

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 7, 2016

Warrior Hikers come off Appalachian Trail

A group of 10 combat veterans were welcomed to Macon County over the weekend as part of the 2016 Warrior Hike along the Appalachian Trail. Since 2013, the Warrior Hikers

have been welcomed into Macon County each Spring and given a reception to thank them for their service and sacrifice to the United States.

"We couldn't be prouder to

have you here in Macon County and are thankful for everything you have done for our country," said Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale on Saturday at a community lunch at the American

Legion Post 108 in Franklin. "You aren't guests here, you're family. Welcome home."

The VFW hosted the veterans on Friday night with a pizza
• See **HIKERS** page 9

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MC Schools budget deliberation begins with county

With uncertainty on the state and federal levels in terms of public education funding, Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin has said time and time again that the district's local funding, allocated annually from the Macon County Board of Commissioners remains as the most stable funding source for the school system.

Though playing a guessing game at this point, the Macon County School system submitted a budget proposal to Macon County Manager Derek Roland last week for the 2016-'17 budget. The proposal includes a \$7,338,330 funding request from county commissioners that will make up the bulk of the school system's \$9,934,852 local expense budget.

• See **BUDGET** page 8



The Highlands team – TEChanators – lined up ready to compete with 47 other schools. With them is Congressman Mark Meadows at the site of the competition, Cherokee Central School.

Macon County Schools team wins first place in Robotics Tournament

Highlands TEChanators participated in the first annual SmartWNC Robotics Tournament at Cherokee Central School, Saturday, April 2 competing with schools from Swain, Jackson, Cherokee, Graham and Clay

counties, as well as Cherokee Central Schools..

The 48 teams competed for honors in all four areas of competition with Macon County winning six out of 14 awards with a team from Macon Middle School

placing first.

Highlands School's team is composed of 11 students in grades 6-8. Anne Porter is the coach, along with Jackie Powell, parent volunteer.

• See **ROBOTICS** page 6

Lowering of Mirror Lake explained

Last week, homeowners around Mirror Lake called the town when they awoke to find the lake drastically low.

The town does not own Mirror Lake or the Mirror Lake Dam – both are owned and subsequently controlled by the Mirror Lake Homeowners Association.

"Mirror Lake is a private lake," said Public Service Director Lamar Nix. "Town Hall received calls Tuesday so I went to the Mirror Lake dam and found that the valves were opened. I am not aware of what the Mirror Lake Homeowners Association is doing nor do I have or really should have knowledge of their permits."

According to Paul Wilgus, president of the Mirror Lake Homeowners Association, draining the lake is part of the association's "pond maintenance" plan which is supposed to be done annually late winter or early spring.

However, people living on
• See **MIRROR LAKE** page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Where we stand with Duke Power

Last week a group of town staff and I met with Richard Knight, the Duke Energy representative for the electricity contract with the town of Highlands. Yes, Richard was Duke's representative when the town board had the recent discussions concerning coal ash surcharges that Duke was considering.

At the beginning of these meetings with the Duke representative, someone from the town, either the mayor or the town manager, always lets the Duke representative know we are not pleased with aspects of the Duke contact and that customers don't like the situation either.

Being professional and a gentleman that he is, Richard takes it in stride, smiles and acknowledges many people don't like the cost of electricity. With that almost ritual routine complete, we got down to discussing specifics and where the town stands in regard to the administration of the contract.

At this meeting we received good news. Energy costs, such as natural gas, are very low and stable at this point. Also, customers of Duke are converting to energy



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

saving appliances and LED light bulbs, so demand for more generating capacity for Duke is flat this year.

What does this mean for Highlands? At this point I do not see an electric rate increase on the horizon. The caveat is that energy costs can be volatile with unforeseen circumstances popping up anytime, but the outlook for the coming year and down the road looks good.

We also discussed coal ash and surcharges. Here is the situation as best I can ascertain. The NC Supreme Court ruled that the NC Department of Natural Resources was the state regulatory authority when it comes to coal ash cleanup, not the NC Legislature which had passed a law mandating the cleanup of all Duke coal ash sites. So Duke is now in discussions and negotiations with NCDNR about where and how much they will have to remediate coal ash sites. As for surcharges for Duke customers, that, too, is down the road. We do not anticipate this issue being resolved this fiscal year.

I was eating lunch on Monday when a couple came up and asked me to thank the Highlands electric crews for their hard work in restoring power during the Saturday night windstorm. The couple stated they would have understood if the workers had waited for the winds to subside before going up on the poles and lines. But the crews didn't wait. They take great professional pride in doing their duty in difficult weather conditions.

So thanks, too, all the crews for restoring power as quickly as possible. Well done.

• LETTERS •

To those with trash on their minds

Dear Editor,

This is to our Highlands Plateau Trash Ambassadors and anyone else who might like to become one.

Thank you again for being a Highlands Plateau Trash Ambassador. I am creating this list and will send out messages as needed.

As we discussed at the Community Coffee, an ambassador can pick up trash in his or her area at any time. There are two ways to dispose of the trash that is collected and placed in the orange bags. The orange bags can be placed by one's trash can on the day the town sanitation crew picks up the trash. The crew will pick up the regular household trash and the orange bags too. Also, anyone can deliver the orange bags of trash to the Highlands Recreation Department and place them in the dumpster in the parking lot next to the small green building. For folks living outside the town limits, the recycling centers at Buck Creek and on Rich Gap Road will take the trash bags. Ambassadors residing outside the town limits also have the option of bringing the trash bags to the Recreation Department. I can also come out to a location and pick up trash in my truck.

Additional orange trash bags are available at Town Hall in my office. We also have additional pickup sticks if more folks are enlisted. Orange road vests are on back order, but will be available soon.

Feel free to give me a call at the following number if you have questions. My number is 828-506-3138. I would also appreciate you emailing me the location of the area where you are patrolling for trash. I want to recognize all the good work that is being done.

Also, the Chamber and Jennifer Cunningham are making great progress on the volunteer list for the Gorge and Highlands Plateau Pickup on Saturday, April 23. If you have not already done so, please contact the Chamber and sign up at 526-2112. We will need as many volunteers as possible.

Thanks so much for your commitment and help.

Patrick Taylor, Mayor
Highlands, NC

Hope more is coming about Satulah Mountain

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed the recent article on the original purpose of this land, and the passion of Highlands' early townspeople. The article ends "And that is how it all began..."

