

Help Keep the Parade on 74A!

by Cory Wall

Last year's Fairview holiday parade was safe, quick and made a huge impact in our community. But there's a chance the county won't let us do it on 74A again.



The county is worried about liability. But I'm ready to handle whatever insurance we need. And I made sure we were safe by having a registration packet requirement where I talked through all the info.

The county is worried that the state law says we aren't a municipality and can't have a parade. Well, they let us do it last year.

The county is worried about not being fair to all of Buncombe County. Well, please let others do this. They may or may not. It's a lot of work, money and effort. It didn't cost the county a cent, except the amazing sheriff's office, which helped us cover the cost of law enforcement last year. This year, I am prepared to help with float cost, donations and vendor participation in the Fairview Community center. And the *Town Crier* is going to

back us up and help with gathering money and distributing funds.

I have already:

- put the engineer on stand by to stamp new plans with route and detours.
- talked to the Sheriff and Chief for staffing of this event, and they are ready.
- hired the official DOT sign guy that helped us last year.
- talked to the insurance company.
- talked to the A.C. Reynolds band and the FES chorus.
- and talked to business owners.

I just refuse to let them tell us we can't do this again. They let us do it and are trying to take it away. Can't we all put our minds together and be solution-focused and make sure anyone and everyone can do this?

How You Can Help

Show up to the County Commissioner's Meeting on October 6 at 5 pm (200 College St., Suite 326, Asheville). Marissa Pack will be making the case for Fairview. You can speak if you want to or just show up to make your presence felt. Let's fight to keep our new holiday tradition.

Cory Wall is the founder and organizer of the Fairview Holiday Parade.

Help Keep the Crier Going — and Doing More in the Community

The *Crier* has always tried to keep the paper free and available to as many local households as possible. And probably just like in your life, that's getting more expensive.

We got a 13% price increase from our printer this year. Postage keeps going up. We added about 800 households in Reynolds, which means more folks are reading our stories and seeing our advertisers—but it also means more printing and mailing costs.

We've also added some paid contributors so we can bring you more local stories, and we're paying our long-term staff—the people who really keep this thing going—a little more each month.

But we have not increased our advertising rates—and have no plans to—because we know our local businesses are dealing with rising costs, too. We want to remain an affordable way for a Fairview business to reach its neighbors.

This paper is a business, too. We have bills to pay, just like everybody else, and we need to bring in enough money to pay them. But making a profit isn't our goal. We'd much rather be able to put more money back into Fairview.

We don't just want to keep the Crier going. We'd like to do more.

We'd like to support more concerts,

movie nights, community events and local businesses. We'd like to pay more local folks to report on the community they live in and love. All of these things help bring people together and make Fairview an even better place to live.

And that's where you come in. If you like having the *Crier* land in your mailbox for free, please consider making a donation—of any amount. Every bit helps.

Your donation can do more than help pay for printing and postage. It can help us do more in the place we all call home.

Please consider supporting the *Crier* today. Thank you!

— Clark Aycock, editor and publisher

The *Town Crier* is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All donations are tax-deductible.

Helene Recovery Continues, FairviewStrong.org Winds Down

By Betty Lynne Leary

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Helene's devastating spin through WNC, few people knew the true extent of the damage. Uprooted trees and downed power lines blocked roadways. Bridges crumbled and washed downstream. Communication between family, friends and even emergency personnel was impossible.

But almost immediately, neighbors began reaching out to neighbors using ATVs, bikes or just on foot to search for the missing, share food, and start the long process of recovery.

Joanne Winkler, a Fairview resident and owner of ESCO Insurance Agency in Fairview, understood that the events of September 27, 2024, forever changed the lives of the people in our community.

"I couldn't just let that be," Winkler



said. "I couldn't just drive by houses and wonder what happened to the families. I wanted to help those families figure things out because we all knew it wasn't going to be a quick fix."

Winkler rallied friends, fellow Fairview residents, and local business owners to create an organization with the initial goal of connecting families with volunteers, resources and financial assistance, especially when they had nowhere else to turn.

Continued on page 9

SMCC Playground Set to Open



It's a Halloween miracle! (Do those exist?)

On October 31, Spring Mountain Community Center (SMCC) will hold a grand opening of their new playground. The beloved former space almost completely washed away by Helene, and community families have not had a place to bring their kids to play. Fairview owes a huge thanks to the SMCC board and volunteers, as well as other community supporters, for their hard work in bringing this beloved gathering place back to life and giving local families a safe, welcoming space to play and connect.

To celebrate this occasion, there will be a ribbon cutting at 4 pm, with a Trunk or Treat following immediately after until 6 pm. A \$20 raffle ticket could win you a free Pisgah banjo, with all proceeds going to SMCC to support additional recovery efforts. "Walking tacos" will be available to purchase.

Host a trunk? Contact Randy Hall at 919-805-1938 or rhall4161@gmail.com. (A prize will be awarded to the best trunk.)

Want to volunteer? Workdays are scheduled from October 27 to 30 to finish playground borders, spread mulch, and help with final landscaping before the grand opening. Go to tinyurl.com/ukw6336w to fill out the volunteer form.

SMCC is located at 807 Old Fort Road.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS & UPDATES

All events in Fairview unless noted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Parkinson's Single Social Group looking for members. Meet up for coffee, dinner, and events in the spirit of creating community and support. Call Tess (828)450-9304. FREE.

OCTOBER 1, 12-6 PM

Candle making bar at Wilderness Muse. Learn to make a candle in store. Book online by appointment or walk in during open bar hours. Learn more at wildernessmuse.com. 1185 Charlotte Hwy.

OCTOBER 2, 7 PM

Live Music with Sal Landers Weirdly Woodstock at The Joint Next Door. 1185 Charlotte Hwy. Visit Facebook The Joint Next Door for more information. FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 3, 12-2 PM

Terramonga Tunes: Pickin' on the Porch weekly live music series every Saturday. 14 Bonn E Ln. Visit Facebook Terramonga Store and Deli for more information. FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 4, 1-5 PM

Garren Creek Market and Little Makers Market first Sunday of the month at the Garren Creek Community Barn. 1198 Garren Creek Road. Go to garrencreek.org for more info and events. FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 4, 4-6 PM

Drop-in volunteering at Root Cause Farm every Sunday. 26 Joe Jenkins Rd. Visit rootcausefarm.org for more information.

OCTOBER 6, 5:30 PM

Baby wearing dance class. 45-minute dance class with easy-to-follow steps. Safe for new moms & baby and moms who are pregnant. Email SantoshaSisterhood@gmail.com with questions. Register at SantoshaSisterhood.com. \$10.

OCTOBER 6, 4-5 PM

Elderflower Community Dementia support group first Tuesdays. For those with dementia and those supporting loved ones. elderflowercommunity.org. 1611 Charlotte Hwy. FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 6, 6:30 PM

WNC Prostate Support Group. Guest speaker Dr. Eric Kuehn, Radiation Oncologist. Free via ZOOM and First Baptist

Church of Asheville. 5 Oak Street, Asheville. wncprostate@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 9, 6-9 PM

Fair Warning Van Halen Tribute Band at Cultivated Cocktails. For more info, go to cultivatedcocktails.com. 161 Charlotte Hwy., Asheville. FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 10, 2-10 PM

A.C. Reynolds Class of '76 50th Reunion at Smith Farms. Indoor/outdoor venue, BBQ truck, DJ starts at 6 pm. 20 Smith Farm Rd.

OCTOBER 10, 10-3 PM

Rusty Dog Arts & Craft show. Featuring local vendors and crafters. 379 Charlotte Hwy. FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 10, 12-5 PM

Spooky Magic Market and 3rd Annual Pumpkin Painting Event at Magic Rocket Vintage. 821 Charlotte Hwy. FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 11

Dinner and Service for pastor Rev. Jimmy Page at Cedar Mountain Baptist Church. Appreciation for 30 years of service. 27 Reeds Creek Rd. 628-0453. All are welcome.

OCTOBER 13, 6:30 PM

Spring Mountain Community Center monthly board meeting. Open to the public. 807 Old Fort Rd.

OCTOBER 15, 6 PM

Community Dinner and Barn Jam at the Garren Creek Foundation Barn. 1198 Garren Creek Rd. FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 18, 8-11:30 AM

Hickory Nut Gap October Bird Watching & Sparrow Migration event with birder Clifton Avery. See hickorynutgap.com for other events and registration. 57 Sugar Hollow Rd. \$30.

OCTOBER 20, 6:30-8:30 PM

Trivia at Whistle Hop Brewery every Tuesday. Visit whistlehop.com for more information. 1288 Charlotte Hwy. FREE to play + prizes.

OCTOBER 23, 5-9 PM

Fairview Business Association Barn Dance at Hickory Nut Gap Farm Big Barn. The FBA will provide pulled pork sandwiches and beans. You bring a dish, a drink and an employee. 57 Sugar Hollow Rd.

OCTOBER 24, 8 AM-2 PM

A Gorgeous Gathering in Gerton

Residents of the different communities of the Hickory Nut Gorge (Gerton, Middle Fork, Bat Cave, Chimney Rock and Lake Lure) are invited to gather and learn more about the beautiful and fascinating place right on their doorstep.

The gathering will take place at Laughing Waters Retreat Center on Monday, October 12, from 6:30 to 8 pm. The evening will feature several of the Gorge's "old-timers," who will share memories of life in the area during past decades. Topics will include the public swimming pool and par 3 golf course that once operated in Gerton, as well as the many businesses that have closed or moved away over the years.

If there is sufficient interest in meeting regularly, future sessions could explore a wide range of topics related to the Gorge, including its geology ("Those Gorgeous Rocks"); landscape and geomorphology ("This Gorgeous Landscape"); watersheds, water catchments, rivers, streams, ponds and Lake Lure ("Those Gorgeous Rivers and Streams" and "That Gorgeous Lake"); unique microclimates and weather patterns ("Our Sometimes-Gorgeous Weather"); and many more.

No pre-registration is required for this event. Doors will open at 6 p.m. When planning your arrival time, please bear in mind that room capacity is limited to about 60 and that some parking spaces will require a walk to the front door. There are a few handicapped parking spaces near the front door. Also, there are likely to be traffic delays due to construction on 74A. If it looks like bad weather or there are road issues, call 919-943-3253 on the morning of October 12 for confirmation that the event is going ahead or check the social media (Facebook or Instagram) of the *Town Crier*. For more info, go to laughingwatersnc.com.

Reynolds Fire Department Yard Sale. Vendors reserve your table; \$15 each or \$10 each for 2 or more. Breakfast biscuit, hot dog lunch, bake sale. 828-335-9999 or marie_haddock@yahoo.com. 235 Charlotte Hwy. FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 27, 5:30-7:30 PM

Guitar Workshop at Turgua Brewing beginning at 5:30. \$10. Django Jazz Jam with Robbie Grice at 6. For more info, go to turguabrewing.com. 3131 Cane Creek Rd. Jazz Jam is FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 31, 4-6 PM

Community Trick-or-Treating at Flesher's Healthcare. Residents will be handing out goodies to all trick-or-treaters. 3016 Cane Creek Rd. FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 31, 4-6 PM

FREE Trunk-or-Treat and Playground Grand Opening at Spring Mountain Community Center. Contact Randy to host a trunk. 919-805-1938. 807 Old Fort Rd.

OCTOBER 31, 5-8 PM

Trunk-or-Treat at Cedar Mountain Baptist Church. 27 Reeds Creek Rd. 828-628-0453. FREE to attend.

OCTOBER 31, 5-8 PM

Trunk-or-Treat at The PLACE Fellowship Church. 2 Laura Jackson Road, right across from the Food Lion. FREE to attend.

FOOD PANTRIES

Food for Fairview, Fairview Community Center, 1357 Charlotte Hwy., Fairview. Mondays 3-6 pm.

Root Cause Farm, 26 Joe Jenkins Rd., Fairview. Tuesdays 3-4:30 pm.

Garren Creek Foundation, 1198 Garren Creek Rd., Tuesdays 4:30-6:30 pm.

Trinity of Fairview, 646 Concord Rd., Fletcher. Wednesdays 9 am-12 pm.

The Place Fellowship Church, 2 Laura Jackson Rd., Fairview. Wednesdays 4-5 pm.

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT The Fairview Town Crier is a 501 (c) (3) company that publishes a monthly community newspaper. Twelve issues per year are delivered free on or about the first of every month to around 11,000 households. Distribution is limited to Fairview, Gerton, and contiguous parts of Reynolds and Fletcher, NC.

