

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Aug. 25, 2016

Bob Frye stepping down as Town Manager

During the Town Manager report period at the Thursday, Aug. 18 Town Board meeting, the public and even some staff members were surprised to learn that Town Manager Bob Frye had announced his retirement to the

commissioners earlier that week and would be leaving at the end of the year.

"As I communicated earlier this week with you, you have before you a letter from me notifying you of my retirement effective

December 23 of this year," he said.

Mayor Pat Taylor thanked Frye for his service.

"I want to respond to your letter publicly, Bob, and thank you for the time you have spent serving the town and also all the years

of public service you have given other municipalities and towns," said Taylor. "I also want to thank you for being willing to stay with us through December so we can begin an orderly transition in the

•See FRYE page 6

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'Talking' quells trash war talk

Any time there is a breakdown in communication things can quickly go awry. For Highlands, the breakdown involved trash pickup.

Evidently, mid-July Sunday trash pickup in the commercial district was halted with no warning "as an experiment" so come Monday morning there were overflowing dumpsters and irate merchants – mostly restaurateurs.

Town Manager Bob Frye, halted Sunday pickup for fiscal reasons: the Sanitation Department – one of the town's three enterprise funds – was in the red and required a fund balance appropriation of \$10,037 to bring it into the black.

The solution? Raise rates, or halt Sunday pickup. Frye opted to halt Sunday pickup – but he did so without warning.

Terms were worked out with the merchants and restaurateurs for whom Sunday pickup had been essential. Rather than pickup on Sunday, an additional dumpster

•See TRASH page 10



A bee hive in a locust tree.

The value of trees and bees

The arrival of the town's new live Christmas tree has initiated talk about cutting down trees at the Highlands United Methodist Church and at K-H Founders Park.

No decision has been made about the church tree and the town has decided not to cut down trees at the park to make room for the new Christmas tree, but just talking about cutting down trees on the Highlands Plateau is a bone of contention for many.

At Thursday's Town Board meeting, long-time resident Alice Nelson voiced her concerns about the destiny of Highlands' trees.

"When large mature trees that have taken decades to grow are cut down, they can't be replaced. People wonder why it's getting hotter. It's the mindless, needless, careless, removal of our trees," she said. "I hope and expect our town officials to be judicious about the

•See TREES and BEES page 11



From left are new third grade teacher Kristen Huneycutt, returning teacher fifth grade teacher Christine Murphy and online teacher Teresa Ford. Not pictured are first-grade teacher Stephanie Mason and Media Specialist Terry Stamey.

Photo by Lane Giddings

New faces at Highlands S.

Elementary class sizes discussed

By Lane Giddings

The final student count won't be known until 10-days into the new school year that begins for students Monday, Aug. 29, but for now there are 335 students registered for Highlands School K-12 classes for the 2016-'17 school year.

A new school year often means new teachers, new staff and new assignments -- and Highlands School is no exception.

First Grade

With the creation of the new first-grade class new teacher Stephanie Mason will be a new

•See FACES page 15

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Working 'under pressure'

This weekend was very eventful for our public works department. It wasn't about trash, but rather power and water.

On Sunday a large tree fell near the Lake Sequoyah Dam taking out major transmission lines. These trees in the mountain just fall without warning, even in routine conditions as a pleasant rain shower.

Our lineman on duty, David Leffler, quickly realized we had a major outage that even involved the Duke Power side of the system. When major transmission lines are on the ground, responders have to proceed with extreme caution to avoid catastrophic consequences. It's not like when I was in the Army Signal Corps learning to troubleshoot a super heterodyne radio receiver. Back then if a trainee failed to properly ground the radio, it delivered a nice little shock. I learned proper grounding techniques after a few shocking mistakes. With our crew operating in an emergency situation like this past weekend, everything has to be grounded and under control before restoration work can be done.



**Mayor
Pat Taylor**

David was able to contact a nearby Duke Power technician that worked with our crew in restoring the system to the town and surrounding area. Can't beat team work and mutual support to get things done as soon as possible.

Another problem was a leaking waterline in front of the Episcopal Church that was discovered late Friday afternoon. The water crew decided not to attempt a

repair during the weekend since some businesses and residences on and near Main Street might have lost water service.

Instead, the crew member on weekend call monitored the leak. The concern was that if it became worse a major line could break. Fortunately, it didn't.

Town staff sent out a telephone emergency message by way of Macon County late Friday informing the businesses they believed would be affected when water was shut off Monday morning to repair the leak. If a residence or business is not on the county emergency warning system, the Macon County website has information on how to sign up.

On early Monday morning I met with Lamar Nix, the director of public works, and the water department crew. We were in a pickle. Some businesses wanted us to delay the repair and water cutoff until mid-morning, while others wanted it to be scheduled at another time. Lamar jokingly said an alternative was to do nothing and hope the leak was small and didn't become worse.

The water department folks determined that only facilities near intersection of Main and 5th Street would be affected. We all agreed Monday was the best day and that delaying the repair was not a viable option.

