

# Crossroads Chronicle VILLAGE VOICES

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Wednesday, December 9, 2009

## Quotable

"When those kids see us on the parade route, it's special. I remember it being a highlight of our youth was to be in the parade."  
— Tangles' Denise Broom about the special sense of community the Cashiers Christmas Parade brings each year.

## Parade bonds Cashiers

Although the temperature for Saturday's parade probably won't get out of the 30s, the annual Cashiers Christmas parade always seems to bring a warm fuzzy feeling to the community.

The fact that this is the 35th annual Cashiers Christmas Parade alone tells you what a time-honored tradition this is. Watching kids chase candy on the streets as they anxiously await the sight of Santa Claus, waiving at your neighbors riding on a homemade float through the heart of Cashiers, and rubbing shoulders with an old friend you haven't seen in a long time are all cherished parts of the Cashiers parade.

Times are tough for people all over. Many people are unemployed, the economy has affected all of us, and for many, the parade signals the beginning of the "really" slow season in Cashiers. But the fact that the parade has endured for 35 years and is still a cherished event in this unique community is a testament to our local residents. It is an event to celebrate the holidays and celebrate being a community.

Perhaps what is most unique about the parade is that it is almost entirely made up of full-time residents. Locals if you will. Cashiers would be hard pressed to survive without its part-time residents, but most have flocked south for warmer temperatures. It's just kind of neat to see such a gathering of natives, locals and full-timers. Often in the summer, they are hard to find.

So go out and enjoy the parade on Saturday, and don't forget to stop by the Cashiers Cares event at the Cashiers Community Center. You'll be glad you did. Just be sure and take a warm coat and hat.

## Chronicle Web site changes

Last week, the Chronicle made some subtle but exciting changes to its Web site, [www.crossroadschronicle.com](http://www.crossroadschronicle.com). If you are a subscriber, you can now see the Chronicle's e-Edition online anytime you want. This new feature allows subscribers to see pdf pages exactly as they appear in your hand-held paper.

We hope this will be a valuable tool to our subscribers who live outside of Cashiers, many of whom don't receive their Wednesday edition until the end of the week. Now, as of Wednesday morning, local subscribers and subscribers in other states can read the entire paper online. The key word here being "subscribers."

But, if you are not a subscriber, you can access the e-Edition only for \$7 a month as well.

We hope our subscribers enjoy the added value. If you have any questions, or would like to become a new subscriber, please call (828) 743-5101 or e-mail [subscriptions@crossroadschronicle.com](mailto:subscriptions@crossroadschronicle.com).

## 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 personal attacks or 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 be limited to one letter every four weeks. All letters should be signed, and writers should enclose their addresses and daytime phone numbers. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published but will be used to verify letters. We reserve the right not to print any letter.

## Crossroads Chronicle

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### OUR MISSION

The *Crossroads Chronicle* is published with pride for the people of southern Jackson County and adjoining counties by Community Newspapers, Inc., of Athens, Ga. We believe that strong newspapers build strong communities: "Newspapers get things done!" Our primary goal is to publish distinguished and profitable community-oriented newspapers. This mission will be accomplished through the teamwork of professionals dedicated to truth, integrity, loyalty, quality and hard work.

