volleyball.

Along with the character Hanks played in the film, Wilson was stranded on a deserted island and was forced to fend for itself against the elements while coping with desperation, fear and loneliness.

At the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society we have a lost survivor as well – a loving and handsome two-year-old hound we named Wilson. Prior to our rescue two months ago, we believe Wilson suffered many days of desperation, fear and loneliness, too, as he wandered as a stray in Tuckasegee.

Wilson has been an absolute gentleman while in our care. He has learned the art of housetraining and he walks well with staff and volunteers. As a young hound, he is still naturally curious about smaller critters who may cross his path, so we forgive the occasional pull and tug on the leash.

Wilson is sweet with humans and he gets along great with other dogs. Speaking of other dogs, Wilson was rescued with his brother Nelson, who was featured in this column several weeks ago. While they are not a bonded pair, a hound lover could not go wrong by adopting both of these youngsters together. They would make twice the companionship and double the unconditional love.

The adoption fee for Wilson is \$100 which includes already being neutered, microchipped, up to date on vaccinations and flea/heartworm preventative, 30 days

of free pet health insurance, a free pet ID tag, and a free starter bag of food.

To give Wilson a forever home, please complete the application on our website at [chhumaneociety.org](http://chhumaneociety.org), or call us at 828-743-5752 for more information.

## Adoptions record continues

We’re a little more than halfway through 2021 and on track for another great year for saving lives and finding forever homes. Last month marked another milestone in an adoptions streak that has continued for more than seven years – July was the 90th consecutive month when we have recorded 20 or more adoptions. Our heartfelt thanks to all our adopting angels for opening their hearts and homes for a shelter pet from the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society.

Since 1987, CHHS has been saving the lives of thousands of animals in our community. As a non-profit shelter, CHHS receives no local county tax dollars and no funding from any national animal welfare organization.

The funding for our mission of rescue, humane care, spay/neuter and adoption comes from generous donations by compassionate individuals just like you. Please consider a charitable gift to support the CHHS shelter pets. Donations can be mailed to: CHHS, P.O. Box 638, Cashiers, NC, 28717. All donations are tax-deductible, and we thank you for your support.

*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. – 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.*

## HOOD

Continued from page 4A

• Dewey argued for the liberation of students, by which he meant “freedom from authority, freedom from the curriculum, [and] freedom from convention.”

• “Boys and girls alike take the same interest in all these occupations, whether they are sewing and playing with dolls, or marble making and carpentry. . . It does not occur to a boy that dolls are not just as fascinating and legitimate a plaything for him as for his sister, until someone puts the idea into his head.”

• “‘It thinks’ is a truer

psychological statement than ‘I think.’”

• Dewey dismissed traditional civics education as a preoccupation with the “established mechanisms” of American government that approaches “idolatry of the Constitution.” He also rejected the foundations of the Declaration of Independence, writing that “self-evident truths have been weakened by historic and by philosophic criticism” and have become “emotional cries” that lack “practical meaning.”

The progressive education movement, essentially founded by Dewey’s disciples, wreaked havoc on schools for decades. Perhaps this should not

have come as a surprise, as Edmondson reports:

“The most astonishing symbol of education’s surrealistic separation between theory and practice is this: although he has told millions how to teach elementary and secondary students, John Dewey himself was a poor teacher. He had trouble maintaining discipline in both the secondary teaching posts he occupied, and when he left the latter in Charlotte, Vermont, ‘the townspeople . . . were glad to see him depart.’”

I’ll be glad to see his legacy depart Charlotte, North Carolina — and everywhere else it persists, including our schools of education.

# Highlands-Cashiers Hospital to host COVID community forum

With the Plateau communities on red alert with high transmission of COVID-19 cases, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital CEO Tom Neal has put together a forum to invite members of the community who are still concerned about getting the vaccine to be able to talk to doctors and public health experts and get the answers they need.

The forum will take place at the Highlands Community Center located at 869 North 4th St. on Tuesday, Aug. 17 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The speakers will include Dr. Scott Baker, Dr. Patty Wheeler, one or more Blue Ridge Health doctor, as well as Dr. Donald Dewhurst and Macon County Public Health Department Director Kathy McGaha.

Topics that will be covered include:

- An update on COVID-19
- Risks and benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine

- Should I have my child vaccinated?
- Why should I wear a mask and the importance of other public health measures

A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

Space is limited to distanced capacity to keep the gathering safe, so event organizers are asking for a RSVP email to make a reservation at [hcainfo@hca-healthcare.com](mailto:hcainfo@hca-healthcare.com). Those attending in person will be required wear masks and do a temperature check upon arrival.

For more information, call the COVID-19 Call Center at 828-526-1310.

The COVID Community Forum is sponsored by HCA Healthcare, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, the Macon County Health Department, the Highlands Cashiers Plateau COVID Vaccine Initiative and the Highlands Cashiers Plateau Community Immunity Campaign.

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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 Tuckasee. All persons listed are innocent until proven guilty in a courtroom. Arrests include:

Robert Allen Hooper, 45, Cullowhee, eluding arrest, resisting an officer, misdemeanor child abuse, two counts of misdemeanor probation violation, possession of drug paraphernalia, identity theft, felony probation violation, \$153,000 secured bond.

Piper Ann Betances, 40, Cashiers, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of THC extract, possession of more than 1.5 ounces of marijuana, conspiracy to commit obtaining property by false pretenses, forgery of an instrument, obtaining property by false pretenses, fugitive warrant, \$1,050,000 secured bond.

Dustin Shane Gilman, 41, Cashiers, drug equipment violations, possession of more than 1.5 ounces of marijuana, possession of THC extract, obtaining property by false pretenses, \$75,000 secured bond.

Brandon James Mathis, 31, Tuckasee, assault with a deadly weapon, communicating threats, \$20,000 secured bond.

## Blue Ridge Public Safety report

The most recent Blue Ridge Public Safety calls from Aug. 2 to Aug. 8 include four alarm responses, two citizen assists, two house checks, one lost/stolen property, one medical assist, four mutual aid, three noise complaint, and one property damage.

## Glenville-Cashiers Volunteer Fire Department report

The most recent fire department calls from the Glenville-Cashiers Volunteer Fire Department include:

2:21 p.m. July 30 – Fire alarm at High Hampton.

8:02 p.m. July 31 – Hazmat on Cedar Creek Road, one mile from the crossroads.

3:21 p.m. Aug. 1 – Responded to assist a motorist at the intersection of Hwy. 107 and 64.

5:19 p.m. Aug. 1 – Responded to an accident on Laurel Knob Road.

9:05 p.m. Aug. 1 – Responded to a landing zone on Pine Creek Road.

8:42 a.m. Aug. 2 – Responded to a house fire in Highlands.

5:01 p.m. Aug. 2 – Responded to a landing zone at Station #1.

8:27 p.m. Aug. 2 – Responded to a fire on Tower Road, 1.6 miles from the crossroads.

5:33 p.m. Aug. 4 – Responded to a fire alarm on Cherokee Trace, 1.1 miles from the crossroads.

7:02 p.m. Aug. 4 – Responded to a fire alarm on Cherokee Trace, 1.1 miles from the crossroads.

8:25 a.m. Aug. 5 – Responded to a fire alarm on Meadow Way, 0.8 miles from the crossroads.

10:48 a.m. Aug. 5 – Responded to a fire alarm on Nix Mountain Road, 2.1 miles from the crossroads.

8:30 p.m. Aug. 5 – Responded to assist a motorist on U.S. 64 West, one mile

from the crossroads.

10:05 a.m. Aug. 6 – Responded to a fire alarm on Princeton Lane.

1 p.m. Aug. 6 – Responded to assist a motorist on Hwy. 107 South, seven miles from the crossroads.

12:17 p.m. Aug. 7 – Responded to an accident on North Norton, three miles from the crossroads.

2:22 p.m. Aug. 7 – Responded to a fire alarm on Millwood Road.

6:47 p.m. Aug. 7 – Responded to an accident on Hwy. 107 North, eight miles from the crossroads.

9:52 a.m. Aug. 8 – Responded to a gas leak on Ledgeview Road.

2:20 p.m. Aug. 8 – Responded to a landing zone at Station #1.

## Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad report

The most recent rescue calls from the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad include:

4:06 p.m. Aug. 2 – Responded to a patient who had an allergic reaction in Cullowhee, transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

5:19 p.m. Aug. 2 – Responded to a patient who had a stroke in Cashiers, patient transported by Mountain Area Medical Airlift.

12:40 p.m. Aug. 3 – Responded to a sick patient in Glenville, transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

3:10 p.m. Aug. 4 – Transferred patient from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital to Memorial Hospital.

4 p.m. Aug. 4 – Responded to a patient with breathing problems in Sapphire, transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

8:44 p.m. Aug. 4 – Responded to a patient with breathing problems in Cullowhee, patient transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

6:23 a.m. Aug. 5 – Responded to a patient who had a stroke in Sapphire, patient transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

12:35 p.m. Aug. 5 – Responded to a patient with heart problems in Heady Mountain.

1:26 p.m. Aug. 5 – Responded to a person who fell in Highlands.

7:42 p.m. Aug. 5 – Responded to a sick person in Sapphire, patient transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

8:03 p.m. Aug. 6 – Responded to a patient with unknown problems in Cashiers.

9:35 a.m. Aug. 7 – Transported patient from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital to Memorial Hospital.

11:17 a.m. Aug. 7 – Responded to a person with convulsions and seizures in Sapphire.

12:17 p.m. Aug. 7 – Responded to an accident in Glenville.

1:54 p.m. Aug. 7 – Responded to a person who fell in Cashiers, patient transported to Harris Regional Hospital.

6:48 p.m. Aug. 7 – Responded to an MVC in Glenville.

7:55 p.m. Aug. 7 – Responded to a public assist call in Glenville.

11:47 a.m. Aug. 8 – Responded to a patient with breathing problems in Highlands.

1:48 p.m. Aug. 8 – Responded to an unconscious patient in Cashiers, transported by Mountain Area Medical Airlift.

## Naming minors as beneficiaries could have unintended consequences

BY LEONARD BAER  
Columnist

Most people want to pass their assets to their children or grandchildren but naming a minor as a beneficiary can have unintended consequences. It is important to make a plan that doesn't involve leaving assets directly to a minor.

There are two main problems with naming a minor as the beneficiary of your estate plan, life insurance policy, or retirement account. The first is that a large sum of money cannot be left directly to a minor. Instead, a court will likely have to appoint a conservator or guardian to hold and manage the money. The court proceedings will cost your estate, and the conservator or guardian may not be someone you want to oversee your children's money.

