

Hear the sound of success

Hearing well helps you show up as your best professional self. Call today and find out how you can try the new Phonak Virto™ R Infinio custom-fit hearing aid – risk-free.

CALL US NOW 828-731-2014

AudioNova
Your Hearing Experts

1829 Hendersonville Rd, Suite 130, Asheville
102 College Station Drive Suite 1-9, Brevard
206 3rd Avenue West, Hendersonville

Hear Better \$89 Per Mo*
• Discreet • Modern • Rechargeable Hearing Aid

*With \$260 payment to start, a total of \$2930 will be financed at 19.90% APR on approved credit for 48-months. Additional upgrades and other financing options are available. Terms are subject to change without notice and other restrictions may apply. Please see office for details. Offers expire 04/17/26.

Times News

HENDERSON, POLK & TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES | SERVING THE BLUE RIDGE SINCE 1871

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

BLUERIDGENOW.COM | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

TREMONT WRITERS CONFERENCE

Writers anticipate ‘open doors’

Holly Kays

Special to the Asheville Citizen Times

Crystal Wilkinson has always known she was a writer. But it wasn't until well into adulthood that she realized she could make a living at it.

“I was always writing,” she said, “and at some point I remember saying to myself, ‘Well, the literal definition of being published is ‘to be made public.’ So what does that mean?’”

The question sent Wilkinson on a journey that has led her to a successful career as a writer of poetry, fiction, and memoir. A former Kentucky poet laureate, Wilkinson published her culinary memoir *Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts* in 2024 and joined the faculty of the third annual Tremont Writers Conference in 2025. This year, she'll once again mentor nonfiction writers when the conference returns to the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont

October 21–25, co-organized by Smokies Life.

“There are lots of worthwhile writers’ conferences out there, and no doubt each one has something to offer,” said Jeremy Lloyd, Tremont’s manager of field and college programs and co-organizer of the conference. “What sets ours apart is the intimacy of the experience. We’re not very big, so it’s impossible to

See CONFERENCE, Page 4A



Attendees gather around a campfire during the 2025 Tremont Writers Conference. ROBIN PYLE/SMOKIES LIFE

Hurdles to obtaining care



State-run insurance plans for foster kids leave some of them without doctors

Andrew Jones | KFF Health News

Ollie Super has moved in and out of cancer treatment since she was diagnosed with neuroblastoma as a toddler in foster care. Now 8, the second grader is dealing with it again. Her cancer came back late last year. •

Ollie’s parents, who adopted her in 2020, tried to sign her up for a clinical trial using CAR T-cell therapy — which genetically reprograms a patient’s white blood cells to help them fight cancer — at UNC Health in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, an hour-and-a-half drive from their home in Eden. See CARE, Page 2A



ABOVE: Ollie has moved in and out of cancer treatment since she was diagnosed with neuroblastoma as a toddler in foster care. Ollie’s parents adopted her in 2020.

TOP: Ollie Super, 8, poses for a portrait with her adoptive parents, Britany and Jason, on March 25 at their home in Eden.

PHOTOS BY ALLISON LEE ISLEY/FOR KFF HEALTH NEWS

U.S.-Iran ceasefire on tenuous ground

Israel continues attacks on Lebanon

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, Christopher Cann, Melina Khan and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump’s ceasefire with Iran was on tenuous ground on April 9 after Israel launched its deadliest day of strikes on Lebanon yet and Tehran vowed not to desert its allies.

A day after announcing the Iran war ceasefire, Trump took to social media to warn the country that if the “REAL AGREEMENT” was not complied with, all U.S. military assets would remain in place ready for a military response.

He warned Iran to keep the Strait of Hormuz open and safe but did not address the strikes in Lebanon in the post.

See CEASEFIRE, Page 5A



Rescuers search through wreckage in Beirut on April 8 after Israeli strikes killed and injured hundreds.

MOHAMED AZAKIR/REUTERS



Follow Us on Facebook

Bird Seed Specials!!!

5lb mealworms \$32.00
20lb shelled peanuts \$25.50
20lb sunflower Hearts \$28.95
20lb Safflower..... \$19.95

While Supplies Last!

FLETCHER
LAWN & GARDEN
HARDWARE

684-0561

WINTER HOURS

MON. - FRI. 8 am-5 pm, SAT. 8 am-1 pm
107 East Fanning Bridge Road, Fletcher, NC
FletcherLawnandGarden.com

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to blueridgenow.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 132 | No. 85
To subscribe: 828-692-5763
©2026 \$2.00



6 54107 00001 4