

September will be the last month that the Blowing Rock Hospital emergency room will operate as the facility transitions to its next iteration as the new Chestnut Ridge at Blowing Rock. Hospital officials said the ER will close on or about Oct. 1st. The Blowing Rock Hospital will now offer only post-acute care services, leaving Watauga Medical as the county's emergency medicine facility, backed up by a number of small acute care facilities. Gillian Baker, vice president of corporate communications said the few staff members still involved in the department have or will transition to other positions within the health care system. The Blowing Rock Hospital has been at the Chestnut Street location since 1952.