The Fairview Town Crier may be reached by mail at PO Box 1862, Fairview, North Carolina 28730. Correspondence, submissions and payments may also be placed in our dropbox at 1185-H Charlotte Highway, Fairview. Subscriptions may be purchased for \$35 per year and will be mailed First Class postage on or about the first of each publication month. Visit fairviewtowncrier.com for details or to order online. For additional info, please visit fairviewtowncrier.com or see page 31.



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Happy October from Fairview Public Library

October is arguably the best month in WNC, and we have plenty happening at the library to help you enjoy it.

This fall, we're excited to be your go-to early voting location. Early voting for the 2026 General Election runs October 15 to 31. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am–7:30 pm; Saturday, October 17, 10 am–3 pm; Saturday and Sunday, October 24–25, 10 am–3 pm; and Saturday, October 31, 8 am–3 pm. There are 13 early voting sites across Buncombe County, and voters may use any of them. Visit buncombenc.gov/vote or call 250-4200 for more information. Please note that we are not an Election Day voting site.

YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS

Ongoing Programs for Little Ones

Baby Play Time
Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30 am.
For babies ages 4–24 months and their caregivers.

Preschool Story Time
Thursdays, 10:30–11:30 am.
For ages 3–6.

Toddler Story Time
Fridays, 9:30–10:30 am.
For ages 18 months–3 years.

Jedi Training Academy *Saturday, October 3, 2–3:30 pm.* Celebrate “Star Wars Reads” month with crafts, brain teasers and activities for ages 5–10. Young Jedi will create galaxy collages, tackle an obstacle course, solve brain teasers and earn Apprentice awards. Costumes are encouraged!

Story Time at Hickory Nut Gap Farm *Thursdays, October 8 and 22, 2–3 pm.* Join Miss Jennifer in the barn at Hickory Nut Gap Farm for stories, songs and activities. Ideal for ages 3–6.

Fire Safety for Kids *Saturday, October 10, 2–3 pm.* Meet local firefighters, tour a fire truck and learn about fire safety with our friends at Fairview Fire Department. Designed for kids and their grown-ups.

Afternoon Art Experience *Fridays, October 9 and 23, 3:30–4:30 pm.* School-age children and tweens will learn about famous artists and art movements while creating artwork of their own using a variety of materials and techniques.

ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMS

Community Engagement Market *Friday, October 2, 3–4:30 pm.* Pick up fresh vegetables and other grocery

items while supplies last, and connect with local community resources. Everyone is welcome.

Intro to Rhythm and Drumming *Tuesday, October 6, 3–4 pm.* Please note the earlier time this month. This guided hand-drum session introduces basic rhythm and drumming concepts through hands-on practice. No experience is necessary. Best suited for ages 12 and up. Registration is required to reserve a drum, unless you bring your own.

Tech Support *Wednesdays, 10 am–12 pm.* Get one-on-one help with phones, laptops, tablets, Kindles, apps and basic technology questions. Learn how to use Libby, access NC Cardinal and more. First come, first served. Please arrive by 11:30 am.

Fairview Library Fiber Arts Club *Thursdays, October 8, 5–7 pm.* Bring your knitting, crochet, embroidery or other fiber projects and enjoy a relaxed evening of conversation and creativity. All experience levels are welcome.

Book Club *Thursday, October 8, 6 pm online; Friday, October 9, 11 am–12 pm in person.* This month's selection is *The Sky Club* by Terry Roberts, about a woman

from the North Carolina mountains who begins building a new life in Asheville after her mother's death. Newcomers are always welcome. Email jen.waite@buncombenc.gov for the online meeting link.

Mindfulness Meditation *Thursdays, 3–4:30 pm.* Build mindfulness skills through guided practice and discussion. Bring a towel or yoga mat, or borrow one from the library. No registration required.

Craft Supply Exchange All October, we're bringing back our Craft Supply Exchange! Bring in unused or leftover craft supplies or browse and take something that inspires you. You don't have to donate to participate. Maybe you're refreshing your craft cabinet, making a Halloween costume or finally tackling that Pinterest project. One person's leftover fabric, buttons or yarn can be another person's treasure. Stop by and see what's new!

We hope to see you at the library this October. Happy fall, Fairview!

Jen Waite is the branch manager of the Fairview Public Library. Contact her at Jen.Waite@buncombecounty.org or call 250-6496.

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THE FAIRVIEW TOWN CRIER October 2026 | 3

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EXCLUSIVE LISTING

Rosie Johnson + Ali Whitman

\$ 1,275,000 | MLS ID 4421257

ACTIVE LISTINGS

Asheville



3 BR | 2 BA | .16 AC | 1,180 SF

3 Byrdcliff Lane
\$370,000 | MLS 4426745

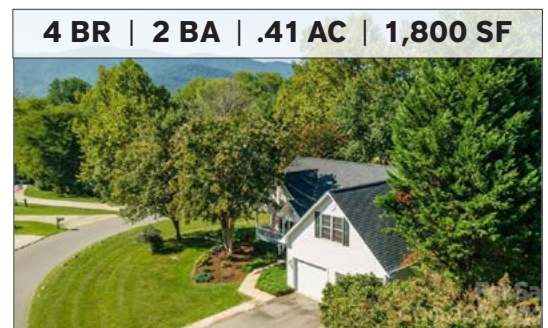
Old Fort



2 BR | 2 BA | 1.17 AC | 1,050 SF

2428 Old Fort Sugar Hill Road
\$439,000 | MLS 4414542

Black Mountain



4 BR | 2 BA | .41 AC | 1,800 SF

38 Eden Glen Road
\$484,900 | MLS 4421255

Agent Spotlight JEANNIE CONNER

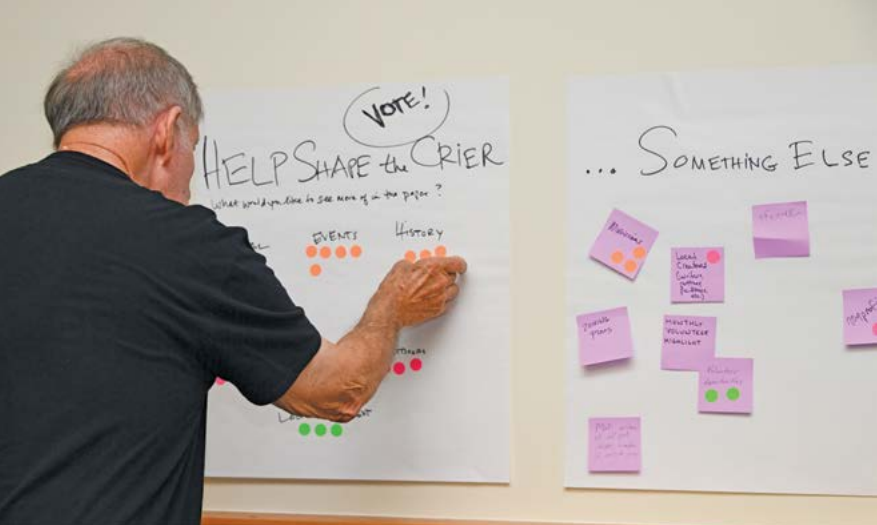


Jeannie is the absolute best real estate agent I have ever met. She worked hard for us in the sale of our property and the purchase of a home. Not only did we gain a new real estate agent, but we count her as a friend. She refers resources that are amazing as well. Definitely 5 stars all the way!” — Rick B.

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Connected with Community

It was great to see so many neighbors come out for “Connect with the Crier” at the library last month! The evening gave us a chance to step out from behind the pages of the Crier and spend some time with the community we’re so proud to serve. We shared stories and ideas, heard what you’d like to see more of in the Crier, reminisced about Fairview’s past, and talked about ways we can continue helping neighbors feel informed and connected. Most of all, we simply enjoyed being together: meeting new folks, catching up with old friends, and sharing lots of delicious ice cream from Hilltop to sweeten the evening. (Thank you, Spencer!) Thanks to everyone who joined us and shared your thoughts. Your stories, ideas, and voices are what make the Crier a true community newspaper, and we hope to see even more of you at future events!

Photos: Indulge Images

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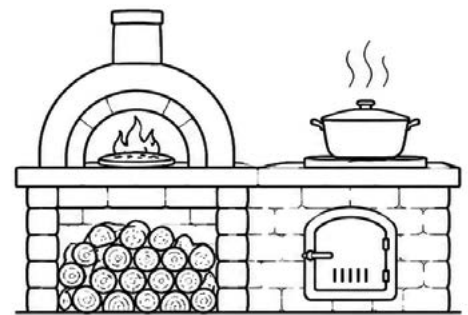
1/4 CORD \$300

1/3 CORD \$400

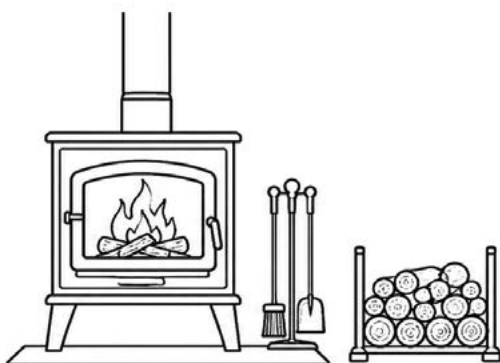
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The Month of Contrasts

October usually has a mixed bag of weather. We can't rule out tropical systems bringing rain, especially in the first half of the month. So far, El Niño has put a lid on our tropical moisture, but hurricane season isn't over yet. As fall becomes established, frost will be likely in many spots by mid to late October. Changing fall colors will blanket the mountains with an array of colors that can vary from valley to valley. Temperatures will continue their downward trend. This month, the turn to fall becomes more apparent, with the average high dropping from 74 at the start of the month to 64 by month's end. Average daily low drop about 10 degrees, from 50 at the beginning of the month to 40 by month's end, and we usually see several frosty mornings by the end of October.

Frost forms on solid objects when the water vapor in the atmosphere changes to small ice crystals. If you see frost, you know that the temperature of the object has reached 32 or lower. When to expect frost? The average date of the first autumn frost is October 23 for Asheville, October 17 for Black Mountain, October 9 for Bent Creek and October 12 for Hendersonville. To know the extremes, add or subtract about 12 days to get the earliest or latest dates. In Fairview, our dates run pretty close to those of Bent Creek, and deep



sheltered valleys and coves tend to have frost/freezing conditions later in the spring and earlier in the fall than the surrounding hilly terrain. This is one reason why apple orchards are typically planted on hillsides.

October can be a month of feast or famine in terms of precipitation, depending on how you look at it. The tropics can be quite active, and if a particular storm heads for WNC, we can get copious precipitation—almost 10 inches of rain back in 2017. On the other side of the coin, October can be quite dry, like in 1991, with only 0.13 inches the entire month. The average October precipitation for Fairview is right around 4 inches, which makes October our driest month on average.

We will be going through the annual fall colors here in the mountains over the

next four to six weeks. Some years, our mountains look like a patchwork quilt of glorious color and other years not so much. Here are three links to sites that track fall colors: tinyurl.com/yc334nyn; tinyurl.com/8ssysfw5; and tinyurl.com/2wnkbu2v. The last link is a new one this year with lots of bells and whistles.

Last Month's Trivia Question
Has it ever snowed in Fairview in October?

Looking back at the records for Asheville and Black Mountain, we have had snow flurries on several occasions in October, mostly toward the end of the month. The largest substantial snowfall was over October 23 and 24, 1923, when 3 inches of snow fell. Some higher elevations reported up to 8 inches of snow.

November Trivia Question
What is the scientific name for a soft whispering or sighing sound made by air moving through leaves and branches?



Meteorologist Tom Ross managed the Climate Database Modernization Program at the National Climatic Data Center.



Winter snowfall contest coming soon!

Look for details in the November issue.