Hope there will be more info on this and other similar subjects

Cindy Higgins
Highlands

Highlands Newspaper

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We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

• WEEKEND WEATHER •



For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to
www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

Learning about Satulah

Dear Editor,

For many Jim Green's letter to the editor in the March 31 edition of Highlands Newspaper concerning the early history of Satulah must have been an education. I am certain nearly everyone in Highlands knows some of that story, but perhaps not too many know how it all came together in the beginning.

Our thanks to you, Jim, for showing us the seriousness taken by those farsighted early pioneers of this majestic and wonderful place.

Ginny Harris
Highlands

• OBITUARY •

Lora Frances Hills 'Nancy' Tarbox



Nancy Tarbox (Lora Frances Hills Tarbox) passed peacefully at home in Highlands, NC on Monday, March 28th, 2016. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Everett Jacob "E.J." Tarbox, four children (Monte Tarbox, Jane Tarbox Auhl, Janis Tarbox Fisher and Jonathan Tarbox), nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Visitation will be held at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands,

on Friday, April 8th from 5 to 7pm. Funeral services will be held at the Church of the Incarnation on Saturday, April 9th, at 11 am. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Bread for the World, 425 3rd Street SW, Suite 1200 Washington, DC 20024. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Tarbox family. Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• MILESTONE •

Highlands' electric crew works through Saturday night and early Sunday windstorm



— Photo by Kim Lewicki

Deep in the night Saturday and in the wee hours of Sunday morning, most Highlands awoke to howling winds and the eerie quiet of a house void of electricity. Winds blew west/northwest 20 to 25mph with gusts as high as 45 mph.

Highlands crews worked midnight until 7 am Sunday repairing outages. Then there were a couple more outages during the day on Sunday.

Those on the Duke power grid were out as well. Late Sunday Duke customers in the vicinity of the Buck Creek recycle center and residents on Flat Mountain were still out. For some Duke customers, power was restored by Sunday night but then it went out briefly again Monday morning.

"We just felt fortunate that our power problems were not any worse than they were," said Public Works Director Lamar Nix.

Mid-morning Monday, a crew reset four plexiglass panels that blew out from the north end of the enclosed pool structure. Recreation Director Lester Nix said they were scratched up a bit but otherwise unharmed.

— Kim Lewicki

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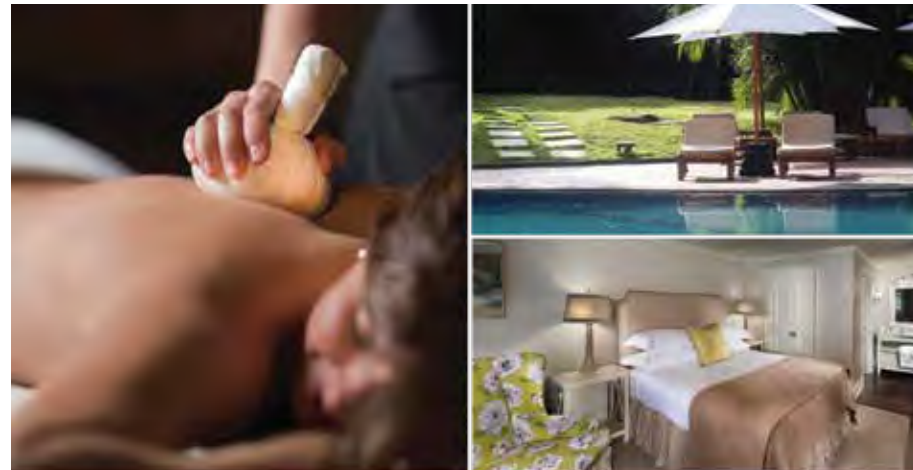
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...MIRROR LAKE continued from page 1



The draining has exposed a silt bar in the lake.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

the lake for years don't remember the lake ever being drained. Turns out the valves at the dam have been stuck and have only been recently repaired. Hence the commencement of what is supposed to be an annual affair.

According to Wilgus, the reason the lake is being lowered is to expose the many culverts that drain rain water from the road system around the lake. Over time the culverts get clogged with leaves and debris and NCDOT needs the lake lowered so it can clean out the culverts.

"That's their responsibility," said Wilgus. "We are draining it as required, but then it rained so it filled up again, and now it has started to drain again."

Once the culverts are exposed, NCDOT will clean them out; but the exact time table is unknown.

Wilgus said a secondary result of draining is the exposure of the silt in the lake.

"This is giving us a chance to look at the silt build-up

and make plans to see if there is anything we can do about it," he said. "There has been some revised enthusiasm by homeowners around the lake to get something done."

A new mass of silt under the Mirror Lake Bridge is making it hard to canoe under but what to do about the ongoing silt problem in the lake has plagued homeowners for decades.

"We could probably get the environmental permits and approval, but the money is the big problem," said Wilgus.

Meanwhile, the lake will continue to be drained 3-4 inches a day as regulated by DENR and hopefully the job will be on NCDOT's radar.

"But we don't know how long it will take NCDOT to clear the culverts or when they intend to begin," said Wilgus.

— Kim Lewicki

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...ROBOTICS continued from page 1



All the designing, researching and programming is done by the students themselves.

The team competed in three judging sessions regarding Core Values, the Research Project, and Teamwork in the morning.

Later, the team showed off its engineering and programming skills in three "Robot Runs" featuring robots made of Legos. The team built and programmed the robot to complete as many of the 12 missions as possible during a 2 1/2 minute run.

The students competed with over 40 other teams and had an opportunity to meet and talk with students from many different schools and adults, as well.

MC Schools Superintendent Chris Baldwin volunteered at the competition and Congressman Mark Meadows was on hand to offer encouragement to the students.

Smokey Mountain Area Robotics Teams (SMART) is an effort to engage students in elementary and middle school in STEM in a fun way so they don't lose interest in science and math at an early age.

SMART is part of a larger organization and is sponsored locally by corporations and school systems.

For more information about SMART, please visit SMARTwnc.com



The first place winning team from Macon Middle School.

Photos by Renee Burt



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...BUDGET continued from page 1

The 2016-'17 school system budget, which was unanimously approved by the Macon County Board of Education, is nearly identical to the 2015-'16 school year budget. There are a few personnel additions, based on requests from school administrators in the district.

"In the proposed budget we added funding for 1.5 English as a Second Language teacher and funding for one maintenance position," said Angie Cook, Macon County Schools Finance Director. "We also increased the county supplement by \$9,175 due to proposed salary/benefit increases from the state."

