

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Feb. 5, 2015

Tree stumps point to 'health' of Lake Sequoyah

With the water finally receding in Lake Sequoyah work can begin on repairing the dam and installing the new water intake valve. However, the interesting thing about the project is the lack of silt evident in the main body of the lake in the vicinity of the dam.

Despite the weather setbacks of late, Town Engineer Lamar Nix says the project is within one week of being on the original schedule the contractor, Langston Construction Company, submitted.

"Each time we had a significant rain, it obviously caused them to have to catch up and they have," said Nix.

The temporary coffer dam – to be built around the new intake valve site – is to go in next week, now that work in the lake bed can begin. In addition, the wet well is

almost excavated to the proper depth of 36 inches.

Last week the town received a call about mud being pumped from Lake Sequoyah into the Cullasaja River but according to Nix it wasn't mud, just turbid (colored)

water and so the river hasn't been compromised.

"The water was turbid due to the lowering of the water level, the pumps are using suction lines and don't 'stir' the water," he said after inspecting the project.



Stumps of trees cut in 1926 still visible today indicate less silting of Lake Sequoyah than presumed.
Photo by Jim Lewicki

Nix is very excited about the stumps that are evident on the lake bed now that the water is out.

"The stumps are from the clearing of the lake in 1926 when the dam was first constructed. The fact that you can still see them and that they are not covered in silt, is extremely good news because it indicates that there isn't silt in those areas," he said.

Nix said there is silt in the lake, just not in the main body and not near the dam.

It appears that the sediment that has been transported to the lake over the decades has been heavy particulate which settled immediately in the tributaries at the 'head' of the lake and fanned out 100- to 200-ft. The main body of the lake does not have near that amount of sediment,

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Fewer college grads entering teaching field

NC's stance on education to blame

By Merritt N. Shaw

A recent study shows that students pursuing an education degree are smarter than the average bear, but the question is, "Where are they?"

Macon County School Superintendent, Dr. Chris Baldwin presented an academic profile comparison of undergraduate University of North Carolina (UNC) education graduates vs. non-education graduates to the members of the Board of Education at their regularly held meeting Monday night.

The study includes a compilation of all UNC schools and compares the high school and college Grade Point Averages (GPA) of education candidates as compared to non-education graduates and shows that the high

• See TEACHING page 4

Parties working on county funding Highlands SRO

By Merritt N. Shaw

The Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners is asking the county to take over funding for the Highlands School Resource Officer (SRO).

Mayor Patrick Taylor be-

lieves it is an issue of equity.

"The Highlands School is a county school and many students live in the county. Furthermore, Highlands residents also are county residents who comprise a substantial portion of the county

tax base. I can't stress this enough, a resident of the town of Highlands is a county taxpayer, too, and deserves the same consideration as any other county resident," he said.

Currently, the only two SROs

not funded through the sheriff's department -- Nantahala School, which is funded by a grant that ends July 2015 and Highlands School which is funded through the Highlands Police Department.

• See SRO page 3

New paramedic program a win-win for county and citizens

By Merritt N. Shaw

Prevention is the best medicine. This is what Warren Cabe, Macon County Emergency Medical Services Director explained

at the county's recent worksession.

Cabe is instigating a new program involving specially trained paramedics who offer home

health preventative care to chronically ill patients or patients just discharged from the hospital – a program that has proven to save time and money elsewhere in the

state.

Called Mobile Integrated Healthcare, this community paramedic program is a fairly new ini-

• See PARAMEDIC page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Silt not a major problem in Lake Sequoyah

This past week I walked into the office of the town engineer, Lamar Nix, and told him I had just visited the intake project on Lake Sequoyah. He smiled and said, "Did you see what I saw on the lake bed." I replied, "Well I saw a lot of tree stumps." Lamar answered, "Yes, they were left there when the dam and lake were built. I told him I did recall seeing tree stumps in a photograph taken when the dam and lake were being built. The photograph appears in Ran Shaffner's history of Highlands. Lamar confirmed the stumps I saw were the same ones in the old photograph of around 1927.

Lamar asked me what I thought was the significance of the stumps. I knew where he was headed, but he went on to share his good news.

The still visible stumps indicate there has been very little, if any, silting in a large portion of the lake, especially around the old river channel. Lamar informed me he and the Town Manager had asked our engineering consultants to do an assessment while the lake is down.

There appears to be siltation at the



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

tributary entry points of the lake, such as just on the other side of US 64 where Big Creek flows into the lake. What excited Lamar was that even at the deepest parts next to the dam, tree stumps can still be seen after nearly 85 years of being submerged. No one anticipated seeing those intact, historical artifacts.

What all this means is that the siltation problem on Sequoyah may not be as extensive as once feared. Instead of doing a massive dredging operation, selective dredging at these entry points may be sufficient in conjunction with dredging other parts of the town water supply such as Big Creek. The lowering of Big Creek has revealed substantial silting, especially around the town water intake at the corner of Hickory Hill and US 64.

In a previous article I discussed the massive undertaking that would be required to dredge the entire lake, as well as other nearby impoundments. This new information makes such a project less extensive, disruptive and costly. In the future, community residents and their elected representatives should address whether to dredge selective waterways and to what extent. Deep water impoundments insure abundant, cool, silt-free, water that is less costly to process. There could be a long-term payback to this initial investment.

Now a post script on future initiatives. I was with Lamar at the dam shortly after the water intake and dam repair had gotten underway. Lamar made the observation that the construction of Sequoyah dam, the hydroelectric plant and water system were all advanced, innovative technologies back in the 1920s. The Highlanders of that time were looking forward to new prosperity. They made strategic decisions that helped make Highlands what it is today. I salute and thank the Highlanders from the years gone by.