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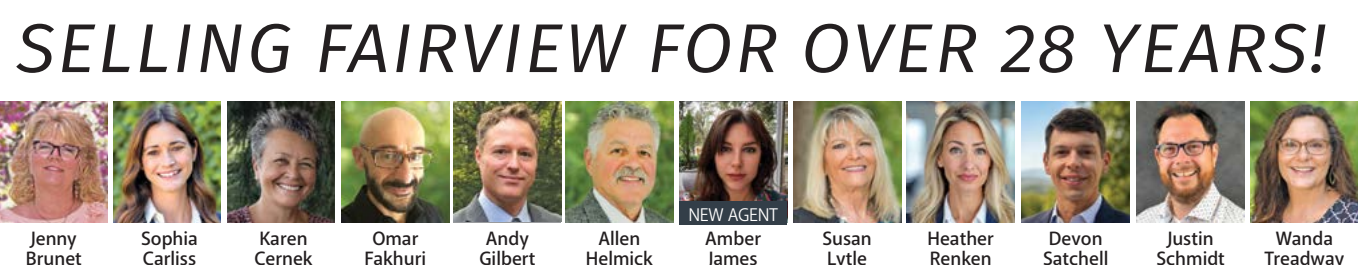


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31 ACRES, LANSING, NC \$240,000

2.92 ACRES FAIRVIEW \$90,000

2.90 ACRES MARS HILL \$65,000

10 ACRES OFF 74A \$979,000

1.62 ACRES, MARS HILL \$35,000

1.28 ACRES, MARS HILL REDUCED \$30,000

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FairviewStrong.org Winds Down

continued from page 1

"It became clear that many Fairview families needed more than immediate supplies or temporary assistance," Winkler explained. "They needed someone willing to help navigate ways to advocate for them and help them find a path back to safe, stable housing."

Joined by Adrian Butter, Jenny Brunet, Phil Troyer, Cory Wall, and Amy Bertelli, Winkler launched FairviewStrong.org (FSO), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. She created the FairviewStrong.org website and, according to Winkler, it all happened very fast.

Early Support

"Our earliest support came from individual donations and community fundraising, like selling Fairview Strong shirts. All of those profits stayed local," Winkler explained. "As the organization developed, we also secured grant funding and formed partnerships that allowed us to take on larger recovery projects that we didn't fund but helped to connect."

Adrian Butter and his wife Vicki moved to Fairview in 2020 and also have a home on Hilton Head Island in South Carolina. In order to help spread the word for the ongoing need for assistance in the area, the couple organized and hosted a fundraising event on Hilton Head Island in April 2025.

"We invited three area nonprofits,

including FSO, to the event, where each shared information on their hurricane relief activities," Butter explained. "That event turned out to be quite successful, with \$300,000 raised that was split among the three nonprofits." Butter was asked to join the FSO board of directors and serve as its chief financial officer.

Complicated Recovery Situations

As the months wore on, this volunteer group faced complicated recovery situations. Families were navigating damaged homes, limited resources, FEMA and insurance problems, overwhelming paperwork, and situations that did not fit neatly into traditional assistance programs. As Winkler quickly found out, these situations rarely had easy solutions, especially because "we were local, everyday people volunteering to help, but we were not seasoned in disaster recovery."

Yet as additional grant monies were secured, the FSO team became adept at solving difficult problems and providing solutions to homeowners throughout the Fairview and Garren Creek fire districts.

One of FSO's most meaningful accomplishments was connecting Fairview families with Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity. This organization offered new manufactured homes through the Asheville Regional Coalition for Home Repair program.

"By advocating for families already on our recovery list, we helped two Fairview families become the program's first participants," Butter said. "Their new homes were delivered in April 2026 and offered these families the opportunity to return home and rebuild their lives within the community they love." The Marlowe family received one of these homes and was featured in the May 2026 issue of the *Town Crier*.

Supporting Fairview Families

In the past two years, FSO raised \$410,257 to support Fairview families—\$192,574 in 2025 and \$217,683 in 2026. Butter noted that for every dollar donated, 96 cents was used for direct cash grants, construction materials and contractor services. Three cents of every dollar was used to purchase and sell t-shirts and calendars for fundraising, with one cent covering FSO administrative expenses.

With the passing of the second anniversary of Helene, Winkler noted that the organization has dwindled to just a couple of people.

"It's been a lot to handle for just a few of us also trying to navigate full-time jobs," she said. "But our focus is on finishing what we started. We are no longer accepting new cases, and we're working to complete the remaining projects on our list." The final stretch has been challenging

for some of these families and serves as a reminder that recovery does not end simply because time has passed.

"These folks await news daily, but we will remain with them and remain in awe of their resilience," Winkler said. "We will see it through and finish what we started before we officially close up shop."

For 24 months, Winkler and the other volunteers of FSO stepped up to help their neighbors, learning not only the complicated nuances of disaster recovery but simply being an ear and a shoulder to lean on when there was nowhere else to turn.

"My biggest takeaway is that recovery isn't just about rebuilding homes. It's about making sure people feel heard. I was not mucking out homes or swinging a hammer," Winkler said. "I found my role listening to survivors' stories by phone, text, email and in person, sorting through problems one step at a time." This meant making calls, directing emails, remembering details, building connections, and getting the right people and resources to the right place at the right time all while juggling her own business and family.

"I learned that persistence, commitment of time, strong relationships, and a well-used Rolodex can accomplish the unthinkable!" she added. "And to remember that even two years later, we are still each other's keepers."

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Ghost Flowers

Recently, I was up on a high elevation walk, slowly moving my tired body through forests filled with moss, boulders, stunted mountain laurel, evergreens and deciduous hardwoods, looking for fall mushrooms and enjoying the cool, crisp, clear air of the mountains we live in. I found plenty of mushrooms, though not the ones I was hoping to find, but I thoroughly enjoyed their beauty and diversity nonetheless. I did see a few small groups of destroying angels, the deadliest mushrooms in the world, which are snow white and stunning to behold but certainly not something you should eat!

I came across a large cluster of boulders covered in moss and lichen and saw something white nestled at the base of the rocks. I smiled with glee, as right beside the mossy boulders was the most beautiful stand of small, ethereal ghost flowers I had ever seen. For decades, these flowers have enchanted me. The common names for this plant are Indian pipe or corpse plant, but I prefer ghost flower, given its ghostly white presence.

In the marvelous world of plants, there are some flowers that stand out. Ghost flowers (*Monotropa uniflora*) certainly fit the bill! These flowers are otherworldly, as the plants have absolutely no chlorophyll and are pure white, almost

translucent. This particular group looked like a herd of miniature seahorse creatures. They grow from three to seven inches in height, and they do indeed look like a ghost flower. As they age, they develop some black or reddish hues, and on rare occasions can be white with deep reddish-pink hues.

The plants have a single, pipe-shaped flower on each stalk. Since the flowers don't possess the green pigment that is crucial to photosynthesis, the plant cannot produce energy on its own, but it has a mutually beneficial relationship with a host tree and fungi that provide it with the nutrients it needs. Since the plants do not need light, they are able to grow in the deepest and darkest parts of the forest.

I have never seen evidence of this plant being eaten by any wild creature in all my years of hiking. There are many references stating that the plant can

be cooked and apparently tastes like asparagus, but I tried one tiny bite and found it bitter. And given the potent chemicals within this plant, including toxic glycosides, I would not recommend eating it. However, it has a fascinating medicinal history. It has been used as an eyewash for infections when mixed

with rose water, as a tincture to treat sores and

infections, and as a sedative and antispasmodic medication.

One of the more interesting medicinal uses for this unique flower is pain management. Herbalists

have used ghost flower tinctures as a substitute for morphine

and opiate drugs to successfully treat severe and chronic pain. This plant could provide a highly beneficial alternative in the treatment of chronic pain, as it provides relief from pain by generating a sense of disassociation from the pain



without the harmful side effects of standard pharmaceuticals.

However, botanical medicine is a complex realm and it is best to leave these matters to highly trained herbal practitioners, who are trained and skilled in creating appropriate tinctures and dosages.

Ghost flowers are a wonder of nature to behold, and for me, they are always a magical rite of passage whenever I see them. Although there are thousands of examples of parasitic and symbiotic relationships in the natural world, these unique flowers are a constant source of amazement to me, and they are stunning to see growing wild in our forests. In the plant world, green is the power that fuels the universe, so to see these pale white flowers thriving in deep shade is always a revelation and a sign of the incredible, beautiful complexity and diversity of nature.



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A Special Letter to Readers from Roger Klinger

I love Fairview, and I adore this newspaper and the community we all share here in the mountains. I have written articles for the *Crier* for 16 years, and it has been a joy and a gift sharing my lifelong passion for wild edible and medicinal plants and mushrooms with all of you!

In 2017, I was diagnosed with a rare genetic form of heart disease that is incurable and progressive. Fortunately, I found the best experimental medical facilities in the world and managed reasonably well, defying the odds and outliving most people in the medical protocols at Johns Hopkins, and I have felt deeply grateful and blessed. Then cancer came in 2021, and I again defied the odds and poor prognosis and made it through all the rigorous treatments and life-changing surgeries and, miraculously, am cancer-free today.

However, the last year has been rough on the cardiac frontier. A few weeks ago, I made a difficult but necessary decision to switch out of palliative care into full home hospice care with 4 Seasons Hospice out of Flat Rock. They are wonderful and familiar, as I had brought them in four years ago when my beloved spouse came down with a deadly cancer while I was barely recovering from the massive surgery I underwent at Duke for my own cancer. He passed away three years ago, and I survived.

Good friends and this amazing

community we have here in these beloved mountains have stepped up to the plate and are providing daily care to help me manage the land, gardens and much of daily life, as my condition has declined over time. Now it's my turn to have hospice here for myself.

I'm not sure how long I will be able to continue writing for the paper, but I will do my best to keep going for as long as I can.

I post a near daily blog on my health journey on a wonderful free website called CaringBridge.org with the hope that it can provide a template of hope for how to live with chronic, life-threatening illnesses.

I have met so many wonderful people in this community through this gem of a newspaper, along with our many garden and studio tours. For most of my adult life, I've been privileged to live in the Blue Ridge Mountains—first in Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley, and then here in WNC. I call these mountains my soul home, as it's where I belong. I love the beauty of the mountains, and the people who live here wouldn't want to live anywhere else on this planet.

Over the years, many readers have asked if I would kindly publish all these *Crier* articles into a book, and that's already been assembled and distributed to a few key friends with hope that it can become a reality after I depart this



marvelous earthly journey.

I am a man of deep faith in God and I have no fear of death; my deepest desire is to celebrate life every day to the best of my capacity, for however long I'm given. I often consider myself one the luckiest, most privileged men to live as long as I have with three successful, meaningful careers and a life filled with deep love, marvelous friends and deep community in a region that for me feels like heaven on earth.

I want to thank all of you for your

support over the years, along with the wonderful editorial newspaper staff that keep this beautiful paper going strong. The *Fairview Town Crier* is an integral part of our little mountain community. I will continue writing as long as I'm able, and more will be revealed in good time.

*All my very best,
Roger Klinger*

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A Lifetime of Fun

For this month's column, we are featuring a letter written to the Town Crier. Arlo, a young Fairview resident, has recently become "hooked" on fishing and has asked some questions. (See his letter pictured here.) The old quote is very true: if you teach someone how to fish, you will feed them for a lifetime. It is debated where this quote originated, but regardless, I hope Arlo finds a lifetime of fun in fishing.

Arlo first asked if we could give some good fishing spots in the area. I will start by saying that Helene has changed this answer. Prior to Helene, Fairview had a couple of consistently good spots. For instance, Cane Creek was always a local favorite for trout. However, Cane Creek relies on trout stocking to maintain a trout population. Cane Creek did receive two stockings this year: one in April and one in June. However, all of the reports I've heard are that the fishing in Cane Creek is not great this year. Cane Creek is an option, but I think we can suggest more consistent spots. I will give three spots in the area: one for trout, one for bass, and one for panfish. Arlo also asked about effective lures, and I will give recommendations for each spot.

The first spot I would recommend within a reasonable distance is a bass

fishing spot, and that is Lake Lure. This area, as we all know, was severely affected by Helene, but the town, state and federal entities have all worked very hard to clean the lake so it can be enjoyed by visitors once again. A study of the lake back in June reported that the lake fish numbers had changed very little since 2023. Other reports I have heard said that there was good fishing this year. Some people have told me that they are catching smaller fish, but I would say that is to be expected. Lake Lure can be fished either by public shore access or by boat. If you use a boat, there is a special permit to buy from the town of Lake Lure. For lures, I recommend fishing soft plastics (these usually imitate worms), crankbaits or spinnerbaits. These are all fished with a spinning rod. When it comes to fly fishing for bass, I recommend using streamer patterns like Woolly Buggers.

