



## Ingles cuts Salvation Army bell ringer time

By Kelly Donaldson  
Editor

Recently, the Salvation Army was notified that Ingles Markets Inc., would no longer allow its holiday bell ringers to raise funds by standing in front of Ingles’ grocery stores via the familiar red bucket campaign.

But in the last few days, a compromise has been reached between the two entities, although the fund-raising period is greatly abbreviated from years past.

Craig A. Gontner, Captain, WNC Area Coordinator and Waynesville Corps Officer with the regional Salvation Army office that serves Cashiers, said, “Ingles did make a business decision at a corporate level to allow only unmanned kettles to be placed in their stores. The Salvation Army’s view is that we understand their decision and value the partnership.

“Ingles is a committed friend and partner to the Salvation Army and this community,” added Gontner. “Ingles has agreed to allow bell ringers to be present for the time just prior to Christmas, Monday, Dec. 21 through Thursday, Dec. 24. We plan on utilizing this opportunity.”

In year’s past, Gontner

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Photo by Mike Henry/Staff

**An unfinished home on Big Ridge is shown above. Lawyers for 13 people who bought land in this controversial subdivision say federal investigators have opened a criminal investigation into loans obtained from SunTrust.**

## Lawyers investigate Big Ridge loans, Sims Valley sold in foreclosure

By Lucy Morgan  
For the Chronicle

Lawyers for 13 people who bought land in a controversial Big Ridge subdivision say federal prosecutors in Miami and Pittsburgh, Pa have opened a criminal investigation into loans obtained from SunTrust.

The 13 buyers have asked a federal judge in North Carolina to delay action in a civil fraud suit filed against them by SunTrust.

“Defendants understand that they are more than material witnesses in the government’s investigation and have not been ruled out as targets of the criminal investigation and/or potential defendants,” lawyers have argued in documents filed in U.S. District Court in Bryson City.

The buyers, from Florida

and Pennsylvania, bought lots in the development in 2006 and later obtained mortgages of more than \$1 million a piece from SunTrust. The bank alleges that all of them falsified their income to obtain the money. SunTrust is seeking repayment of more than \$19 million.

In an affidavit filed in federal court lawyer Michael P. O’Day Sr., a Pittsburgh lawyer, says he represents one of the 13 defendants in the criminal investigation and has been in contact with federal prosecutors in Miami



Rabuffo

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## Is it time to petition for alcohol?

By David Joy  
Staff Writer

In last week’s Chronicle story detailing alcohol referenda in 2010, Jackson County Commissioner Mark Jones mentioned two ways that a referendum can make its way onto a ballot.

“There must be a petition signed by one third of the registered voters, or a referendum can be put in place by the commissioners,” Jones said.

What the story did not mention was how citizens can institute a legally-recognized petition, how many signatures make up one third of the registered voters in Jackson County, and how this petition would be submitted for approval.

There are specific N.C. statutes that determine how petitions must be handled in order to influence referenda on electoral ballots. Article 19, titled “Petitions for Elections and Referenda,” of Chapter 163 in the N.C. General Statutes governs petitions.

According to the statutes under this article, “notice of circulation of a petition calling for any election or refer-

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### Got opinion?

See our online poll results on page 4A. If you’d like to share your opinion on this subject, e-mail a letter to the editor at [news@crossroadschronicle.com](mailto:news@crossroadschronicle.com).

## Bumgarner celebrates 25 years at Chamber

By Kelly Donaldson  
Editor

The year was 1984. Imagine what Cashiers was like in 1984 compared to today?

Cashiers native Sue Bumgarner doesn’t have to imagine, she was there. It was 25 years ago that she accepted the position of Executive Director of the Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce and she’s enjoyed every minute of it.

She has seen businesses come and go. She’s seen

fruitful booming economic times and tough, bitter economic times. But one thing is for certain; she’s seen to it that member businesses get her full and fair support.

“The Chamber was started in 1982 and Ann Beam was here for about a year and a half,” said Bumgarner of the Chamber’s creation. “I started in 1984.”

Prior to the Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce, if Cashiers businesses wanted to be part of a Chamber of Commerce, they had to

pursue the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce in Sylva. Bumgarner said several local folks from Cashiers, Sapphire, Glenville and Lake Toxaway were pivotal in creating the Cashiers Chamber, while she worked as manager at the Cashiers Country Store.

“When the position came available, I said was interested in the job,” said Bumgarner. “I think it helps that I was a native.”

The Chamber’s board of directors hired Bumgar-

ner. The chamber was actually on the end of the current Interior Enhancements building. It then moved to the building across from the current Tommy’s parking lot for several years. Later, the Chamber moved to an older house that is now torn down, before moving to its current location just west of the crossroads on Highway 64 about nine years ago.

Looking back at how the business community has

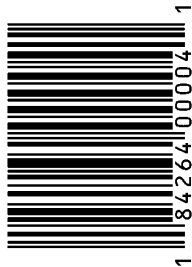
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Photo by Kelly Donaldson/Staff

**Cashiers native Sue Bumgarner is celebrating her 25th anniversary serving at Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director.**

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Area chefs provide Thanksgiving recipes. **Page 1B**

#### Chronicle closed

The Crossroads Chronicle will be closed Thanksgiving day. All deadlines remain at 4 p.m. on Friday.

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Open  
Thanksgiving Weekend  
Fri. Nov. 27th & Sat. Nov. 28th  
11 am - 5 pm

### CASHIERS VILLAGE HILLSIDE SHOPS



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In A Garden Setting  
At The  
Cashiers Crossroads  
Operated By  
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