

# Crossroads Chronicle

“Serving Cashiers, Glenville, Tuckasee and Sapphire, N.C.”



Vol. 34, No. 30 • 75 cents

www.crossroadschronicle.com

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

## SNGC foreclosure completed

### Course open under new ownership, management

By Kelly Donaldson  
Editor

Sapphire National Golf Club has officially been foreclosed upon and is now operating under the owner-

ship of Textron Financial, and the management company Wingfield Properties out of Greenville, S.C.

The course has a new general manager and head golf professional as well, 37-year-old Chris Shelnut.

As reported in the March 31 edition of the Chronicle, Sapphire National Golf Club was placed in involuntary Bankruptcy Chapter 11 by its creditors on March 22-23. The foreclosure on

the course was completed within the last few weeks, according to Shelnut, who works for Wingfield.

The Sapphire Mountain Brewing Company is now leasing its space at the clubhouse from Textron Financial, which now owns the property, and Wingfield Properties out of Greenville, S.C., which manages the property.

“Textron foreclosed on it and the receivership went

to Wingfield to manage it,” said Shelnut. “Textron started out as the largest golf course financing company in the world. But because of the economy, Textron has almost become a management company.

“They have received 30 golf courses back into receivership throughout the country. They expect to have 40. Of course, their



Photo by Kelly Donaldson/Staff

**Chris Shelnut is the new general manager and head golf professional at Sapphire National Golf Club.**

See **SNGC**, Page 15A

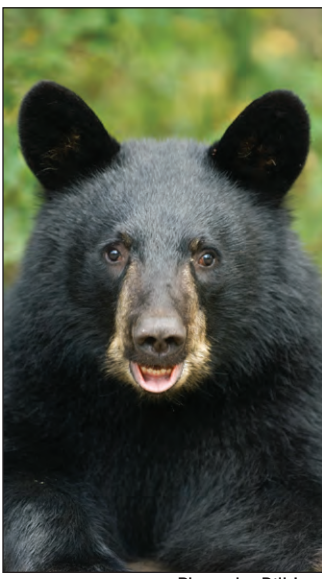


Photo by Bill Lea

**Bear photographer Bill Lea will be a guest speaker at the Aug. 9 Bear Awareness Day event at 7 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center.**

## Black Bear Awareness Day Aug. 9 in Sapphire

By Kelly Donaldson  
Editor

Each year from time to time, the Cashiers area becomes abuzz with bear sightings, stories and even photos to prove such encounters. But as it's no secret that bears are part of the community, they are also not cute cuddly toys either. They can be dangerous if not respected by the community.

This is precisely the reason for the upcoming Black Bear Awareness Day, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Mon., Aug. 9 at the Sapphire Valley Community Center.

Sapphire's John Edwards, who organizes the annual Mountain Wildlife and Wilderness Days event, helped put the program together, which features famous black bear photographer Bill Lea as well.

“I'm involved somewhat with the bear programs in Canada where they have organized bear safety programs and bear safe environments. With the bear situation here, with the pictures and such, we felt like we needed to have a program,” Edwards said of the edu-

See **Bears**, Page 15A

## An eye on the water

By David Joy  
Staff Writer

Though many may know secret fishing spots or the best cove to tube through on Lake Glenville, few, if any, know more about the science of the plateau's pinnacle watershed than Glenville resident Don Hansen. Hansen, a retired oceanographer, has been adamantly gathering quantitative data on the lake since 1995, and now with the help of the Friends of Lake Glenville his research is even more detailed.

Hansen first studied oceanography as a graduate student at the University of Washington in Seattle. From there, he went on to work as an oceanographer for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) lab in Miami, and later taught part-time at the University of Miami.

When Hansen began summering on the plateau in 1992, it did not take long for his love of the water to spread onto

See **Glenville**, Page 14A

Photos by David Joy/Staff

**Below, Don Hansen of Glenville checks the readings from a water sonde 100 feet deep in Lake Glenville. The sonde gives measurements for turbidity, oxygen levels, pH levels, temperature, and pressure. At right, Hansen lowers a secchi disk into Lake Glenville to check the visibility, or turbidity, of the lake from the surface.**



## JCSO encounters new way of making meth

By David Joy  
Staff Writer

Since its height in Jackson County during 2002-2003, methamphetamine has made few headlines largely because of immense efforts by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office and also because of new state legislation that took place in 2006. The law limited the over-the-counter purchase of popular cold remedies such as Sudafed, which were used to produce the drug.