The other problem with naming a minor as a beneficiary is the minor will be entitled to all the funds from the conservator when he or she reaches age 18 or 21, depending on state law. There are no limitations on what the money can be used for, so while you may have wanted the money to go toward college or a down payment on a house, the child may have other ideas.

The solution to these problems is to create a trust and name the minor as beneficiary of the trust. A trust ensures the funds are protected by the trustee until a time when it makes sense to distribute them. Trusts are also flexible in terms of how they are drafted. The trust can state the specifics on who receives property and when. This allows you to distribute the funds

at a specific age or based on a specific event, such as graduating from college.

If you do create a trust, remember to name the trust as beneficiary of any life insurance or retirement plans. If you forget to take that step, the money will be distributed directly to the minor, negating the work of creating the trust.

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 office is located in Highlands and Wellington, Fla. Visit him on the web at [www.legalbaer.com](http://www.legalbaer.com).



Submitted photo

Rocky Baker, left, of Four Oaks broke the blue catfish record on July 10 with a 127-pound, one-ounce blue catfish. Taner Rudolph, of Hubert, broke the channel catfish record on July 17 with a 26-pound channel catfish.

## NC Wildlife Resources Commission certifies two catfish state records

Officials with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission just certified two catfish state records that were broken within one week of each other in July.

Rocky Baker of Four Oaks broke the blue catfish record on July 10 and Taner Rudolph of Hubert broke the channel catfish record on July 17.

Baker caught his 127-pound, one ounce blue catfish on the Roanoke River with gizzard shad. The fish measured 60 inches long and 40 1/4 inches in girth. He used a Mad Cat rod and Penn Squall reel. His fish was weighed on scales at the EZ Bait and Tackle in Goldsboro.

Rudolph, who broke a record that was broken for the first time in 50 years last year, reeled in his 26-pound channel catfish on the Neuse River using

cut bait. The fish measured 38 5/8 inches long and 22 3/4 inches in girth. He used a Shakespeare rod and reel. His fish was weighed on the same scales in Goldsboro as Bakers.

These are the first two freshwater fish state records certified in North Carolina this year. Three anglers broke state catfish records in 2020.

To qualify for a N.C. Freshwater Fish State Record, anglers must have caught the fish by rod and reel or cane pole; have the fish weighed on a scale certified by the N.C. Department of Agriculture, witnessed by one observer; have the fish identified by a fisheries biologist from the Wildlife Commission; and submit an application with a full, side-view photo of the fish for record certification.

For anglers who catch a catfish that doesn't quite measure up to this latest record-breakers but yet still meet minimum size and length requirements, the Commission has blue and channel catfish classifications for its North Carolina Angler Recognition Program. NCARP officially recognizes anglers who catch trophy-sized freshwater fish that do not qualify for a state record with a certificate featuring color reproductions of fish artwork by renowned wildlife artist and former Commission fisheries biologist Duane Raver.

For a list of all freshwater fish state records in North Carolina or more information on the State Record Fish Program, visit the Commission's State Record Fish program webpage.



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# Christmas tree fundraiser kicks off with dinner at Orchard Restaurant

On Thursday, July 29, supporters of the Summit Charter School Foundation attended a sold-out “Toast of the Trees” dinner at The Orchard Restaurant’s Harvest Barn.

The event was sponsored by Moët & Chandon champagne and was a kick-off event for top level benefactors and corporate sponsors of the Foundation’s new fundraiser, the Cashiers Festival of Trees, which is scheduled for Nov. 26-27. Cashiers residents Sarah Palisi Chapin and Sarah Jennings represent the inaugural co-chairs.

The Summit Charter School Foundation is a 501(c)3 that raises money to support Summit Charter School, a now K-12 public charter school in Cashiers.

Summit serves 253 students and 45 faculty and staff, representing four counties in rural western North Carolina.

Summit, which was founded 25 years ago on the Village Green campus and now resides off Mitten Lane, engages students in learning experiences that stimulate discovery, inspire excellence, and nurture a positive influence in an ever-changing world.

The school’s primary goals are to graduate students who are academically prepared, engaged in the community, healthy, and strong in character.

As a tuition-free public charter school, Summit receives significantly less public funding than a traditional public school and zero funding for capital improvements.

“To sustain the qualities of a Summit education and to ensure our children thrive, the Foundation must raise private funding on an annual basis to close the school’s funding gap,” said Melissa Hudson, development director. “We are excited about our new Festival of Trees fundraiser and the Toast of the Trees event was a sneak-peek of the festive fun to come Thanksgiving weekend.”

Cashiers Festival of Trees will be a multi-day, family-friendly event where guests tour and bid on decorated trees and holiday décor, enjoy a wide variety of holiday performances, create personalized children’s crafts, celebrate literacy on a Dolly Parton Imagination Library Storytime Stage, shop one-of-a-kind gifts in the Gift Zone, and enjoy a pop up Build-A-Bear workshop. The event will take place in the Summit Center, the school’s athletics and fine arts facility.

### Giving back

While raising funds for the school is the primary focus of the event, the Summit Foundation has decided to spread the holiday spirit of giv-

ing.

“When a non-profit decorates a tree, 20 percent of the item’s sale will go back to the participating non-profit, creating a collaborative initiative to benefit our fellow charities and their worthy causes.

Supporting our entire community is very important to our cause and the school’s overall mission,” said co-chairs Chapin and Jennings in a joint statement.

Non-profits, businesses, churches, and individuals are encouraged to get involved. The deadline to submit a participant form is Aug. 15.

Some of the organizations already signed up include the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic, McKee Properties, Four Seasons Hospice, The Bascom, the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau, and Cashiers Farmers Market.

For those interested in decorating a tree but are not sure how to get started with a design, the Foundation provides a list of themes, as well as local designers to assist.

The festival has been organized in concert with the community’s other holiday events, in a dedicated effort to drive cross traffic, and community collaboration.

“Festival events will open with special breakfasts and will close in time for the Village Green’s Tree Lighting. We are also looking

forward to offering a student-led gift wrapping station in town to help the community,” said Chapin.

### Moët & Chandon Toast of the Trees

At July’s Toast of the Trees, guests enjoyed a champagne reception followed by a multi-course meal prepared by The Orchard’s Travis Boswell and paired with wines from Newton Vineyard and Cloudy Bay.

The night ended with a thrilling live auction of a product adorned tree, designed by Sandy Linebaugh of Fiddlehead Designs.

The tree was so popular with the attendees that it sold twice, with proceeds of \$16,000 supporting Summit’s growing high school program. Carol and Rob Hunter, the Foundation’s Treasurer and his wife, served as hosts of the evening.

Additional sponsors of the night’s events included Design South Builders, McKee Properties, The Spinx Company, Crawford Construction, Cashiers Farmers Market, Sarah Lane’s Cookies, The Moskowitz Law Firm, Jersey Mikes, Cashiers Firewood, The Club at High Hampton, and Caroline’s Cakes.

To learn more about the Cashiers Festival of Trees, visit <https://www.summitschool.org/festival-of-trees>.



Submitted photo

Debi Stewart, Summit Foundation board member and co-owner of Cashiers’ Sashay Around, Chad Stubbs, senior vice president at Moët Hennessy, and guests kick off the dinner at The Orchard Harvest Barn with smiles and a celebratory toast.

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# Crossroads Chronicle

# COMMUNITY



Submitted photos

Twin brothers Steve (left) and Joe Madden completed the Fire Academy at Blue Ridge School and the Sylva Fire Department Cadet program and now volunteer with the department.

## Firefighting is a family affair for Steve and Joe Madden

BY BETH LAWRENCE  
Sylva Herald

If you've been at the scene of a fire covered by Sylva Fire Department recently, you might wonder if the smoke is making you see double.

It isn't. You're actually seeing 19 year-old-twin brothers Steve and Joe Madden, who joined the SFD together as volunteers.

Chief Mike Beck is glad to have the two onboard because they've been helpful and dedicated.

"They've been fine guys; they'll do just about anything you ask them to do," Beck said.

The brothers have been interested in fire fighting since they began taking Fire Academy classes at Blue Ridge School in their freshman year.

Like most young children Steve admired firefighters, but that admiration took on new meaning after the classes.

"I've lived here all my life. I thought helping out my community would be something I'd be interested in," Steve said. "Going to school up at Blue Ridge (Fire Academy), that was the icing on the cake. I was like, 'Awesome. I'm going to go down here (SFD) and put an application in and try to put what I'm learning to use.'"

Joe also admired the work firefighters do.

"I'd always went by there and seen them," he said. "I was like, 'You know, that's pretty darn neat. I wonder what a man's got to do to get on.' Then all of a sudden, bam! My school had an academy."

The twins enjoyed the classes and kept taking them through their senior year.

The Academy is an elective class that teaches students fire behavior, how to operate a fire truck and equipment, and fire suppression techniques. Students can also receive some of the certifications required to become a firefighter.

"A lot of the stuff at the school was obviously bookwork," Steve said. "I

learned a lot of it as bookwork and then put it all together at the fire department."

In their sophomore year, the Maddens joined Sylva Fire Department's Cadet program. Joe and Steve were sworn in in April as full-fledged firemen.

For Joe, being a fireman lines up with the service-oriented values he learned as a Boy Scout.

In the fire department's Cadet program teens learn the hands-on skills needed to fight a fire.

One thing Steve enjoys about being a fireman is the camaraderie and friends he has made. They are a bonus to helping his community, he said.

There hasn't been an individual call that stands out as singularly rewarding rather the job as a whole gives him pride.

"Anytime Sylva Fire Department can help out the community, I always think that's satisfying," he said.

Steve hopes to eventually become a full-time firefighter.

Working with his brother has been fun for Joe. The two help each other and can bounce ideas and approaches to a job off each other, he said.

They also have a unique twin way of communicating.

"My brother's my best friend; I know him like the back of my hand," Joe said.

The two think so much alike that they complement each other on the job.

"If there's a wreck, you need oil dry, if there's oil in the road," he said. "I'll be like, 'Oh, oil dry, and Steve will be like, 'Oh, brush.'"

Beck believes the two have the interest and the ability to grow in their new positions.

"They're both interested in it, and I think one day they may even want to be professional firemen somewhere," he said.

In the past it was not unusual for young people to join local fire crews and cadet training, but it has become

less so recently with a dearth of volunteers of all ages, Beck said.

He doesn't know what could be done to bring more volunteers in.

"It's a challenge anymore to get anybody to want to volunteer," Beck said. "Apparently the program at Blue Ridge does pretty well."

Beck recommends that young people who might be interested in becoming a firefighter join the Cadet program.

The program is open to all students 16 years and up. The hands-on course allows teens to attend fire training classes where they study everything regular firefighters do. They are allowed to help run equipment and provide backup and support at calls for service but cannot go into danger zones.