**Tom Wood**, chairman      **Dink NeSmith**, president  
**Rachel Hoskins**, regional publisher

### OUR STAFF

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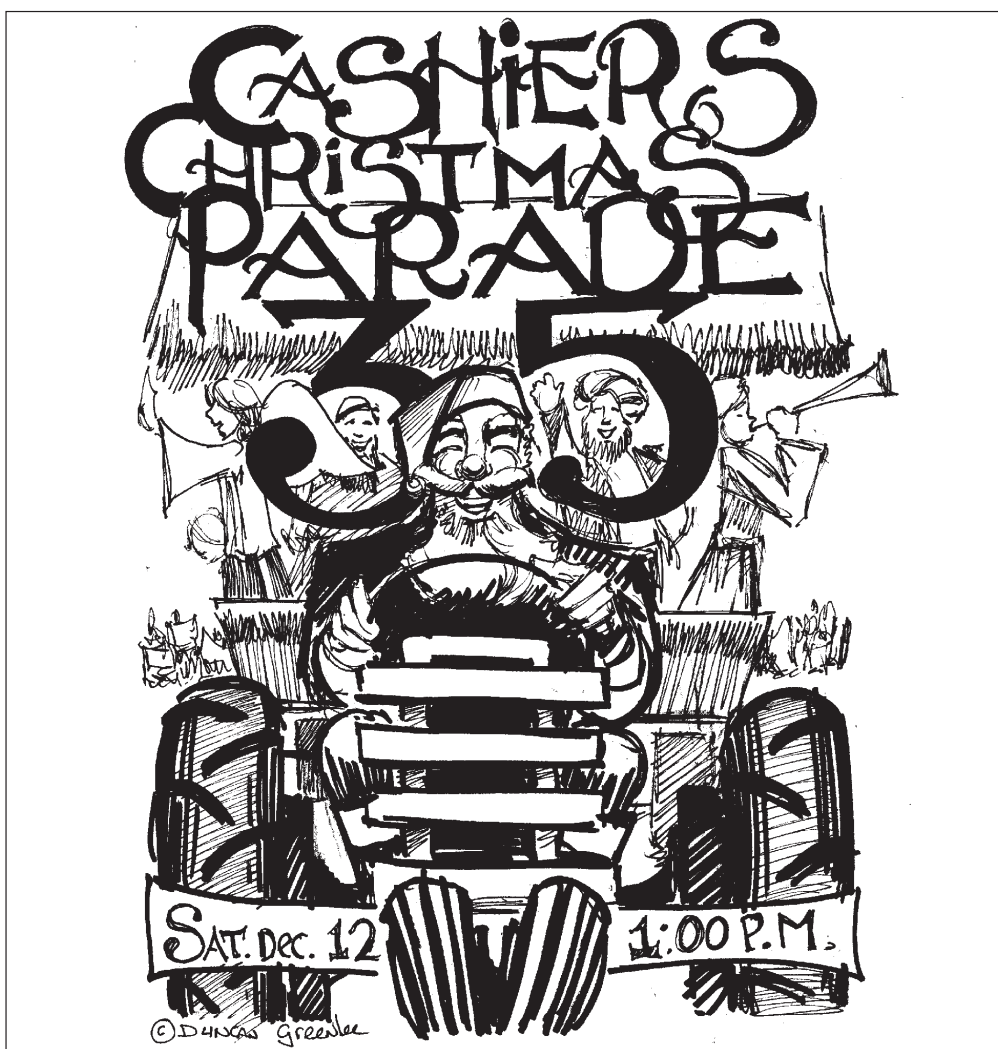
Jackson, Macon counties: \$22 per year,  
\$17.50 per half year.  
Seasonal: \$30 per year; \$24 per half year.  
Out of state: \$39 per year; \$31 per half year

### DEADLINES

The news deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. The classified ad deadline is at 4 p.m. on Friday. The "Super Seven" deadline is at noon on Friday. The display advertising deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday. Call (828) 743-5101; fax (828) 743-4173.

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## THE COMMON TATER



DAVID JOY  
— STAFF WRITER —

## The trees have no tongues

As a certified trout bum with an environmental streak etched into my ethics, I always found the words of Edward Abbey to be a testament to my beliefs. The ongoing debate about the Dillsboro Dam has recently brought Abbey's message back into my mind.

In the "Monkey Wrench Gang," Abbey writes about a group of fictional characters, loosely based on a group of his actual friends, who, after continual acts of eco-terrorism, concoct a plan to blow up the Glen Canyon Dam.

The rowdy group of extremists are seen as heroes by readers, and even inspired Earth First to unveil a 300-foot plastic crack symbolically draped down the Glen Canyon Dam as a protest.

Abbey taught a brief stint at Western Carolina University, where he burnt down billboards along the sides of highways that he saw as littering Appalachia's landscape. Now with all of the talk about Dillsboro Dam, I find myself wondering what Abbey would have done and said if he had stayed in Cullowhee.

On any other subject I highly doubt that I could ever find a reason to side with Duke Energy. However, the destruction of the Dillsboro Dam seems a step in the right direction to returning our river to its natural state.

I agree with Jackson County that the settlement offer of \$350,000 is ludicrous for 40 years of service. Yet, arguing for the Dillsboro Dam as a historical site and a possibility of "green" energy is equally as absurd.

Green energy has become a term thrown around by everyone from politicians to car manufacturers, in order to rouse public support. The term is used loosely to promote agendas, when in reality, just as Abbey wrote, "Wilderness is not a luxury, but a necessity of the human spirit."

The fact is that the Dillsboro Dam, along with all of the other dams and impoundments along the Tuckaseegee, has completely altered the biology and sustainability of Jackson County's most precious resource. I take offense to having

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Enjoyed Cahill article

Dear Editor,

What a wonderful story in your Nov. 11 paper about veteran Robert Cahill.