Around noon Monday the repair was complete. Thankfully it was only a small pinhole leak, but under high pressure a small leak can cause major problems if unchecked. The water crew never knows the real situation until they dig the hole.

Both these events illustrate the unexpected problems that our public works folks face all the time. Some of the problems have no solution that won't inconvenience folks. The best the town can do is to keep folks informed amidst fluid and changing circumstances.

• OBITUARIES •

Waverly Lee Reddish

Waverly Lee Reddish, age 78, of Franklin, NC passed away Monday, August 15, 2016. He was born in High Point, NC, the son of the late Cora Idell Colbert and LeRoy Reddish. He was retired from the City of Highlands. He loved and enjoyed his family; was a sports enthusiast, and enjoyed blue grass music.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Dorothy Kirkland Reddish, daughters, Cynthia Gregory (Jackie) of Franklin, Susan Tupper (Steve) of Kuna, ID, Beverly Allen (Phillip) of Hayesville, NC and son, James Reddish (Gloria) of Whittier, NC; grandchildren, Kristina Gonzalez, Jessica Bradley, Deanna Bandy, Derek Kendall, Alex Kendall, Karen Reddish, Skyler Fraizer and Natalie Bradley; brother, Aaron Reddish of Highpoint, NC, and sister, Frances



Ennis of Sinton, TX.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Michael Reddish and sisters, Melrose Hill and Lilly Reddish; brothers, Arcele Reddish, Elvin Reddish and Alton Reddish.

A funeral service was held Friday, August 19, 2016 in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory with Rev. Bobby Crawford and Lee Russell officiating. Burial

followed in Carson Cemetery. Pallbearers were Alex Kendall, Derek Kendall, David Russell, Dale McMahan, Gary Kirkland and Gene Ramey.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Reddish family. Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Gerone Durham Wilson

Gerone Durham Wilson, age 85 of Gainesville, passed away Thursday, August 18, 2016 at Northeast Georgia Medical Center following an extended illness.

Graveside services were Saturday, August 20, 2016 in Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery in Highlands, North Carolina. Reverend David "Butch" Jones officiated.

Mrs. Wilson was born January 11, 1931 in Pickens, South Carolina to Hebrew Anderson Durham and Gertrude Willimon Durham. She was retired from B&D Investments and was a member of Blackshear Place Baptist Church. Mrs. Wilson was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Duane C. Wilson; daughter, Sharon Wilson; son, Clay Roger Wilson; brothers, Ray, Marlowe, Otis and Randy Durham.

Mrs. Wilson is survived by her daughter, Sandra Wilson Jones of Gainesville; son-in-law, David "Butch" Jones of Gainesville; son, Larry Duane Wilson of Gainesville; daughter-in-law, Cheryl McCall Wilson of Gainesville; daughter-in-law, Kat Peck Wilson; grandchildren, Heidi Wilson Sexton of Lawrenceville and Clancy Jones Bourgeois of

• See OBITUARIES page 3

• WEEKEND WEATHER •



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

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...OBITUARIES continued from page 2

Gainesville; Shannon Wilson of Gainesville; Josh Wilson of Gainesville; Megan Wilson Bowen of Gainesville; Shannon Peck of Gainesville; Shane Peck Shockley of Gainesville; Jason Peck of Gainesville; 12 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers make donations to Hospice of Northeast Georgia Medical Center.

Memorial Park Funeral Home, 2030 Memorial Park Road, Gainesville, GA 30504 was in charge of arrangements. Send online condolences to www.memorialparkfuneralhomes.com Courtesy of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory.

Joanna Mcinnes Baumrucker

Joanna Mcinnes Baumrucker was born in Perth, Scotland on April 24, 1945. She was raised in Arran, Scotland and attended private boarding schools until she entered nursing training in Cambridge, England. She worked as a cardiac surgical nurse in Cambridge until moving to London, England where she was a head nurse at Guys Hospital near London Bridge, a very famous hospital made so by Doctors Addison, Bright, Hodgkins and Starling during the 1880s.



She was the head nurse on the Queen's Physician ward. There she met her future husband, John Baumrucker, who was studying at Guys for six months as part of his medical school work. They had a wonderful romance going to two to three plays a week and engaging in numerous other educational and historical experiences. They were married two years later in Cambridge and returned to the states, living one year in Cincinnati, Ohio before coming to Highlands.

Joanna was busy raising her two children, Janis and Alyson for the first few years and then her love of the theater encouraged her to join the board of directors of the Highlands Playhouse, a position she held until five years ago. She was president of the board for more than 20 years. She also directed the Highlands School Senior Class Play for many years and many graduates remember her fondly for those encounters. In fact, many students have come up to her and said that the plays were the best experience of their whole high school experience.

She was a determined fundraiser for the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and worked resolutely for many years as the volunteer gift shop worker. She was a Girl Scout leader in addition to many other civic actions. In fact, it could easily be said that she was a professional volunteer. She received the prestigious Robert B. Dupree Award in honor of her service to the community.