"We'll get one of the full members to sponsor them and kind of mentor them through," Beck said. "They should know what it's about by the time they get old enough to do it, if they do it that way. We can't put them in a dangerous situation because of their age, but once they turn 18, they'll be full members as the twins did."

Cadets must have passing grades because the program does not want to interfere with a student's schoolwork. Students are not allowed to respond to calls during school hours for the same reason.

Joe's advice for teens considering whether to become a fireman is to just check it out.

"Try it," he said. "There's a lot to learn. You got to start somewhere. See if you like it."

The Cadet program is not the only way a person can become a volunteer fireman.

Anyone who is willing, has the time, can pass a background check and meet a few other criteria is welcome to volunteer, Beck said.

To adults considering whether to volunteer Steve suggests visiting a fire station to get a better understanding of what is involved to "see if it's for you."

## Dr. Jean Raffa talks about the process of writing her latest book "The Soul's Twins"

After several months of studying her dreams, Highlands seasonal resident Dr. Jean Raffa has released her fourth and Nautilus Award winning book *The Soul's Twins*.

Drawing on Jungian psychology and wisdom traditions from world religions, Raffa offers a self-guided journey to heightened self-awareness and compassion for oneself and others.

Raffa dove into Jungian psychology, which is comprised of several concepts including active imagination, individuation, collective unconscious, Logos and Nekyia.

"In my early 40's I discovered Jungian psychology," Raffa said. "This is the psychology of C.G. Jung, a Swiss psychologist, who talks about how everybody, psychologically, has a feminine and masculine side. He called them feminine and masculine archetypes. The book is about my desire to unite those archetypes in my personality so that I can use the strengths of both. So often we see these archetypes as antagonists working against each other.



Submitted photo

**Dr. Jean Raffa**

It is often quite problematic to our relationships and ourselves. So, I started researching Jungian psychology and I studied my dreams for the past 31 years."

At the age of 10, Raffa had a reoccurring dream that she never forgot.

"I grew up in the 50s and at the age of 10 I had a very powerful wake up dream," Raffa said.

"The Lone Ranger shot me. It terrified me. I was 10 years old, and I told myself that I would never forget this dream. Years later, I began to realize that the message of this dream was that boys got to be heroes and girls did not. Girls got to be victims. I felt very keenly that women were seen as sort of second-class citizens. As I grew up, I became a college professor and a T.V. producer and then started studying C.G. Jung."

Raffa said she has studied 5,250 dreams.

"I have learned a lot by studying Jungian and studying my dreams," Raffa said. "Obviously men and women are very different, but we are all born with the same female and male archetypes. My goal is to create partnerships between our feminine and masculine sides and between men and women so that we can reduce stereotypes and biases that are so rampant in society."

On Saturday, Aug. 7, Raffa hosted a talk and book signing at Shakespeare and Company Booksellers. She said she hopes that people will walk away with an understanding of the potential of their feminine and masculine archetypes.

"I hope they will learn to accept the strengths of both and not feel pressured by societal norms," Raffa said. "I know that young people are finding this a very hot topic right now about gender equality, but I'm not really talking about the physical, although they do go together naturally with our minds. I am talking about the psychology behind our own feminine and masculine sides and how we can live better, more conscious and more balanced life if we can learn to accept the strengths of both archetypes."

While researching and writing *The Soul's Twins*, Raffa said several of her mindset and relationships grew.

"My dreams have shown me the masculine and feminine parts of myself that I have learned to recognize in my waking life," Raffa said. "Once I could recognize these, I found it much easier to see myself acting in ways that were either stereotypical or ways that were not helpful in my own relationships. I found myself being much more mindful and aware that I didn't want to have any attitudes that were in any way stereotypical. I wanted to really heal my relationships. I found that working with my masculine and feminine archetypes helped me grow to be a more loving wife, mother and grandmother."

After seeing the response to her partnership profile in the *Soul's Twins*, Raffa is working on a guidebook to go along with her fourth book to help people see the certain feminine and masculine qualities in themselves.

"The partnership profile has turned out to be one of the most popular and exciting things in the book," Raffa said. "People are really loving this idea that this self-assessment can help them see which archetypes they tend to favor. This self-assessment will see a sort of blend of four feminine and four masculine archetypes in themselves and help them to develop ones that they can see that they are not so satisfied with. There is an area of the self-assessment that is called 'Life Satisfaction,' which they can use to see which areas of their life they need to improve. This is a very exciting direction that I am headed in with writing this this guidebook. While discussing the partnership profile, I have learned that there is a lot more that I need to learn, and it is very exciting."

For more information on Raffa, visit her website at [www.jeanbenedicttraffa.com](http://www.jeanbenedicttraffa.com).



Christopher Smith/The Highlander

The show will go on at the Highlands Performing Arts Center after more than a year of meetings and a dream by Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor in 2015. On July 30, the Highlands Performing Arts Center broke ground on its new theatre, which will cost \$11 million.

## PAC celebrates groundbreaking ahead of new construction start

BY CHRISTOPHER SMITH  
The Highlander

The show will go on at the Highlands Performing Arts Center after more than a year of meetings and a dream by Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor in 2015.

On July 30, the Highlands Performing Arts Center broke ground on its new theatre, which will cost \$11 million.

PAC director Mary Adair Trumbly said the project management, the construction company, the architects, the designers, the theatrical company have met twice a month for over a year.

“Everyone heard all the questions and solved all the concerns together,” Trumbly said. “This all started at a PAC Board retreat in August 2015 after Mayor Pat Taylor wrote an article about a dream of having all the performing arts under one roof. Which meant a new theater.”

The first phase of the project was the

Laurel Street parking lot with the water drainage and retention and the underground conduits. Phase two is now underway, which is the actual construction of the new theatre.

“Our construction contract has a maximum guaranteed cost of \$9.4 million, though we are anticipating some further cost savings, and our total project cost, which includes design, engineering, furnishings, technical equipment, expanded and enhanced parking, and related expenses, is \$11 million,” the board said in their statement. “Given the significant inflation that has taken place in the construction industry during the last year, we are extremely pleased to be able to build a first-class facility for the community at this cost. We are, however, continuing to seek important financial support from the community which is needed to bridge the gap between our original budget and the total project cost.”

## Minotti to be guest pastor at Cashiers Community Church Aug. 29

Dr. Michael Minotti will be the guest speaker at Grace Community Church in Cashiers on Sunday, Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. His presentation will cover the subjects of science, faith and medicine, the brain, the mind, and the conscience. All are welcome to attend.

Minotti is a practicing physician in the state of North Carolina. Apart from his spiritual journey, his hobbies and interests have often focused on matters of science. He graduated with honors from Texas A&M University with a BS in biology and a Minor in chemistry.

Soon after he became employed as a cancer research scientist at the University of Texas. He later became a medical doctor and eventually a head and neck surgeon. During the past 20 years of practicing medicine in a regional hospital in North Carolina, he has served as chief of surgery, chief of staff and has accumulated over 30,000 office patients.

Through his many patient encounters he frequently experienced extraordinary outcomes of treatment that could not be explained by medicine and science alone. This was most apparent in cases commonly referred to as Near Death Experiences, or NDEs. As more cases presented locally and regionally, he soon found sound scientific grounds to unlock some of the proverbial and fundamental questions of the purpose of life: Why are we here? Does life have a special purpose? Could the abstract spiritual aspects of faith be proven or substantiated by concrete scientific evidence?

The topic of his research on scientific evidence of life after death has attracted the news media, the medical profession and religious organizations. He currently lectures on this subject by invitation across the United States.

For more information, call the church office at 828-743-9814 or email at gracecc@nctv.com.

## Bridgers to be guest pastor at St. Andrews

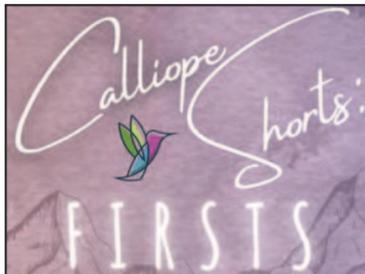
The Rev. Anne Bridgers will be the guest minister at St. Andrews By-the-Lake in Lake Toxaway on Sunday, Aug. 15, at 11 a.m. The service will also feature special music performed by Pat and Mike Dunham on the fiddle and hammered dulcimer.

A graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, Bridgers retired in 2020 after serving several parishes in her 20-plus years of ordained ministry. During her years of active ministry, Bridgers and her husband Dixon, a retired attorney, have lived in Alabama, Florida, Pennsylvania, California and now in Western North Carolina. In 2020, during her first year

of retirement, she served as interim rector of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Brevard and Dixon began teaching as an adjunct at Brevard College.

The Bridgers family includes three grandmothers, two sons-in-law and a daughter who are ordained Episcopal clergy.

The public is 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, 546 Blue Ridge Road. For further information, follow the chapel on Facebook or visit www.laketoxawaychapel.org.



Above: Firsts Graphic Created by Caleb Warren



Right: Photo by Kate McCosh

Actors Sarah Elizabeth Burkey (left) and Helen Rose Miller (right) from Sediment.

## Calliope Shorts to be first new works development project by Calliope Stage

Calliope Shorts: Firsts! is the first new works development project commissioned by Calliope Stage, it focuses on the stories of WNC and the artists who hold these mountains dear.

Calliope matched 23 artists of a variety of mediums and ages into 10 creative teams.

Using their unique artistic sensibilities, each team spent three months developing a new short piece of theatre inspired by a story rooted in the WNC region.

All 10 shorts written by these teams will premiere in downtown Sylva at Calliope Stage’s very first live outdoor production.

Five directors – along with a pro-

duction team of professional and pre-professional artists – will bring each Calliope Short to life for the first time.

Live local pre-show entertainment and treats from local food and beverage vendors will complete the celebration of the theatrical magic within our beloved mountains.

The show is recommended for all ages, but there is some strong language in a couple of the pieces.

The performance dates are as follows: Aug. 12, and Aug. 14 at 8 p.m. and Aug. 13 at 9 p.m.

For more information and to purchase tickets please visit calliopestage.com.

## SCC requiring masks for students

Due to high and substantial COVID-19 transmission in the region, masks are being required indoors at all Southwestern Community College locations. This mandate started on Thursday, Aug. 5.

This mandate aligns with CDC and local/state guidance and applies to everyone regardless of vaccination status.

SCC is still keeping a full schedule of face-to-face classes this fall.

Jackson and Swain Counties are currently in the CDC’s “high-transmission” level, while Macon County is listed as having “substantial transmission.”

“We know that getting all eligible people vaccinated is the best way to combat this virus,” said

SCC President Dr. Don Tomas. “We need to implement this mask mandate to try and keep everyone as safe as possible as we start

our fall semester. We will continue to monitor daily case numbers and review CDC and local/state guidance.”