Cook also informed board members that to brace for changes to the state budget. In addition, the local expense budget reflects an .11 percent increase for retirement matching and a 3.5 percent for hospitalization. Both of those funding allocations were recommendations from the North Carolina Department of Instruction which provides local districts with information during the budget process.

Outside of state recommendations, the local expense budget also includes increases in the athletic budget. Amongst the \$13,500 proposed for athletic supplements, the budget proposal includes \$2,000 for soccer coaches on the varsity level at Highlands

School and another \$940 in supplements for assistant coaches at Highlands.

Franklin High School teacher John deVillie was present at the meeting and asked board members to consider passing a resolution to send to state officials requesting that public education funding be restored to 2008 levels.

The Board took the resolution under advisement. According to deVillie, if it is approved, he would then go to the Board of Commissioners and present the same resolution to them. "I think what we can do

with this, as a county, is lift up our voice and say, 'Enough already, can you restore it?'"

The resolution asks for funding for K-12 education back to 2008 levels which could mean a lot more funding for local schools, "That would basically mean another \$855 per student, because that's where we're short right now, across the state, compared to 2008. That would be about \$3.5 million more that Macon County Schools would get if we were to have those levels restored," he said.

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...HIKERS continued from page 1



dinner and on Saturday, Franklin's American Legion Post 108 served a community lunch to raise funds for the veterans as they continue their hike of the Appalachian Trail.

The team began their hike along the Appalachian Trail on March 2, with one member hiking more than eight miles to get to the trail head at Amicalola Falls. The hikers then embarked on the 2,200 mile thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail at mile marker zero at Springer Mountain, Georgia.

The Warrior Hiker program is a branch of Warrior Expeditions, an organization established to help veterans "walk off the war." The program began in 2012 as a personal journey for veterans Sean Gobin and Mark Silvers who walked the Appalachian Trail after returning home from active duty as Marine Corps captains.

The 2016 Warrior Hike class includes 10 veterans from all branches of the United States Military. Diana Brown served in the United States Air Force in security forces from 1980-2007. Brown served deployments in both Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Joshua Bridger served in the United States Marine Corps as

an Infantry Rifleman from 2005-2009 with deployments to Iraq.

Daniel Brumbles served as a Scout Sniper in the United States Marine Corps from 2003-2007 and served deployments in Iraq.

Jonathan Knepper served as an Infantry Rifleman from 2010 to 2014 in the United States Marine Corps. While serving in the military, Knepper was deployed to Afghanistan.

Andrew Clark served in the Security Forces for the United States Air Force from 2005-2016. During his service in the military, Clark was deployed to Iraq.

Brandon Ramos served in the United States Navy from 2002-2007 as a Construction Mechanic. Ramos was deployed to Iraq during his tenure with the military.

Thomas Seal was deployed to Iraq while serving in the United States Army as a CH-47D Pilot from 1996-2015. His twin brother Travis Seal was deployed to Iraq during his service as a CH-47D Pilot for the United States Army from 1996-2014.

Barbara Sim served in the United States Marine Corps from 2005-2009 where she served as a Landing Support Specialist while deployed to Iraq. Sim celebrated her 21st birthday while in Franklin on Friday.

Cody Yates was deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan while serving in the Military Police for the United States Army from 1996-2016.

During Saturday's lunch, each of the Warrior Hikers were presented with Quilts of Valor from the Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild. The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Each veteran was given the opportunity to select a quilt, which could be carried with them while on the trail, or shipped to their homes.

"I am especially honored to have met the wonderful women of the local quilting guild and to be presents with a quilt of valor which I will cherish for years to come and will stay with my family always," said Thomas Seal of his visit to Franklin. "I have nothing but wonderful things to say about the citizens of Franklin, NC and they will always hold a special place in my heart."

Macon County Commissioners Gary Shields and Ronnie Beale also presented the veterans with commemorative Macon County pens as thank you gifts from the county.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. To sign up contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

• Anyone interested in taking Adult, Child and Infant First Aid/CPR/AED certification class needs to contact the Highlands Recreation Department.

Last Sundays

• At The Wellness Center, donation based Sound Healing Concert. Learn how to use Music to heal your Nervous System and Reduce Your Stress Naturally at

3pm. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698

Mon.,Thurs.,Fri., Sat., Sun.

• Movies at the Playhouse: 2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.

Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm first Mondays.

• High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the

Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon.,Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. Sponsored by the

local affiliate of NAMI. For info call 828 369-7385.

Tuesdays

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Monday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Every 3rd Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club in Franklin meets at 7 pm at the Cooperative extension office on Thomas Heights Road. For more Information call 369-3916.

Last Tuesdays

• At the Wellness Center, donation based Belly Dancing 101 at 6:30 p.m. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball is played from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• At the Wellness Place at 6:30 p.m., donation based Art of Meditation. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

• See EVENTS page 15

Winter Pool Schedule

Through May 26, 2016

LAP SWIM – ADULTS ONLY

Monday thru Friday

7 – 10 am, 6 lanes

AND Monday thru Thursday

5 – 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes

Sharing pool with water

aerobics @ 5:15 on

Mondays, Tuesdays, and

Thursdays

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Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

3 – 5 pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

6 – 8 pm

Saturday 11 am – 6 pm

Sunday 1 – 5 pm

WATER AEROBICS

Monday-Friday

10:15 am

Monday - Thursday 5:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Saturday 11:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Fee: \$4 per class or

\$30 for 12 classes

POOL PARTIES

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Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

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Fee: \$75 / \$50 deposit required

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1st Wednesday of the month—

Kayak Clinic

2nd Wednesday of the month—

Youth Night

3rd Wednesday of the month—

Water Volleyball

4th Wednesday of the month—

Senior Night

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Call us about membership fees

Devereux Live via Satellite at PAC April 16



Devereux, Earl of Essex and favorite of Queen Elizabeth I, is sent to Ireland to defeat the rebellious Irish chieftains. After an unsuccessful campaign he returns to England, where his actions are deemed a desertion of duty. The opera is inspired by a love triangle, forced marriage, secrecy and jealousy. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047.

Spring Home Improvement

Home Design Tips for Baby Boomers

(StatePoint) There are about 76.4 million Baby Boomers in the US, according to the Population Reference Bureau. As this population ages, it will become important that features on their houses promote safety, are easy-to-maintain, and last a long time.