• LETTERS •

Live in HD at PAC should NOT be missed!

Dear Editor,

I am writing to appeal to any of your readers who have not yet taken advantage of the fabulous thing we have going on at the PAC these days -- the "Live in HD" series. And when I say "fabulous" I am not exaggerating in the slightest. PAC is offering, at least for people like me (not wealthy, and not able to travel a lot due to a plethora of animals) the only chance we'll ever have to see world-class performances on the great stages of the world... and while they are actually happening! A Streetcar Named Desire and Frankenstein from the London National Theatre... Barber of Seville from the Metropolitan Opera... the Bolshoi Ballet production of Swan Lake... these are once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

That they can all be seen in Highlands is nothing short of astounding. Yet they have so far been woefully under-attended, and if audiences do not grow we will certainly lose this stellar performance series. Please, if you haven't already done so, check out the 2015 schedule, find a title that appeals, and go! I promise you won't regret it.

Marty Boone
Highlands

• TELLTALES •

Kindness

There are times when folks just need some help and to know that others care.

And sometimes folks just need to pull themselves up to maintain their self-respect.

My wife, Sibbie, and her sister Debbie, had lunch at a Red Lobster some years ago.

They had parked the car in the rear of the restaurant where there was a parking space available and on their way out, one of the waitresses was standing there taking a smoke break.

Sibbie had noticed that something was very wrong with the young lady and grabbed her sister by the arm and pulled her back to speak with the waitress.

The waitress explained that her husband had left her and she wouldn't be able to pick up the layaway toys for her two kids in time for Christmas.

Sibbie and Debbie each pulled out \$20 and gave it to the woman. At that point, she was unable to control herself and broke down crying.

In the grand scheme of things, it was a tiny thing to do to help someone in a jam but sometimes it's the little things that mean so

much.

Years ago, some friends of mine owned a boatyard and for some reason lost to me now, they had to leave for a couple of weeks. With only one lady working in the store and one man, John, to oversee the premises no boats would be hauled out for repairs or maintenance.

"John, I asked him, why don't you go ahead and haul these boats out? You know how to use the lift?"

"No, Mr. Bob, he said, I'm afraid I'll screw up and drop a boat. Mr. 'blank' doesn't want me to operate the lift."

At this point I got in my car and left but only got a block or so away and turned around and confronted John again.

• See TELLTALES page 10

• CORRECTION •

In last week's article "Group unveils way to access Satulah Mountain Trail," we stated

"Public access to the Satulah Mountain Trail via Worley Road was halted July 2013 when a homeowner at the end of the road decided to enforce the private road status on that part of Worley Road."

It should have read, "Public access to the Satulah Mountain Trail via Worley Road was halted July 2013 when homeowners in the Satulah Vista subdivision decided to enforce the private road status on their part of Worley Road."

We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

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Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913

(828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Merritt Shaw

Copy Editor: Glenda Bell

Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

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...STUMPS continued from page 1

because the sediment was heavy and settled out early at the head of the lake where the tributaries enter.

"It is reasonable to conclude that the new intake will not have any issues with sediment for many decades," he said.

Based on the emergence of tree stumps in the lake, perhaps the entire lake as well as other nearby impoundments don't need to be completely dredged but rather specific areas – namely where tributaries enter the lake.

The silting of Big Creek is another story and it's that silt that caused the town to look elsewhere for an intake valve.

Curiosity was ripe concerning what might be found on the lake bottom once the lake was drained. Nix said he's seen a few people looking for "treasures" and has heard that a number of old bottles have been found.

Initially, property owners were excited about clearing silt from their property, which goes to the middle of the lake, but

so far Nix said he only knows of one property owner removing a fallen tree.

However, the Sunday afternoon before the last rain, a structure which appeared to be a bridge became visible.

The total cost of the project, including the raw water intake, the raw water main, dam improvements and repairs, engineering design fees, project management/administration costs, and loan closing costs is \$2,893,689.

State grant funds from NCDENR are paying for \$1,654,760; state loan funds from DWSRE with 80% forgiveness is covering \$413,690 for a total of \$2,068,450. To cover the \$824,870 balance, \$468,580 is being used from the town's Lake Remediation Fund and \$356,290 is being used from the Sewer Reserve Fund.

Depending on weather, the project is expected to be finished in the spring. Refilling of the lake will likely take place between mid-March and May 2015.

— Kim Lewicki

...SRO continued from page 1

"Why should a Highlands taxpayer be expected to carry the tax burden of funding a county or school function? Let the county taxes I pay fund the SRO. Besides, Highlands is still willing to support some of the indirect funding of the SRO," said Taylor.

Chief Bill Harrell and Sheriff Robbie Holland have always been on the same page as far as safety in the schools and have done their best to fund SROs out of their own budgets.

A little history. Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell and Donnie Seagal became the first SROs in the county in 2001. They were assigned to Macon Middle School and Franklin High School at that time. Robbie Holland started his first term as Sheriff in 2002 and all those years since, it has been a priority of his to get all the schools staffed with SROs. In order to do this he has had to be creative with his budgets, apply and win grant money and eliminate or move positions in his department, to afford to pay for these specialty deputy positions.

"I have eliminated at least three or four deputy positions in order to create SROs in our schools," he said.

When Harrell became Chief of Police, getting an SRO into Highlands School was a priority of his as well. He saw an opportunity to fund the position when the Assistant Chief retired that year.