**Cashiers Education Corner**

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\*Dependent on plans available in your region and subsidy eligibility.  
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# ON THE MENU

Local dining guide

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LIFE AND RELIGION

In both sports and faith, iron sharpens iron



Deacon's Column

Christine Maddux

I was bothered when communities started celebrating the 4th of July on July 3rd or 5th, as if the traditional date was expendable. I guess I'll just have to get used to calling it Independence Day instead.

My "truth-o-meter" was triggered again when Olympic athletes standing on the winners' podium last week were awarded medals inscribed 2020. But instead of letting this little pet peeve get the best of me, I choose to revel in the winners' impressive feats and inspirational backstories, especially those that reveal how faith infuses their lives and drives their athletic achievements.

One such Olympic champion is Sydney McLaughlin, who won the gold medal while beating her own world record in the women's 400-meter hurdles race. In doing so, she edged out defending Olympic gold medalist Dalilah Muhammad, the American teammate with whom she has an ongoing and good-natured

rivalry. The media latched onto McLaughlin's quotable expression concerning their friendly competition: "Iron sharpens iron."

The commentators obviously understood the meaning of that expression: that these two extraordinary athletes spur each other on to greater heights, just as two iron blades become sharper and more effective by honing each other.

But what the commentators may not have known or did not acknowledge is that McLaughlin draws this sage expression from the Bible, the sacred book of her Christian faith – a faith that is evident every time she speaks of her athletic accomplishments.

But we need not be world-class athletes to embrace the godly wisdom of "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). This ancient proverb applies to every person eager to fulfill whatever potential God has instilled in them. Like McLaughlin

and Muhammad spurring each other on in their sport, people of faith grow as they spur each other on to apprehend their faith, to use their God-given gifts, and to draw closer to God as they study and live out his biblical truth together.

We see in the Bible how this fruitful practice plays out, for "the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). When people study the Bible together, not just pooling uninformed opinions but earnestly drilling down into the text's original context to mine the meaning and the truth as reflected in the whole of Scripture, all involved benefit.

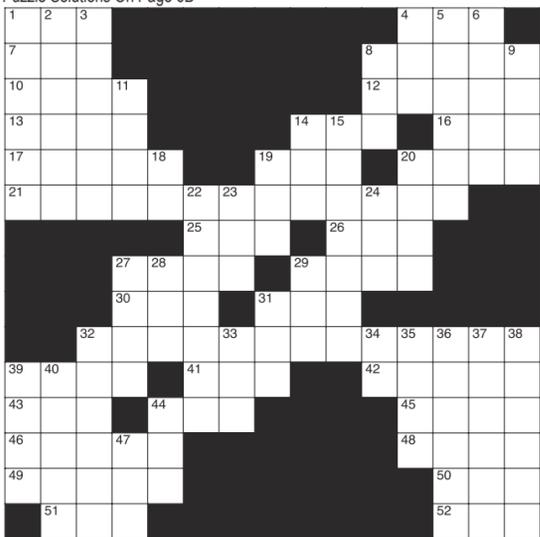
And this soul sharpening can occur any time the family of God comes together, for the Word of God Himself is then present: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them," said Jesus (Matthew 18:20). The earliest Christians were very intentional about strengthening each other in community, as "they devoted themselves to the apostles'

teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). We need to think about how fear of COVID and the subsequent inertia may be dulling our faith by interfering with our in-person worship, study and fellowship: "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Just as Olympic champion McLaughlin knows that running with another disciplined athlete helps her run her race better, likewise we know that we will run what the Bible calls "the race set before us" better when we run it with other disciplined believers, encouraging each other to stay on track, to "hold fast to the word of life", and to grow ever deeper in the knowledge and love of God (Hebrews 12:1; Philippians 2:16; Colossians 2:2-5).

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

Puzzle Solutions On Page 6B



CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between east and southeast
4. Sun up in New York
7. Japanese honorific
8. Czech name for Prague
10. Ochocinco's first name
12. Steep cliffs (Hawaiian)
13. Scots word for "home"
14. Upper class young woman (abbr.)
16. Monetary unit of Albania
17. Raise
19. Drain of resources
20. Uncultured, clumsy persons
21. Hikers use them
25. Retrospective analysis (military)
26. Tibetan form of chanting
27. Influential European statesman
29. Soluble ribonucleic acid
30. Monetary unit of Romania
31. Round green vegetable
32. Well acquainted with
39. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
41. Basics
42. "The Godfather" actress Keaton
43. Snake-like fish
44. Tall deciduous tree
45. Russian river
46. Long Balkans river
48. Ancient Greek coin
49. Senegal's capital
50. Unwell
51. Snout
52. Low bank or reef of coral

CLUES DOWN

1. Abstain from
2. Vast desert in North Africa
3. Cover the crown of a tooth
4. A major division of geological time
5. Urban center
6. Crook
8. Parts per billion (abbr.)
9. Questions
11. A pack of 52 playing cards
14. Recording of sound
15. Pithy saying
18. Atomic #22
19. Soviet Socialist Republic
20. Plant with ridged seedpods
22. Innate
23. Investigative body for Congress (abbr.)
24. Soda receptacle
27. Spanish stew: \_\_\_ podrida
28. Viet Cong offensive
29. Large body of water
31. Beginning military rank
32. Dissimilar
33. Counteroffensive system (abbr.)
34. Shows who you are
35. Chinese dynasty
36. Type of verse
37. African nation
38. Quite
39. Former Bucks star Michael
40. Showed again
44. Body part
47. Steel

HOROSCOPES

**ARIES: Mar 21-Apr 20**  
Attempt to break down any barriers you have built up around yourself, Aries. It's time for a fresh perspective and you can dive head first into new opportunities.

**TAURUS: Apr 21-May 21**  
There is something magical in you that needs to come to life, Taurus. In the next few weeks you will develop a plan to put major changes into action with the help of a few others.

**GEMINI: May 22-Jun 21**  
Gemini, you may feel on top of the world at the beginning of the week and then out of sorts by the weekend. It is okay to go through a range of emotions.

**CANCER: Jun 22-Jul 22**  
Cancer, the stars are offering an opportunity to make some major changes in the days to come. Hop on board with ideas that come your way.

**LEO: Jul 23-Aug 23**  
You are rarely one to sit back and avoid the limelight, Leo. This week presents yet another opportunity to step up and make your voice heard. Take a leap of faith.

**VIRGO: Aug 24-Sept 22**  
While life may have been difficult in the past weeks and months, a breath of fresh air is blowing in new opportunities for you, Virgo. See which direction you are headed in.

**LIBRA: Sept 23-Oct 23**  
There could be some important news coming your way this week, Libra. However, it may not be as obvious as opening up a newspaper or reading a letter. Keep your eyes open.

**SCORPIO: Oct 24-Nov 22**  
An influx of money could bring about a lot of changes in your life, Scorpio. Speak with a financial planner regarding how to utilize these funds in positive ways.

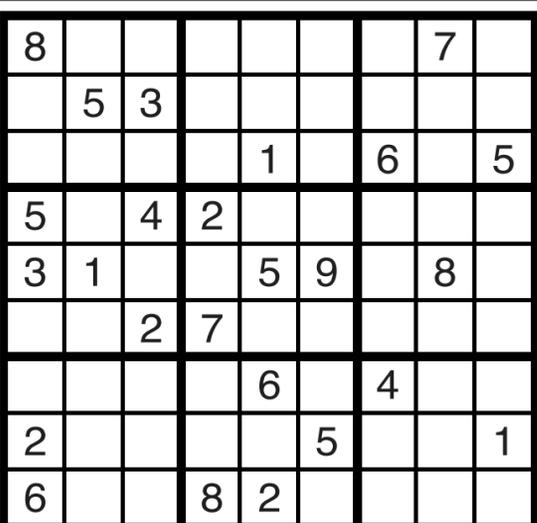
**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23-Dec 21**  
Renew your dedication to the path in front of you as it pertains to selfless endeavors, Sagittarius. Perhaps you can increase your volunteerism efforts.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 22-Jan 20**  
Capricorn, you are inspired to change, but you may not know which path to take. Get some advice from others and you will find a suitable path.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21-Feb 18**  
Cast a wide net into a pool of potential friends and you're bound to grab a great catch, Aquarius. It is time to widen your social circles and learn a few things along the way.

**PISCES: Feb 19-Mar 20**  
Pisces, set your sights high this week and you may be surprised at what you can accomplish. Projects may be completed quickly.

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Puzzle Solutions On Page 6B

*'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

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**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 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.

**FUN JOB OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

The Business Spot is hiring in both their Cashiers and Highlands locations. If you are a team player, have a good work ethic and a working knowledge of computers, particularly Gmail and file management, please contact us. We also need each candidate to be able to multitask (jumping from one task to another and back again) throughout the day. This position would be part time but could transition to full time. Will pay a gas allowance for anyone we hire that comes from further than 10 miles away. Please submit all inquiries to: [info@bizspot.net](mailto:info@bizspot.net).

**GOLF STAFF**

Burlingame Country Club is looking for an individual to join their golf operations. Responsibilities and job tasks will vary depending on experience. \$13/hr-\$16/hr plus tips. Schedule and hours are flexible. Meals while on duty and playing privilege's are available. Please contact [golf-pro@burlingameccwnc.com](mailto:golf-pro@burlingameccwnc.com) for more information or to submit your interest.

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

Lake Toxaway Country Club is hiring a full-time/seasonal Dining Room Supervisor. This position includes Health, Dental, Vision Insurance and employee meal. Be part of our premier hospitality team, helping to manage staff and top of the line service while enjoying the beauty of Lake Toxaway. Candidate needs to have strong interpersonal and leadership skills as well as be able to multitask. Previous experience is preferred. Please contact Leigh Coggins at 828.966.4020 or email [Leighc@laketoxawaycc.com](mailto:Leighc@laketoxawaycc.com) to see if you are the perfect fit!

Lake Toxaway Country Club is hiring the following seasonal positions: Servers, Bartenders, Server Assistants, Line Cooks and Pool Attendant. Please contact [leighc@laketoxawaycc.com](mailto:leighc@laketoxawaycc.com) or call 828.966.4020

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

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

**GENERAL EMPLOYMENT**

Hiring for the Outside Operations/Cart Attendant position at Lake Toxaway Country Club. This position will be primarily focused at the Country Club location and assisting at the Fazio Learning Center when needed, with the goal being to provide exceptional service to every member and guest. The selected candidate(s) can expect to work 20 to 40 hours per week and must be physically able to pick up items over 25lbs. The position is an hourly position and will pay \$10 per hour plus gratuity. Employee benefits include Staff Uniform, Meals while on duty, and Golf Privileges. Contact Will Bartram at 828-966-4661 or email willb@laketoxawaycc.com.