Whether building from the ground up or remodeling a current home, take "aging-in-place" into consideration every step of the way. Here are some great projects to consider with strong payback.

A Better Basement

When building a new home, choose your foundation carefully. Not only is an uninsulated basement a major source of heat loss, but it's throwing away potential space that can enhance your life. A

"liveable basement" can be designated as a "grandkid zone," an at-home office or crafting workshop.

You can use a pre-cast insulated concrete foundation system, such those from Superior Walls, to create an energy-efficient damp-proof basement. This foundation will help reduce utility bills for long-term savings. Reinforced concrete walls create a permanent barrier against water, and pre-engineered access for wiring or plumbing features are a key element to whatever vision you have for this subterranean space.

First Floor Privacy

Many seniors opt to spend more of their time at home on the easy-to-navigate ground floor. But don't compromise privacy in pursuit of accessibility.

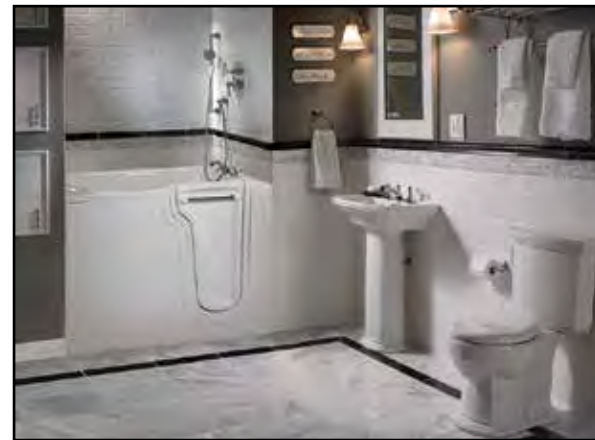
Privacy windows can alleviate concerns you have about neighbors seeing you go about your business. For example, those from Hy-Lite are offered in numerous styles and designs, including opaque decorative glass, acrylic block and true glass block windows. Silkscreen glass designs can complement the overall style of the home. From your master suite to your bathroom

to the main rooms of your home, avoid prying eyes with this crucial component of stylish first floor living.

Safe, Comfortable Bathrooms

As mobility and coordination decline, slips and falls can make bathrooms a hazardous place. Think of the years ahead by seeking out bathroom features that

• See HOME page 14



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Spring Home Improvement

6 Tips to Get Ready for Buying a Home this Season

(StatePoint) Buyer-friendly 30-year fixed mortgage rates and an improving job market are good news for spring homebuyers this season.

Yet, even with these favorable conditions, many home purchase contracts will get held up at closing by financial issues. This doesn't have to be the case. There are several things you can do before and after submitting a contract to help make sure you walk away from the closing table with the keys to your new home in hand.

Freddie Mac Senior Vice President Christina Boyle recommends doing the following before seriously hunting for a home this spring:

- Learn your current credit history and score. You don't want any surprises down the road. If you have no credit history, or have had credit problems in the past, you can take steps to build, improve, and maintain strong credit. Contact a HUD-approved housing counselor for free advice.

- Talk to your lender about applying for a mortgage and getting a pre-approval letter. This letter gives an estimate of how

much you might be able to borrow, and demonstrates to home sellers that you're a serious buyer.

- Understand your options. Don't assume you won't have enough for a down payment or won't qualify for a mortgage without 20 percent down. In fact, about 40 percent of today's homebuyers are making down payments of less than 10 percent, according to research from Zelman & Associates. And new products, like the Freddie Mac Home Possible Advantage mortgage, offer down payment options as low as three percent for qualified borrowers.

- Gather your documentation. Expect your lender to request documentation verifying your income (W-2 forms, tax returns, and employment records), credit history, and assets (such as bank statements to verify your savings).

After signing a purchase contract but before closing, Boyle recommends doing the following:

- Don't take on more debt or make large cash purchases. Resist the temptation to take out new loans or open new credit cards.



Preparation can help ensure you walk away from closing with the keys to your new home in hand.

This could affect your credit profile and may require the lender to resubmit your mortgage application to verify you still qualify. Also, substantial cash purchases may make your mortgage company question whether you can really afford monthly payments.

- Meet your lender's deadlines. Heed deadlines for providing documentation or information. A missed deadline could delay the closing, which may require you either to pay more

to extend the mortgage terms you locked in when you submitted the application or, in the worst case, reapply for the mortgage.

Buying a home can be intimidating without knowledge. For more tips and resources on buying a home, visit the consumer education site, My Home by Freddie Mac, at MyHome.FreddieMac.com.

With preparation, you can help ensure your homebuying process goes off without a hitch.

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Spring Home Improvement

Spring Tips to Attract Beautiful Birds to Your Yard

(StatePoint) When hosting neighbors and friends for spring gatherings, your thoughts may dwell on accommodating guests. But how often do you consider your animal visitors?

“During spring, flocks of birds migrate and are looking for places to refuel and rest,” says Spencer Schock, Founder of WindowAlert, makers of bird-friendly products for homes. “A few small tweaks to your yard, is like placing out a welcome mat.”

Unfortunately, migration is not without peril or hardship, but Schock says turning your home into a refuge for birds can be fun and add beauty to your yard. He offers these tips to keep feathered travelers safe during their migratory journey.

- **Protect flight:** Millions of birds die annually by striking glass, making windows a hazard to birds in flight. Try applying special decals that reflect ultraviolet sunlight to your home's windows, particularly those windows that are highly reflective of open sky.

The decals won't affect your view because they're virtually invisible to humans, but will help keep birds safe. For example, those from WindowAlert have patterns that give the appearance of slightly frosted translucent glass, but glow like a stoplight for birds. The brand also makes a high-tech liquid called WindowAlert UV Liquid, which can be applied between decals.

Such ultraviolet decals have been scientifically proven to keep birds safer. A 2015 American Bird Conservancy Study found that the more WindowAlert decals that were applied to a piece of glass covering the departure point of a flight tunnel, the more birds avoided it (a net protected all the birds in the study from actually getting hurt, no matter where they chose to fly).

- **Bed and Breakfast:** Birdfeeders come in all shapes, sizes and styles, and simply adding one to your yard can help beautify it and give birds the energy needed to continue their flight.

Remember though, bird strikes are often a problem near bird feeders, as feeding birds are eas-



ily frightened and are apt to take wild, evasive flight; position feeders closer than three feet or farther than 30 feet from windows. If your feeder is close to the window, birds fly away from the house. Believe it or not, the safest type of feeder is the kind that attach to the window itself.