"Since I restructured our Police Department in 2005, a small and appreciated funding amount for uniforms and technology was given, but has not been revis-

ited. As for our department's budget, it is humble, modest and accountable by way of services this community deserves and demands, but this is a matter of principle and ethics," he said.

Harrell emphasized that SROs like all other officers can't solve every problem or prevent every wrong, but they are "priceless and immeasurable in the value they bring to each campus they serve. Their duties are primarily advising, educating, and many other tasks, not just enforcing."

Taylor said the Highlands Town Board was fine with the SRO being under the supervision of the sheriff's department or the Highlands Police Department as long as there is continuous coverage.

"Under the latter plan, the county could fund the salary of the SRO, as Highlands does now, and the town of Highlands Police Department would continue to provide supervision and training for the SRO, uniforms, equipment and transportation," he said.

Harrell said he is convinced, and the Sheriff and he agree, that it's a no-brainer because of the unique dynamics and especially the location.

"The best thing for our children, faculty and the rest of our community is for that "resource" to be led by the agency that serves them directly 24-7 for continuity, efficiency and effectiveness," said Harrell.

Highlands School has had the privilege of benefactors who have donated large amounts of money or who have purchased equipment for the school.

• See SRO page 9



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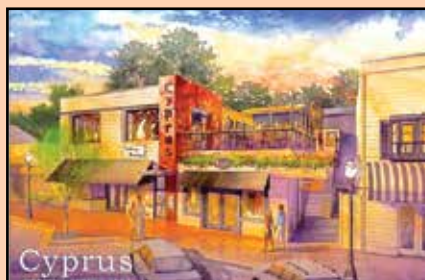
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...TEACHING continued from page 1

school GPAs and cumulative college GPA of education graduates are higher.

"A lot of times I don't think we recognize how important it is we get the best and the brightest who have entered into the field of education and this is just another example of how fortunate we are that these folks are going into teaching," said Baldwin.

What offsets the remarkable difference in GPA levels is the fact that there are fewer candidates going into education. According to the study, in 2013-'14 there was a 10.5 percent drop in the number of candidates for bachelor's degrees in Education, 15.2 percent drop in candidates in master's degrees and 27.6 drop in number of candidates for combined degrees of bachelor's and the master's degrees in Education.

"This does not bode well with the teacher shortage in the years to come and suggests what we will be facing in the next few years," Baldwin said.

One reason college students may not choose to get degrees in education in North Carolina is because the state has stopped investing in its teachers.

Specifics include: the elimination of raises for earning a master's degree, the elimination of the Teaching Fellows Program, a lack of career development, the scaling down of the Alternative Licensure Program, teacher tenure has been eliminated, there aren't caps on class sizes and the voucher program has been implemented -- which is a government certificate of funding, for low income students, that goes toward the tuition to attend a private school.

Unfortunately, experts say when there aren't quality teachers, students and society suffer the consequences. A shortage of highly qualified teachers means difficulty in filling teaching positions which in turn means relying on people without formal teaching education, lateral entry candidates (people usually with a non-educational undergraduate degree plus career experience who want to teach) or long term substitutes to fill the void.

"Our hope is that our state leaders are reading the same thing that you gave us and that they 'wise up,' shall we say, on how important it is and will come across some money that will be needed," said BOE Chair Jim Breedlove.



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•HS SPORTS•

Varsity Basketball

On Wed., Jan. 28, the Lady Highlanders travelled to Murphy. They won the game 54 to 39. High scorers were Whitney Billingsley with 19 points, Ann Marie Crowe with 11 points and April Moss with 9 points. Kirstyn Lamb had 8 assists and 11 steals.

The boys lost their game 67 to 56. Brent Amundrud was high scorer with 19 points and Johnny Lupoli had 15 points.

Thursday, Jan. 29, the teams travelled to Andrews. The girls lost 54 to 61. Whit-

ney Billingsley was high scorer with 14 points, Ann Marie Crowe with 13 points and Kirstyn Lamb with 9 points.

The boys also lost 64 to 43. Johnny Lupoli was high scorer with 24 points.

Sat., Jan 31, the teams hosted Cherokee. In a very intense game, the Lady Highlanders lost 70 to 34. High scorers were Jessica Tilson and Ann Marie Crowe, both with 10 points.

The boys lost 68 to 36. High scorer was Brent Amundrud with 16 and Johnny Lupoli scored 8 points.

— Siera Nylund



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...PARAMEDICS continued from page 1

tative to the EMS community.

Among other things, according to Cabe, it could potentially help with an ongoing dilemma for the Macon County Sheriff's Department where a deputy can spend hours racking up overtime sitting in emergency rooms and transporting mentally ill patients who are in crisis and need to be taken to a facility.

"The program is a process where select medics visit high risk users of the EMS system on a proactive basis with the hopes of helping to solve their problem before they require transportation or readmission. This frees up ambulance and emergency department space," he said. "The visits could be as minor as seeing if the patients have questions about their medications or referring them to a physician."

Wake County in Raleigh has a similar program it started in 2009 called the Advance Paramedic Program (APP).

Cabe visited McDowell County to research its program which was funded by a \$300,000 grant by the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation. It is estimated that the program is saving McDowell County approximately \$10,000 a month.

Cabe said it is also designed to help hospitals comply with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) which can penalize them if a patient is admitted to a facility and then

readmitted for any reason within a 30-day period.

It can also minimize the occurrence of medical crises for people with chronic medical conditions who need to be closely monitored, such as people with diabetes, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure and children with asthma.

