

Crossroads Chronicle

“Serving Cashiers, Glenville, Tuckasegee and Sapphire Valley, N.C.”



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Video sweepstakes parlors banned



Photo by David Joy/Staff

Sweepstakes machines such as these in a backroom of the Cashiers BP will soon be outlawed putting an end to what many use as a recreational outlet.

New law takes effect Dec. 1

By David Joy
Staff Writer
Plateau patrons who enjoy sitting down for a game of video slots at area gas stations, such as Cashiers Exxon, Cashiers BP, JJ's Eatery and Canteen in Glenville, or the Moonshine Mini Mart in Tuckasegee, will soon have to find a new hobby. North

Carolina lawmakers banned video sweepstakes parlors in a decision on July 7. These games are generally played on computer screens similar to video poker machines. However, unlike video poker machines, which have been banned by the state, patrons do not actually pay to play the slots but rather are rewarded time on the machine with a purchase of a pre-paid phone card or time on the Internet.

Legislators cited moral grounds as a reason to ban the machines. “This bill makes clear what our position is as to these enterprises,” said Rep. Melanie Goodwin, a Rockingham Democrat, who called the industry a “cancer.” “They are not welcome in North Carolina.” Similarly, Rep. Grier Martin, a Raleigh Democrat, said that the industry preys on poverty. “This is an industry who

preys upon people who do not have a choice, people who are addicted to gambling,” Martin said. Meanwhile, North Carolina lottery officials reported earlier this week that lottery ticket sales increased by 10 percent last year. The lottery said Monday sales grew to more than \$1.4 billion during the 12 months ending June 30. The record sales totaled more than \$419 million. See **Video**, Page 5A

State crimes down, county crimes up

By David Joy
Staff Writer
North Carolina crime dropped more than it has in 25 years according to the annual 2009 crime summary report released earlier this month. The 8.8 percent drop in reported crime marks the single largest drop since 1973 when the state first began compiling the annual report. The rate per 100,000 people of Crime Index offenses reported to law enforcement agencies throughout the state decreased 8.8 percent during 2009 compared to the figures reported in 2008. The rate of violent crimes (which includes murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) decreased 12.5 percent statewide. Individually, the murder rate decreased 19.1 percent, the rape rate was unchanged, the robbery rate decreased 17.6 percent, and the aggravated assault rate decreased 10.7 percent. The rate of property crime (which consists of burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft) decreased 8.4 percent across the state. The rate for burglary decreased 3.9 percent



Ashe

See **Crime**, Page 14A



Top two photos by David Joy/Staff
Bottom right photo by Mike Henry/Staff

Where art and nature meet

This past weekend was another busy one around the crossroads. Above, Jay Saxon, a four-and-a-half year old from Aiken, S.C., gets to touch a juvenile owl on Saturday at the annual Mountain Wildlife and Wilderness Days in Sapphire Valley. At left, the new Village Commons is seen through one of the orbs of Ralfonso's “Dance with the Wind” sculpture, during last week's Art In the Park event at the Village Green. Below, horses helped to raise money for Panthertown Valley this weekend as well. For more on all three events, see pages 7, 10 and 16A.



Cashiers in a heat wave

By Justin Caudell
Weather Writer
Cashiers has been melting in summertime heat the past couple of weeks, and with temperatures not expected to cool down, heat experts with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are warning to take precautions to stay healthy during hot weather. According to the Cashiers Area Weather Center, the average high temperature the past 14 days was 85.9, nearly seven degrees above normal. For four days the high temperature reached 90 degrees or higher, which is the most in a 14-day span since 1999. See **Heat**, Page 14A



Photo by Kelly Donaldson/Staff
Enjoying a day on Fairfield Lake in Sapphire Valley is a good way to beat the heat.

GCAMA busy making plans for remainder of year in Cashiers

By Carol Adams
For the Chronicle
There are very few typical mid-summer doldrums throughout the Cashiers Valley. The Cashiers, Glenville and Sapphire areas are abuzz with many activities that can be credited to the accomplishments of the Greater Cashiers Merchants Association (GCAMA). First Saturday Market Days and the GCAMA-sponsored Trolley Shuttle

have caught on with shoppers who are attracted by merchant specials, various in-shop events and the free ride from shop to shop in Cashiers Village on those feature-full Saturdays. On July 23, Groovin' on the Green resumes after a holiday hiatus with local favorite Hurricane Creek followed, on July 30, by Nikki Talley who wraps up the series for July. The Friday evening concerts, sched-

uled through September, are now on stage at the Cashiers Commons, the town's newest outdoor venue accessed off of Frank Allen Road or through the Village Green. Visitors and permanent/seasonal residents alike are raving about the GCAMA Shopper's Guide Map that showcases shops, attractions and businesses from Glenville to Cashiers to Sapphire Valley. See **Merchants**, Page 14A



Photo submitted

The Cashiers Valley Leaf Festival committee is well into planning the Oct 8-10 festival to be held on the Cashiers Village Green and Commons. From left are Janet Cumming, Gail Sammonds, Tom Sawyer, Jane Ebbert, Pat Grady, Mary Shuey, John Stanger, Judy Gray, and Judy Brown, GCAMA President. Not pictured are Carol Adams, Robin Ashmore, Jochen Lucke, Mark Petrancosta, and Bob Taylor.

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INSIDE



Outdoor shindig
Cashiers Outside explores annual Shindig On The Green. **Page 1B**

Horsing around
Horse event raises money for Panthertown Valley. **Page 10A**

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COMMUNITY

Village Green unveils Commons and sculptures in a big way

The Village Green played host to a weeklong “Arts on the Green” festival July 12-17. Plein Air painters spent the week painting scenes from around the plateau, which were on display and available for purchase all week. Ten sculptors also showcased their work, with pieces being unveiled on Friday for the public. The festival peaked over the weekend with the ribbon cutting for the sculpture exhibition on Friday, and with an all day event Saturday that included a painting race, art activities for kids, lunch, and music. Chronicle photographer David Joy was there to capture scenes all week long.



Submitted by Mary Palmer Dargan

Above from left are Village Green Board members, Page Bernstein and John Lucke, President, share ribbon cutting with George and Judy Dixon, the grand benefactors of Harmony pavilion, the new state of the art audio visual pavilion at the Village Green Commons. Village Green architect, Dan Duckham (center right) watches with pleasure in the company of board members Connie Dimling, Joan Coker, Mary Palmer Dargan and Trish Warriner, co-Chair of Plein Air.

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From left, sculptress Elizabeth Miller McCue works to install one of the nests from “Nesting Ground: Seven to be Found” with help from two Cullowhee artists Tracy Kirchmann and Sara Hill on Thursday, July 15.



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