The word "Hero" is used too frequently these days and should be used for Veterans only.

As a Korean Navy veteran, I know what it's like to participate in situations that you are trained for. I also know Mr. Cahill's work at the free dental clinic and the wonderful work that they do.

Mr. Cahill, you are my hero.

**John Huxley**  
Hillsboro Beach, Fla.  
Glenville, N.C.

### Thank you from Johnson

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank everyone who helped me with my medical expenses. Thanks to everyone that mailed money, came by and gave me money and everyone for helping and giving to the benefit.

I would also like to

thank all the churches for their help and prayers; all my friends and neighbors; Glenville CDC and Pine Creek Community Center for their generous help and support.

I want to thank the bands and singers, too. They (did) a real good job.

In the Bible we are told to love one another as God loves us. This benefit was evidence that Christians are still obeying his word.

Again, thank you for your outpouring of love and support. May God bless you all.

**Carl Johnson**  
Glenville, N.C.

## SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

### Tips for safe holiday shopping

Jackson County Sheriff Jimmy Ashe offers the following tips for safe shopping during the holiday season.

"The holiday season is right around the corner and shoppers are crowding malls and discount stores to buy the latest gadgets and find the best deals," said Ashe.

But what shoppers are neglecting is their safety. According to Sheriff Ashe, "This time of year attracts more shopping-related criminal activity because of the larger crowds and the extended store hours. These factors and the usual distraction of shopping, creates a more favorable environment for petty thieves and other offenders."

The sheriff reminds all residents to follow these safety tips:

#### Shopping Safety:

A single shopper is the best target for theft. Always shop with a friend or relative.



JIMMY ASHE  
— SHERIFF —

When going shopping, tell someone where you are going and what time to expect you to return. Also, make sure they know what you are wearing, as well as the type of vehicle you are driving.

Shop during daylight hours. If you shop at night, park your vehicle in a well-lit area.

Dress casually and comfortably and avoid wearing expensive jewelry. If carrying cash, keep it in your front pocket rather than in a purse or wallet. This makes it much more

difficult for a pick-pocket to remove. Also store car keys in a pants or jacket pocket. If your purse is stolen, you will still be able to drive home.

Pay careful attention to your surroundings and avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

When returning to your vehicle, check around it and in the back seat. Be aware of strangers approaching you for any reason. Have your car keys in your hand to avoid spending unnecessary time unprotected from the security of your vehicle.

If you feel uneasy returning to your vehicle alone, find a security guard and ask them to walk you to your car.

According to Ashe, "During this time of year, busy holiday shoppers become careless and vulnerable to other crimes as well. Credit card fraud and gift card fraud are on the rise. However, taking a few preventive measures can help."

#### Credit Card Fraud:

Keep a close watch on your credit card every time you use it, and make sure you get it back as quickly as possible.

Never write your PIN number on your credit card.

Never leave your credit

## Online Poll

Do you think the Dillsboro Dam is worth the time and money spent by county commissioners?

Cast your vote!

Log on to [www.crossroadschronicle.com](http://www.crossroadschronicle.com)

Do you think putting up Christmas decorations before Thanksgiving is too early?

Yes: 88 %, No: 12 %

81 total votes

See Ashe, Page 5A

See Joy, Page 5A

WEATHER/ENVIRONMENT

CASHIERS WEATHER FORECAST

Courtesy of Justin Caudell and Cashiers Weather Service  
For up-to-date and historical weather, visit [www.cashiersforecast.com](http://www.cashiersforecast.com)

Last week's rainfall: 3.85 inches Year-to-date rainfall: 88.73 inches

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
A chance of showers in the morning, then gradual clearing. Highs around 58 and lows around 28.	Partly cloudy skies during the day and night. Highs around 43 and lows around 20.	Partly cloudy skies during the day and night. Highs around 38 and lows around 26.	A chance for a wintry mix during the day, possibly changing to snow. Highs around 34 and lows around 28.
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	
Transitions of clouds during the day and night. Highs around 45 and lows around 29.	Partly cloudy skies during the day and night. Highs around 46 and lows around 33.	A chance of showers during the day and night. Highs around 48 and lows around 35.	

Last Week's Weather

Observed at Cashiers Area Weather Center – 3,486 feet

Date	High	Low	Precipitation
Dec. 1	52°F	27°F	0.00"
Dec. 2	50°F	35°F	3.80"
Dec. 3	52°F	33°F	0.00"
Dec. 4	43°F	32°F	0.00"
Dec. 5	38°F	24°F	0.05"
Dec. 6	38°F	19°F	0.00"
Dec. 7	48°F	22°F	0.00"

PARI analyzes winter solstice

Astronomers at the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI) in Rosman point out that at 12:47 p.m. EST on Monday, Dec. 21 the Sun will be at its most southern point in the sky for the year.