You can also make your home's outdoor spaces more bird-friendly filling your garden with the right plants and flowers for pollinating bird species.

- **Watch and record:** Grab a pair of binoculars and a field guide book and

take note of the types of birds you see and when. This will help you become better prepared for next season. In addition, consider becoming a “citizen scientist” by submitting your observations to The Audubon Society and Cornell University's database at ebird.org.

For more tips on making your home and garden a bird haven, visit WindowAlert.com.

“By making a few simple modifications to your yard and home, you can assist birds on their long journey,” says Schock.



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Spring Home Improvement

...HOME continued from page 11

are ADA compliant.

“Taller toilets that are easier to rise from, pedestal sinks that allow wheelchairs and walkers access, and walk-in tubs that promote easy entries and exits, are all bathroom features people may need as they age,” says Jean Dimeo, a Certified Aging in Place Specialist.

Brands like Mansfield Plumbing are accommodating the boomer population by offering selections of SmartHeight toilets, pedestal, under counter and wall mounted sinks. A popular product, Restore walk-in tubs, come with whirlpool and inline heater options to sooth aching muscles and joints. With many high-design fixtures and fittings available, a safe bathroom

does not need to be just a utilitarian one.

Durable Roof

When choosing a roof for over your home, seek out long-term durability without compromising beauty. Slate and shake polymer roof products from brands like DaVinci Roofscapes are low-maintenance, offer lifetime limited warranties, and come in a variety of color options that have the authentic look of natural materials. Impact- and fire-resistant, these hardworking roofs offer boomers both peace-of-mind and long-term value.

By upgrading key home features during construction and remodeling efforts, aging-in-place is not only possible, it can be preferable.



(StatePoint) Whether you work full-time from home, or you simply have a space dedicated to paying bills and keeping your life in order, a home office should inspire productivity and happiness.

Tips to Organize Your Home Office

“The easiest way to start feeling more like a professional and less like an imposter is to invest in your home office,” says Cassie Boorn, guest blogger for Handmade Success, and the woman behind Maker Mentors, a free community designed to help creative entrepreneurs build business. “But there’s no need to spend thousands of dollars to create a great workspace. It can be as simple as a quick trip to Staples and done with a budget as small as twenty-five dollars.”

Evolve

As your business evolves and grows, be willing to make changes to your workspace.

“The way I’ve been running my ‘business’ is from the perspective of a hustling freelancer. I was

working a lot but there was no method to the madness. I had no structure,” says Vicky Ayala, brand strategist.

She recommends creating a workspace both at home and on-the-go that complements what you want your business to be, paying attention to details. In her case, she equipped herself with supplies that fit the way she works -- a binding machine for customer handouts, a tablet and a briefcase that converts into a backpack.

“Sometimes it’s the small things that help remind us of the bigger picture.”

Keep Goals in Focus

“Have your plan in plain sight for constant review and reminders. With-

• See HOME page 16

After all, you’ll do your best work if you actually want to spend time in your workspace. Here, four business bloggers share their tips for home office success.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Fridays

• 99ers Bridge at the Rec Park 9a to noon.

• At the Wellness Center, donation based Pinterest Fridays at 6:30p. Essential Oils, Appetizers and Crafts Night. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698

Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are at noon November through April.

Every 2nd Saturday

• A group that will meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at Highlands Hudson Library at 10am. Group will have speakers, videos, recipes, health tips, and more to educate people about any health issues. Group is a non-profit. Contact Kelly Woods 828-421-3520 or live4above@aol.com

Saturdays

• At The Wellness Place Donation based 9am Yoga For Dummies at 9 a.m. Fun, Judgement Free Zone, All Levels and All Ages! 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park at 10 a.m.. \$5.

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

Sundays through May 29

• Change Your Money, Change your Life. Applying God's word to your money...This 9-week class will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely and more. 3pm-5pm at the Highlands Rec. Park. To sign up go to: www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1017675. For more information contact Emily Chastain at eh.chastain86@gmail.com/(828) 200-6277

Sat., April 9

• Personal Lab Services/Dosher Physical Therapy Relay for Life Team will have a Parking Lot Sale this Saturday starting at 8am at their location at 555 Depot Street. For more info, call 828-371-2888.

• Safe Kids Macon County will be hosting the 3rd annual Buckle Up Baby event on Saturday, April 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Factory in Franklin. Buckle Up Baby will feature free giveaways like coloring books and goodie bags from local businesses to free books from Read2Me. There will be games and actives for children including a display of emergency service vehicles like ambulances, patrol cars, and fire trucks.

Sun., April 10

• At PAC, Live via Satellite on a theater screen, Don Quixote at 12:55 p.m. Adults \$22, PAC members, \$19 and Students free. For tickets call 828-526-9047.

Mon., April 11

• The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 on April 11, 2016, in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For further information, please contact 828-524-2673.

Tues., April 12

• American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Macon County Library, 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, 10 am to 7 pm. Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. Whole blood can be donated every 56 days, and double red cells may be donated every 112 days, up to three times per year. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call Sandy McMahan at (828) 524-3600

Thurs., April 14

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center. Melanie Seeger, Volunteer Coordinator and Bereavement Coordinator of Angel Hospice will be the guest speaker. Find out how you and/or your family can benefit from this service or how you may volunteer. Free gifts and light refreshments. Everyone is welcome

Fri., April 15

• Join artist John Kenneth Melvin at The Bascom and help him erect his new sculpture.

• Macon Program for Progress's Relay for Life Team will have a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Friday from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at Macon Program for Progress in Franklin. Adult trays are \$7 and children \$5. Go to

MPP main office to purchase tickets. Advance purchase only.

Starting Sat., April 16

• The Highlands Marketplace in K-H Founders Park every Saturday 8a until noon.

Sat., April 16

Wildflower Whimsey Fundraising at the Biological Station May 6 & 7

Spring in Highlands involves a riot of color and the buzzing of many bees looking for their first drops of nectar. Spring ephemeral wildflowers play a vital role when it comes to feeding these pollinators. The flowers are one of the first food sources for hungry insects that have spent the winter tucked in brush piles or have just emerged from larvae. On May 6th and 7th the Highlands Biological Foundation will be celebrating the emergence of these wildflowers and pollinators with Wildflower Whimsy, an event to help support the mission of the Foundation, which is to foster research and education focused on the rich natural heritage of the southern Appalachians.