**NEWS JUNKIES WANTED** – The Franklin Region of Community Newspapers Inc., has as opening for an entry level reporter in Highlands, North Carolina office to cover topics including news, education, business and government. If you possess excellent writing and verbal skills, are able to produce clean copy, and work in a team environment this may be the job for you. Candidates must be versatile, able to analyze and write well, cover beats, work well under deadline and be able to simplify complicated issues. Journalism degree required. Send cover letter, resume, clips and salary requirements to Highlander Publisher Ryan Hanchett: [rhanchett@highlandsnews.com](mailto:rhanchett@highlandsnews.com)

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
 The Crossroads Chronicle located in beautiful Cashiers, NC has an opening for an office manager. Daily activities include: accepting and processing payments for subscriptions, taking classified advertisements, daily sales reports, and answering the phone in a deadline driven environment. Successful candidate will be customer service oriented, proficient in Microsoft Office suite, computer savvy, and be able to multitask. This is a full time position, 32 hours per week, Monday - Friday. Send resume and letter of interest including three professional references to [rhanchett@highlandsnews.com](mailto:rhanchett@highlandsnews.com)

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**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.

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.

**GENERAL EMPLOYMENT**

**PARALEGAL/LEGAL ASST FULL TIME PARALEGAL / LEGAL ASSISTANT:** Real estate experience and some bookkeeping skills preferred. Commitment to client's needs and confidentiality required; dependability and professionalism are essential. Professional office located in Franklin, NC. Send resume to 61 East Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

**RETAIL**

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**CHEROKEE CENTRAL SCHOOL JOBS**  
 Cherokee Central School is currently taking applications for employment for the following job opportunities; all jobs are open until filled unless otherwise indicated :  
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 Food Service Worker  
 Substitute Teachers

For full details and job descriptions, please visit our website: <https://phl.applitrack.com/cherokeecentral/onlineapp/> or visit [https://www.ccs-nc.org/apps/pages/human\\_resources](https://www.ccs-nc.org/apps/pages/human_resources) for more information.

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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!

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 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.

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**LAND & LOTS FOR SALE**

**HOBNOB LANE LOT A**  
 Convenient less than 10 minute drive to the Cashiers crossroads and Lake Glenville, Installed septic. owner association water. 1000 square foot minimum build. Great lot to build a small house. Historic spring on property. \$69,900. Betsy Paul Properties: 828.743.0880. [www.betsypaulproperties.com](http://www.betsypaulproperties.com)

**HOBNOB LANE LOT C**  
 Convenient less than 10 minute drive to the Cashiers crossroads and Lake Glenville, Installed septic. owner association water. 1000 square foot minimum build. Great lot to build a small house. \$75,000. Betsy Paul Properties: 828.743.0880. [www.betsypaulproperties.com](http://www.betsypaulproperties.com)

**LEGALS**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**  
 Sealed proposals will be received by Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department at 88 Cullowhee Mountain Rd, Cullowhee, NC 28723, up to 11:00 am September 15th, 2021 and immediately thereafter publicly opened and read for the furnishing of labor, material and equipment entering into the construction of the Fairview Concession Stand Press Box, Bids will be received for Single Prime. All proposals shall be lump sum. Pre-Bid Meeting An open pre-bid meeting will be held for all interested bidders Tuesday August 24, 2021 at 3pm

**LEGALS**

at the current site, 34 Big Orange Way, Sylva, NC . The meeting will address project specific questions, issues, bidding procedures and bid forms. Complete plans, specifications and contract documents will be open for inspection in the offices of Clark Nexsen, 301 College Street, Suite 300, Asheville, NC 28801, during normal business hours, starting on August 16, 2021. Plans may be obtained by contacting Tyler McLaughlan at Clark Nexsen at Ph: (828)-232-0608 or by email at [tmclaughlan@clarknexsen.com](mailto:tmclaughlan@clarknexsen.com). Complete plans, specifications and contract documents will be available for download. Or, printed copies may be ordered and obtained upon deposit of Two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) per set. The check shall be made out to Clark Nexsen. General Contractors may obtain 2 sets on deposit. Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing may obtain 1 set on deposit. The full plan deposit will be returned to those bidders provided all documents are returned in good, usable condition within ten (10) days after the bid date. All others must purchase plans. Jackson County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin or age. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) and Minority and Women Business Enterprises (MBE or WBE) capable and otherwise qualified to perform work are encouraged to submit. The Owner reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all proposals. 08/11/2021#655709

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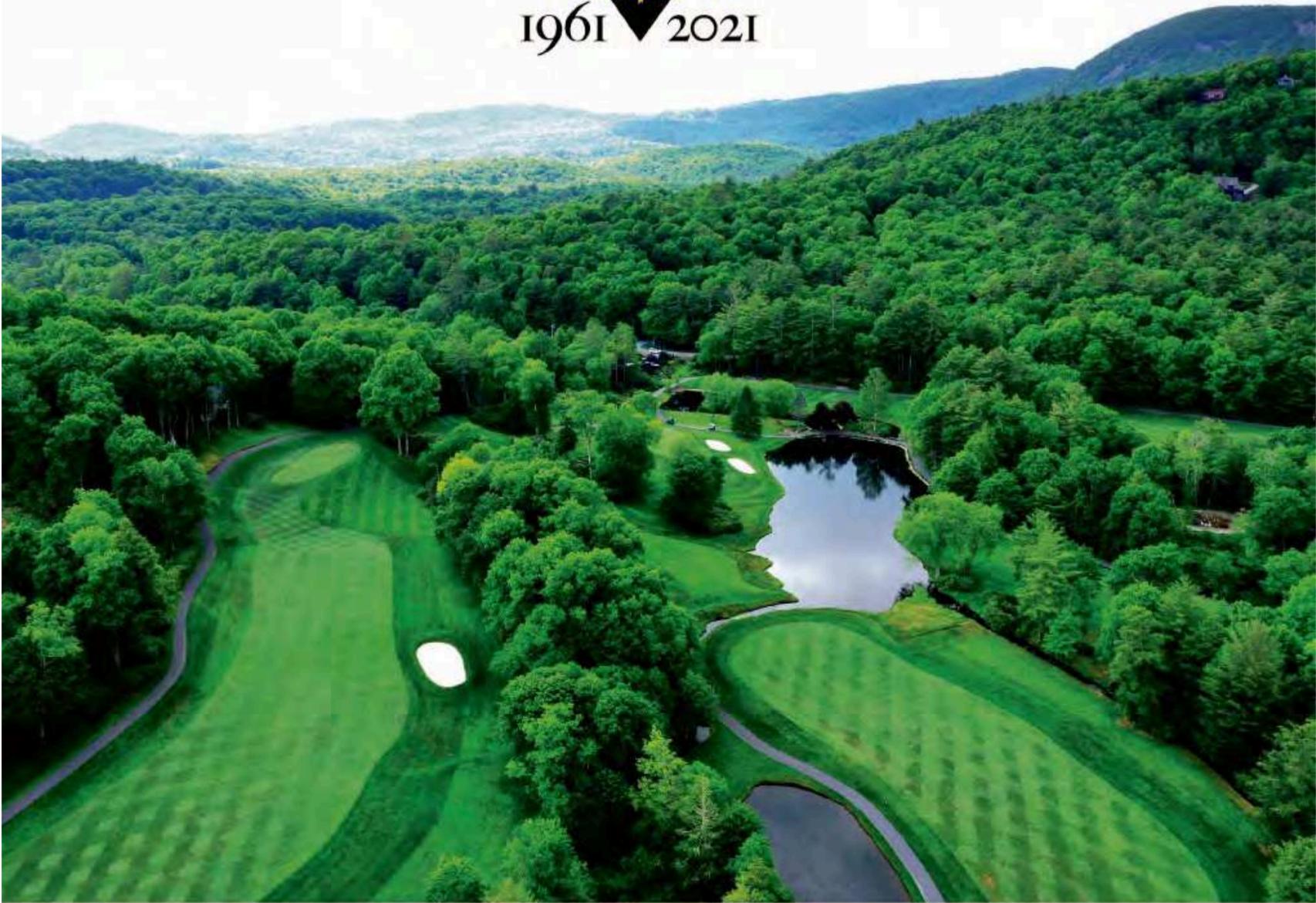
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FROM THE MEMBERS OF  
WILDCAT CLIFFS COUNTRY CLUB

32611A





Submitted photo

The Get Right Band will be performing as part of the 11th Concerts on the Creek in Sylva on Friday, Aug. 13.

# Get Right Band to perform as part of Concerts on the Creek in Sylva

The 11th season of Concerts on the Creek in Sylva continues on Friday, Aug. 13 with a performance by The Get Right Band from 7-9 p.m.

The Get Right Band is “hip-shaking, earthshaking pure funk fun,” according to The Alternate Root. They are one of Relix Magazine’s “On The Verge” picks, Home Grown Music Network’s 2015 “Best New Band of the Year,” and were voted “Best Progressive Band” in Western North Carolina by Mountain Xpress readers.

They have performed on the “World Cafe,” a nationally syndicated NPR show, and have brought their unique sound to major festivals and venues such as FloydFest, The Orange Peel, Music City Roots TV Show, The Green Parrot, Arlene’s Grocery, and Riverbend Fest. Combining catchy, clever, honest songwriting with musical expertise and fearless improvisation, the live show promises to move your head, heart, and hips.

The band is built on the musical brotherhood that guitarist/vocalist Silas Durocher and bassist Jesse Gentry have formed playing music together since middle school. Durocher, who is a trained composer and has been commissioned to write for symphonies and chamber groups, possesses guitar chops that can soothe or rage and a charismatic swagger as a frontman and a singer.

“Durocher has an impressive range and rich clarity to his vocals —

think a more soulful Dan Auerbach,” according to Connect Savannah.

Gentry’s virtuosic bass playing “catapults from elastic to nasty,” said The Mountain Xpress. With the addition of Jian-Claude Mears, a drummer with “precision, passion, and an inescapable momentum,” said Live For Live Music, the group’s sound has become an unstoppable force. They have been wowing audiences around the country and the Caribbean since their inception in 2011 with an unparalleled live show and a relentless tour schedule.

The Get Right Band has had the honor of playing shows with national acts such as Galactic, Rusted Root, Victor Wooten Band, Martin Barre of Jethro Tull, Turkuaz, Mike Dillon Band, Jeff Sipe Trio, Yo Mama’s Big Fat Booty Band, Jeff Coffin’s Mutet, Larry Keel, and Bobby Lee Rodgers.