This is the winter solstice and marks the first moment of winter.

What is the astronomical significance of this event? At this moment the Sun in its apparent path around the sky will stand directly over the Tropic of Capricorn. For an observer at that latitude, the Sun will appear directly overhead at noon. How-

ever, from Western North Carolina, the noontime Sun will appear only about 31½ degrees above the southern horizon, its lowest point of the year. What's more, the Sun rises at its most southern point along the southeastern horizon and sets at its most southern point on the southwestern horizon.

Around this date the days are the shortest of the year and the length of the night the longest. For example, in Brevard sunrise occurs at 7:36 a.m. EST and sunset at 5:23 p.m. Thus, it is above the horizon only 9 hours 47 min-

utes. And viewers in Asheville, which is slightly north of Brevard, will see the Sun for 2 minutes less that day.

After the winter solstice the Sun begins its return to the north. The days will gradually lengthen and the Sun will appear higher in the sky at noon. It will rise farther to the north along the southeastern horizon each morning and also set farther to the north. This continues through the spring or vernal equinox at 12:32 p.m. EDT on March 20 until the summer solstice at 7:28 a.m. EDT June 21.

JOY: The trees have no tongues

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environmental activism become a fad to support political greed and unethical objectives.

There are reasons why trout are sparse between Dillsboro and Fontana. There is a reason why stocked trout, in need of higher oxygen levels to survive warmer water, crowd below the Dillsboro Dam. There are reasons why certain fish species are no longer present above that dam.

Furthermore, the argument for keeping the dam as a historical site for the town of Dillsboro is equally imbecilic. How can an argument be made to preserve something harmful to the environment simply because it represents a time period during a town's history? Create a new history. Create a moment when one county finally took adamant steps to protect and preserve a history older than our own, a history from the moment these mountains rose from the earth.

As the debate rages on,

I'm caught between Jackson County being lowballed by Duke Energy for 40 years of service, yet being so shortsighted as to argue for keeping a detriment to the county's resources.

Abbey wrote that, "A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government." The single thing

that gives me comfort is knowing that when we humans are all gone, the river will still have the power to wash away dams. But until then, we must defend the wilderness of Jackson County's mountains.

In the words of Dr. Seuss, "We speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues."

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ASHE: Sheriff's tips for holiday shopping

from Page 1A

cards or receipts lying around.

Shield your credit card number so that others around you can't copy it or capture it on a cell phone or other camera.

Only carry credit cards that you absolutely need.

Shred anything with your credit card number written on it.

If you're planning to purchase online, make sure the web page where you enter your credit card information is secure through SSL (Secure Socket Layer). You can tell if the web page is secure by looking for the gold lock or key icon at the bottom corner of your browser window.

If you're not comfortable submitting your information through the internet, call the seller and give them your information over the telephone. Never send your credit card information via email.

Check the company out. Only do business with companies that provide a physical address and telephone

number.

Keep good records. Always print out a copy of any online products or services you purchase.

Gift Card Fraud:

Never buy gift cards from online auction sites. This is a large source of gift card fraud. Many of the gift cards are stolen, counterfeit or used.

Only buy gift cards directly from the store issuing the gift card or from a secure retailer's Web site.

Don't buy gift cards off of publicly displayed racks in retail stores. Only purchase gift cards at the sales terminal from the cashier.

Always carefully examine both the front and back of a gift card before you buy it. If you see a PIN number, ask for a different card. If the card looks like it has been tampered with in any way, put it back.

Always ask the store cashier to scan the gift card in front of you. This will guarantee that your card is valid when you buy it and that it reflects the balance

you just charged it with.

Always keep your receipt as a proof of purchase as long as there is money stored on the gift card.

If possible, register your gift card at the store's Web site.

Never give your Social Security number, date of birth or any other unneeded private information when purchasing a gift card. No reputable company will ask for this information.

In light of these problems, Sheriff Ashe warns shoppers to be careful so that they don't become the victim of criminal activity.

"Unfortunately, when shopping, people have a tendency to let their guard down," said Sheriff Ashe. "However, paying attention and taking precautions can help eliminate their chances of being victimized."

To reach the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, call 586-4355 or 586-8901. Our Crime Stoppers Hotline is 631-1125. Visit us on the Web at [sheriff.jacksonnc.org](http://sheriff.jacksonnc.org).

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