She survived cancer twice, but the chemotherapy and radiation therapy was a harder challenge to overcome. She continued to work as a faithful volunteer at the Book Worm, but had to curtail most of the other community activities due to failing health. She died painlessly and peacefully from a brain hemorrhage on August 19, 2016 and Highlands lost one of its most dedicated servants.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, John Baumrucker, MD, a brother, Alasdair Nicolson of East Bourne, England, and an aunt, Pollyanna Touzalin at Chestnut Hill, Highlands, two daughters, Janis Kendall of Franklin and Alyson Crisp of Asheville, two grandchildren, Perry Kendall of Boone, NC and John Brooks of Scaly Mountain, NC. She was also "mother" to countless children in Bolivia where she and her husband started the Highlands Bolivian Mission. The foster home founded there presently houses 21 young men and many more have felt the loving influence of her presence there over the last 18 years. Her life also impacted numerous students that joined the mission trips over the years. Many of these have become doctors and other professions that have been inspired to enter the mission field all over the world. She was preceded in death by her mother Isabel and father Alexander Nicolson of Arran, Scotland.

She will be missed by many as evidenced by all the calls from Great Britain, Switzerland, Italy, Africa and Bolivia. A memorial service is planned at the Highlands United Methodist Church where she was a faithful member on August 31, 2016 at 11am followed by a lunch in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Highlands Bolivian Mission and all funds will go to the new building being built in Montero that will bear her name. P.O. Box 295, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775.

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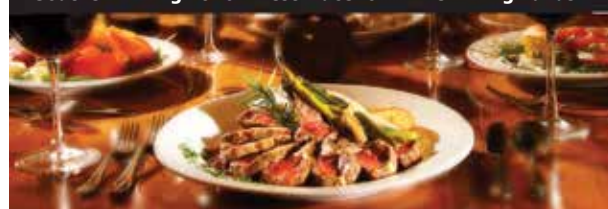
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M F G R O . C O M

Highlands Hurricanes celebrate successful season

Kenter holds 3 Mountain Swim League Records

The Highlands Hurricanes have finished a very successful season giving a glimpse of what's to come.

Chase Kenter, second grader at Summit Charter School, captured two Mountain Swim League (MSL) records this season, bringing his total to three.

The MSL has existed for 30+ years. There are only four other swimmers who hold three or more MSL records. Kenter set the MSL record in the 8 and under 100 Individual Medley at 1:39.98 and in the 8 and under 50 free at 37.01.

The previous records were held by Matthew Chenoweth of FAST from 1996 at 1:40.53 and Michael Frazier also of FAST from 2011 at 38.18. Kenter also holds the 6 and under 25 freestyle record that he set last season.

Also awarded were Highlands Hurricanes Most Improved Female (Penelope Hilson), Most Improved Male (Connor Hughes), Coaches Choice Female (Diane Dallmann), and Coaches Choice Male (Anaiah McKim).

Hilson, in her first year of competitive swimming not only learned the breaststroke and butterfly, but qualified for the Allstar meet and finished 3rd in the 50 Breaststroke, bringing home the Bronze medal!

Hughes improved from scoring 0 points at the MSL Allstar meet in 2015 to scoring 24 points, 2nd on the Hurricanes only to Kenter, placing 2nd overall in his age group and winning two gold medals (including upsetting favorite Jack Sumner of FAST in the 25 Breaststroke). Dallmann was awarded Coaches Choice Female for her dedication, positive mental attitude and her leadership as one of the senior members of the team.

McKim was awarded Coaches Choice Male for his maturity beyond his years, hard work at practice and his positive mental attitude.

Overall the Hurricanes set 47 team records and 17 pool records in 2016.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Swim Team that practices at the Highlands Rec Park



Coaches Choice Anaiah McKim

Photo by Trudie Gagne

Pool in the evenings during the week and on Saturday mornings. Attendance at all practice is not required. The only requirement to join is that you are able to swim 25 yards (1 pool length) unassisted. The season will start up again on Tuesday, September 6th. For further information please call Steve Hott, Head Coach @ 828.421.4121 or the Highlands Rec Park Pool @ 828.526.1595.

...FRYE continued from page 1

hiring of the next Town Manager. I appreciate your willingness to work with us on that."

All that transpired during item 5 on the agenda – Reports. That's when the Mayor, the commissioners and the Town Manager each have a chance to discuss whatever they want – issues that aren't itemized on the agenda.

However, during Item 3 of the agenda – Adjusting the Agenda – Frye added two items – the Hospital/Chestnut Hill water line and an item for Closed Session under Client/Attorney privilege.

At that point Commissioner Brian Stiehler requested a Personnel Matter also be added to the Closed Session agenda. Details of both closed session items were not available to the press.

However, the morning of the next day, Friday, Frye was nowhere to be found at Town Hall. In fact, reporters were told that he would not be returning, at least not that day.