On Aug. 5, 2016, The Get Right Band released their third studio album, “Who’s in Charge?” The record was made at Asheville’s legendary Echo Mountain Studios, engineered, mixed, and co-produced by Julian Dreyer and mastered by six-time Grammy winner Brian Lucey.

Concerts on the Creek are held most Friday nights from 7-9 p.m. at the Bridge Park in Sylva through Labor Day.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. These events are free but donations are encouraged. Dogs must be on a leash. No

alcohol, smoking or coolers are allowed in the park.

Event organizers are strongly suggesting that everyone obeys safe COVID-19 practices in accordance with state and county protocols in place at the time of the event. These concerts are organized and produced

by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Sylva and the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, call the chamber at 828-586-2155, visit [www.mountainlovers.com](http://www.mountainlovers.com) or Concerts on the Creek’s Facebook page.

# Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education releases August classes

The Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, managed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, has posted the August class schedule. Events will be led by Wildlife Commission staff.

## AUGUST:

**Aug. 11:** Introduction to Fly Fishing, 9 a.m. – noon. Ages 12 and older.

**Aug. 13:** Nature Nuts: Salamanders, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Ages five – 11.

**Aug. 14:** Raising Hatchery Trout, 2 – 3 p.m. All ages.

**Aug. 16:** Nature Nuts: Stream Investigation, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Ages five – 11.

**Aug. 18:** Introduction to Fly Fishing, 9 a.m. – noon. Ages 12 and older.

**Aug. 20:** Adult Snorkeling in the Stream, 9:30 a.m. – noon. Ages 16 and older.

**Aug. 24:** Casting for Beginners, 9 a.m. – noon. Ages 12 and older.

**Aug. 25:** Fly Fishing Expo, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. All ages.

**Aug. 26:** Tackle Rigging for Fly Fishing, 9 a.m. – noon. Ages 12 and older.

**Aug. 27:** Nature Nuts: Life Cycles, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Ages five – 11.

**Aug. 28:** Fly Tying for the Beginner, 9 a.m. – noon. Ages 12 and older.

All classes listed are open to the public. Details about each class are available online on the Center’s program calendar and on their Facebook page. Pre-registration is required for most classes and is available on the Center’s webpage or by calling 828-877-4423.

In addition to public classes, the Center also offers various other programs for private groups, educators and community leaders. Groups can schedule the date, time and program topic of their choice, such as Fly Fishing or Bears. Contact Lee Sherrill to learn more at 828-877-4423.

## HERE’S MY CARD

Local business directory

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# Mountain Homes

AUGUST 2021  
Vol. 5, No. 5

highlighting unique homes of the plateau

*A beautiful view of  
Whiteside Mountain...*

at the Saurage and  
Bordelon House

## No stones to be thrown in this Highlands glass house

**BY CARTER GIEGERICH**  
Special to Mountain Homes

Simply driving up the road to Roland Saurage and Dean Bordelon's home leaves no mistake about what's in store – the steep, winding drive as-

sure anyone who has explored the clubs dotting the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau that a breathtaking view is in store.

The sweeping vista is immediately

See **GLASS** page 2

Photos by Carter Giegerich

This magnificent home perched above Highlands Falls Country Club, owned by Dean Bordelon and Roland Saurage, has picturesque windows and sweeping vistas.



Photo by Carter Giegerich

Roland Saurage and Dean Bordelon own a spacious home in Highlands that provides them with an unobscured view of Whiteside Mountain behind them. Their home perches above Highlands Falls Country Club, and Saurage was already familiar with Highlands, having spent time at a home owned by his family there years prior.

## GLASS continued from page 1

visible from the home's entrance, as floor-to-ceiling windows allow visitors a glimpse of Whiteside Mountain before they even cross the threshold.

"We had looked at a lot of houses, and when I got to the doorway I looked and said 'this is it,'" Bordelon said. "Then the rest of the house, just going from room to room we loved it."

That was in 2006, when the couple decided to start spending six months out of the year in Highlands. At the time, they were spending the remainder of their time in Baton Rouge raising their two children. Once the kids were grown and set off on their own, they moved to Fort Lauderdale but continued spending the warmer months at their home perched above Highlands Falls Country Club.

Saurage was familiar with mountain life already thanks to his family's connection to the Plateau, having spent time at a home owned by his family in Highlands years prior. He was also no stranger to a home built to provide seamless views and indoor/outdoor spaces.

"I grew up in a glass house, so this was a natural fit for me," he said.

The entryway's view of Whiteside is merely the initial glimpse of what proves to be the focal point of the home, built in 1990 by Brevard-based architect Al Platt, Sr.

"He's from Brevard, but when he got out of architecture school he went out to California and practiced out there for a

while before coming back to Brevard," Saurage said. "This shows a lot of his western mountain home influences, as opposed to the Western North Carolina mountain home style."

The house is clad in expansive windows on both sides, creating a feeling of openness and allowing natural light to pour in throughout the daylight hours. From all corners of the home, including the sprawling back deck, views of Whiteside's imposing granite face are available.

"We like the view, the openness of the floor plan and all the light. We do spend a lot of time outside on the balcony eating and entertaining out there," Bordelon said.

The home has undergone some changes since it was constructed 30 years ago, with a central, descending staircase immediately inside the front door covered over by the previous owner to create a large, open foyer area that offers space to gather with friends and family. The result is a wide-open feeling to the upper floor of the home, where the master bedroom and bathroom as well as individual office workspaces flank an otherwise barrier-free space. A large stone double-faced fireplace, with seating arrangements on either side, occupies the center of the space.

"We pretty much live on this floor," Bordelon said of the upstairs living quarters.

On the lower level, a second dou-

See **GLASS** page 6

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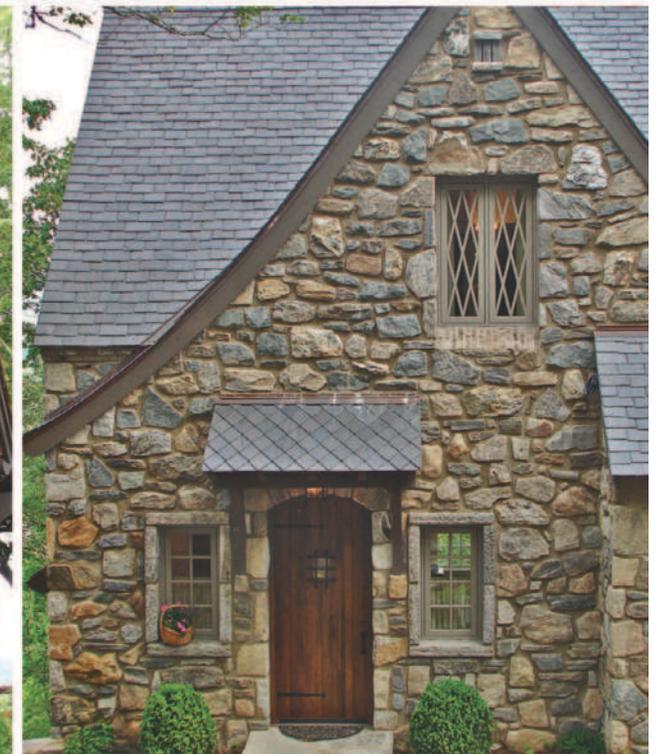
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# Q + A with Landmark Realty Group

BROKER-IN-CHARGE: CARL ROMBERG

**Q. What was your first job and what did you learn from it?**

**A.** My first job after graduating from Georgia Tech was as a project manager for a construction firm in Atlanta. My takeaway from the job was learning how to deal with multiple personalities of owners, architects, designers, sub-contractors and with deadlines.

**Q. What led you to choose real estate as a career?**

**A.** I have always had an interest in architecture, houses, gardens, renovation and restoration. With construction and finance background it was a natural fit.

**Q. What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?**

**A.** To listen, rather than talk, and pay attention to what the real issue is before offering comments.

**Q. When was your first visit to the Cashiers/Highlands plateau?**

**A.** In 1987, I stayed at a Camp Merrie-Woode cabin. I remember finding out that Jackson County was dry, having dinner at Mica's and lunch at the Highlander.

**Q. What do you enjoy most about living here?**

**A.** The climate, slower pace of life, beauty of nature and the people are so much friendlier.



**Q. What are some of the challenges of selling real estate in this area?**

**A.** Getting to know the area and knowing how to time showings. It is very easy to get lost, roads can be difficult, and GPS isn't always accurate.

**Q. Do you have experience in other fields or professions?**

**A.** After construction management I went into commercial banking which led me into finance, where I became the CFO of a company which merged with another company, then sold to a national company, which left me without a job.

**Q. What advice do you give to buyers who are new to the area?**

**A.** I tell them to take their time and get to know the area. There are so many options for location, frontage, view and each of the communities has a uniqueness that appeals to some but may not to others. It's important to find the right location.

**Q. What is the most interesting property or client you have worked with?**

**A.** I had a young couple looking for land to build on at some point in the future. The first parcel I showed them had 16 acres with a very unique guest house that had already been built, which they would be able to use immediately. The couple and their children fell in love with the place – it was one of those transactions that was meant to be.

**GLASS** continued from page 2

ble-sided fireplace lies just below the fixture on the main floor. On either side of the fireplace, hallways lead to several guest rooms each with a full set of appointments and, most importantly, still more views of Whiteside. Even the lower, screened in deck, which has served as the couple's home gym during the COVID-19 pandemic, has a sweeping view of the cliff face.

The staggering sight lines offered off the rear of the home are impressive enough to almost distract from the landscape work that has been done on the front of the home, where Saurage and Bordelon have reimagined the original outdoor space as a boulder garden complete with its own waterfall and lush greenery lining multiple outdoor seating areas.

The cool, shaded space, which visitors walk above when they first enter the home, was designed and fleshed out by Cathy J. Davis, a landscape architect with a pre-existing connection to the home.

"We were looking for a landscape architect to help us, and one of the recommendations was Cathy," Saurage said. "When she arrived she said, 'you

won't believe this, but I was the original landscape architect.' She had pictures of what it looked like before and everything."

The landscaping isn't the only personal touch Saurage and Bordelon have put into the home, either. When they purchased the house 15 years ago, Bordelon said, the entire home was decorated with a Southwestern theme that had carried over from the original owners. Though some items have carried over from that time, many of the walls feature items of significance to the current residents.

"When it was built in 1990, it was in a Southwestern motif with pottery and art," Bordelon said. "We've been slowly getting rid of it as we replace it with things that mean something special to us."

Beyond all the amenities of their modern mountainside residence, and all the joy the stunning views have brought them, the couple has also enjoyed life on the plateau simply because of the community that comes along with living in Highlands.