However, a new form of manufacturing methamphetamine has recently brought the drug back to the forefront for local law

enforcement agencies. Whereas traditional manufacturing involved large-scale production, high voltage electricity, and intricate equipment, the new manufacturing process agencies are encountering can be done with little more than a liter bottle.

“Due to some legislative changes where they made it very difficult to come up with the components to make those particular labs we thought we had gotten a real good handle on it,” Jackson County Sheriff Jimmy Ashe said. “Now, the criminal ele-

See **Meth**, Page 15A



Photo submitted

**Jackson County Sheriff Jimmy Ashe holds a bag of methamphetamine seized when the drug began showing up locally during 2002 and 2003. Ashe says that his office gained a quick handle on the drug then, and that the sudden re-emergence will see the same result.**

## REACH in deep financial trouble

By David Joy  
Staff Writer

REACH of Jackson County has been providing services for the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout Western North Carolina since 1978. However, ongoing financial woes may soon end some of the services provided.

In 2002 and 2003 REACH constructed a group of nine apartments, known as the Village,



Roberts-Fer

with one to three bedrooms, which could house the victims and their children for up to three years with affordable rent programs. Since then the Village has become a growing financial burden on the agency and now sits on the brink of foreclosure.

“One of the big issues that we have right now is the debt owed on the village that was built several years ago,” REACH Director Kim Roberts-Fer said. “Unfortunately the village doesn't pay for itself, and as a result over the years the agency has gone deeper and deeper in debt. We've been struggling to maintain the budget given the village does cost more than what comes in. Eventually that caught up with the agency.”

“With the economic times being difficult anyways, it got to the point that we couldn't afford to pay the two mortgages on the property,” Roberts-Fer continued. “At that point we had to contact both of the agencies that hold those mortgages and let them know that we couldn't pay. Right now, we are looking at trying to work out a possible sale, but if the sale can't be made because so

See **REACH**, Page 14A

### Subscribe today!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
Crossroads Chronicle,  
P.O. Box 1040, Cashiers, N.C. 28717

Rates:  
\$22 - 1 year full-time  
in Jackson or Macon County  
\$30 - 1 year seasonal. \$39 out of state.

© 2010 Crossroads Chronicle/Community Newspapers Inc.

### INSIDE

#### Play ball

Cashiers Outside goes to historic ballpark in Asheville. **Page 1B**

#### Antiques galore

34th annual Cashiers Antiques Benefit Show was last weekend. **Page 16A**



### Index

Calendar .....	7-9B
Classified .....	5-7B
Education .....	13-14A
Entertainment .....	10-12A
Environment .....	6A
Health .....	3-4B
Obituaries .....	2A
Opinion .....	4A
Religion .....	2B
Sports .....	9A
Weather .....	5A

EDUCATION

# SCC offers Spanish, photography classes in Cashiers

## SCC offers Beginner Spanish

Pre-registration is open for Beginner Spanish-Level 1 which will begin Aug. 23 and continue for eight weeks (not including Labor Day) on Monday evenings from 6-9 p.m. on Southwestern Community College's Jackson Campus.

This class provides the foundation for future levels. The focus of this level is to learn proper pronunciation, as well as the basic structure of the language. Present-tense verb conjugations are considered as well as the correct

formation of sentences, negative sentences and questions. Latin American cultural differences will be discussed for those planning a trip to a Spanish-speaking Latin American country.

Gene Rainone of Waynesville will be the instructor. He has taught hundreds of students across WNC in the past decade.

Pre-register by calling the Continuing Education office nearest you.

Designate which class you would like to take and leave your name, address and phone number. Visit [www.southwesterncc.edu](http://www.southwesterncc.edu) or call (828) 339-4000.

## Digital Camera Basics at SCC-Cashiers Center

Registration for fall personal enrichment classes is beginning at Southwestern Community College. The first course offering at SCC-Cashiers Center (217 Frank Allen Road) will be an eight-hour workshop on Digital Camera Basics, starting Monday, Aug. 16. The class will meet Aug. 16, 23 and 30 and Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to noon.

This course will cover the basics of using your digital camera and using the various functions

and tools available with it. There will be practical applications of photography theory and opportunities to explore several forms of expression. The class will conclude with the basics of getting digital photos from the camera to a computer, and simple editing and production of prints.