Following an emergency Town Board meeting the morning of Tuesday, Aug. 22, Mayor Pat Taylor said the board approved a confidential personnel agreement between Frye and Town Attorney J.K. Coward.

In a prepared statement issued Tuesday afternoon, Mayor Taylor said Frye will remain a town employee.

"Bob Frye will continue as a town employee in a new role as consultant and advisor to the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners, the mayor, and the interim Town Manager until December 23, 2016, the date of his announced retirement," he said.

•See FRYE page 19

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•THE FREDSTER•

Ya just can't make this stuff up!

Of the 28 years I spent working for the police department, the most fun I ever had was the eight years spent working in the S.I.U. section, short for the Strategic Investigations Unit. It involved the investigation and disruption of organized crime figures, the distribution and sale of illegal narcotics, and last but not least, illegal gambling. We also had a hooker squad who worked the big hotels.



Fred Wooldridge

all the crooked judges in Miami, we drew, by rotation, an honest one who knew me well and what I did. When Mr. T. arrived with his hoodlum attorney, he pointed out the unorthodox method I used in writing the tickets.

The judge asked, "Officer, did you witness these seven violations and are all the times and locations of these violations correct?"

"Yes, your honor," was my response.

To the best of my memory, the judge fined him over two grand for all seven violations and warned Mr. T. "I suggest you drive carefully from now on. I'm not going to suspend your driver's license this time because of how this transpired but one more violation and you'll lose it."

As we left the courtroom Mr. T.'s lawyer said to his client, "Not a word to this officer. Let's get out of here." Mr. T. turned to face me. He fashioned a pistol with his forefinger and thumb and pretended to fire two shots at me. I smiled then walked to the elevator.

Several weeks later I was called to the police chief's office and when I entered, I was surprised to see two FBI agents sitting there, one I knew from my church.

The chief said, "Sit down Lieutenant. The FBI has learned that Mr. T. has put out a contract on you."

My eyes widened in disbelief. Then the agent said, "Lucky for you, Fred, the hoodlum he hired to kill you happened to be a snitch for DEA. The snitch knew he could make pretty good money with 'killing a cop' information so he sold it to them. DEA called us and here we are. The problem now is what to do about this."

Then my chief said, "Take a week off. Take your family to the mountains and work on that little cabin. I know you don't have a phone (cell phones weren't around) so I'll see you in 10 days."

I packed up my family and off we went to our under construction cabin just off Clear Creek Road in Highlands. My li'l missus cannot remember the threat so I'm thinking I never told her. My memory is fading and it could be I was ordered not to tell her. Regardless, I didn't share much about my job with her back then and she liked it that way. I figured she had enough to worry about raising our kids without me telling her about Mr. T. Anyway, she knew him from

•See FREDSTER page 10

During the eight years I spent in S.I.U. four of them were working undercover narcotics. It was during that period my li'l missus earned the title "Saint Maddy" from our friends, family and church members while I earned the title of "Mad Dog" from fellow police officers. Here's part of the reason I earned that title.

During the mid-'70s, there was an organized crime figure living in my jurisdiction by the name of...Well, let's just call him Mr. T. While he seemed legitimate, he ran a bookmaking operation in my city. He was a big time hoodlum who reported directly to the Genovese family in New York. My job was to make his life miserable.

Even though I was plain clothes, I always had my trusty ticket book handy. On the one particular night, I followed Mr. T. around for several hours while he was making bookmaker collections. I made written notes of all the traffic violations I witnessed during the evening. As he pulled up in front of his house at the end of the evening, I pulled him over and wrote him seven traffic violations, enough to get his driver's license suspended. Needless to say, Mr. T. was furious. "I'll see you in court," was his final remark as he pointed his finger at me and slammed the front door of his home. I laughed in his face.

While waiting for a court date, I noticed he started sending his two children out on their bicycles to search the neighborhood for people sitting in their cars. They would return to the house and report to their dad. Since this was putting a serious damper on my surveillance/harassment operation, I had to disable the bikes. Since the kids always left them in the front yard, one night late I drove my car onto his front yard and crushed both bikes, permanently disabling them. Mr. T. was over-the-top upset when he saw the bikes.

And here's the clincher that really sent Mr. T. even further off the deep end. Of

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A Sign of the Times

Signage in Highlands has always been controversial as long as I can remember and I have lived here full time for 22 years. Unlike other towns where banners are displayed of upcoming events as a way to promote them, Highlands Town Board has voted against them. I have been told that this is now being reconsidered. I do hope it happens for the sake of all – visitors

and residents.

Real estate firms also deal with sign issues. It has become increasingly difficult to promote listings and make visitors aware of homes and properties on the market.

Many are controlled by Home Owners Associations that disallow for sale signs as well as open house signs. If the property is in town, signage can't be off site or fines can be imposed.