"We enjoy the mountains – it's cooler here, and the people are friendly," Saurage said. "Especially in Highlands Falls, the people here are very friendly and open. We have great neighbors."



Photos by Carter Giegerich

The main floor of the home features an open air plan, with multiple seating areas flowing seamlessly through the space into the dining area and kitchen.



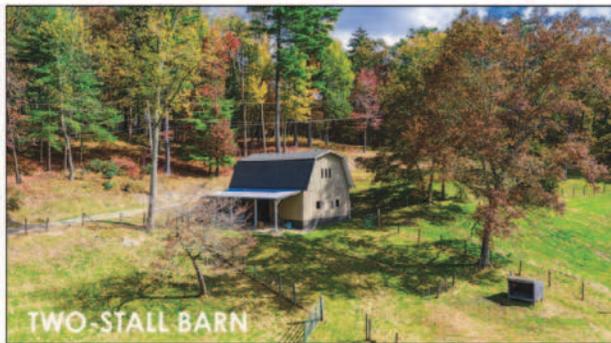
The boulder garden rests below the main entryway to the home, offering a shaded respite during the warmer months lined with beautiful flowers and lush vegetation.



An impressive stone fireplace rests in the center of the home's main living area, breaking up the floorplan on the upper floor of the residence.

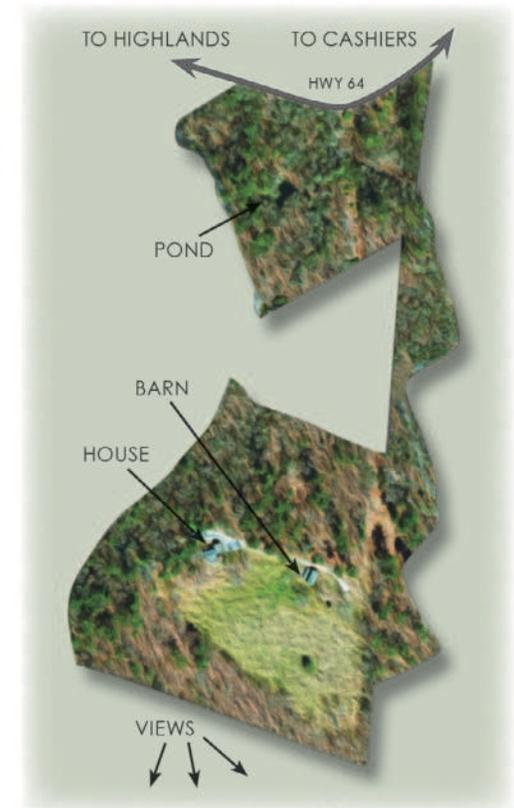


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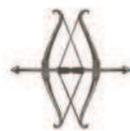
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Crossroads Chronicle

The Highlander

# Silver Creek Real Estate Group adds two new members

To support its growth in size and sales volume and further enhance its client experience, Silver Creek Real Estate Group, a leading real estate company on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, recently announced the addition of two new team members: Broker Katie Adams Nicholson and Client Experience Manager Kara Addy.

Since 2008, Nicholson has worked as a development and real estate professional in the Cashiers area, most recently for the Chiquapin community where she was a top-selling agent focusing on land and new home build packages. Raised in Dublin, Ga., Nicholson spent seven years in Atlanta working in retail and commercial real estate acquisitions before relocating to the Plateau where she met her husband, Jeremiah.

With a passion for the outdoor mountain lifestyle, Nicholson attributes her success to working closely with her clients throughout the entire real estate process, from learning about the area to finding their ultimate home to completing its purchase or construction. When not working, Nicholson spends her time hiking with friends and her dog, Bella.

“We carefully consider who to bring on to our exceptional sales team,” said

Silver Creek Real Estate Group president Jochen Lucke. “Katie’s track record of real estate sales and development success, coupled with the consistent high praise she receives from satisfied clients, makes her an ideal fit for our team. Using our powerful marketing platform, she will be able to take her professional relationships to the next level and build new ones.”

A native of Atlanta, Addy and her family moved to Jackson County from Columbia, South Carolina, in 2018. She brings to Silver Creek an accomplished professional background in public relations and marketing communications, serving the corporate, nonprofit and education sectors.

A Florida State University alumna, Addy serves on the Cultural Enrichment Committee of Vision Cashiers and is a charter board member for Calliope Stage Company, a new professional theater group based in Jackson County. In her free time, Addy enjoys hiking, paddling her kayak and enjoying the Tuckaseegee River with her husband, Mike, and their two teenage children.

“As our team has increased in size and sales volume over the past few years, our focus has been steadfast on



**Katie Nicholson**

providing the best service to our clients and brokers,” said Lucke. “Kara’s senior-level background supporting sales organizations and major philanthropic donors will translate seamlessly to Silver Creek, where she will help create and ensure an exceptional experience for our clients. She will also contribute to our entire platform, including NC Living Magazine and ncliving.com, from content writing to brand awareness to programming and planning special events.”

Silver Creek Real Estate Group



**Kara Addy**

specializes in real estate in Cashiers, Highlands, Sapphire Valley, Lake Glenville, Lake Toxaway and Bear Lake, N.C., as well as larger properties in the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains. Silver Creek Real Estate Group’s Cashiers office is the top-performing office on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, closing more transactions than any other office in 2020 with \$233 million in total sales volume. Silver Creek is leading in 2021 as well, with 205 closed transactions and \$130+ million in sales volume as of July 15.

## Home renovation projects keep people busy during the pandemic

Spending so much time at home during the pandemic led many homeowners to spruce up their homes. According to HomeAdvisor’s 2021 State of Home Spending report, spending on home improvements increased by an average of \$745 per household in 2020.

In the face of travel restrictions and social distancing guidelines, many homeowners pivoted in 2020 and spent money they initially intended to use for vacations on home improvements. The following are the five most popular home improvement projects of 2020 according to the HomeAdvisor report.

1. Interior painting: Just under 35 percent of participants reported taking on an interior painting project in 2020. Interior painting projects can be perfect for DIYers, but homeowners also can

trust this task to skilled professionals.

2. Bathroom renovations: Real estate professionals routinely report how much prospective buyers love updated bathrooms, so it’s no surprise that roughly 31 percent of homeowners who took part in the HomeAdvisor report indicated they renovated their bathrooms in 2020.

3. Flooring: Floors took on a lot of extra traffic during the pandemic, so it shouldn’t be too surprising that flooring projects were popular in 2020. More than one-fourth of participants told HomeAdvisor their homes were updated with a new floor during the pandemic.

4. Landscaping: With nowhere else to go to escape the daily grind in 2020, many homeowners took to their yards. Twenty-four percent of those home-

owners reported making their backyard retreats more appealing by repairing or upgrading the landscaping outside their homes. In fact, the average homeowner reported completing 3.4 landscaping projects in 2020.

5. Kitchen: Another project that makes sense given the circumstances, kitchen renovations were the fifth most popular home improvement project in 2020. Restaurant closures and social distancing guidelines led many people to dine in more often than they otherwise would, and just under 23 percent of homeowners reported renovating their kitchens in 2020.

As the world gradually emerges from the pandemic, many homeowners who caught the renovation bug while in quarantine also will be emerging with what feels like an entirely new home.



Submitted photo

People spent the COVID-19 pandemic renovating their homes in the face of travel restrictions.

# Q + A

## with Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices Meadows Mountain Realty

BROKER: JOHN MUIR

**Q. What was your first job and what did you learn from it?**

**A.** During college I started working as a fly fishing guide in Vail, Colorado. Working as a fishing guide you quickly learn to be an eternal optimist because you never know when the next bite is going to come.

**Q. What led you to choose real estate as a career?**

**A.** Growing up my father was a commercial real estate broker and would take me on the road to look at property. After graduating from Ole Miss with a real estate degree in 2008, I was a bit side-tracked by fly fishing and the Rocky Mountains. Moving back south and to Highlands, it seemed like the right time to pursue it again.

**Q. What's one thing about you that surprises people and why?**

**A.** I am an avid gardener, especially with dahlias. From starting seeds and bulbs indoors in the winter through summer/fall harvest, it has become a great year-round hobby.

**Q. What led you to move to the Cashiers/Highlands plateau?**

**A.** After the birth of our son, Shep, my wife and I were ready to move closer to home, and with family connections on the Plateau, it seemed to be the perfect fit



– mountains, but in the South. Looking back on our decision, it was one of the best we have ever made.

**Q. What do you enjoy most about living here?**

**A.** The family friendly atmosphere and small town feel won my wife and I over instantly. From spending Saturdays on Pine at the concerts, trick or treating on Main Street, Food and Wine,

or even dinner parties with friend in the “off season,” there is always something great going on in Highlands.

**Q. What makes WNC so unique?**

**A.** The wide range of activities here makes it so unique. You can spend a day hiking, fly fishing, kayaking, golfing, playing croquet, relaxing, shopping, dining – something for everyone.

**Q. Why did you choose to work at this firm/company?**

**A.** After receiving my license and interviewing with a number of firms, I chose BHHS Meadows Mountain Realty because it had the benefits of working with a large international firm while still being a small family owned company.

**Q. What is this area's best kept secret?**

**A.** In my opinion, the people are the area's best kept secret. From the year-round community and seasonal residents to the occasional visitors, there is something about the Plateau that draws the best people together.

**Q. What are some of the challenges of selling real estate in this area?**

**A.** Being located in a temperate rainforest in the mountains, homes in the area face a number of challenges most other places in the South do not face. From moss covered roofs to septic system issues, it is important to have someone familiar with these issues and the local community to help navigate through them since the climate here can cause unique issues.

**Q. When you're not working, how do you like to spend your time?**

**A.** Having a 1 and 4 year old at home, I tend to be chasing them around most of the time. But I still love getting to chase trout and birds here in WNC and enjoy the amazing local golf courses.



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Main Level Floorplan

MLS# 96785 | \$1,899,000 | Lot 7 | TWO Levels

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# Upcoming 24th Annual Cashiers Historical Society's Designer Showhouse showcases luxury of glamping and stewardship

When deciding to go glamping for the 24th Cashiers Designer Showhouse, the Cashiers Historical Society knew they wanted to share all of the elements that create Cashiers' luxury. That includes both the design of a home and the surrounding natural beauty.

This year, the public can listen to panel discussions regarding the stewardship of our lush natural resources or walk the Naturalists' Trail to learn more about the historical and modern themes of biodiversity and conservation on the plateau, a collaboration with eight Stewardship Partners, Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy, Duke Energy, Highlands Audubon Society, Highlands Biological Foundation, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, The Ruffed Grouse Society, Trout Unlimited, and Witherspoon Platt + Associates.

Nearly 10,000 species are already known to exist in our area, with more discovered each year—some of which are new to science. Additionally, the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau sits at the headwaters of six different watersheds.

