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## WNC News Roundup

by [Jason Sandford](#) on 05/07/2009

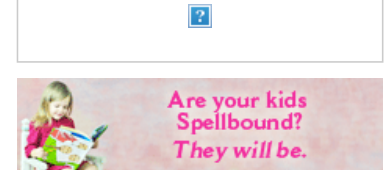
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Here's what's making headlines around WNC:

- Middle school student dies:** A 14-year-old Hayesville Middle School [student collapsed](#) during a recent gym class and died, the *Clay County Progress* reports. **Racheal Elizabeth Burrell** had been diagnosed with catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia, a rare condition that can cause a deadly arrhythmia. From the story: "Racheal was your typical teen. Her favorite foods were maracroni and chesse and pizza. She was excited about taking driver's education training this summer and she was looking forward to her 15th birthday."
- Student death investigated:** Boone police are [investigating](#) the recent death of freshman studio art major **Raisa D. Sheikh**, a death that police believe may have been caused by an alcohol overdose, *The Appalachian* student newspaper reports. The student's father wants more information about what transpired, the newspaper reports.
- Barbecue festival accolades:** The [Blue Ridge Barbecue & Music Festival](#), will be [listed](#) among the best barbecue events in the country in the June issue of *Martha Stewart Living* magazine, the *Hendersonville Times-News* reports. The festival, held June 12-13 in Tryon, will feature three [new events](#) this year, including a farm-to-table dinner and motorcycle poker rally, according to the *Tryon Daily Bulletin*.
- More news tweets:** The *McDowell News* is on Twitter, the newspaper reports. [Go here](#) to see the newspaper feed.
- Jackson commissioners pick library contractor:** Jackson County commissioners [chose](#) Brantley Construction of Canton to build a new library complex on Courthouse Hill in Sylva, according to the *Sylva Herald*. The company's \$6 million bid was third lowest, according to the newspaper.
- Land trust celebrates 100th anniversary:** The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is [celebrating](#) its 100th anniversary this year with a summer full of events, according to the *Highlander* newspaper. The trust has its roots in a group that banded together in 1909 to collect \$500 and buy 54 acres at the top of Satulah Mountain to protect the view, the newspaper reports.
- Park planning:** A new park being [planned](#) in Mills River could include a dog park, fishing piers, trails and soccer fields, the *Mountain News* reports.
- Medicinal plant uses:** The *News Record & Sentinel* of Madison County [offers advice](#) on how to put together a first aid kit using local plants and essential oils. Example: for cuts and scrapes, "apply an anti-microbial healing salve based on comfrey, plantain, St. John's wort, calendula, and yarrow."
- Train time:** The [Tweetsie Railroad's](#) 2009-10 season, its 52nd season, has [started up](#) on a limited basis and will go to seven-day-a-week operation after Memorial Day, the *Mountain Times* reports. The train is a big tourist draw located between Boone and Blowing Rock.
- Kephart honored:** **Horace Kephart**, the librarian, writer and outdoorsman instrumental in helping to create the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, was [recently honored](#) during Horace Kephart Day in Swain County, the *Smoky Mountain Times* reports. This year marks the 75 anniversary of the park's creation, and



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the Kephart event was attended by about 50 people from across the country, including some of his descendants. The *Smoky Mountain News*, which is running a series on the park, also notes [Kephart's contribution](#): "Kephart propelled the idea of a national park like no one else could have. He cranked out magazine articles and newspaper columns across the nation. He penned personal letters to politicians and philanthropists. He joined the national park committee and wrote the text of brochures to promote the idea locally."

• **New creamery:** The *Fairview Town Crier* reports that there's a [new creamery](#) open in Fairview. Looking Glass Creamery, a micro-creamery, cranked up production in late February. It offers fresh Chevre and lightly aged Feta, which can be found at local retail outlets, according to the creamery's [Web site](#).

• **More local beer:** The *Southern Highland Reader* [reports](#) that the *Beer Advocate* says a new brewery is under construction in Bryson City. It's the second commercial microbrewery west of Asheville after Heinzelmannchen in Sylva. The Nantahala Brewing Company is founded by award-winning home brewers **Chris** and **Christina Collier**, according to the [Beer Advocate](#).



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Interesting about Kephart, and glad to see his legacy is surviving.  
I think I found the remains of his cabin up on the little fork of Sugar creek many yrs back. Would like to know if it was his. (The park service burned it down)

[nuvue](#)

May 07, 2009  
at 07:45 PM

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