When we, as real estate brokers, take a listing, our responsibility is to promote, advertise and sell your home in the shortest time we can. This includes assessing the home or property, pricing it at current market value, and creating awareness to attract buyers. Many visitors to Highlands drive around neighborhoods and contact us from signs in the yard.

We also do open houses and with so many homes on the market, open them for brokers who otherwise may not have time to see that home in particular. We entice them with gift cards, cash, and food. The town does not allow directional signs or open house signs off site so our hands are tied many times!

We also try to do open houses on the weekends for visitors and the signs are not allowed off site. We can be



Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge
Cell: 828-200-9179
Office: 828-526-8784

finied if we put up a sign.

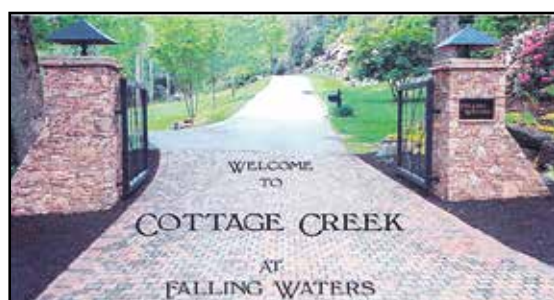
I am not one who wants to see a multitude of signs but we must take into consideration the needs of our sellers to get their homes sold. Many have health issues or financial reasons for selling. They invested their money, tax-wise and otherwise in our area and we should respect their needs to sell.

I hope that HOA'S will reconsider the needs of their sellers and at least let us do open houses for two hours or so. Perhaps a limited number of for sale signs in a neighborhood could be allowed. The town also needs to allow a limited window of time for open houses and directionals and the respon-

sibility falls on the broker to place, maintain, and remove temporary signs.

We need to make this a win-win for all – sellers, buyers, the town and Home Owners Associations.

• Pat Allen is owner and Broker-in Charge of Pat Allen Realty Group. She is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and a consistent top selling broker in Highlands. Her office is located at 295 Dillard Road and phone is 828-526-8784. Her website is Pat Allen Realty Group. com and her email is pat.fallen@gmail.com



FALLING WATERS

Home sites \$139,000 - \$379,000

DIRECTIONS

From the corner of Main and Hwy 106 (Dillard Road) turn west, and go 1.8 miles, turn right on Mountain Laurel Drive. Go 3/10 of a mile, turn left on Moonlight. Entrance is on the right.



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Matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2pm
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All Tickets are \$9

with Woody Allen
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highlandsplayhouse.org

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roasted in-house.

LUNCH

*Grill - every day of the week
starting at 11:00 until close*

Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli
salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade
potato chips, daily soup specials.

Deli - Serving all day

Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli
salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade
potato chips, daily soup specials.

Wood Fire Pizza Oven -

Every day from 11:00 to close

Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from
scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed
tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage,
pancetta, and daily specials.

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm

Skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak,
skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed
potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire
soup & salad bar.

\$11.99 (dine in) or

\$9.99 a pound (to go)

PREPARED FOODS

A large selection of take-away items fully
prepared and ready to take home. Grilled
pork loins, homemade mac & cheese,
mashed potatoes, herb rubbed chicken,
made in house bbq, chicken salad, deli
salads & much more.

DINNER TO GO

*A different full dinner for two every night,
Monday-Saturday from 4:30 until we sell
out. Call ahead to reserve...*

Monday - Low Country Lobster / Shrimp

Boil - Maine lobster tails, wild caught
large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer
corn, house made sausage, all steeped in
our seasoning. Served with drawn butter
and cocktail sauce. *\$34.95 serves two*

Tuesday - Oven Off Night

Two natural chicken breasts grilled with
our Tuscan herb infused olive oil, served
on a bed of greens with stuffed brie,
spiced pecans, our extra virgin olive oil
and balsamic vinegar on the side with
two cups of homemade gazpacho and a
baguette from our bakery.
\$24.95 serves two

Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked Potatoes & Salad

Premium Angus
standing rib roast, cooked medium rare
w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes
& a large Caesar salad. *\$34.95 serves two*

Thursday - Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs

- cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender.
Served with house made bacon/apple
baked beans and potato salad.
\$27.95 serves two

Friday - Wild Caught Shrimp: fried or steamed.

Wild caught North Carolina
shrimp either lightly breaded in our
seasoned corn flour mixture, and then
properly fried in peanut oil & served w/
hush puppies; or steamed to order in our
low country seasoning. Both come with
coleslaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red
potatoes, tarter & cocktail sauce.
\$28.95 serves two

Saturday - In-House Smoked BBQ -
Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked
over night and hand pulled to order.
Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon
baked beans, and yeast rolls
\$23.95 serves two

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of wine with the best prices in town,
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CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Reverend Jim Murphy, Rector

A House of Prayer for All Nations

FRIDAY AUGUST 26 5PM-7PM

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Reverend Jim Murphy, Rector

A House of Prayer for All Nations

FRIDAY AUGUST 26 5PM-7PM

HAVE YOU EVER VOLUNTEERED AT THE BASCOM?