But foremost it could increase the overall well-being of patients by decreasing the frequency of having to call an ambulance – saving time, money and ER visits and subsequent hospital stays.

Through the program, an additional experienced paramedic responds to critical level calls alongside paramedic ambulances. They operate out of single-responder vehicles with paramedic and personal protective equipment so they can operate independently until an ambulance arrives. They can also provide additional medications or equipment to ambulances if needed.

Cabe is still gathering research concerning logistics.

"We need to discuss some issues and streamlining possibilities with H-C Hospital, Mission Regional Transport, MAMA, Mission administration, Macon EMS and Glenville-Cashiers EMS and I will know more in a few weeks; but we already did

• See PARAMEDICS page 9



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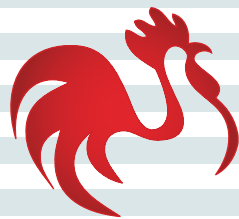
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A LARGE SELECTION OF TAKE-AWAY ITEMS FULLY PREPARED, READY TO TAKE HOME INCLUDING GRILLED PORK LOINS, HOME MADE MAC & CHEESE, MASHED POTATOES, HERB RUBBED CHICKEN, MADE IN HOUSE BBQ, CHICKEN SALAD DELI SALADS & MUCH MORE

DINNER TO GO

A DIFFERENT FULL DINNER EVERY NIGHT. SERVES FOUR SERVING MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 4:30 UNTIL WE SELL OUT - CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE.

MONDAY: CHOOSE EITHER:

FOUR CHICKEN AND FOUR CHEESE ENCHILADAS, REFRIED BEANS, MONTEREY RICE, HOMEMADE TORTILLA CHIPS, SALSA, SHREDDED LETTUCE, TOMATOES, SOUR CREAM OR...
24 BUFFALO WINGS OR 2 LBS CHICKEN TENDERS AND HAND CUT FRIES
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR.

TUESDAY: MADE IN-HOUSE ITALIAN SAUSAGE LASAGNA AND A LARGE HOUSE SALAD
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR

WEDNESDAY: CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE AND A LARGE SALAD
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR

THURSDAY: ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR

FRIDAY: WILD CAUGHT FRIED SHRIMP, BAKED POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES AND COLESLAW
\$22.95 SERVES FOUR

SATURDAY: IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, COLESLAW, APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR

WEEKDAY PIZZA SPECIAL:

16" NEW YORK STYLE PIZZA WITH UP TO FIVE TOPPINGS AND A LARGE HOUSE SALAD \$19.99 OR
BAKED PASTA, WITH GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD FOR 19.95
PASTA, TOMATO SAUCE, AND CHEESE WITH A CHOICE OF ITALIAN SAUSAGE, MEAT BALLS OR CRISPY CHICKEN.
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AN EXCELLENT, COMPREHENSIVE SELECTION OF WINE WITH THE BEST PRICES IN TOWN, AND RUN BY A KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF. BEER AND WINE AVAILABLE BY THE GLASS WHILE YOU SHOP AND DINE.

BUTCHER

WE SELL ONLY 100% PREMIUM ANGUS BEEF, HAND CUT IN HOUSE. STOCK UP FOR THE WEEKEND EVERY THURSDAY WITH 35% ALL STEAKS AND GROUND BEEF. THEN STOP BY THE TAKE OUT CASE TO COMPLETE YOUR DINNER WITH TWICE BAKED POTATOES, FRESH SALADS AND MORE.

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OVER 40 EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OILS AND VINEGARS TO CHOOSE FROM - ALL AVAILABLE TO SAMPLE.

SPECIALTY CHEESES

DOZENS OF CHEESES, TAPENADES, OLIVES AND SPECIALTY ITEMS TO CHOOSE FROM INCLUDING OUR MADE IN HOUSE CRACKERS.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• The Cub and Boy Scouts of America have three drop offs for worn and tattered flags. They properly retire them. Drop offs at Highlands Doors and Windows 2242 Dillard Road, the Highlands Fire Station or Highlands United Methodist Church office. Contact Phil Potts for more information 828 526-3719

Monday

• Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

First Tuesdays

• FAMILY and Caregiver Support Group Meets: for Individuals that have a friend, family member or loved one living with mental illness. Learn how peers deal with stress and emotional overload. First Tuesday of Every Month 7-8 pm. Call Ann for more info (828) 369-7385

Tuesdays

• Reading dog "Beebles" will be at Hudson Library every Tuesday at 3:30pm. Please call (828) 526-3031 to register.
• Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 8:05a. \$5.

Starting Tues., Feb. 24

• 12-week NAMI Program to educate families dealing with mental illness, 6:30 to 8:30p. The course has the dual focus of education, and understanding the experience of living with mental illness. Confidentiality is maintained. Class size is limited and pre-registration required. Contact: Ann 369-7385 or Linda 369-9838

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am
• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

Wednesdays

• First Baptist Church is happy to present a new season of X-treme Games at the Highlands Rec. Park. The games will be held Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:15 pm. For more information or to pre-register your k - 6th grade child, please call 526-4153.

1st Wednesdays

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

3rd Wednesdays

• General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

• Storytimes with Miss Carol at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

• Highlands Writers' Group meets every Thursday from 1-3:30 pm at Hudson Library. Writers of all genres welcome. For info call 526-8009 or 526-2295.

