

Crossroads Chronicle

"Serving Cashiers, Glenville, Tuckasee and Sapphire Valley, N.C."



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Wednesday, August 12, 2009

Stamped out?



Photo by David Joy/Staff

Acting Postmaster, Dana Denton, empties the mailboxes outside the Cashiers Post Office

USPS considers closing some smaller offices

By David Joy
Staff Writer

When is the last time you actually mailed a letter to a friend or colleague? If you're like the majority of Americans, that day has long since passed. Many consumers manage multiple e-mail addresses and pay bills online, leaving little need for actual mail delivery.

For the past several years the United States Postal Service (USPS) has seen a

significant decline in profitability. In a written statement prepared for the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Postmaster General John Peter, states that the USPS is in an "Acute financial crisis," losing \$2.8 billion in 2008.

Attempting to cut costs and save some of the \$7 million they are expected to lose, USPS is hoping for Congress' approval for adopting cost cutting measures. One attempt would include moving to a five-day delivery schedule, which could save an estimated \$3.4-3.7 billion a year.

Other attempts to cut

costs would include layoffs, early retirements, construction halts, advertising cuts, route changes, and branch closings.

The main question concerning U.S. citizens is whether or not local branches will be affected?

According to district Officer in Charge, Jack Knight, it is "too early to tell," if Cashiers, Glenville, Sapphire or Tuckasee post offices would be



Knight

affected.

Knight went on to say, "USPS is experiencing the same economic crunch as everyone else."

"As for now, lower level offices are under review," Knight added. "A freeze on hiring has left many offices short on staff."

Peter's report details how over the next three months executives will review 3,200 offices, out of a total 34,000, for closing. Knight states, "these branches will be reviewed by analyzing day-to-day profits."

The Cashiers area has five branches within a 15-mile radius (Cashiers, Sap-

See **Post Office**, Page 15A



Photo by David Joy/Staff

Back to class

The first day of school at Blue Ridge School and Early College was Monday, Aug. 10. Above, first graders sit quietly around their teacher Wendy Stewart, as she explains the differences moving from kindergarten to first grade. The Chronicle's back to school pages are on 8-9B of today's edition.

Commercial ordinance hearing planned Aug. 17

By Kelly Donaldson
Editor

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners are making themselves available for public comment on Tuesday, August 17, at 6:15 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public input concerning amendments to the Cashiers Commercial Area Land Development Ordinance.

Citizens are invited to make written or oral comments at the Justice &

Administration Building, located at 399 Grindstaff Cove Road, Room A 201, in Sylva, N.C.

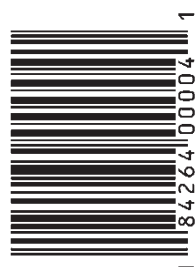
Commissioner Mark Jones said two of Cashiers' commercial boards

See **Ordinance**, Page 15A



Jones

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Legacy golf magazine inside today's edition

The third legacy magazine of the year is inside today's edition of the Crossroads Chronicle. This issue focuses on golf. The first Legacy of the season looked at dining and lodging, and the second Legacy focused on fashion. The next Legacy will feature leaf season. Legacy is a combined product of sister newspapers The Highlander and the Crossroads Chronicle, who also produce the Best of Cashiers Valley and Best of Highlands magazines. We hope you enjoy today's magazine.



INSIDE

What' you lookin' at?
Annual Guinea Pig show was last Saturday at Cashiers Community Center. **Page 16A**

Out of Africa
Locals visit other locals in Africa. **Page 1B**

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Joy is Chronicle's new staff writer

From staff reports

David Joy, 25, is the Crossroads Chronicle's new staff writer.

Joy began working at the Chronicle on Friday, August 7 and replaces former staff writer, Jennifer Daniel.

Joy earned his M.A. in Professional Writing in May and obtained his B.A. in English Literature, graduating cum laude in May of 2007. He has taught at Western Carolina University and published several pieces of work for regional magazines and journals.

Joy has written a non-fiction memoir, "Growing Gills: A Fly Fisherman's Journey," which is being considered for publication. Joy has ample experience with proofreading, editing and page design.

"At the heart of any non-fiction writer, whether creative or journalistic, is a curiosity for the truth. The opportunity to report for the Crossroads Chronicle is a unique chance to interact



David Joy

with and provide news for a close-knit community," said Joy.

"I have lived in Jackson County for the past seven years and my attachment to place is consistently the driving force behind my literary projects," he added. "I am looking forward to providing the Cashiers area with fresh news, ideas, and events from in and around the community."

"We were literally swamped with applica-

tions for this position," said Chronicle editor Kelly Donaldson. "After trying to narrow down the field for interviews, David came to us and it quickly became apparent he was perfect for the position. We look forward to working with him and I think the community is going to be pleased with his work."

Chronicle publisher Mike Henry agreed.

"David has a visible enthusiasm for writing that is going to be apparent to our readers," said Henry. "He's eager to learn and will be a valuable asset to our paper. We look forward to working with him."

Joy will cover news stories, write features, columns, and take photographs for the Chronicle.

He will also assist with designing pages and proofreading copy.

To contact Joy, e-mail him at reporter@crossroadschronicle.com or call (828) 743-5101.

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