The Bascom would not be what it is today without our volunteers. As a way of showing our gratitude for the countless hours that have been dedicated to the mission of The Bascom, we would like to extend an invitation for all former and current volunteers to join us for

THE BASCOM VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Saturday, August 27
5 to 7 pm
held at The Bascom

Please RSVP to Tonya Anderson by August 19
828-787-2898
tanderson@thebascom.org



...TRASH continued from page 1

was supplied for one; additional toters were supplied others. Though Frye claims most were satisfied, the lack of communication continued to irk merchants.

To remedy the problem, Mayor Pat Taylor held a Trash Summit the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 17 to clear the air.

In addition to the mayor, present were about 25 merchants, Bob Kieltyka, president of the chamber of commerce, Lamar Nix, public service administrator and Rebecca Shuler, town clerk/finance director.

At Thursday night's Town Board meeting, Mayor Taylor said they received "good feedback" and one of the most important issues was the promise that rather than people finding out after the fact, "if there were any more changes in the pipeline, the town would let them know ahead of time," he said.

Taylor said the consensus was that merchants want Sunday pickup to continue and they would be open to a modest, reasonable rate increase if necessary.

Another problem brought to light were the actions of what Mayor Taylor calls "Trash Interlopers."

"Those are people who are visiting, or people who live outside the town limits who think it's OK to come into town or travel through town on their way out and pitch their garbage in someone's dumpster - dumpsters merchants pay for," he said.

Taylor said a representative from Mountain Fresh Grocery said he counted between 23 and 25 cars pulling up to their dumpsters on a Sunday to dump their trash before leaving town.

"This seems to be a problem in several areas in town," said Taylor. "The consensus was that the town needs a facility where people can toss their household garbage on their way out of town. We have been considering sites for a recycle center and our public works committee will work with staff in seeking a solution. We will be reviewing their ideas and will make a decision."

Kieltyka said the meeting went very well.

"Whenever there is the occasional issue that arises, such as parking or trash collection, that impacts business, it is always best to gather and discuss it openly," he said. "Mayor Taylor truly understands the value of open communication. There were no decisions reached, although ideas and suggestions were exchanged."

The trash program remains a work in progress with the goal of putting in place the best practices possible, said Taylor.

"The importance of the meeting was the communication and the accessibility of our local officials to discuss constituent concerns," said Kieltyka.

- Kim Lewicki

...FREDSTER continued from page 7

her days working with the FBI. She knew his potential and the danger involved.

While I was cooling it in Highlands, the FBI leaders in New York contacted the head of the Genovese family and asked about the hit. They were furious with Mr. T. In those days, putting out a contract on a cop was heavy duty stuff and only came from the top guy in New York.

Harassment from a cop (me) over illegal gambling didn't cut it. After much back and forth it was agreed we would kiss and make up.... kind of.

When I returned to Miami Beach, I was assigned a different hoodlum to harass and I promised everyone I wouldn't crush Mr. T's bikes anymore.... or any less.

Unlike this true story, my book titled "Deceived" is a fictional mystery/thriller based on true experiences you might enjoy.

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...TREES and BEES continued from page 1

removal of trees.”

In fact, Highlands has been judicious about the removal of trees and has a tree ordinance in place to protect the trees in the commercial district.

No tree more than six-inches in diameter can be cut down without permission and permission is only granted if the tree is verified by an arborist to be diseased. If a tree must come down due to development, a comparable tree or group of trees must be planted in its place.

This was most recently demonstrated at the new 4th Street Market where a number of white pines along the backside of the lot were mistakenly removed by the grader. To remedy the situation, the town required numerous trees and abundant shrubbery planted.

Nelson reminded the board that trees supply oxygen and use carbon dioxide that people exhale and machinery expels.

“Trees keep the earth cool so with climate change a real concern, why are we cutting them down? With the world getting hotter every year, why would we cut down the main things that give us shade from the sun and make everything cooler? For every tree lost, more asphalt and roads go in and global warming increases exponentially. Inch by incremental inch we are losing the things that protect us,” she said.

With the Christmas Tree Lighting moving to K-H Founders Park and a new live Christmas tree destined for placement in the park on the knoll opposite the pavilion, some folks at the Methodist Church have discussed cutting down the tree in its front yard and replacing it with two or three

smaller trees.

Nelson said cutting down that significant, magnificent tree “would be like cutting your grandmother down at her knees,” she said.

In addition, before the K-H Founders Park committee decided to put the new Christmas tree on the knoll opposite the pavilion, there was talk of cutting down two pine trees at the park near the plaza (skating rink) to make room for the new tree. But that’s no longer an issue.

Nelson also cited the removal of what she called a “specimen tree – a perfect shape,” on the lot next to Mountain Findings which will house its new warehouse.

“It was on the back corner of the lot. Did they really need to do that? I found it very disturbing,” she said.