The instructor will be Michael Rich, the current director at Cashiers Center, who has been a professional photographer and worked for Mountaineer Publishing as staff photographer and photo editor.

For more information, call 339-4272.

## Summit work day planned July 31

Summit Charter School will hold a Family Work Day at the school on Sat., July 31 at 9 a.m. Families can come and go as needed. Anyone interested in working should bring work clothes, paint brushes and rollers, and helping hands.

Jobs needed to be completed are touch-up painting in classrooms, trim and exterior.

Please contact the school at 743-5755 to help on July 31. For anyone who cannot make it but would still like to help out around the campus, please call the school to schedule another time.

# REACH: Jackson County non-profit organization in dire need of financial help

from Page 1A

much is owed on it and because it doesn't maintain itself, we would be looking at it being foreclosed on. It was one of those things where each year it just seemed to get worse and worse until we got to the point where it was just going to drag the whole agency under."

Roberts-Fer went on to say that this foreclosure will not affect any of the primary services offered by the agency. However, the financial crisis that has emerged as a result of the Village has caused the agency to assess the entire operation.

"This was the transitional

housing village, so the basic core services will still be maintained which are the hotlines, the emergency shelter, legal services, counseling, and all of those things will be maintained," Roberts-Fer said. "At this point, what we are really looking at is trying reassess the agency as a whole and see where we are at financially and try to get back on stable financial ground.

"For us what that means is really refocusing tightly on our original core mission, which isn't necessarily a bad thing," Roberts-Fer explained. "Sometimes

when things get this difficult and are this challenging on an agency, it really forces you to step back and reevaluate. In the long run we hope that it means that we are going to be more stable."

Most of the funding for REACH of Jackson County is provided through federal and state monies. Yet last year REACH did not receive any of the state funding until five months into the fiscal year, and the agency is expecting a similar five to six month wait period for funding.

Because of the extended

wait period for funding, REACH needs to have at least six months in reserve funding available to cover overhead. But with the economy remaining stagnant, the agency is currently more worried about keeping the lights on.

"We are providing services, but we won't get paid until five to six months out, which means that we have to have cash reserves to cover five to six months," Roberts-Fer said. "We are having trouble paying the bills. So to be able to come up with cash reserves to even cover payroll is re-

ally challenging right now. We just made this payroll, but what we're looking at is whether we can make the next."

While the future remains uncertain for the agency, Roberts-Fer is confident that they will remain a viable part of insuring the safety and future of victims in Western North Carolina. Furthermore she is hope-

ful that within a year the agency may find stable financial ground.

For more information call (828) 631-4488 or visit them on the Web at [www.reachofjackson.com](http://www.reachofjackson.com). To make a donation to the non-profit 501(c)3 organization make checks payable to REACH and send them to P.O. Box 1908, Sylva, N.C. 28779.

# GLENVILLE: Hansen keeps watchful eye on lake

from Page 1A

Lake Glenville.

"I came in 1992, and somewhere around 1995 it seemed to me that the clarity of the lake was becoming less," Hansen said. "Being an oceanographer I made myself something called a secchi disk, and you just lower it down into the water and record how deep you can see it. It measures the visual quality of the water. I did that for about six years and the conditions did seem to be slowly deteriorating. Every year the water was becoming a little cloudier than before."

Not long after, the Friends of Lake Glenville found out about Hansen's research and became increasingly interested in what he found. The Friends began helping fund Hansen's passion, first giving him equipment to obtain water samples from various depths in the lake, and then last year purchasing a water sonde that cost nearly \$15,000. The new technology is equipped with various sensors that record information such as turbidity (water clarity), oxygen levels, pH levels, temperature, and pressure and then sends the information back to a receiver.

Now, around once every two weeks, Hansen ventures out on his Carolina Skiff to

several different locations (all exacted with GPS coordinates) to monitor changes in the lake. Most of the locations involve major tributaries such as Pine Creek, Mill Creek, Norton Creek, Cedar Creek, and Hurricane Creek as these typically have the most variation.

"I've found a number of interesting things," Hansen said. "Basically I was trying to establish a baseline so that if things start getting worse because of development, or if fertilizers used on tree farms or what not allow more nutrients to come into the lake and algae starts to bloom, things could potentially get very bad. So I was mainly trying to establish a baseline so that if things start to get bad we'll have an argument to show how things work. At that point we would be able to take that data to the county or state and hope for some type of action."