The second spot I would recommend is a trout spot near Fairview called North Mills River, which is a designated Delayed Harvest Trout Stream, meaning that the stream is catch-and-release from October through May, and you can keep up to seven trout daily from June through September. North Mills River will receive stockings in the fall and spring. It is split into two sections: the campground

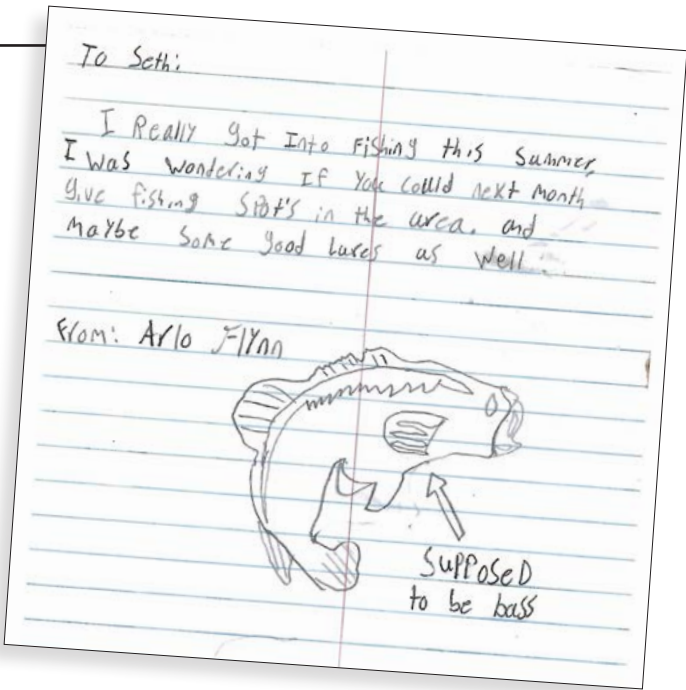
section and a hike-in section known as Trace Ridge. I recommend the Trace Ridge section to beat the crowds. Lures are fairly standard for trout. If you are fishing a spinning rod, I recommend using a spinner such as a Rooster Tail or Panther Martin. If you are fishing with flies, the typical flies work well, such as pheasant tail nymphs, Parachute Adams dry flies (if the fish are hitting the surface), and Woolly Buggers.

The last spot I would recommend is a great afternoon fishing spot if you just want to catch some fish. Lake Tomahawk in Black Mountain is full of little panfish, which is a general term for fish small enough to fit in a pan. More specifically, the target fish in Lake Tomahawk are known as sunfish, bream or bluegill. Most you catch are not much bigger than your hand, but they sure are fun to catch! The lures to use—anything small enough

that hits the water, literally! Small worms or imitations of small worms work really well. Sunfish have very small mouths, so the right size lure is key.

Arlo, I think this information will give you enough to get started on some great spots near Fairview. Always remember, catching fish is just a bonus!

Seth Rhinehart is a fly fishing guide, local musician, and an HR professional with a local organization. He is proud to have fished much of the US and nine different countries. He welcomes any questions you may have at sethrhinehart@gmail.com.



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How much is lost? In the world of *Haute Cuisine*, stock is a *fond de Cuisine*. A foundation of cooking. Stock is everywhere in French cooking. It's entirely possible we're not using stock enough. Cook grits or rice in stock. It's a game changer. Braise a roast in stock. Perfection. Gravies and sauces love a good stock. Need to add a bit more liquid to a stew? Use stock. Need to deglaze a sauté pan? If you're not going to use wine or cognac, use stock. Is it soup night? Use stock.

You can make the best stock with a knife, a pot and a range. If you have a pressure cooker or a crock pot, leave them out of this process. Your stock will thank you. Both appliances rely on a lid to retain heat. The stock can't reduce. The pressure cooker also rushes a process that, by design, requires no hurry. This will cause off flavors to develop.

It's not quite true that you can throw anything into the stock pot. Chicken and turkey will happily share a pot. Their necks and backs make a superb

stock. Ask the butcher to break them down into pieces for you. The gizzards, hearts and livers can go right into the pot as well. A rotisserie chicken carcass is a gold mine of flavor. A few pork bones and a bit of their meat won't hurt a beef stock. The pork should make up no more than 20% of the meat and bone mix, as too much pork creates a sweet-tasting stock. Treat veal like chicken. Keep ham and lamb unto themselves. Avoid starchy vegetables, turnips, cauliflower or any member of the cabbage family. They resent such long cooking.

When I make this stock, I like to brown the bones, meat and vegetables. A 450 degree oven will do a great job with the beef, but, sadly, will burn the chicken. Best to brown the ingredients for chicken stock in a heavy, iron skillet, in batches. For beef or chicken, use as much fat as you need here but no more.



James Burgess wishes for a larger kitchen. You can reach him at ohnonotinmykitchen@gmail.com.

Stock

Ingredients

- 3 quarts raw or cooked meat and bones chopped into 2- to 3-inch pieces
- 2 tsp plain table salt
- 3 medium-sized carrots, washed
- 2 medium-sized onions, peeled
- 3 stalks of celery
- 1 tsp fresh (¼ tsp dried) thyme
- 1 imported bay leaf
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled
- 2 whole or a pinch of ground cloves. (If your dried cloves are more than six months old, omit and discard.)
- Several sprigs of fresh parsley, stems and leaves

Directions

Place the meat and bones into a large pot. Add enough water to cover by two inches. Place over medium heat and bring to a simmer. As the pot heats, scum will start to rise. Remove the scum with a large spoon. Continue to remove scum as it accumulates. This will take about six or seven minutes.

Add all other ingredients and partially cover the pot. When the pot reaches a bare simmer, remove the lid. (Bare simmer: a few bubbles rising, one or two at a time.) Maintain the simmer and occasion-



ally remove any scum. Cook for four to five hours. When slightly cooled, remove the solids, strain the stock, and skim any fat from the surface by your favorite method. Check the seasoning, adding salt if needed. If your stock isn't as strong as you'd like, you can always boil it down.

Refrigerate or freeze the stock when cooled. The stock will hold for no more than four days in the refrigerator unless brought to a boil, cooled and re-chilled every three days. In the freezer, it will last for quite a while. Let's say three months. I like to freeze stock in used and washed yogurt containers. Freeze, then pop the stock out of the containers and place into a freezer bag.

Here's a bonus recipe for the stock paste users. Add the beef paste, Worcestershire sauce, onion powder and horseradish, all to taste, into sour cream. Best onion dip ever.

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The Art of Feedback

I'm teaching a five-week, virtual course at Wilderness Muse called "Hobby to Holidays" right now. It's designed to help artists, makers and hobbyists move from creating something they love toward exploring what it takes to get "market-ready" for the holidays.

The first week of class was about our relationship with making things: What do we actually enjoy creating? What can we realistically make consistently? What parts of our creative identity do we want to keep private as we turn a hobby into something we share and that others can buy?

As I'm writing this article, we're in week two of class, and we're talking about something that I think matters long before we get into pricing, displays, markets or sales: how to give and receive feedback.

If you're going to put something you made out into the world, other people eventually are going to interact with it. They're going to have thoughts, opinions and, inevitably, advice. The more I prepared to teach this part of the course, the more I realized just how much the first two years of operating Wilderness Muse have taught me about giving and receiving feedback.

There is a big difference between feedback and instruction: "You should make this in blue," "You need to lower your prices," "Who would buy that...?"

Those are all opinions. They may contain useful information, but receiving them doesn't mean you need to act on them.

Not everything we create, share or experience has to be opened up for public review. By the same nature, being open to feedback doesn't mean negotiating your boundaries. Sometimes the first question is whether we actually want feedback at all! Next, what kind are we asking for? And next, whose perspective would actually be useful?

In class, we're practicing specific language that leaves room for that: "I noticed this first," "I was drawn to this," "I didn't immediately understand this," "This made me curious..." Those statements communicate our experiences without assuming that we know what the other person should do next.

Wilderness Muse Creative Marketplace gives me a really neat laboratory for practicing the art of feedback. Every day, our customers give us information, sometimes without ever even saying a word. Someone sees a product. Someone



else stops and smells a candle. One person touches a pair of earrings, while another picks up two pairs. Someone picks up four, mini original canvas paintings by the same artist to compare them. Someone else checks the price of an item then asks, "So how do I become a vendor?" Someone mentions the color of a flower pot. Another asks about a suncatcher and then hands me their credit card. Someone leaves, someone comes back. Someone comes back again... with friends! All of those interactions are as important to pay attention to as "So what were my sales this week?"

I spend my days in a little marketplace filled with the creations of dozens of people who see and make things differently. The more I teach people why and how I "test" ideas to get feedback from

our customers, the more I'm realizing how much we all can use these lessons outside of retail, too. Fairview is full of people who make different things, run different small businesses, work different places, have different experiences, and will see the world through different eyes. That is what makes any community interesting!

We can practice giving and receiving feedback with each other. We can say, "This is what I noticed," without assuming that what we noticed is the whole story. We can listen to someone (without taking responsibility for changing their mind), and we can receive someone's feedback without being forced to adopt their perspective. We can always say, "I'm not open to feedback on this right now," and respect when someone else says the same thing.

The art of feedback is the art of learning how to remain different while still enjoying this beautiful place and still making positive changes in our community together.



Leigh Shultis loves the unpredictable magic of the creative process. She is the owner of Wilderness Muse, 1185 Charlotte Highway Suite W. 458-4107.

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Jennifer Prince



"Oh! I remember you!" Jennifer Prince, the Children's Librarian at Fairview Public Library, said when I arrived for our interview. "How are your kids?" As I updated her on my adult children, she led me through the library to where chapter books are kept. "I met you when I was at the East Asheville Library," she said. "Your youngest was still a toddler, right?"

This exact recall is part of the magic that is Jennifer Prince. Her expert knowledge of children's literature is impressive; her obvious connection to those who visit the library is extraordinary.

Jennifer is Fairview through and through. Born at Mission Hospital, she attended Fairview Elementary (FES) and A.C. Reynolds Middle before graduating from Reynolds High. She continued at UNCA where she studied history and literature, and later completed her Master's in Library Science through a satellite program offered at UNCA. Jennifer has worked in the Buncombe County Library System for 27 years, 23 of those at Fairview.

"As a child, I would go to the bookmobile parked at the old Dickey's store," Jennifer said with delight. "So many books! And you could check them out for free!" Then, at FES she discovered the wonder of a brick-and-mortar library.

"Our librarian was Mrs. Grace Tenant," Jennifer said, her eyes shining as her hand rose to her heart. She paused, remembering. "She let me be her assistant!" Her hands dropped to her knees, and she leaned in, admitting, "I'm not sure I was much help to her, but she let me think I was."

Mrs. Tenant introduced young Jennifer to books she still holds dear. "Like *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, the *Boxcar Children* series, and..." she paused, stood, and headed to a nearby shelf, "*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*." She took the book from its slot, opened it, flipped through its pages, and caressed its cover.

"Such a great story," she mused.

Mrs. Tenant is not the only FES faculty member Jennifer recalled. "I had wonderful teachers who made me feel safe and seen. Mrs. King, my first-grade teacher, and her assistant, Mrs. Stierwalt," she began. "And my third-grade teacher Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas—we go to the same church! I get to call her Elizabeth now," Jennifer said with a quick chuckle that transformed into an expression of peaceful gratitude.

"I really did have some lovely teachers. And that's one thing I love about working here. I still see them! I see my old bus driver from Fairview Elementary—in her 80s now, I think—and yesterday I saw my brother's second grade teacher," Jennifer said, nodding. "I am so lucky I got to grow up in this community."

Now, Jennifer gives back to the same community that shaped her childhood. Truly the only thing that compares to her enthusiasm for her neighbors is her commitment to the library and its resources.

Naturally, over the course of her career, some aspects of her work have shifted dramatically.

"Technology has changed my job a lot over the years," she said. And Libby (the library app) is huge." In fact, one of her responsibilities is overseeing the children's literature collection available through Libby to Buncombe County Library cardholders. No small thing, to be sure.

"But people still engage with physical books," she clarified. As we spoke, a mom with two children wandered into the section where we sat. "Hey!" Jennifer said, greeting them by name. "How are you? Glad to see you!" The kids responded, selected books, and moved over to comfortable chairs nearby. They opened the books and three-dimensional images jumped from the pages. Turning back to me, Jennifer noted, "The pop-up books are always a favorite!"

The library's collection of children's

books is comprehensive, with old favorites and new classics in multiple formats. "Harry Potter came out in 1997, and it has not slowed down since," Jennifer said. "It's popular in audio and print." Picture books by Mo Willems, Eric Carle and Cynthia Rylant remain popular; so do Jan Brett, Marc Brown and Jane Yolen. "Graphic novels are big now," Jennifer said. "*Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey—he's part man, part dog; had a surgery in the first book—is one everyone loves," she said.

There are those who criticize graphic novels as being too frivolous for serious students. Jennifer disagrees. "The answer is for kids to read both graphic novels and traditional ones. It's a different way to present a story and can draw in those who otherwise would not read anything."