What happens on the plateau is felt throughout the Southeast. If you are interested in learning more about where the worlds of development and design meet conservation and stewardship, consider joining the Cashiers Designer Showhouse for one of these panel discussions or talks:

**Panel: Development and Conservation**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 24, 11 a.m.**  
**Smoke Rise Field Club**  
**Ticketed Event: \$60**

Celebrate the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau's natural resources with a panel

discussion and lunch hosted by Smoke Rise Field Club.

Katherine Ford Richardson, CDS co-chair and managing editor of *Plateau Magazine* will moderate this panel discussion of industry leaders regarding development and conservation of private lands and how good stewardship helps protect our natural ecosystem, creating habitat for wildlife.

Mike Neiduski of the Ruffed Grouse Society, Jeffrey Wright with Trout Unlimited, and John Witherspoon of Witherspoon Platt and Associates will form this interesting and informative discussion, a must attend for any outdoorsman.

Enjoy lunch and the beautiful grounds of Smoke Rise Field Club, a private, full-service gun club for members and their guest's use. The club features three sporting clay venues, two covered five-stand venues, trap and skeet fields as well as a covered pistol range and limited use rifle range.

Tours will be offered to those who wish to explore the club offerings and Matt Canter of Brookings' Anglers will be on campus at Smoke Rise to offer fly casting lessons to participants. Advance ticket purchase is required and is \$60 per person. All attending guests will receive a complimentary ticket to the Showhouse.

**Panel: Clean Energy and Conservation**  
**Thursday, Aug. 26, 2 p.m.**  
**CHS: Dowden Pavilion**

Moderated by Katherine Ford Richardson with audio by Dutch & Dutch, listen to a panel of experts from Duke Energy speak about their clean

energy strategy, hydropower, and stewardship of Lake Glenville.

Jerry DeWeese, lead engineer for hydroelectric fleet and Trout Unlimited representative, Marcus Pitts, lead environmental professional for hydroelectric fleet, Christy Churchill, project manager for historical preservation, and Jennifer Bennett, project manager for water strategy and hydro licensing, will weigh in on this informative discussion.

**Panel: Benefitting Biodiversity**  
**Friday, Sept. 3, 11 a.m.**  
**CHS: Dowden Pavilion**

The southern Appalachian Mountains are one of the most biolog-

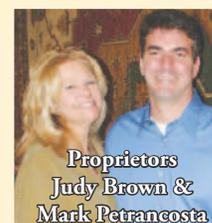
ically diverse regions in the temperate world. Nearly 10,000 species are already known to exist here, with more discovered each year—some of which are new to science.

Additionally, the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau sits at the headwaters of six different watersheds.

Moderated by Katherine Ford Richardson with audio by Dutch & Dutch, hear from local leaders about best practices in protecting habitat and benefitting biodiversity. Brent Martin of the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy and Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, Paige Engelbrektsson of Highlands Biological Foundation, and Dr. Gary Wein of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust will form this educational panel discussion.

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# Pat Allen Realty Group joins forces with Allen Tate Realtors

Allen Tate Realtors announced on Aug. 4 that it has joined forces with Pat Allen Realty Group in Highlands, an independent residential brokerage firm serving Highlands, Cashiers, Sapphire, and surrounding areas.

This announcement marks Allen Tate's entry into the North Carolina Highlands/Cashiers region and adds two new offices: Allen Tate Realtors Highlands-Downtown at 295 Dillard Road and Allen Tate Realtors Wildcat Cliffs/Cashiers Road at 5121 Cashiers Road.

The 64-year-old company operates a total of 48 local offices spanning the Charlotte, Triad, Research Triangle, High Country and Highlands/Cashiers regions of North Carolina and the Upstate of South Carolina.

Allen Tate is the Carolinas' leading real estate company, with 19,949 closed transactions and \$6.15 billion in

closed sales volume in 2020.

Established in 2010, Pat Allen Realty Group is a market leader for secondary and vacation homes, as well as primary residences.

The firm has 16 experienced Realtors serving clients in Highlands, Cashiers, Sapphire, Scaly Mountain, Cullowhee, Glenville, Lake Toxaway, and Sky Valley.

In 2020, Pat Allen Realty Group closed 131 transactions totaling more than \$101 million in closed sales volume.

Pat Allen and daughter Julie Osborn will join the Allen Tate leadership team as branch leaders and brokers in charge.

Allen has worked as a Realtor for 17 years and oversees the Highlands-Downtown office. A native of Georgia, Allen moved to Highlands in 1994, where she owned the Morning Star Inn and led the Harry Norman Realtors office.

Osborn, a former occupa-

tional therapist for the Mayo Clinic, began her real estate career in 2007 with Harry Norman Realtors in Atlanta. She joined her mother at Pat Allen Realty Group in 2014 and oversees the Wildcat Cliffs/Cashiers Road office.

"Allen Tate Companies and Pat Allen Realty Group have had a mutual respect and admiration for each other since Pat Allen's days with Harry Norman Realtors. We're both family-owned, independent, community-based professional companies. We have grown together, and together, we will bring added exposure and unparalleled personal service to this special market. We will provide the tools necessary to maximize exposure to buyers throughout the Carolinas, to the Howard Hanna feeder markets in New York, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, and throughout the world," said Pat Riley, president and CEO of the Allen Tate Companies.

"We love the people and the culture at Allen Tate. We've had a great relationship with Pat Riley through Leading Real Estate Companies of the World. As we've seen other small firms join franchise companies, it was important to us to remain independent," said Allen.

"In the past 2-3 years, the second homes market has grown exponentially. Our team has grown, and we want to continue to grow with quality agents. Joining forces with Allen Tate will give us exceptional resources that will allow us to effectively compete," said Osborn.

"We welcome Pat and Julie to the Allen Tate leadership team. This team has excelled in the second homes marketplace and will be wonderful partners to learn from and grow with moving forward," said Phyllis Brookshire, president, Allen Tate Realtors.

In 2019, Allen Tate Realtors opened its first offices in

Western North Carolina, joining forces with Blowing Rock Investment Properties. Allen Tate now operates full-service real estate offices in Blowing Rock and Boone, serving the northeastern part of Western North Carolina known as the High Country. The Highlands/Cashiers offices are located in the southwestern part of Western North Carolina, serving Allen Tate customers looking to purchase a primary residence or second or vacation home in the southern Appalachian Mountains and Nantahala National Forest regions.

In 2018, Allen Tate Realtors entered into a partnership with Pittsburgh, Pa.-based Howard Hanna Real Estate, creating the No. 1 privately owned real estate firm in the nation, with more than 12,000 agents and employees in more than 300 offices across 11 states.

To contact an Allen Tate Realtor in Highlands/Cashiers, call 828-526-8784.

## Shopping locally is now more important than ever during the pandemic

The importance of shopping locally has been emphasized with increasing urgency in recent years.

Events like Small Business Saturday and Plaid Friday have brought some much-needed attention to the importance of shopping local, which is even more crucial now as so many small businesses try to survive the pandemic.

A poll from the trade group the National Federation of Independent Business reported that about half of all the businesses in the survey reported a 25 percent drop in sales since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, and roughly one in five businesses have seen sales decline by more than 50 percent.

If the economic climate does not radically improve, 20 percent of small

businesses won't survive.

According to NBC News, small businesses employ 60 million people in the United States, almost half of the nation's private-sector employees.

In addition, small businesses generate tax revenues that help communities by funding schools, maintaining parks and contributing to public safety programs.

However, based on research from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, even before COVID-19 spread across the world, only 20 percent of healthy small businesses had sufficient cash reserves to continue to operate if they experienced a revenue loss for two months. Some have been shuttered for much longer.

Individuals looking for everything from clothing to home improvement

services to office supplies can look to small businesses to fill those needs.

- Look for small businesses for any and all of your shopping needs. Chances are items sold by big box retailers also are sold by small businesses. When the options are the same or similar, purchase from a small business instead of its big box competitor.

- Readily provide recommendations of small businesses with which you have done business. Too often people are quick to complain about places that have failed them, but those same people don't think to say kind words about companies that went above and beyond. Share great experiences on social media or through word of mouth.

- Talk to small businesses owners first if you have an issue. It's tempt-

ing to go directly to social media to complain about something, but such complaints can have a dire impact. Always take issues to the manager or business owner first to see if a resolution can be reached. A manager may not be aware of an issue at all. Give small businesses a chance to make it right before taking things public.

- If you own a small business, rely on other small businesses to fulfill your needs. Order supplies from fellow small business owners, seek the help of local financial advisors and tax professionals and use local suppliers and delivery personnel.

Small businesses have experienced unprecedented setbacks due to COVID-19. By supporting small businesses, communities can help them regain stable footing.



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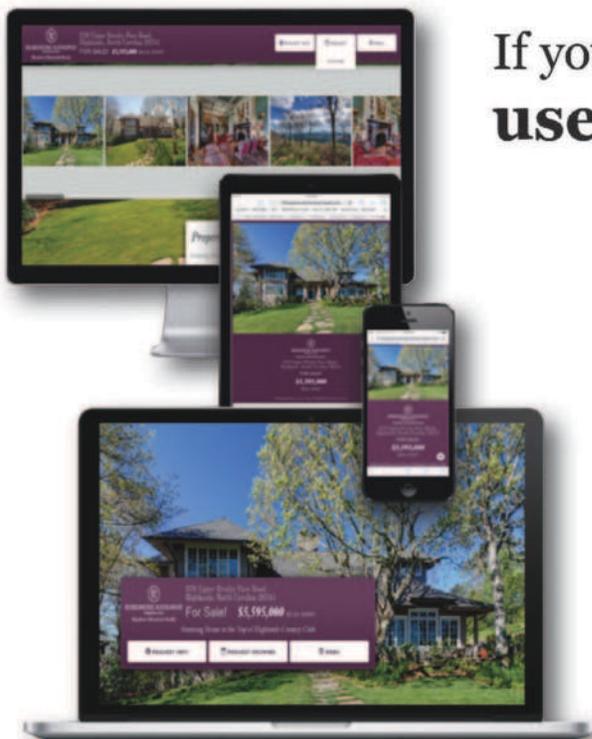


This incredible mountain view lot sits atop The Summit at Cedar Hill on East Ridge Road. The 1.32 acre lot has a gentle slope and great views. Located in the upscale gated community of Cedar Hill, it is convenient to many amenities and just minutes to Sapphire and Cashiers where you can take advantage of shopping, dining, and cultural activities. It is the perfect location to build your mountain dream home!

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- One agent is a member of the Leading Edge Society for 2020 (TOP 8%)
- Three agents received Honor Society awards for 2020 (TOP 14%)

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