State and National Parks have plenty to offer

Our spectacular state and national parks are more than just pretty places to hang out. They offer walks and talks on natural history, how-to programs, historic sites to explore and opportunities to take a guided hike, hayride or canoe trip. These are open to the public and most are free.

Programs scheduled in the Alleghany area at press time are listed below. The parks schedule more events as the summer progresses, so check their websites at ncparks.gov or nps.gov/blri and The Alleghany News "Community Events" section for up-to-date information.

Blue Ridge Parkway

Brinegar Cabin, a 19th century log cabin family home at mile



marker 238.5 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, is open to the public every weekend through the end of October from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cabin was built in the 1880s by Martin and Caroline Brinegar. Rangers give demonstrations of 19th century life skills. A special event at Brinegar Cabin on the Blue Ridge Parkway is Brinegar Day, set for Saturday, Sept. 8. The log cabin will open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rangers and volunteers will demonstrate late 1800s life skills of the Brinegar family. These include spinning, gardening, apple butter making, farm animals, and more.

The Doughton Park Visitor Center and Park Store at mile marker 241 is open Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. You can find parkway information, gifts, a history display and more.

The Blue Ridge Music Center at Milepost 213, north of the Alleghany County line, is a showcase of Blue Ridge and Americana music with concerts on Saturday nights, free daily shows, a museum and more. For information, visit www. blueridgemusiccenter.org or call 276-236-5309.

For additional programs and information, see www.nps.gov/blri/ Continued on page 31

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15 S Main St, Sparta, NC 28675

Adams & Ivey, PLLC ATTORNEY AT LAW



58 Grayson Street PO Box 97

Sparta, North Carolina 28675

Fax: 336-372-2471 Phone: 336-372-5519

Whitney L. Ivey* whitneyivey@adamsivey.com

James T. Lambie
Of Counsel

*Licensed in North Carolina and Virginia