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

2nd Thursdays

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

Last Fri. of each month

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Sundays

• At the Mountain Laurel Tennis Club at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship. **Through March 2**

• Canned food drive at the Eckerd Center. Drop off boxes will be located in the ELC Activities Room, the Lobby Area and the Staff Break Room

Feb. 8-14

• Food drive at the Highlands Playhouse. Non-perishable foods and all donations will be given to the local food pantry. For every 3 cans donated, you will get a free small popcorn. Bring five or more items on Feb. 14 and you get "Buy one get one" free tickets to the movies.

Tues., Feb. 17

• Lunch and Learn at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Registration at 11:15 in the Eckerd Living Center Conference Room; program at 11:30a in the Eckerd Living Center Activities Room. Subject: Top 5 types of identity theft. Discussion lead by Legal Shield Ex. Director Bob Sheesley. RSVP to Pamela Harris at 828-526-1325.

Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 19-22

• HCP's "Murder Not Prohibited" at PAC. 6:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. Sunday matinees. Come eat, laugh, and test their powers of deduction—all for the bargain price of \$22.85! Tickets are available online, highlandscashiersplayers.org, and at the HCP box office, 526-8084.

Tues., Feb. 24

• Hudson Library Book Club meeting at the Hudson Library at 10:30a featuring the "Book of the Month." Call 526-3031.

Thurs.-Sun., Feb 27-March

• HCP's "Murder Not Prohibited" at PAC. 6:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. Sunday matinees. Come eat, laugh, and test their powers of deduction—all for the bargain price of \$22.85! Tickets are available online, highlandscashiersplayers.org, and at the HCP box office, 526-8084.

HCP to present a comic dinner theater murder mystery



A revival of former Highlander Jody Read's most popular Carolina Murder Mystery dinner theater comedy, "Murder Not Prohibited," has been scheduled as the Highlands Cashiers Players winter play. Set in 1925 in a speakeasy, the show is scheduled for six performances at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, February 20-22 and February 27 through March 1, evenings at 6:15 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 1:15.

The audience, seated at tables downstairs in the PAC reception room, will be served a tasty dinner as they watch the show, with wine available for purchase at a wine bar. Before the final scene of the play, audience members at each table will submit their best guess as to which of the suspects committed the murders. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the play.

The seven actors in the play are some of HCP's finest—all experienced, acting in major roles with HCP and at other theaters, and some who acted in HCP's first production of this murder-mystery spoof in the 1990's. The character names alone will give you an idea of the nature of this madcap play. There's Harry Huckster, speakeasy owner, played by Michael Lanzilotta; Daisy Darling, his wife and hostess/singer, played by Michelle Hott; Cal Apone, a tough gangster from Chicago who suffers from mysophobia (a fear of germs), played by Dean Zuch the first weekend and Wayne Coleman, the second; Trixie LaTour, Cal's girlfriend, played by Ronnie Spilton; Rightie Ragu, Cal's right-hand man, played by Steve Hott; Willy Joe Cobb, backwoods bootlegger, played by David Spivey; and Hope Sober, militant brick-toting member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, played by Virginia Talbot.

"Murder Not Prohibited" is the third play for HCP season subscribers and available to all others who wants to come eat, laugh, and test their powers of deduction—all for the bargain price of \$22.85! Tickets are available online, highlandscashiersplayers.org, and at the HCP box office, 526-8084.

Highlands Playhouse

NOW SHOWING:

Oscar Nominated

Birdman

R 2 hrs

Showtimes: Feb 6, 7 & 12 @ 2, 5 & 8

Feb 8 @ 2 & 5

No movies Mon-Wed during the winter

highlandspayhouse.org

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showtime app for up to date showtimes

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...SRO continued from page 3

Chief Harrell mentioned a partnership with a benefactor who donated approximately half-a-million dollars in security cameras to Highlands School. At the last County Commissioner meeting, Commissioner Jim Tate mentioned that he and other Highlands residents have raised approximately \$300,000, of which \$150,000 was donated by Old Edwards Inn's owners Art and Angela Williams, to renovate the school track.

"The Town of Highlands feels that if Macon County is going to fund all of the county schools with SROs, why should it be excluded, and I don't disagree," said Harrell. "At the end of these discussions, I am confident that all of the powers-that-be will reach the right decision for what is in the best interest of everyone involved and especially our children and school

...PARAMEDICS from page 6

a discharge follow-up on our first patient from Angel yesterday," he said.

Though Cabe plans to keep the county commission in the loop, he said neither commission nor medical direction for approval is necessary.

"We are still operating, within our NC College of Emergency Physicians protocols and within our current budget. At this early stage an estimated budget is not constructed yet, and at this point it's difficult to estimate savings."

However, if McDowell County's savings are any indication, the program will likely be a win-win for the county.

• POLICE & FIRE •

The Highlands Police log entries from Jan. 12 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Jan. 12

- At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Wyanoak Road.

Jan. 16

- At 2:45 p.m., the larceny of a Apple iPhone 4S without permission was reported.

Jan. 18

- At 6:42 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Jan. 19.

Jan. 19

- At 7:32 a.m., the dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the hospital.

- At 1:27 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid for the Cashiers FD on a structure fire.

- At 3:44 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Upper Divide Road.

Jan. 22

- At 10:22 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Brushy Face Road.

Jan. 25

- At 1:04 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Brushy Face Road.

- At 11:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Jan. 26

- At 8:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO₂ alarm at a residence on Dolly Lane.

Jan. 27

- At 8:43 p.m., the dept. was first responders to a residence on US 64 east.