In addition to serving at the library, Jennifer regularly participates in the community. She might hold story time at Hickory Nut Gap Farm or visit FES, informing listeners about unique offerings through the library such as Zoom passes, games and puzzles to check-out. "There really is something for everyone here!" she stated with wholehearted devotion.

In the summer, there is even more. "For example, we've held the Fancy Nancy Gala for 20 years," Jennifer said. Based on the popular children's book series by Jane O'Connor, the Gala draws quite a crowd. "People come in fancy outfits; we have fancy crafts and fancy decorations. This

year we had over 100 people."

Jennifer also leads a twice-monthly art class for children. "Oh, I'm not an artist," she qualified. "But the class is a judgment-free zone. We talk about our artist heart. I tell the kids, 'You think you messed up but listen to your artist heart and see what happens.'" The kids respond beautifully to this open opportunity to create. One mom even told Jennifer that her son calls it his "beloved art class."

For Jennifer, this connection is what it is all about. "The kids are the best part of my job," she said. "Like the other day, a 4-year-old brought me the first tomato he had ever grown." She touched the palm of her hand where he had placed his treasure. Eyes bright from the wonder of it, she continued. "It was still warm from the sun," she pointed to herself in amazement. "And he wanted me to have it. Can you imagine?"

It's not hard to believe that Fairview's children lay gifts at this librarian's feet. It's a response to all the love she has poured into them. Jennifer sighed with contentment and said, "What joy they bring to my life." Yes! And what joy she gives right back!



Rev. Dr. Aileen Mitchell Lawrimore is the pastor of Ecclesia Baptist, which meets at 607 Fairview Road. She blogs at aileenmitchelllawrimore.com.



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Primary Election Guide

Primary election day is November 3. Early voting will take place from October 15 to 31. Due to changes in state law, you will need to present an acceptable photo ID to vote (or vote provisionally).

A majority of our readers live in the 28730 ZIP code. The races and candidates below are representative of what most voters in that ZIP code will see on their ballots. However, a ZIP code is not a precinct, and other readers live in Gerton, Fletcher and Reynolds. You can find your sample ballot and precinct information on the state Board of Election’s website (see info on facing page).

STATE

US SENATOR

ROY COOPER (D)
MICHAEL WHATLEY (R)
MICHAEL DUBLIN (G)
SHANNON W. BRAY (L)

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 11

JAMIE AGER (D)
JENNIFER CAPPS BALKCOM (R)
TRAVIS GROO (L)

NC STATE SENATE - DISTRICT 49

CJ DOMINGO (R)
JULIE MAYFIELD (D)

NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 114 *

ERIC AGER (D)

NC SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE - SEAT 1

ANITA EARLS (D)
SARAH STEVENS (R)

NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE - SEAT 1

MICHAEL C. BYRNE (R)
JOHN D. ARROWOOD (D)

NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE - SEAT 2

GEORGE COOPER BELL (R)
TOBIAS (TOBY) HAMPSON (D)

NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE - SEAT 3

CRAIG COLLINS (R)
CHRISTINE MARIE WALCZYK (D)

NC SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE - DISTRICT 40, SEAT 2 *

ALAN THORNBURG (D)

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE - DISTRICT 40, SEAT 1 *

WARD D. SCOTT (D)

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE - DISTRICT 40, SEAT 2 *

JULIE M. KEPPLER (D)

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE -

DISTRICT 40, SEAT 3 *

BEN SCALES (D)

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE - DISTRICT 40, SEAT 4 *

SUSAN (SMITTY) DOTSON-SMITH (D)

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE - DISTRICT 40, SEAT 5 *

ED CLONTZ (D)

COUNTY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY - DISTRICT 40 *

MARTIN MOORE (D)

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - DISTRICT 1

ROB STETSON (R)
ANNA V. STEARNS (D)

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT *

JEAN MARIE CHRISTY (D)

SHERIFF

GARY PARRIS (R)
QUENTIN MILLER (D)

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ALAN DITMORE
ANTHONY D. COLE
SARA NICHOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION - DISTRICT 3 *

nonpartisan
ROB ELLIOT

PARTIES

(D) Democrat
(G) Green
(L) Libertarian
(R) Republican

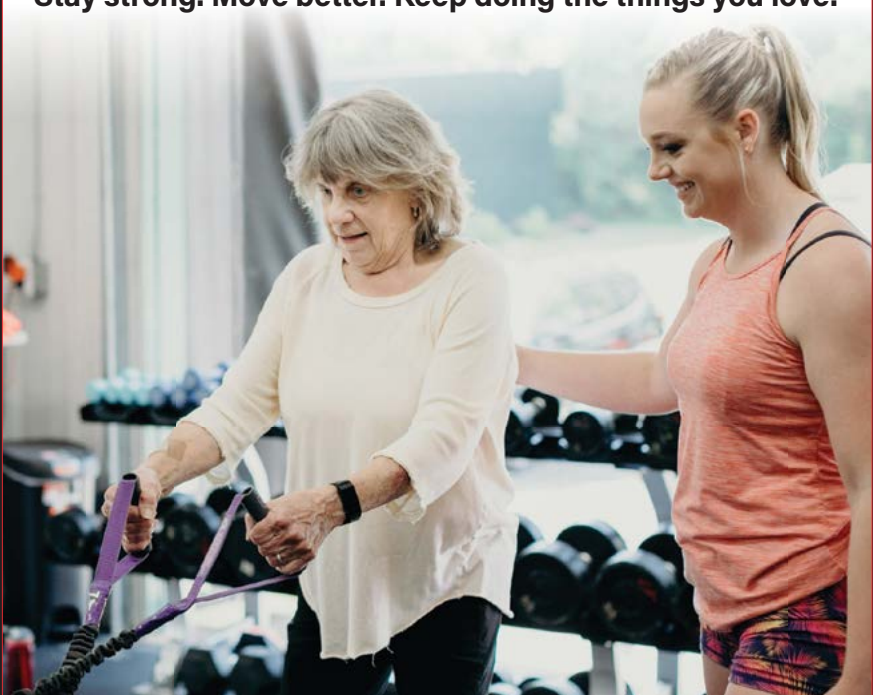
NOTE

*There is only one candidate running in this race.



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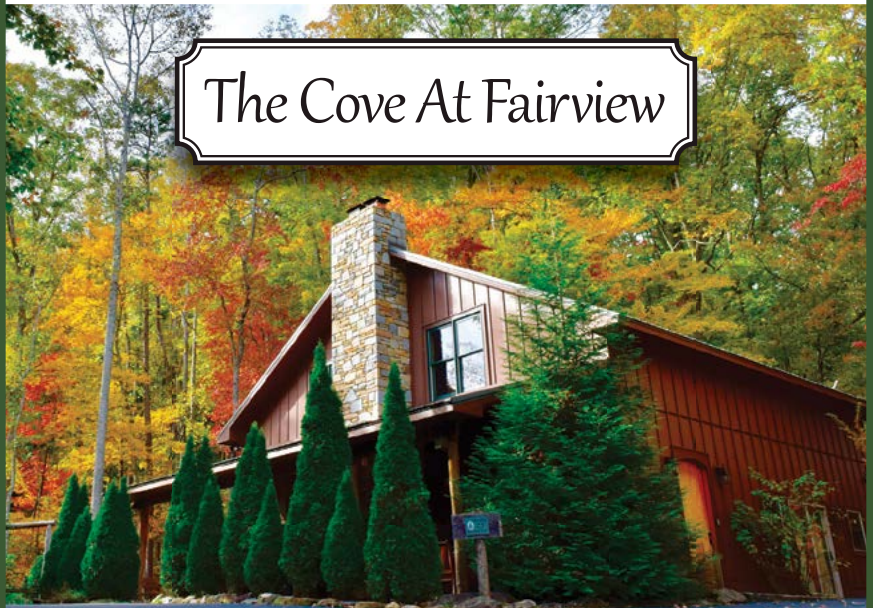
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REFERENDA ON THE BALLOT

These three proposals that will appear on your ballot would add or change text to the state's constitution. You will vote Yes or No for each one.

Proposed referenda: *Constitutional amendment to require all voters, not just those presenting to vote in person, to present photo identification before voting.*

Sen. Warren Daniel (R-46) said, "Voter ID is a commonsense security measure that needs to apply equally to all voters. As voting has evolved over the years, protecting against fraud needs to as well. We shouldn't treat one form of voting differently, and our constitution should reflect that."

Katelin Kaiser, policy director of Democracy North Carolina, said, "This is another attempt to disenfranchise voters by mail, and it is working. Legislative leadership has made it more difficult for students, older people, and people who are disabled to vote by mail in North Carolina."

Proposed referenda: *Constitutional amendment to keep the State income tax rate from being raised higher than three and one-half percent (3.5%).*

State Sen. Michael Lee (R-7): "Our tax reforms have produced more than a decade of strong revenue growth while letting people keep more of what they earn, and this amendment locks in that progress. I'm encouraging North Carolinians to vote yes in November. This is their decision to make, and it's a chance to put a real, lasting protection in the constitution for every taxpayer in the state."

Gov. Josh Stein (D): "[The amendment is] a con, a cynical shell game and a millionaire protection cap. It will not put any more money in anyone's pockets. But what it will do is make regular people pay the consequences of it next year and years into the future because it will insulate the very wealthy from ever having an increase in their income tax. We have to have a balanced budget every year when revenues are needed. You know who's going to have to pay? It's you. Regular people every time they go buy something through the sales tax."

Proposed referenda: *Constitutional amendment requiring limits on property tax increases by local governments.*

State Rep. Destin Hall (R-87): "Property taxes are out of control, and some local governments are abusing their power by overtaxing and underdelivering for their constituents. It's time for

real reform, and this constitutional amendment on levy limits will help stop runaway property tax hikes and protect North Carolina taxpayers."

State Rep. Eric Ager (D-114): "I think if we were really serious about fixing the property tax problem, we would begin here looking at ourselves [in the General Assembly] and figuring out how we can support these communities in both their education, their law enforcement, all of those things, and stop creating unfunded mandates."

NOTE: This proposed change to the state's constitution does not set a specific limit on property taxes. It gives the General Assembly the ability to set a limit.

Source: The quotes arguing for and against each referendum were taken from Ballotpedia. You can find additional information at ballotpedia.org/North_Carolina_2026_ballot_measures. The quote from Eric Ager can be found at tinyurl.com/49v62486.

BONDS ON THE BALLOT

Two county bonds will be on your ballot. You will vote Yes or No for each. Below are the Crier's best attempts to summarize what the bonds are asking of voters.

1. The county is seeking approval for \$30 million in bonds, plus interest, to fund the acquisition and improvement of land or interests therein for conservation purposes, including the protection of natural resources and preservation of farms and scenic landscapes. The bonds would also fund the development of parks, greenways, trails and other outdoor recreational opportunities. Additional property taxes may be levied in an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the bonds. The estimated property tax increase, per the county, would be \$4.10 per year for each \$100,000 of property value.

2. The county is seeking approval for \$40 million in bonds, plus interest, to fund the capital costs of housing for the benefit of persons of low or moderate income, including construction of related infrastructure improvements and acquisition of related land and rights-of-way. Additional property taxes may be levied in an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the bonds. The county's estimated total cost over the life of the bonds would be \$63,486,820, including \$23,486,820 in interest.

REGISTRATION

To vote in NC, you must be a U.S. citizen and resident of NC who will have lived at your registered residence for at least 30 days before the election. You must be at least 18 years old by Election Day. You must not be currently serving a felony sentence (including any probation, post-release supervision, or parole). You cannot claim the right to vote elsewhere.

The deadline to register is October 9, 5 pm. If you are registering to vote by mail, your registration form must be postmarked by October 9. You can also register and vote with same-day registration during early voting, starting October 15, but you must provide proof of residence.

How to register (three options)

Register online

If you have an NC driver's license or ID, go to the NC DMV's website (payments. ncdot.gov). After you log in, you can submit a voter registration application (or an update).

Fill out a printed registration form

English: tinyurl.com/ncvoteenglish
Spanish: tinyurl.com/ncvotespanish
Print it and fill it out, with a non-electronic signature.

Printed forms are available at county election board offices, public libraries, high schools, and college admissions offices. Mail the signed and completed form to: Election Services, PO Box 7468, Asheville, NC 28802-7468. Or hand-deliver it to the address below.

Register in person

Visit the county elections office at 35 Woodfin St., Asheville.