According to Town Planner Randy Feierabend, the tree was removed because it stood in the middle of the driveway near where the loading dock is planned.

He said to make up for it, he is requiring numerous trees and extensive shrubbery be planted along the east side of the property.

With a request to make Highlands a “bee friendly” community on the agenda, Nelson ended her commentary saying “bees need trees, too. Not just blooming trees, but all trees because bees swarm in trees.”

“I am making an unofficial request to please save our trees and take it seriously,” she said.

Bee Friendly Community

Also Thursday night, commissioners heard a request and unanimously agreed to make Highlands a bon a fide “Bee Friendly Community.”

The decision followed a presentation by

Sonya Carpenter, director of the Highlands Biological Foundation which she said intends to focus future outreach and education programs on the value of pollinators; the fragility of pollinator communities; and the need to create, protect and enhance pollinator habitats.

“Bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles and wasps are all pollinators. All insects, including pollinators, are threatened by loss of habitat that occurs when meadows are replaced by lawns, and by chemical insecticides and herbicides,” she said. “Why does this matter? Because 75 percent of the world’s flowering plants rely on insect pollination to reproduce. More than 150 food crops in the United States depend on pollinators; in fact, one of every three bites we put in our mouths would not be available to us without pollinators.”

She said as a Bee City, Highlands can help ensure the survival of pollinators vital to maintaining our food supply; raise awareness of how our food grows and improve local food production through expanded pollination; improve local plant nursery markets by increasing demand for native, pollinator friendly plants; increase habitat for natural enemies of crop pests and therefore reduce the need for and costs associated with pesticides; raise community awareness of the local environment’s pollinators and their importance to our flowers and trees.

All the town had to do is designate a town employee as the Bee City USA liaison, assign the facilitation of the Highlands Bee City programs to the Highlands Biological Foundation and Station, install and maintain at least one authorized Bee City USA sign and create and maintain links on the Highlands government website to a pdf of the Bee

City USA resolution, and to the Bee City USA web page; annually co-host with the Highlands Biological Station, at least one public education and habitat restoration or establishment activity; and annually apply for renewal and include a report of the past year’s activities.

The board voted unanimously to become a Bee Friendly City.

“I think this is a great example of public/private coalition. Why wouldn’t we do this?” said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

Commissioner Brian Stiehler agreed. “I think we should ‘B,’” he said.

The resolution was signed and Lamar Nix, public service administrator was designated the liaison.

– Kim Lewicki

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Highlands Cashiers Players Gets New Blood



From left: Kathryn Potts, Lynleigh McLain & Megan McLean and Craig Eister. Photo by Marty Boone

Don't Dress for Dinner, the charming French farce by Marc Camoletti, stars two relative newcomers to Highlands Cashiers Players. Director Adair Simon cast Craig Eister of Scaly Mountain and Lynleigh McLain of Highlands in very funny pivotal roles.

Lynleigh, a Beaufort, SC transplant, plays Suzette, the comedic, mercenary French cook. The farce is a naughty play on words and people with Suzette "crisply outfoxing her betters." With his wife out of town, Bernard, hires Suzette, a cordon bleu chef, to prepare a fabulous dinner and invites his best friend Robert to provide an alibi for a rendezvous Bernard plans with his mistress Suzanne. The laughter escalates when Suzette's very large husband, George, comes to take her home.

Bungled romantic attempts, mistaken identities, and many laughs abound in this fast-paced clever comedy. The play, which originated in Paris, has become popular worldwide, and was recently revived on Broadway. This rollicking French farce was declared "Hilarious" by Entertainment Weekly.

Playgoers will remember Lynleigh as the Inspector from HCP's last show, THE GAMES AFOOT. They will also recognize her as the girl with the brightly colored hair that works in Whole Life Market. Lynleigh was exposed to classical, gospel, choral and musical theatre as well as dance, piano and violin during her elementary years. Lynleigh's first adult role was as Viola in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night which truly showed her depth of characterization and memorization skills. She honed her acting skills while attending Charleston Southern University.

Craig Eister plays Suzette's husband George, who is also a cook. Craig is a Senior Vice President of Global Revenue Systems for InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG). He and his partner recently bought a house in Scaly. He works in Atlanta but considers himself a North Carolina boy, since he went to Duke University, getting a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and Computer Science, and then getting his Master's Degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This geek has always loved the arts. "I love the theater, and often in my work, I weave skits and drama into my presentations," says Craig. "I love getting more involved in the local community, and have loved getting to be a part of the Highlands Cashiers Players." "Craig often drives two and a half hours up to Highlands from Atlanta and two and a half hours back after rehearsal," says Director Adair Simon. "Now that's dedication".

The box office for the Highlands Cashiers Players first play of the season, Don't Dress for Dinner, is now open. The play runs August 25 through September 4 at Highlands Performing Arts Center (PAC) on Chestnut Street.

Performances on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday begin at 7:30, the two Sunday matinee at 2:30. Call 526-8084 for tickets. The box office is open 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. Please leave a message for a call back if the phone is busy.