PIZZA & ITALIAN STREET FOOD AT MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY



NEAPOLITAN PIZZAS

AUTHENTIC THIN CRUST PIZZAS WITH FRESH HAND-CUT INGREDIENTS \$11.95

CHOOSE CLASSICS LIKE:

RED MARGHERITA: FRESH MOZZARELLA, CRUSHED TOMATO & FRESH BASIL

PANCETTA: PANCETTA, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, MUSHROOMS, CRUSHED TOMATO & GRANDE MOZZARELLA

PROSCIUTTO ARUGULA: PROSCIUTTO DE PARMA, MUSHROOMS, GARLIC INFUSED EVVO, PECORINO, & FRESH ARUGULA TOSSED WITH EVVO

OR MODERN INTERPRETATIONS:

FIG & PIG: FIGS, PANCETTA, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, CRUSHED TOMATO, GORGONZOLA, TOPPED WITH ARUGULA TOSSED IN EVVO.

BBQ CILANTRO CHICKEN: PULLED CHICKEN, BBQ SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, RED & GREEN ONION, FRESH CILANTRO.

...OR BUILD YOUR OWN.

N.Y. DECK OVEN PIZZAS

10 INCH \$10.95 / 16 INCH \$19.95

CHOOSE YOUR SAUCE:

ITALIAN RED TOMATO, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, PESTO BASIL, OR BARBECUE

CHOOSE UP TO 5 TOPPINGS:

PEPPERONI, ITALIAN SAUSAGE, GROUND BEEF, HAM, BACON, CHICKEN, CARAMELIZED ONION, FRESH ONION, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, GREEN PEPPERS, BANANA PEPPERS, OLIVES, MUSHROOMS, PINEAPPLE, SPINACH, EGGPLANT, ARTICHOKE, ANCHOVIES, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, GORGONZOLA, PROVOLONE, FETA, AND PARMESAN

ITALIAN STREET FOOD \$10.95

LEMON ROSEMARY SAUTÉED CHICKEN, CRISPY CHICKEN FRITTE, ITALIAN SAUSAGE OR MEDITERRANEAN STEAK

ADD YOUR SAUCE: POMODORO, PESTO BASIL, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, CREAMY PESTO

THEN IT'S ALL SAUTÉED WITH FRESH ANGEL HAIR PASTA, TOPPED WITH PARMAGIANO & SERVED WITH FRESH BAKED PIADINA

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WINTER SALE

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Spring

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526-4818



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

In remembrance: Marcus Borg 1942-2015

By Martha Porter

A gentle man died on Wednesday January 21. A gentle man, a gracious, brilliant man with a dry sense of humor and a talent for teaching. He was the author of 20 books, a life long seeker with a shimmering faith to accompany his extensive biblical scholarship.

In his last book, *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*, he wrote the following:

“What’s it all about? What’s life all about? What’s Christianity about? What’s salvation about?”

My answer to that question now, my conviction now: “it” – Christianity and salvation – is about transformation this side of death. The natural effect of growing up, beginning in childhood, is that we fall into bondage to cultural messages and conventions; experience separation and exile from the one in whom we live and move and have our being; become blinded by habituated ways of seeing and live in the dark, even dead in the midst of life; and hunger and thirst for something more. Salvation is about liberation, reconnection, seeing anew, acceptance, and the satisfaction of our deepest yearnings. Christianity at its best – like all of the enduring religions of the world at their best – is a path of transformation.

What’s it all about? What’s the Christian life all about? It’s about loving God and loving what God loves. It’s about becoming passionate about God and participating in God’s passion for a different kind of world, here and now. And the future, including what is beyond our lives? We leave that up to God

Foreshadowing his death, he shared this observation:

“So, is there an afterlife, and if so, what will it be like? I don’t have a clue. But I am confident that the one who has buoyed us up in life will also buoy us through death. We die into God. What more that means, I do not know. But that is all I need to know.”

Teacher, theologian, preacher, mentor, writer – people who knew him said that while you might disagree with him, you could never dislike him. He modeled the passion and the kindness of a spiritual seeker; he sought always to not only know more (intellectually) about Jesus and God, but to live (spiritually) what he experienced of both.

In his final journey, he displayed the courage it takes to live with ambiguity and mystery. In so doing, he invited us all to find the courage we need to resist the complacency of certainty, the assurance of the familiar, and to set out on our own journey into God, both in life and in death.

...TELLTALES from page 2

“John, all you have to do is run the lift out onto the platform, lower the slings into the water and pull the boat in and lift it out of the water. Then move it ashore and chock it up.”

“Mr. Bob, he said, my boss would kill me if I dropped a boat. I can’t do it.”

We argued a bit but at this point, I climbed on the lift and started the engine. John went into a panic but I ignored him and simply motioned to him to move where he needed to be, which he did, and proceeded to show me the “correct” way to operate the lift.

John knew how to do it all along and just took some pushing from me to get him to believe in himself enough to do the job.

• See TELLTALES page 11

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 9:15a Christian Education at Buck’s Coffee Cashiers

Crossroads; 10:30a Faithful, Family Service w/ Music & Communion.

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

Wednesdays – 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10: 45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC

University

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

Sundays: Eucharist Rite I 8a in chapel; Education

and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418

Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth: 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 7- Oct 26- Informal Evening Eucharist: 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Child Care - 10:30a - 12:30p

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth 8th - 12th grade meets 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30p

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

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Predictions for 2015 Highlands, NC Real Estate

Over the last 15 years, I have seen a wide variety of real estate market conditions in the Highlands-Cashiers area. There have been pre- and post-9/11 markets, booming markets, turning markets, a crashed market, and a recovering market. And now as we enter the second month of 2015, I believe we are entering yet another market phase that is comprised of compelling characteristics every Buyer and Seller will want to fully understand.