Join us on Friday, May 6th for an evening of festivities beginning with a lecture on the origins of our southern Blue Ridge flora and guided tours of the Botanical Garden led by our staff and other garden enthusiasts. Enjoy the spring evening with a wine reception, cocktail buffet, live

• At PAC, Live via Satellite on a theater screen, Roberto Devereux at 12:55 p.m. Adults \$26, Members \$22. For tickets call 828-526-9047.

Tues., April 19

• Center for Life Enrichment offers

• See EVENTS page 16

music, and a lively native plant auction. All proceeds from the auction of interesting native plants, generously donated by local nurseries, will go towards supporting the three pillars of the Highlands Biological Station: Botanical Garden, Laboratory, and Nature Center.

On Saturday, May 7th choose your favorite of four wildflower walks from 10am until 2pm. Each walk has been carefully selected based on our favorite places to search for spring wildflowers and we will be providing lunch. Tickets are on sale now. The cost is \$75 for Foundation members and \$100 for non-members. Tickets are limited and will sell out quickly, so sign up today. The Highland Biological Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, visit our website at www.highlandsbiological.org or call (828)526-2221.



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Don Quixote

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Saturday
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A True Investor in Highlands

This article is supposed to focus on "Investing in Highlands." Thus, many brokers write articles each week discussing the local real estate market trends, tips on selling and buying, and sharing personal client stories.

However, a scene I witnessed this winter compelled me to write about the other type of investors in our town: the citizens who unselfishly give of themselves on a daily basis.

It was a cold and snowy day in January. It was about 20 degrees. I was cautiously driving into town and on the side of the road was our Mayor, Pat Taylor, picking up garbage on Highway 64. I slowed down, rolled down my window and asked if he needed a ride. He motioned me on and continued to bend over picking up trash and risking his life on an icy road to boot!

Pat Taylor is such a dedicated, concerned leader that I wonder if Sally ever

has a chance to discuss anything else with him except all the important issues facing Highlands. His weekly column in the newspaper informs all residents of the achievements and challenges that face our small town. He is always accessible to all citizens by answering his phone at home day and night. If you see him on the street and ask a question, he acts as though he has nothing else to do that day except respond to your inquiry.

Thus, instead of reporting on the real estate market at the moment where it is still too early in the season to make any reliable predictions, I want to thank our Mayor for his tireless work for all of us.

Additionally, there are many other



Jody Lovell
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people who support the town by serving, and I salute each and every one of you for "keeping Highlands great" (not to plagiarize any slogans from the Presidential candidates).

• Jody and her husband, Wood, own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty. With two locations at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64 and at the gate of Cullasaja

Club, they are ready to assist you with your real estate needs. With 22 brokers, Highlands Sotheby's International Realty is the top producing firm in Highlands. You may reach them at 562-4104 or 526-8300.

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...HOME continued from page 14

out it, it's too easy to fall back into old routines and unproductive habits," says Lisa Jacobs, a marketing consultant to small businesses and the blogger behind Marketing Creativity.

Jacobs sets and tracks goals religiously by keeping a wall planner mounted in her home office. She used the copy and print services at Staples to bring her own planner calendar design into reality.

The Brass Tacks

"One thing that I have learned about myself over the years is that I perform at my best when I have an environment free of clutter. That means no extra stuff on my desk, on my walls or in my office," says Andreea Ayers, the entrepreneur behind

Launch Grow Joy, a business that helps entrepreneurs elevate sales.

To beat the clutter, Ayers advises sticking to your essentials and thinking about multipurpose equipment that saves space. Her short list includes a stackable desk tray to sort and contain files, and a laser printer/scanner/copier that can do it all.

For ideas for making your home office more productive, and for time and money-saving business tips, visit www.Staples.com and follow the #MakeMoreHappen hashtag on social media.

If you are creating a home workspace for the first time or revamping your current office, you can craft your own success by focusing on the details.

...EVENTS continued from page 15

class: SIRI, Everything You Ever Wanted to Know (for users of Mac products). 10:30 am – 3:30 pm. Location: CLE Classroom, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.

Thurs., April 21

• Center for Life Enrichment offers class: A Life of Creativity in Fiber. 4 – 5 pm. Location: CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.

Tues., April 26

• Center for Life Enrichment offers hike: Rough Run Spring Wildflower Hike.

10 am – 2 pm. Location: Participants to meet @ CLE Parking lot, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information/reserve space, contact Sandy Carlton @828-526-8811.

Sat., April 30

• At PAC, The Met Live via satellite at 12:45 p.m.

May 6-7

• Wildflower Whimsey -- a fundraiser for the Highlands Biological Foundation -- at the Highlands Biological Station. May 6, 6:30-8p and May 7, 10a - 2p. Tickets are \$75 for members and \$100 for nonmembers. Call (828)526-2221.

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Gas prices on the rise as AAA Carolinas reveals top spring travel destinations

Thousands of Carolinians will enjoy spring travel with a road trip as gas prices continue their upward swing. AAA Carolinas revealed their top spring destinations today.

AAA top driving destinations for members in the Carolinas are: Myrtle Beach, SC, Orlando, FL, Charleston, SC, Branson, MO, Las Vegas, NV

"While we've become accustomed to seeing Myrtle Beach, Orlando and Charleston on the list it's interesting to point out that Carolinians are seeking out longer drives for their spring vacations, said Sarah Henshall,

Senior Vice President of Travel and Branch Operations at AAA Carolinas. "Cheaper gas prices have led to more money in travelers' wallets and as a result, a longer drive becomes a more attractive option."

While gas prices in the Carolinas are about 50 to 65 cents cheaper than this time last year, they are still on the rise across most of the country as refineries undergo scheduled maintenance to prepare for the busy summer driving season, which slows production.

The lower price of crude oil and abundant supplies should

keep a ceiling on how high gas prices move in the coming months, and barring any unexpected disruptions in supply, drivers should continue to benefit from relative savings at the pump.

As far as other modes of transportation for vacationers, AAA Carolinas revealed that cruising is a popular booking this Spring Break. The top cruise destinations are: Bahamas, Western Caribbean, Eastern Caribbean, Southern Caribbean, Mediterranean

Top Leisure Vacation Packages (could include, air, car, ho-

tel, sight-seeing) are: Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando, Cancun, Jamaica, Las Vegas.

To maximize a spring vacation, AAA recommends travelers seek the advice and expertise of a trusted travel agent who can provide personalized service and first-hand destination knowledge

to create a memorable vacation experience.