If you have moved since the last election and are registered to

vote in Buncombe County...

Fill out a form found at the links listed above and return by hand (35 Woodfin St., Asheville), mail (PO Box 7468, Asheville, NC 28802-7468), or fax (828-250-6262).

College students

College students can register and vote in the jurisdiction of their residence. Students who consider their school addresses their residences may register and vote in the county where the school is located.

Photo ID info

Voters will be asked to show a photo ID when voting in North Carolina, so make sure yours is acceptable and up to date. If you do not have an acceptable photo ID, you can still vote. You may complete a Photo ID Exception Form, or vote a provisional ballot and provide an acceptable photo ID to the county Board of Elections by the applicable deadline. The address on the photo ID does not have to match the voter registration records. There are exceptions.

Acceptable forms of ID include a North Carolina driver's license, certain military and veterans IDs, and approved college and public-employee IDs, among others. For a full list of acceptable forms, go to tinyurl.com/ncvoteid.

FIND YOUR DISTRICT

To confirm or find your precinct, go to vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup and enter your name, then click on your name on the next screen. You'll also find a sample ballot. Or call the county Board of Elections at 250-4200.

EARLY VOTING

The one-stop "in-person" process permits voting at any designated location prior

to election day. Early voting is available from October 15–31. Monday-Friday: 8 am–7:30 pm. Saturday, 10/17 & 10/24: 10 am–3 pm. Sunday, 10/25: 10 am–3 pm. Last Saturday, 10/31: 8 am–3 pm.

Local early voting site

Fairview Library – 1 Taylor Rd., Fairview.
For other sites, go to vt.ncsbe.gov/EVSite, find "Buncombe" in the dropdown menu, and then click "Find Sites."

ABSENTEE / MAIL VOTING

Requesting a ballot

Any registered voter may request an absentee ballot for any reason. The deadline to request is October 20, 5 pm.

Complete a request form (find at tinyurl.com/absentnc26) and return by mail (PO Box 7468, Asheville, NC 28802) or in person (35 Woodfin St., Asheville). Once your form has been received, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you.

Submitting a ballot

Absentee ballots must arrive at the Election Services office (35 Woodfin St., Asheville) on or before November 3, 7:30 pm. *Having your ballot postmarked by November 3 is not sufficient.* Return postage is \$1.98.

You may still vote in person if you have requested an absentee ballot. A voter's near relative may also request and return an absentee ballot. For active duty military, their family members, and US citizens living abroad, visit FVAP.gov and follow the instructions to receive a ballot.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Include a photocopy of an acceptable ID or complete an ID Exception Form.
- ☐ Mark the ballot in the presence of two witnesses or a notary.
- ☐ Sign your own name on the ballot

envelope. Someone helping you should not sign their own name on your behalf.

- ☐ Make sure the ballot envelope is sealed completely.
- ☐ Return only your own ballot unless you're a qualifying near relative or legal guardian, or you're covered by the disability exception.
- ☐ Don't put multiple voters' ballots together in the same ballot envelope.
- ☐ Request and submit your ballot as soon as possible to ensure it is received in time. As noted above, you can deliver it in person.

If there is a problem that can be corrected, election officials may contact you and give you an opportunity to fix it.

GET INFO

Get unbiased, nonpartisan info about registration and voting from the county's Board of Elections. Call 828-250-4200 or go to buncombecounty.org/vote.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Research races and candidates at the following websites, which all claim to be nonpartisan:

- Votmart.org
- RealClearPolitics.com
- Ballotpedia.org
- PolitiFact.org
- [League of Women Voters lwvab.org](https://LeagueofWomenVoters.lwvab.org)

DO YOU LIVE IN HENDERSON COUNTY?

For our readers who live in Gerton and Fletcher, visit hendersoncountync.gov/elections for more information.

Trinity 5th Graders Honor Craigtown, Win Global Award

On the second anniversary after Hurricane Helene devastated the Fairview community of Craigtown, a dedicated group of local fifth-grade STEAM Ambassadors from Trinity of Fairview Academy has turned a community tragedy into a message of hope, remembrance and global acclaim.

Driven by love for their hometown, these young students set out last school year on a sacred mission to commemorate the first anniversary of the disaster. What began as a deep personal, service learning project blossomed into a global triumph. In June of this year, the team traveled to the Destination Imagination Global Finals, carrying the heavy but sacred story of Craigtown onto a world stage.

Performing live before a global audience, these children did not just perform; they bared the soul of a community that survived the worst. Their breath-taking performance utterly dominated the competition. The fifth graders swept the global stage, earning three historic awards: first place in their specific challenge, highest instant challenge score in their division, and the tournament's absolute highest creative honor—the prestigious da Vinci Award.

The international tournament brought

together nearly 600 student teams from 28 US states and 11 countries to compete in Kansas City, MO. Competing against students from around the globe, the fifth-grade Trinity of Fairview Academy STEAM Ambassadors presented a powerful live performance that shared the story of Craigtown. Their award was presented publicly during the closing awards ceremony. As the explanation of the award was read aloud to a crowd of approximately 10,000 people, the tragedy of their community was shared:

“Trinity of Fairview Academy STEAM Ambassadors rocked the stage with a landslide of creativity that mixed hurricane force, social drama and real-life events. Their project was centered on remembering members of the WNC Craigtown community who were lost during the devastating floods caused by Hurricane Helene. By incorporating first-hand research, actual weather reports, viewpoints from survivors and first responders, and differing media perspectives, the team grounded their imaginative storytelling in authentic experiences. Throughout their presentation, the team consistently chose bold, meaningful and unconventional approaches such as creating and reenacting a live landslide that included STEAM elements with



Back row (l to r): Melissa Spruill, Charlie Worley, Finley Braswell, Mallisa Howard. Front row (l to r): Talmadge Overstreet, Colin Bell, Harper Graham, Eli Tyson, Zachary McKinney

real community events, and service learning into one cohesive and highly original solution. Their willingness to take creative risks, represent complex perspectives, and transform real-world events into an impactful and meaningful presentation exemplifies the spirit of the Destination Imagination Global Finals da Vinci Award.”

Yet, for these fifth graders, the true

victory was never about the trophies; it was about the promise they made to the families of the lost victims. The team's ultimate dream came to fruition when they returned home and poured their hearts into creating a permanent memorial garden on the property of Amber Ballew, who lost her home that lay at the base of one of the landslides on Old Fort Road as you enter Craigtown.

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PNEUMONIA Age 50+

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Every element of the memorial was touched by the students' hands. The garden features a massive boulder left behind by one of the fatal landslides and is surrounded by large stones that came down the mountain with the flood waters. Each one was carefully placed to represent a loved one who perished in the devastating floods. Beautiful flowering shrubs now bloom around the rocks, signifying life rising from tragedy. On the site is a custom metal sign, created by team member Charlie Worley, bearing two words that have become the heartbeat of the community—"Craigtown Strong."

The most poignant piece of the memorial sits quietly at the base of the

massive boulder. While digging through the storm debris to gather the stones, the students uncovered a perfectly flat rock sculpted entirely by nature into the shape of a heart. The heart stone now bears the handprints of the team and serves as a beautiful reminder of the love that still binds this community together.

Team members hope this garden ensures that future generations never forget the sacrifices made by family members, first responders, and the surrounding communities who bonded together to rebuild Craigtown.

Melissa Spruill is a STEM teacher at Trinity of Fairview Academy.

ACRHS STUDENT OF THE MONTH
Myles McClure

ACRHS media coordinator Leigh Armistead said that Myles "is the kindest soul. He has jumped into his library science position, going above and beyond to make book lists and find funding with sources he knows. It's impressive to watch him interact with students and teachers alike because he's so friendly and genuine with both. In addition, Myles is the Senior Class President and an active member of Student Council. His focus is on fundraising and student engagement. Way to go, Myles!" All winners receive a special mug from the Crier. Congrats, Myles!



PARENTING POINTS TO PONDER

STEPPING BACK IS A GIFT

The first part of my "Growing Together Series" began last month with encouragement to help families see everyone as contributing and capable members of the household. We explored why chores matter more than a clean house.

This month, I want to build on that idea by looking at how we can hand over more responsibility by doing less for our children.

I have to remind myself of this lesson more often than I would like to admit. When I see someone I love struggling, my first instinct is often to help. I want to make things easier, prevent frustration, and save time. Sometimes, doing something for someone feels like the most loving thing I can do.

But I am learning that there is a difference between helping someone and taking away an opportunity for them to discover what they can do for themselves.

I remember how tempting it was, especially when I was raising my children, to step in simply because doing something myself would be faster. As a teacher, I understood the importance of

helping children become independent learners. But at home, when we were rushing out the door, trying to get through the evening routine, or hearing about a problem on the phone, that knowledge didn't always translate into practice!

Stepping back doesn't always feel natural. I'm still learning that it takes more patience to watch our children struggle than to simply do the task ourselves. Sometimes, we are the ones who need to slow down and trust the process.

Giving our children room to grow means asking, "Does my child really need me to do this, or do they need me to believe they can try?"

We might be surprised by what happens when we give our children a little more room—and a little more confidence to discover, "I am capable."

Try it and see.

Christi Hurd is a PCI Certified Parent Coach and retired educator who helps parents build stronger relationships and find more joy in the parenting journey. Learn more at grace2growfamilycoaching.com.



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TO THE NORTH



Jean Zook shows off the Crier at Hopewell Rocks, Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, in Canada.

ANDIAMO!



Sarah Kemppainen McGonigal took the Crier with her on a recent visit to the Temple to Athena in Siracusa, Sicily, Italy.

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**LOVELACE
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Artist Carves Out Creativity and Community in Fairview

Like many artists, Phillip Longwell started learning his craft at a young age.

“When I was growing up, my dad would spend his days off doing woodworking, and he often let me help him. That’s where my inspiration came from, and I want to pass it on to the next generation,” Longwell said. “I often work on small projects with my grandson hoping he’ll develop a love for working with his hands.”

Longwell and his wife visited WNC for many years, and, after retirement, decided to make Fairview their forever home.

“We wanted to live in the mountains and be close to the area’s attractions, but not right in the middle of them,” Longwell noted. “Fairview provided that for us. Everyone we’ve met and worked with has been incredibly welcoming.”

About seven years ago, Longwell decided to turn his hobby into a business to keep himself busy. And thus Rusty Dog Woodworking was born. He enjoys creating custom children’s products, cutting boards, charcuterie boards, signs, wooden flags, and other custom pieces.

“Woodworking encourages you to slow down and savor the process. It’s also a great opportunity to engage in conversations with children about the



craftsmanship involved in making things,” he said. “The most significant challenge lies in educating the average customer about the cost of the raw materials.”

In 2021, in an effort to help other local artists have a platform to showcase their talents, Longwell created the Rusty Dog Arts and Crafts Show. The show is held on the second Saturday of every month April through November.

“I’ve entrusted the management of the show to a local artist named Liza Pierce,” Longwell said. “I’m still actively involved in the background, assisting with the setup, and offering any other support I can give to Liza.”

HE’S GOT A POINT Raw Materials to Remarkable Craft

While some handmade crafts are created as beautiful pieces of art, for Fairview resident Tom Simpson, the pens and knives he crafts are not only stunning to behold, but designed to be used and enjoyed.

As the creative talent behind Mountain Man Knife Craft, Simpson enjoys taking raw materials and using his hands to make something both beautiful and useful.

“I like working with my hands,” he said. “I’ve been making knives for about 10 years and pens for about 20 years.” Some of his hand-forged knives are made from Egyptian camel bone.

“When I get it, it’s rough and raw,” he explained. “I work with my hands to smooth it and make it beautiful.” Simpson enjoyed sharing his crafts with shoppers at the Rusty Dog Arts & Craft Show, which is set up in the green space between Daymoon Coffee and Signs for Hope on Charlotte Highway.

“I find joy in taking metal and making something out of it,” Simpson said. “And I like working with a lot of different woods to make the pens. I enjoy making things to be used and to last.” You can find more info and can see more of Simpson’s creations by visiting the MountainManKnifeCraft.com.



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Community Is Resilience in Reynolds

by Ann McCutchan

In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Helene, Buncombe County Public Libraries and the Friends of Buncombe County Special Collections launched Come Hell or High Water, a community memory project dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing the stories and digital records of those impacted by Helene. As co-leader of the oral history component, I had the privilege of interviewing several folks from the Fairview area, including Sam Burleson, lead pastor of Covenant Community Church in Reynolds, which had, immediately after the storm, created on its property Covenant Community Village, an assembly of camper trailers serving as temporary housing for families displaced by Helene.