So let's jump in!

The changing of season parameters. Over the last several years, it has been fascinating to watch how the classic "season" has shifted from hard starts and stops, to a much more nebulous time frame. For example, when I was growing up, the season in Highlands began in mid-May and ended on Halloween. Period. Only a handful of people would be here during the holiday months, and certainly only full-time residents were in Highlands over the winter. In fact, town was so deserted, that we would sled down Main Street!

Over the years, the season has lengthened to the point where we are now; while there are slower times of the year, certainly, the "shoulder season" months have become "season." Now, "off season" months (like January and February) look more like classic "shoulder season" months used to look. That is, we can have as many visitors and activity in town on Thursdays – Mondays in the winter, as we do in September!

How does this impact the real estate market? Classic "rules" about when to launch a listing, temporarily take it off market, and strategies around market positioning and advertising have changed. While I would still advocate that launching in spring is ideal for capturing the best art and energy of the upswing of the market, I

no longer believe winter is not a great time to launch. I have launched several listings over the last several weeks and am seeing strong agent and investor activity at each. This would not have been the case a couple of years ago.

Hot market segments will see inventory shortages (even before summer). What? Isn't the market too inventory heavy? Yes and no. While, yes, we have no shortage of properties on the market, we actually have a dearth of properties that I would categorize as being in the hot zone: true walk-to-town properties (at any price point and condition), fully renovated/new homes (especially those in the \$650,000 price point and under), well-priced luxury properties (\$1M+) in choice neighborhoods/areas, and a combination of the above property types that would also serve exceedingly well as a rental property.

Sellers, if you have a property fitting these criteria, and you are interested in selling now, congratulations! If your property does not fit this set of criteria, don't despair – there are ways to improve greatly how to garner more attention for your property. Seek guidance from your real estate agent as to how to accomplish this.

Rental demand will continue to be strong and will increase. I will admit I have thought a number of times that we were edging toward market saturation with regard to vacation rentals. As is the case in many areas of business and life, where energy flows, the pie expands, rather than shrinks. That is, as Highlands becomes even more popular and known throughout the southeast and beyond, we are attracting visitors in record numbers.

Visitors are enjoying our first-class inns, hotels, B & Bs, and va-



Susie deVille
White Oak Realty
Group
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cation rentals in droves. We will continue to see an upswing in this trend, especially with 3-night stays and weekly rentals. Investors take note: if you are looking for a great property to enjoy yourself that will also work for you financially, select a property in the "hot zone" that will be an attractive and sought-after rental.

Increased activity in luxury price points. This trend began in 2013 and continued through 2014; I predict this segment will enjoy significant activity and sales this year. I have repeat investors who are eyeing this market, specifically for the purpose of adding to their portfolios. They are reporting to me that they see now as the perfect window to invest again (via 1031 tax-deferred exchanges and cash transactions) and diversify their real estate holdings. One caveat for luxury property Sellers: this does not mean that investors will ignore out-of-line pricing. Please remember the level of sophistication of our Buyers; they know our market inside and out and will simply opt to ignore over-priced listings. Ask your agent for an updated CMA to ensure you are positioned correctly.

Now is such a great time to be in real estate in the Highlands-Cashiers market. There is always something new on the horizon (whether it be new tools, technology, leveraging possibilities, and/or ways to reach desired audiences), and the market itself is ever changing. It is a dynamic, living, breathing entity that continues to fascinate. Whether you are a Buyer or Seller, taking the time to fully understand the trends and characteristics of this market will prove to be thoroughly enjoyable as well as profitable.

• Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her

areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating

on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

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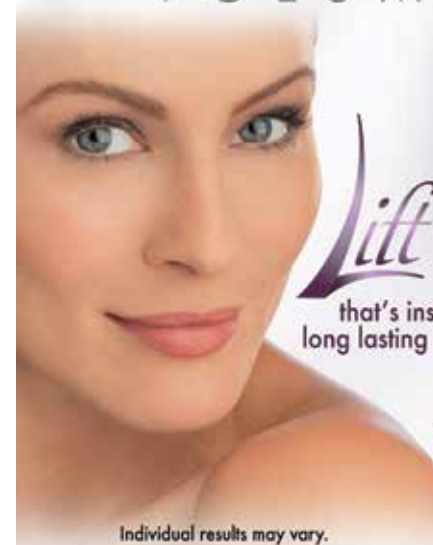
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...TELLTALES continued from page 10

To this day his boss never knew that I was about to lift some boats out of the water and if they had ever found out, they might

have shot me.

Anyway, when they returned, all the boats needing to be hauled out were ashore and properly blocked.

John was extremely proud of himself and my reward was seeing the pride in his eyes. I had helped John

• See TELLTALES page 13

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society gives new hope for dogs rescued from extreme cruelty in TN

For the second time in the past three months, the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society (CHHS), as a designated Emergency Placement Partner with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), has worked with HSUS to save the lives of dogs living in deplorable and inhumane conditions.

In the pre-dawn hours of Friday, January 30th, members of the CHHS Animal Rescue Team travelled to Shelbyville, TN to pick up 15 dogs from a horrific neglect case. The dogs CHHS transported in its mobile rescue unit, the H.E.A.R.T. of North Carolina, are among 107 dogs seized from a Tennessee property where they had been kept chained from the age of 12 weeks old. In some cases it took rescuers 30 minutes just to remove collars that were deeply embedded into the dogs' necks.