AAA Carolinas' travel agency is the largest full-service agency in the Carolinas, serving more than 490,000 customers a year with 27 offices in North Carolina and 10 in South Carolina.

Buckle Up Baby ... every trip, every time

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death among children ages 1 to 19, and often times the deaths can be prevented with proper use of car seats. Safe Kids Macon County will be hosting the 3rd annual Buckle Up Baby event on Saturday, April 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Factory in Franklin.

"Not only is child passenger safety a priority for Safe Kids Worldwide, our local Macon County coalition has also made it a focus," said Safe Kids Macon County Coordinator Deputy Josh Stewart. "Studies show that 75 percent of all car seats are installed incorrectly. Our technicians want to help families learn how to use and install car seats so children are safe for every ride."

Buckle Up Baby will feature free giveaways like coloring books and goodie bags from local businesses to free books from Read2Me. There will be games and actives for children including a display of emergency service vehicles like ambulances, patrol cars, and fire trucks.

"We want this event to be more than just a car seat checking station," said Deputy Stewart. "We want to create a fun community event that gives families something to do together while learning ways to



stay safe.

Safe Kids Macon County will also have information on other programs such as the free gun lock distribution where free gun locks will be available for anyone who wants one.

The car seat safety clinic provides the following important tips that will help parents, grandparents and caregivers begin to ensure that their car seat is used and installed properly:

Right Seat. Check the label on your car seat to make sure it's appropriate for your child's age,

weight and height. Like milk, your car seat has an expiration date. Just double check the label on your car seat to make sure it is still safe.

Right Place. Kids are VIPs, just ask them. We know all VIPs ride in the back seat, so keep all children in the back seat until they are big enough to ride without a booster seat.

Right Direction. You want to keep your child in a rear-facing car seat for as long as possible, usually until around age 2. When he or she outgrows the seat, move your child to a forward-facing car seat. Make sure to attach the top tether after you tighten and lock the seat belt or lower anchors.

Inch Test. Once your car seat is installed, give it a good shake at the base where the seat belt fits. Can you move it more than an inch side to side or front to back? A properly installed seat will not move more than an inch.

Pinch Test. Make sure the harness is tightly buckled and coming from the correct slots (check car seat manual). Now, with the chest clip placed at armpit level, pinch the strap at your child's shoulder. If you are unable to pinch any excess webbing, you're good to go.

For more information about Buckle Up Baby, contact Deputy Josh Stewart at 828.421.7950.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from March 3. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

March 3

At 10 a.m., officers received a report of someone knowingly buying jewelry worth \$2,668.75 with a bad check at Drake's Diamond Gallery.

March 29

At 1:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Mountain Fresh parking lot.

March 30

At 12:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Wrights Square.

At 9:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about bears that had opened a car door and taken food at a residence on Foreman Road.

April 1

At 8 a.m., officers responded to a complaint of a dog barking all day at a residence on Dogwood Ave.

April 2

At 10:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about a simple physical assault with a sexual motive at a residence on Cullasaja Drive where items were thrown and broken.

April 3

At noon, officers received a report of a larceny of a canoe taken from a resident's

lot on US 64 west.

April 4

At 2:55 p.m., officers received a report of larceny from a motor vehicle where a license plate was taken at a residence on Brooks Road.

At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to vandalism at a residence on Cullasaja Drive where a door was forced open.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from March 21.

March 21

At 1:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Lower Brushy Face Road.

At 2:54 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hudson Road.

March 22

A little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lucerne Drive.

March 23

At 1:53 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Leonard Road.

At 8:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

March 25

At 11:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

March 27

At 1:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 28 south.

March 28

At 11:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sky Lake Drive and then stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from 18

So my question for all of us to ponder this week has to do with change.

Since we are at the beginning of a changing season, what do we need to change in our lives? Maybe we need to change an unforgiving heart? Maybe we need to change an attitude we have toward someone else? Whatever it is in your life you need to change, I encourage you to make that move because sometimes, while change is hard, we all know that change is necessary.

Don't talk about change in your life, do it.

And in case you are wondering, I wrote this for myself this week, so when you see me in town, ask me if I practice what I preach. Change what it is in your life you need to change.

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Set in the middle of the downtown historic district, The Main Street Inn has been welcoming guests for 125 years. The white clapboard Federal Farmhouse-style building houses 20 small but comfortable rooms (several with queen-size beds and king-size showers). Rates start at \$135.

Best place for Dinner:

Wolfgang's Restaurant & Wine Bistro

Seventeen years ago, Wolfgang and Mindy Green offered only 20 wines when they opened their restaurant that combines tastes of Europe and New Orleans. Now their cellar holds nearly 700. It's easy to find the perfect wine to go with one of Wolfgang's specialties, such as



Photo by Art Meripol

grilled venison tenderloin (wrapped in applewood-smoked bacon with a sun-dried cherry demiglace) or Cajun barbecued shrimp (a variation of the dish he once made at Commander's Palace in New Orleans).

City Center: Main Street and South Fourth Street

Antiques lovers come from all over to attend the nightly auctions at Scudder's Galleries on Main Street (Monday-Saturday June-November). Before the bidding starts, browse through the elegant dinnerware and decorative arts found at nearby Acorn's in the Old Edwards Inn and Spa, or join

the rock hounds at The Highlands Gem Shop searching for gemstones and crystals.

Scenic Spot: Waterfalls

Dozens of waterfalls tumble throughout West North Carolina, with two—Glen Falls and Bridal Veil Falls—located about 3 miles from downtown. Bridal Veil is the easiest to reach. (You can actually drive under it.) Getting to the base of the 145-foot, multilevel Glen Falls requires a little more effort; it's about a 2-mile hike, but the scenic spot is certainly worth the walk.

NCACC Executive Committee meets with Gov. McCrory

Members of the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, along with members of the Executive Team of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, met with Governor Pat McCrory this morning for his first local government roundtable discussion.

President Glen Webb of Pitt County, President Elect Fred McClure of Davidson County, First Vice President Brenda Howerton of Durham County and Past President Ronnie Beale of Macon County represented the NCACC at the meeting with Gov. McCrory and key members of his staff, including Chief of Staff Thomas Stith, State Budget Director Drew Heath and Deputy Chief of Staff Jimmy Broughton.

Gov. McCrory arranged for the meeting in an effort to increase dialogue with local governments. He told the leaders of the two organizations that he would like to meet often with the NCACC and NCLM executive committees so he can keep up-to-date on issues facing local governments.