In our September 2025 interview, Pastor Sam described how the church became a distribution hub for the Methodist Church's WNC Conference. Then came the idea for The Village. The pastor and his wife Erin, also a Lead Pastor at Covenant, had already been working on a master plan for property development. The storm was the catalyst for action.

Aiming for 100 Percent

"We operate off a very strong conviction that if churches or religious institutions own property, they need to utilize that property to its maximal potential," Pastor Sam told me. "As best we can, we



Pastor Sam Burleson studying plans for The Village 2.0

should be stewarding 100 percent of our property." Their unused land was flat and outside of a floodplain: perfect for a temporary housing project.

Pastor Sam remembered that the project was conceived on October 17, 2024.

"I sat in this room and said to our team, 'I think we should do this, y'all. I think this is going to be a need. What do y'all think?'"

To start, the Conference sent 10 camper trailers. Through social media and word-of-mouth, others arrived;



South Carolina volunteers from Sheds of Hope building a shed for The Village

eventually there were 25 donated homes. Some came from as far as Louisiana, Iowa, and Massachusetts—all driven to Covenant by their owners.

An essential part of establishing The Village was installing basic utilities. In the beginning, the pastor said, each trailer had to be pumped and filled with water weekly, "sometimes twice a week, depending on the size of the family. But that's how individuals lived while we put in the water, sewer and electric." He credited Davis Civil Solutions, the county planning department, Pipe Plumbing, and T&K Utilities with accomplishing the work. Fairview residents Bruce Johnson and Leigh

Ann Hamon generously funded it. At the same time, Covenant brought in portable showers, toilets and laundry facilities. The entire project was covered by individuals and foundations. No state or federal funds came into play.

Welcoming and Celebrating

Social workers with Buncombe County Schools helped identify children and their families who were homeless due to the storm. As the first residents found permanent housing and moved out, others came to replace them. Pastor Sam said, "I told every family: we will welcome you warmly when you come, but we will celebrate you loudly when you leave." Over time, 29 families with children have been housed.

Throughout the life of The Village, members of Covenant's congregation have stepped up, volunteering their expertise in various areas to help it succeed. For example, they distribute household goods on Wednesdays. In addition, Bounty and Soul offers produce and other foods in A.C. Reynolds High's extra parking lot.

"That's leading out of one's giftedness, and the talents that are already there," the pastor said. "But the larger story of our congregation is that we are a group of people who firmly believe that this is what the church looks like. It is not oriented toward something that happens

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Aerial view of The Village and Covenant Community Church



A Village child assisting with construction

The Village 1.0 will soon move into The Village 2.0: about 30 tiny homes open to adults who have aged out of foster care and need transitional housing. The church has begun “massive” fundraising and working on getting their story out, Lloyd told me. “We do need more partners, the pastor

on Sunday, but it is something that we get to live out Monday through Saturday.” Recently, I caught up with Pastor Sam and Kate Lloyd, Program Director for The Village. What they call added. “We intend to create an adjacent resilience hub for the community, in line with a resilience hub mapping project Thrive Asheville is proposing. We’re talking to Blue Ridge Health about a health facility onsite. We already have behavioral health service providers here.” The new ecosystem he and Lloyd envision would include workforce development resources, a business incubator space, and a coffee shop, where people can gather. “In community,” said Pastor Sam, “is resilience.”

To view all components of the “Come Hell or High Water” community memory project, see helenehistory.omeka.net. Ann McCutchan, author of six books, lives in Fairview. annmccutchan.com.

THE ITSY-BITSY CROSSWORD (#223) LUKE WANDER

1	2	3	4
5			
6			
7			

Across

- 1. _____ we met?
- 5. What follows a high, eventually
- 6. Toy that flies off the shelves?
- 7. Candidate for North Carolina’s 11th Congressional District

Down

- 1. Pre-match ritual for the All Blacks
- 2. Sacha Baron Cohen character who delivered Harvard’s commencement address in 2004
- 3. Something to do on the first Tuesday in November
- 4. Water jug

The Itsy Bitsy Crossword is a puzzle designed to tickle the mind. If you can’t solve it on your own, ask a friend for help. If together you can’t quite finish it, ask a stranger, or, as a last resort, ask the internet! Sometimes the clues are wickedly difficult, and other times delightfully easy. Luke Wander grew up reading the Town Crier and it will always be his hometown paper. These days, he is a teacher living in Colorado with his wife and editor, HH, his son, Wayne, and his cat, Esme. Find the answers at the back of this issue.



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The Fiery Skipper and Gathering Seed

I want to tell you about a little butterfly that is called the Fiery Skipper. I was sitting on the porch at my grandma's house enjoying our favorite new pastime of watching hummingbirds, when I saw something that didn't seem possible. It appeared that two small moths noticed a hummingbird near some zinnias that they had been sipping nectar from. Those moths then proceeded to successfully chase the hummingbird up into a tree.

This happened over Labor Day weekend, which meant that we were able to have higher-than-average concentrated time for porch sitting and bird watching. And my grandmother has recently purchased a wonderful monocular that we have been able to use to more closely study the birds.

We noticed that one of the birds appeared to have a handful of ruby feathers on its throat. A little bit of internet sleuthing taught us it was a juvenile male. When they are still young and just leaving the nest, most do not have any of the marvelous iridescent ruby feathers.

Through further observation, we were able to discern that there were actually three juvenile males. We could tell this because the ruby feathers on the necks were not the same from

bird to bird. It is amazing to now see a fully mature ruby throat and trying to imagine how many feathers might cover their neck.

These guys were very active and competitive with each other. In addition to the three young ones, there were also two mature males. It was fun to see the mature males basically ignoring the upstarts. I wondered if they might be the fathers of some of the young ones but, more internet sleuthing showed that fathers never actually know their young.

One day, they were all being very active, putting on a show for us, and that is when I saw what I thought were the two moths chasing the hummingbirds. I was surprised because I did not believe that moths were capable of flying that fast. They were right on the tail of that hummingbird, who was maintaining a tight zigzagging path up to the nearest redbud tree.

The internet told us these were not in fact moths but actually little butterflies that are part of a group called Skippers. We believe that ours was a Fiery Skipper based on coloration and our geographic location.

I tell my sons every now and again what a privilege we have to be able to live in such an amazing world. I just

love giving myself the opportunity to be present in it and see whatever we might see.

If you would like to see your own Fiery Skipper, give yourself a little bit of time near a patch of flowers. I don't think it has to be zinnias, but that is where we have witnessed ours. They are about the size of a quarter and have light-orange wings with brown markings. They are spectacularly fast, but they also love to settle in on a and have a moment probing in and out of the center of the flower.

Even if you don't spot one, I am confident that if you slow down and watch, you will see some insect or another. They're all amazing and worth a watch as part of a dense ecosystem that makes our gardens what they are.

Speaking of slowing down, that is exactly what most of our gardens, and for that matter plant life in general, are currently in the process of doing. And we are beginning to make plans for our seed gathering.

At the top of my list for gathering will be evening primrose seed. A few weeks ago, I gathered one pod and planted those seeds in a small pot to see if my instinct about whether or not they were seeds was accurate. I am

happy to report that those seeds are now about one inch tall.

I had a notion that I might explain to you how to gather your own seeds but that would be a fool's errand. There are so many different types of seeds, and ways that those seeds express themselves that it would take up most of a whole *Crier* to accomplish that feat.

I would encourage you to seek the advice of the many and varied specialists on YouTube who will happily, if not thoroughly, walk you through collecting whatever seeds your heart may desire.

There are still quite a few weeks for many plants to even come into seed, so make some plans today. In the meantime, try to slow down and take in even the smallest piece of this amazing world that we are all simply fortunate enough to call our home. Cheers to you and yours.



Nate Barton is an artist who teaches art. He lives with his wife and two sons in Fairview, and maintains a flower garden with his mom and grandmother, who are also his neighbors.

Instagram @etannotrab.

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The British Encouraged the Cherokee to Go to War

The Revolutionary War broke out between the Americans and British in 1776. The majority of Americans desired independence. A great many Loyalists, however, wanted to remain part of the British Empire. The Tories wished to govern themselves and have no connection to the British. Economics played a role in regard to which side you backed. Many in the cities owned businesses that profited off being part of the empire. The people in rural areas were often self-sufficient. People often resented the high taxes England placed on the colonies to support the British military in order to maintain their ever-expanding empire.

Great Britain encouraged the Native Americans to wage war against the settlers who moved near Cherokee territory. It seemed like a winning plan for the British. It saved them money. It reduced the risk to British soldiers' lives. Every Cherokee that died made the Cherokee less of a threat to Great Britain. And the British thought that attacked settlers would want the British Army to remain to provide protection for them. This British strategy had local effects.

The Pacolet River runs at the foot of the mountain between Henderson County and the present town of Tryon. The Hannon family lived on a small farm on the north fork of the Pacolet River in 1776. People had to make their living growing crops to eat and feed their animals. However, the mother became sick and died a few months after the birth of her ninth child.

It was planting season for corn, as the dogwood blooms indicated. The Hannon family was lucky enough to have an ox, which was stronger than a horse and enabled them to plant more ground. The widowed husband and five oldest children were out plowing the field and planting seeds. The

four youngest children were left alone at the house. Winnie, a 7-year-old girl, looked after the baby. Edwin, a 10-year boy, kept the fire going. It burned no matter the season, as it was where they prepared their meals.

The father and five kids had been making good progress planting seeds. So, they took a break to refill a gourd with water from a nearby creek. While they were drinking, they heard crows cawing all around them. One of the boys remarked that it was strange that they had been hearing crows all morning, as they had not seen any flying over them.

The father remarked that when he first came to this area, such an occurrence meant that Native Americas were hiding nearby. It meant it was time to grab your guns and prepare for an attack. He could see fear in one of his daughter's eyes, but he told the kids that was a long time ago. It had been nearly 10 years since there had been any trouble with the Cherokee.

They went back to the middle of the field and began working. The crows started cawing again on all sides of the field. One of the girls got scared, but one of her older brothers told her to stop worrying. "You know good and well," he said, "ain't no [natives] going to be messing around here what with Captain Rogers and his Rangers down at the Block House."

Suddenly, the air was filled with the war whoop of the Cherokee. They dashed from the woods, covered with war paint. The Hannon family stood in the middle of the field in shock and fear. The father yelled, "Run! For God's sake! Run!" Then an arrow entered his back and passed through his body. The head of the arrow protruded from his stomach as he fell dead onto the freshly plowed ground.

The five children ran in terror, but it was too late. Each was caught and killed. The Cherokee ran after the ox and killed it with their tomahawks.

Edwin and Winnie, back at the cabin, heard the war whoops. They went to see what was going on and were horrified by what they saw. John, a 3-year-old boy, started running toward the field. He thought his father and brothers and sisters were playing a new game.

Edwin ran and grabbed John, and Winnie ran back toward the cabin. One of the Indians spotted Edwin carrying his baby brother. The Cherokee gave a whoop and took out after Edwin. He was forced to drop his baby brother as they gained on him. His brother was killed, but Edwin made it to a hiding place under the riverbank.

Winnie grabbed the baby from its cradle and ran out the back door up the hill to the cane brake behind the cabin. It was a place she knew from playing hide and seek with her brothers and sisters. The Cherokee ransacked the cabin and set it on fire.

Several hours later, Edwin got the courage to crawl from his hiding place under the riverbank. He went to the cane break and softly called his sister's name. Winnie came out holding the baby. Edwin knew that if they followed the river downstream, they would eventually run into a settler's cabin.

They headed downstream, taking turns carrying the baby. They came to the home of Colonel John Earle, not far from the town of Landrum, SC, near the North Carolina state line. Earle later adopted the three children.

Bruce Whitaker documents Fairview-area genealogy. This column was originally published in the Crier in July 2022.

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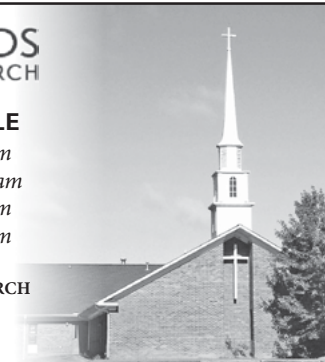
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Reintarnation (n.): Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

*

"I just cleared out some space in the freezer" sounds much more productive than "I just polished off another pint of ice cream."

*

A cop left a nice note on my windshield to let me know I'd parked my car correctly. It said "Parking Fine."

*

At the boss's funeral, a disgruntled employee knelt next to the casket and whispered, "Who's thinking outside the box now, Gary?"