"This was a very sad case where over a hundred dogs suffered at the end of a chain their

entire lives," said Leighann Lassiter, Tennessee State Director for the Humane Society of the United States. "The lucky ones had a dilapidated, make-shift house but most had no protection at all. The dogs were living in a mixture of mud and feces, their paws were swollen from constantly standing in dirty water, and they were exhausted because they had no dry ground to lie down and sleep. One dog found an inch of a tire sticking out of the mud and tried to sleep standing up on the small piece of rubber in a heartbreaking attempt to keep dry. Another dog was found huddled on top of her dead and dying babies, trying desperately to keep them warm."

"These dogs have no idea what it is like to be off the chain, receive nutritious meals and much-needed medical attention, and feel the loving touch of a human being who cares," said David Stroud, Executive Director of the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. "But now their

long, cruel nightmare is over. We've given these brave survivors the promise of comfort and safety. We are brought them hope, love, care and compassion. And have brought them home."

"In the last four years there have been more than 1,600 dogs rescued from North Carolina puppy mills," said Stroud. "Many of our neighboring states have assisted with the placement of these dogs and the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society now has the opportunity to give back by helping one of our neighbors."

The North Carolina State Director for the Humane Society of the United States echoed Stroud's sentiments. "It is heartwarming to see these victims of animal cruelty getting a second chance at life," said Kim Alboum. "We are grateful that our Emergency Placement Partners are working together over state lines to find loving homes for these dogs. The Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society team is incredibly special and these sweet dogs are in the best of hands."

The rescued dogs brought back to the CHHS shelter are immediately placed into foster homes for a few days of quiet and calm while they receive full medical examinations and any necessary veterinary care. They will be available for adoption within the next two to three weeks once they have been spayed and neutered. For more information on foster, adoption, or to make a donation to help with the medical expenses of the rescue dogs, please contact Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society at 828-743-5752, email info@CHhumanesociety.org or visit their website at www.CHhumanesociety.org



CHHS Executive Director David Stroud on the scene in Shelbyville, TN with rescue dog Denali.

Photo by Marty Boone

Old Edwards Inn and Spa named #5 Best Hotel in the U.S. in TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards and Best Hotel in NC by Business Insider and U.S. News

Old Edwards Inn and Spa was named #5 Best Hotel in the United States in the 2015 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards, and also took the #6 spot for Top Hotel for Romance. Travelers' Choice award winners are determined using qualitative and quantitative analysis of the millions of reviews and opinions collected in a single year from TripAdvisor travelers worldwide. The hallmarks of Travelers' Choice winners are remarkable service, quality and value.

TripAdvisor cites a quote from a reviewer, "The rooms are beautifully appointed, complete with automatic fireplaces and extra jets in the shower. The staff was friendly and responsive; a truly relaxing place in beautiful surroundings."

Old Edwards President, Richard Delany, says, "I really can't express how much it means that this honor is determined by reviews that are written by our most important critics—our own guests who have visited Old Edwards one or more times and report on their personal experiences while here with us."

The TripAdvisor accolades come on the heels of Old Edwards being named the #1 hotel in North Carolina in Business Insider's Best Hotel in Every State report, and was followed by a January 27 ranking by U.S. News and World Report as The Best Hotel in North Carolina. "Sitting on a plateau in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, this European-style hotel has a sprawling layout that centers around an outdoor patio with a double-sided fire place pool," states Businessinsider.com.

...TELLTALES from page 11

help himself.

The wife of a couple we know is seriously ill and has recently been in ICU at the hospital. The husband is barely able to boil water. You know the type of dude I'm talking about.

Actually, not to brag, I make a world class cup of instant coffee.

But, anyway, Sibbie decided to make a couple of gallons of turkey soup for them when his wife returned from the hospital. She also made two pumpkin pies, one for us and one for them.

Mind you, while I like the dark meat on a turkey drumstick, I hate turkey soup, and I was happy to see half of it go to the couple that needed it.

In the meantime, wondering why Sibbie had picked up an entire bag of apples, it turns out she is going to make two apple pies, one for us and one for the couple.

Anyway, sometimes in life, it's best to help others pull themselves up and other times simply give and sometimes a small gesture that makes the difference.

ELC resident turns 100!



Martha Wiltcher, a resident of the Eckerd Living Center (ELC), recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Family and friends came from as far as Australia to celebrate her 100 years of life! Shown here with Martha Wiltcher are her three living children; Elaine Watts, Bill Barber and June Thomas.

• MILESTONE •

David Long, son of Lynn and Valerie Long, of Highlands, was named to the Dean's List of Cedarville University for the Fall semester.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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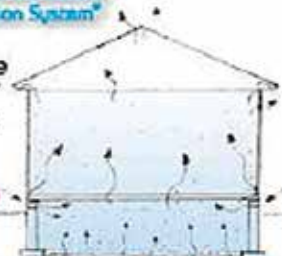
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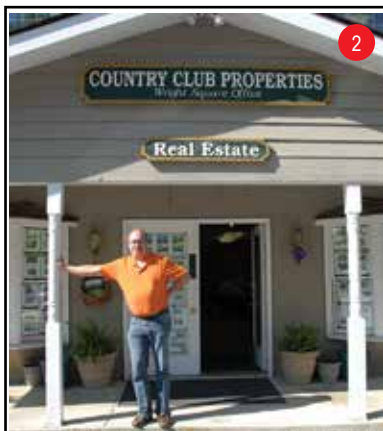
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