The NCACC discussed counties' top three legislative priorities for the upcoming Short Session - eliminating a school board's ability to sue the county over local appropriations to education; enabling counties to help ensure community access to broadband; and increased revenue options and flexibility for counties.

"We appreciate the commitment from Gov. McCrory to open a dialogue between his office and our executive committee," said NCACC President Glen Webb. "Because of his public service at the local level, we know Gov. McCrory understands the importance of the partnership between the state and local governments."

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is the official voice of all 100 counties on issues being considered by the General Assembly, Congress and federal and state agencies. The Association provides expertise to counties in the areas of advocacy, research, risk management and education and leadership training.

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Notice is hereby given that the Town of Highlands Planning Board, pursuant to the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 143, Article 33C 'Meetings of Public Bodies' will hold a special call public meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2016 at the Highlands Community Building located at 71 Poplar Street, Highlands, NC 28741. This Public Meeting is regarding two requests: 1. To consider a Special Use Request for First Baptist Church of Highlands (building addition), identified as Macon County PIN # 7540313292 and 7540314196, and located at 240 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741; 2. To consider a Special Use Request for William Ashburn (building addition), identified as Macon County PIN # 7540219104 and located at 151 Main Street.

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Highlands Planning Board and the Town of Highlands Zoning Board of Adjustment, pursuant to the provision of the North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 143, Article 33C 'Meetings of Public Bodies' will hold a special called public meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2016 at the Highlands Community Building located at 71 Poplar Street, Highlands, NC 28741. This Public Meeting is to conduct an ordinance amendment workshop to review and recommend possible amendments to the Highlands Unified Development Code and the Highlands Municipal Code.

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Highlands Zoning Board of Adjustment, pursuant to the provision of the North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 143, Article 33C 'Meetings of Public Bodies' will hold a special call public meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the Highlands Community Building located at 71 Poplar Street, Highlands, NC 28741. This Public Meeting is regarding two requests: 1. To consider a Special Use Request for First Baptist Church of Highlands (building addition), identified as Macon County PIN # 7540313292 and 7540314196, and located at 240 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741; 2. To consider a Special Use Request for William Ashburn (building addition), identified as Macon County PIN # 7540219104 and located at 151 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741

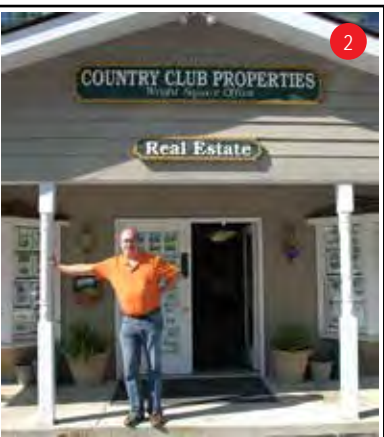


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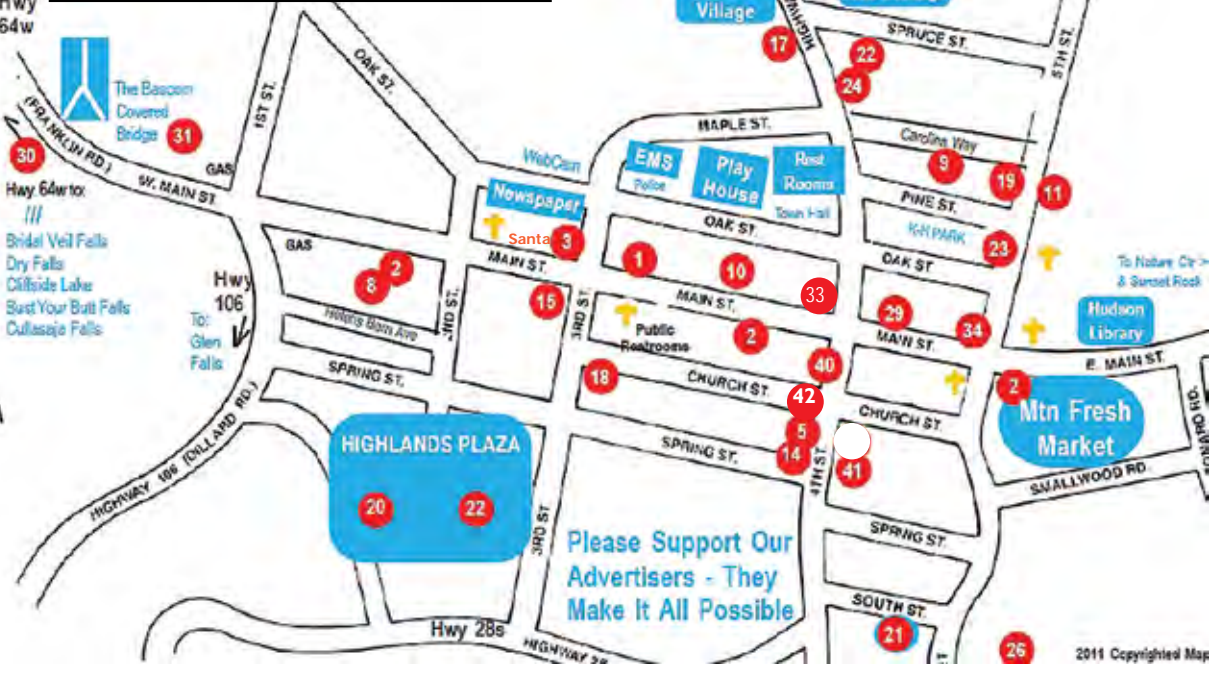
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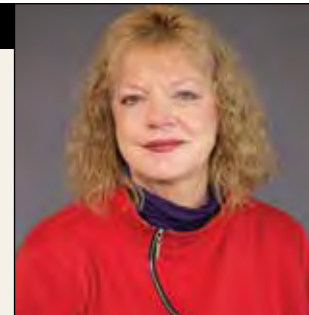


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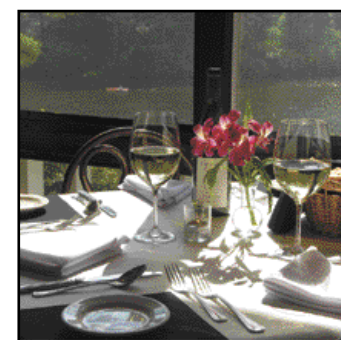
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