*

A railroad track without any cars. Can you spell that without any R's?
Answer: THAT!
(Thanks, Karen Lowe, for sharing.)

*

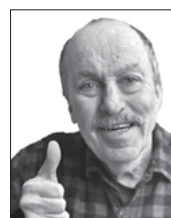
"I can resist everything except temptation." —Oscar Wilde

*

I recently entered a competition to see who'd gained the most weight and lost the most hair. It wasn't called that, of course. It was advertised as a "School Reunion."

*

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Blaine Greenfield hosts *BLAINESWORLD*, a webcast, and he also publishes a blog with the same name. You can reach him at bginbc@aol.com.

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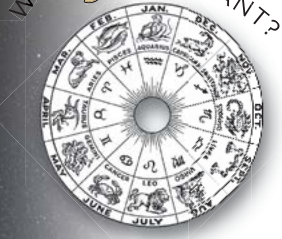
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Office Pricing Models and Alternatives

What about those great software prices, like Microsoft Office for \$79? The price might seem just about all you would want to pay for Office, but you should know that you are not getting your own license. Many of these are what I would call off-label licenses, usually corporate or educational. If you carefully read the license, you'll see you probably don't qualify for it. This means you can't get support from Microsoft. At any point, Microsoft could negate that license code and your copy would fail. Instead, look at other alternatives, such as Google Docs, LibreOffice (libreoffice.org/download), ONLYOFFICE (onlyoffice.com/download-desktop), even Apple's Pages or Numbers, which can all work with Microsoft documents and spreadsheets. This way you'll stay legit and updated with your office software.

Necessary Emergency Features
Emergency features that should be enabled on your smartphone (Apple and Android) include Medical ID/Information and In Case of Emergency (ICE) contacts, Emergency SOS calls with simple side-button presses, crash detection, and Crisis and Weather alerts. If you have a newer new iPhone, you

should also test the satellite connection feature and try the Satellite Connection Demo before you have to use it. It does eat up your charge, though.

Going Golden?
Wondering when to jump onto Golden Gate this fall? That's what Apple is calling macOS 27. The answer is: not when it first comes out, unless you like helping to discover bugs, or you have read about some great new feature like finally being able to set different volumes for alerts, alarms or ringtones. Wait until the second update, likely after Thanksgiving.

Organic Maps
Now that the two major map providers, Apple Maps and Google Maps (Waze is owned by Google), deliver ads, you should look at Organic Maps. Their data is pulled from OpenStreetMap.org, their software runs just on your device, and they don't track anything you do. Admittedly, the software's look isn't quite as polished, but is it worth "paying" with how you are traveling just to get that smooth scrolling of the map? Apps for Android and iOS can be found at organicmaps.app. Organic Maps is my preferred hiking map app, as they seem to have much better trail coverage, and I can still rely on GPS



If you have a newer new iPhone, you should test the satellite connection feature.
Image from apple.com.

satellites being there even in airplane mode.

Travel Tips
When traveling, download as much as possible ahead of time, like maps for offline use (GPS still works even when you are in airplane mode); books, movies and, music; passes and tickets either in Wallet or as PDFs; and documents you may need should be stored locally on phone/computer; and finally install and use a VPN anytime you are using someone else's WiFi for internet.

Verify Amazon Emails
Any doubt about that email "supposedly" from Amazon? Forward it to verify@amazon.com, and they will reply with whether you should believe it or not.

Consumer Rights
For more on consumer rights, look through the Consumer Rights Wiki, consumerrights.wiki.



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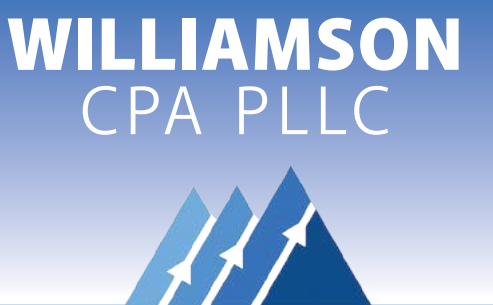
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Whistle Hop Brewery 338-9447

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All Seasons Heating & AC 651-9998

Cane Creek Concrete 230-3022
Cool Mountain Construction* 628-3082
Fairview Door Sales 628-2369

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T.P. Howard's Plumbing 628-1369

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Steam Master Carpet/Upholstery* 628-9495

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Scobie.net* 628-2354

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Sow The Magic 253-273-7401

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Sound Room 423-534-2047

Uptalent Consulting 450-4197

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Fairview Urgent Care 713-8907
Koretz Family Health 220-0125
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Fairview Town Crier 628-2211

Food for Fairview 628-4322
Garren Creek Foundation garrencreek.org
Root Cause Farm 276-1156

Signs for Hope 691-2581

ORGANIC SKINCARE
Gratia Botanica 348-5488

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Shauna Rae's Pet-Sitting 329-3607

PHARMACY
Americare Pharmacy 628-3121

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Indulge Images 337-3978
Valerie Eidson 417-4828

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Mountain West Pack & Ship 222-7007

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Cory Wall 674-9766

Purnell Team, eXp Realty 551-3542
Sandy Blair Real Estate 768-4585

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Terramonga Deli 845-2682

The Local Joint 338-0469

RETAIL
Clothes Mentor 274-4901
Magic Rocket Vintage 222-2066

Hoopers Creek Wine Market 483-6309

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Fairview Animal Hospital 628-3557
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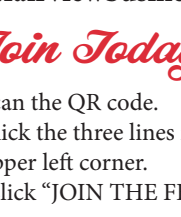
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Real Estate Tips

- Set a comfortable monthly budget. Include taxes, insurance, utilities, and maintenance.
- Get preapproved before you start touring homes.
- Save for more than the down payment. Plan for closing costs, moving, and repairs.
- Compare lenders and loan estimates.
- Get a home inspection so you understand the property's condition.
- Work with a local agent. Someone who knows the area can help you evaluate locations, understand the market, and navigate each step of the purchase.

Jenny Brunet is a Fairview resident with decades of experience in real estate and construction. She enjoys sharing practical, local insights to help neighbors better understand the community they call home. Cool Mountain Realty & Construction. 628-3088. coolmountainrealty.com.

Build a Compost Pile, Part 2

Last month we covered compost basics: browns, greens, and going hot or cold. This month, a few tips to help your pile along.

If you're building a hot pile, keep the sides vertically straight rather than

rounded. A rounded, haystack-shaped pile looks about right but doesn't hold enough mass to reach and maintain real heat.

Not every ingredient needs careful layering. If plant material is partway between green and dried out (think garden trimmings left out until they've turned just a bit brown), it's often already close to the ideal carbon-to-nitrogen ratio on its own. Just pile it and water it.

Shredding or chopping your material, whether it's leaves, stalks, or cardboard, also speeds things up considerably. Smaller pieces give microbes more surface area to work with, so the finer things are cut, the faster your pile matures.

A few things to always keep out: diseased plants, dog or cat manure, fats and oils, and weeds that have gone to seed. A little wood ash, dairy, or citrus is fine in small amounts, but too much of any of them can throw off the balance or slow the microbes down.

Know your pile is finished when it's dark, crumbly, has that delicious, earthy smell, has cooled to match the air around it, and you start spotting earthworms and other soil life moving through it.

Happy gardening!

Sedona Lewis is the Fundraising and Communications Coordinator at Root Cause Farm. For info, visit rootcausefarm.org. 26 Joe Jenkins Road, Fairview.

Caring for Your Skin's Quiet Protector

Your skin barrier, the outermost layer of the skin, works much like a brick wall. Flattened cells are the bricks; natural fats, including ceramides, cholesterol, and fatty acids, are the mortar. Together they keep moisture in and harmful microbes out.

On top of that wall is your skin microbiome, a community of beneficial bacteria that helps keep the surface slightly acidic and crowds out troublemakers. The barrier and microbiome are not the same thing, but they support each other, and when one is stressed, the other often follows.

Signs of a compromised barrier: tightness after washing, flaking, redness, stinging from products that once felt fine, and new sensitivity or breakouts. The good news: a barrier can heal, often in weeks. Use a gentle, cleanser with warm water; pause harsh scrubs and strong acids. Rebuild with a simple moisturizer and plant oils on damp skin. Prebiotic ingredients like inulin may help nourish friendly bacteria. Patch test anything new. Add daily sunscreen and a humidifier in dry indoor air.

If redness, cracking, or irritation persists, see a dermatologist. Patience is the secret: a calm, consistent routine lets skin rebuild itself.

With 48 years as an esthetician and the founder of the first day spa in Texas, Brea Gra-

tia, the owner of Gratia Botanica, handcrafts organic deodorants (spray or roll-on) and a full line of organic botanical products. She specializes in acne and aging skin. 4 Olde Eastwood Village Blvd., Asheville. 333-5345.

"Before He Cheats": The Insurance Breakdown

Carrie Underwood's revenge anthem is catchy—but it's also one expensive insurance claim. A keyed truck, carved leather seats, smashed headlights, and slashed tires could easily mean thousands in repairs.

His best hope? Comprehensive auto coverage, which generally covers vandalism after the deductible. Without it, he's paying out of pocket.

And Carrie? An umbrella policy normally provides additional liability protection if someone sues you after an accident and the limits of your home or auto policy aren't enough. But it won't save her here: liability and umbrella policies generally exclude damage caused intentionally. Insurance covers accidents—not a Louisville Slugger with a mission.

Carry comprehensive coverage, consider an umbrella for life's unexpected liability claims, and handle breakups with a playlist—not property damage.

Joanne Winkler is the owner of ESCO Insurance Agency and lives in Fairview. Call her at 231-6577 or visit esco1960.com.

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New Agent at Cool Mountain

Amber James has been a licensed Realtor, mortgage broker, and property investor in Florida for more than 22 years. In 2020, during COVID, Amber, her partner, son, and their parrot began splitting their time between Fairview and Tampa, following the best weather while also earning her real estate license in North Carolina.

Now that her son is in school full time, the family has officially made Fairview home—and even added a new four-legged member to the family—their dog, Leo.

Along the way, Amber and her partner launched Asheville Productions, a local business providing website development, advertising, social media content, video production, and AI integration for businesses. Amber will continue her mortgage lending career while growing her real estate business and Asheville Productions.

Outside of work, Amber enjoys gardening, hiking, and meeting new people in the community. She is excited to call Fairview home full-time and become even more involved in the Fairview and greater Asheville community.



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	12x/year	6x/year	1x/year
Full page	\$365	\$396	\$425
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Business card	\$70	\$80	\$85

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Bookkeeper, Classifieds, Event Listings
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billing@fairviewtowncrier.com, call or text 828-628-2211

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Lisa Witle lisa@fairviewtowncrier.com

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Submissions Announcements, community news, upcoming events, etc. will be published free as space allows. Articles submitted must have content and tone consistent with the Crier's editorial policy. All submissions will be edited for clarity, style, and length. Unsolicited manuscripts/photos are welcomed. Anonymous submissions will not be published.

Editorial Policy The Fairview Town Crier reserves the right to refuse any advertising or editorial submission deemed inappropriate for the tone and style of our community newspaper. A best effort has been made to verify legitimacy of the information provided. Views expressed in columns and/or articles do not represent those of The Fairview Town Crier. Send questions or comments to PO Box 1862, Fairview, NC 28730, or clark@fairviewtowncrier.com.

Letters of 400 words or fewer may be submitted, may be edited, and will print as space allows. No letters will be published anonymously. We will not print letters that endorse or condemn a specific business or individual, contain profanity, or are clearly fraudulent. Views expressed do not represent those of The Fairview Town Crier. Include name, address, and phone. Email clark@fairviewtowncrier.com or mail to Fairview Town Crier, PO Box 1862, Fairview, NC 28730.

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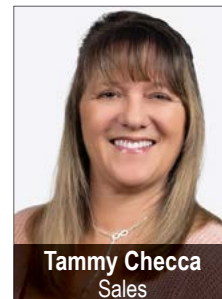


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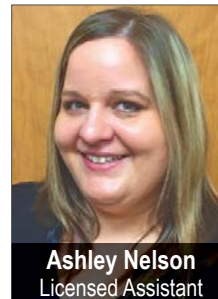
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1445 Newstock Rd.....Pending in 2 days	44 Pharis Place.....Pending in 8 days
103 Cimarron Drive.....Pending in 4 days	61 & 63 Salem Ave.....Pending in 1 day
93 Stafford Court.....Pending in 4 days	894 Weston Rd #3.....Pending in 11 days
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