What Hansen has found thus far include a mass of data on lake temperatures and on why certain coves tend to muddy when others do not.

"One interesting thing about the lake is if you go out and swim in it the surface water right now is somewhere close to 75 or 80 degrees, but if you go down

50 feet it's more like 50 degrees," Hansen said. "It's highly stratified and very cold down there. The water down there still remembers last winter. It does gradually warm up during the summer but it still stays very cold."

"Because of that, there is a considerable difference in the biology and chemistry of the warm water on top and the cold water below," Hansen continued. "Particularly if we have a heavy rain shower, this waterfall (Mill Creek Falls) will get much bigger and turn very brown, but you won't see that turbidity on the surface because the stream water is typically 10 degrees colder than the surface of the lake. So what that stream water does, because it's heavier and it's heavier because it's colder, is that it plunges down to its own temperature level and then it spreads out horizontally at that depth. So it's hav-

ing an affect in the deeper water that you can't really see on the surface."

Hansen has also found that generally there is higher turbidity in the upper layer of the lake than in the deepest waters. One section that Hansen has found notorious for the highest turbidity is the cove where Pine Creek enters the lake. Hansen attributes this low visibility to shallow waters in the cove and heavy boat traffic that moves sediment from the bottom.

Though Hansen has found no data to indicate anything currently harming the lake, his work has illuminated the past decade of water conditions on Lake Glenville. Hansen continuously shares his findings with the Friends of Lake Glenville and they periodically publish this information on their Web site.

Visit [www.friendsoflakeglenville.com](http://www.friendsoflakeglenville.com).



"So acupuncture can help me restore my health and vitality without drugs or surgery?"  
—Naturally!

**Center for Acupuncture & Healing Arts**  
Kim Bonsteel, L.Ac., Dipl. Ac.  
— classical Chinese medicine —  
in the Crosby Center, 348 S. 5th Street, Suite 224  
Highlands, NC (828) 526-0743

## Antiques

### Ryan and Company

### The Catbird Seat

18th and 19th Century English,  
American and Continental  
Furniture and Accessories.

Also Featuring

Majolica	Staffordshire
Beeswax Candles	Rance Soaps
Imari	Original Paintings
Vintage Jewelry	Lighting
Hand Made Pillows	Slipcovers

551 Hwy. 107 South Cashiers  
10-5 Mon. - Sat.  
743-6767

## get the most out of life BREATHE EASY, SLEEP WELL



**Western Carolina Pulmonary & Sleep Consultants**

Western Carolina Pulmonary & Sleep Consultants introduces its newest physician, Angela Connaughton, M.D.

She and the entire staff at Western Carolina Pulmonary are committed to providing expert pulmonary and sleep services to Western North Carolina.

With office locations and sleep labs in Franklin, Sylva and Waynesville, quality care is just around the corner.

Call 828.586.7994 to make an appointment or visit [www.westerncarolinapulmonary.com](http://www.westerncarolinapulmonary.com) for more information.



Angela Connaughton, M.D.



101870

Free Estimates • Free Design Consultation  
Free Measuring and Installation  
Offer good until Aug 31, 2010



**HunterDouglas** Nothing says "elegant" quite like Hunter Douglas.

Stop in today and get a FREE "Designing Windows" book!

Natural light plays an important role in home décor because it changes not only the mood of a room, but how you feel when in it. Whether watching your big-screen TV or curled up in a chair with a book, having the right light is essential. Hunter Douglas window fashions help control light beautifully...

We also offer:  
Custom Draperies & Valances made from YOUR choice of fabrics & styles.  
Home Decor including Corsican Iron Beds, Pamela Klein products, Eastern Accents, Thibaut Fabrics and Wallcoverings.  
Serving Western North Carolina and Georgia for 25 years.

**CREATIVE INTERIORS**  
278 W Palmer St  
Franklin NC  
9-5 Monday - Friday  
10-2 Saturdays  
"Your Life... Your Style"  
828-369-6275  
[creativeinteriors.hdsdp.com](http://creativeinteriors.hdsdp.com)

**HunterDouglas**  
©2008 Hunter Douglas Inc. © and TM are trademarks of Hunter Douglas Inc. 174787