ONGOING

- Terry Johnson, owner of Estate Jewelers of Highlands - 360 Main Street, has merchandise from an anonymous individual whose sale will benefit the Hospice House Foundation of WNC. To date, this effort has raised roughly \$20,000 in support of HHFWNC. Johnson is waiving the consignment fee on the sale of this select merchandise. Go into Estate Jewelers of Highlands and to see the merchandise.

- Summer Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Sundays 5:30 and 8 pm; Mondays and Tuesdays, 2, 5, and 8 pm;

- Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

Daily

- At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, wine flights.

First Mondays

- Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm

Mondays

- At the Rec Park, 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. & Thurs.

- The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more information, call

Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

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. For info call 369-7385.

Tuesdays

- The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday 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.occupywn.org or call 828.331.1524

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

Wednesdays

- 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park

Storytelling at MC Library tonight

On Thurs., Aug. 25 at the Macon County Public Library on Siler Road in Franklin, Storytelling with Lee Lyons and Nancy Reeder at 7p.m. in the Meeting Room: "Philly Cheese Steak Meets Southern Fried Everything."

Storytellers Lee Lyons and Nancy Reeder, both residents of Macon County, have teamed up to share stories at the library. They've worked together on and off the stage with the Highlands Cashiers Players and are also members of the Highlands Writers' Group and the Asheville Storytelling Circle.

Nancy grew up in Pennsylvania. She taught elementary school for 23 years where her passion for storytelling developed. Among the numerous places she has told is 'Tellabration' at the Folk Art Center in Asheville. Lee grew up in South Carolina and as she says in her short book of essays, Literal Lee,



she has no

credentials

at anything.

With wit and wisdom, their stories show how they are different and even, alike.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

at 8:45 a.m. Be seated by 8:30.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

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.

• Zahner Lecture Series at 6:30 p.m. at the Nature Center. Free

• 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. at First United Methodist Church Outreach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120

Riverview St. 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 Club at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

• Friday Night Live, 6-8pm in Town Square. Live music. Free

Saturdays

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.

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

• Highlands Marketplace at K-H Park 8a to noon.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon. In event of cold/rain, meet downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Thurs., & Fri., Aug. 18-19

• Stories of Our Lives – 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, CLE Classroom, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

Thur., Aug. 25

• The Bascom Book Club meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Meetings are held in the downstairs conference area at the Bascom. The meeting time is 3-5p. The Keepers of the House by Shirley Ann Grau and The Time of Eddie Noel by Allie Poval - a factual story with the same theme

• At Highlands School, Open House 4-6 p.m.

• At the Nature Center, the Zahner Lecture: Ancient Plants: How they continue to impact the world at 6:30 p.m. Free.

Thurs., - Sun., Aug. 25-28

• Highlands Cashiers Players Aug. production, Don't Dress for Dinner. Call 828-526-8084 for tickets.

Thurs., Aug. 25

• At the Episcopal Church, walk an indoor labyrinth in Jones Hall from 5-6pm. Rev. Margaret Howell of the Lutheran Church will be playing Taize music on her harp to enhance the spiritual experience of walking the labyrinth.

• At the Macon County Public Library on Siler Road in Franklin, Storytelling with Lee Lyons and Nancy Reeder at 7p.m. in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room: "Philly Cheese Steak Meets Southern Fried Everything."

Through Friday, Aug. 26

• At the Episcopal Church, an indoor classic labyrinth in Jones Hall. Experience walking the labyrinth as a spiritual path. It can give time alone with God; time for meditation, contemplation, mindfulness, or prayer. It's a spiritual walk in a sacred

space.

Fri., Aug. 26

• At The Hudson Library, 11a to noon, Community Coffee with Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor whose guest this month is Franklin Mayor Bob Scott. They will be discussing common issues. is held on the last Friday of each month.

• What Can Great Apes Tell Us About Ourselves? – 2 – 4:PM, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

• Open House at Christ Anglican Church in Cashiers from 5-7p.m. Come see the new church. Refreshments will be provided. 464 US Hwy 64 east. 828-743-1701.

Sat., Aug. 27

• At Cliffside Lake, Michael Skinner with Balsam Mountain Trust and live raptors at 11 a.m.

• From Camp Skywater to Camp Skyhigh – 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM, Carpool from CLE Parking Lot, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

• Parents Night Out at the Episcopal Church in Jones Hall 5-8 p.m. This event is free-of-charge and open to all in our

• See EVENTS page 14

Zahner Lecture for Sept. 1

Every culture in the world has tales to tell of their native bird species, these stories often marvel at the way birds glide through the air and the songs they sing. People have been drawn to the freedom of birds since the dawn of time, but the modern world is changing at an ever-increasing rate due to human influence and we sometimes forget that these changes impact the species around us too. Bird populations all over the world are being affected by threats that are increasingly more complex and multifaceted, making them more difficult to solve. Even the type of coffee you drink can influence golden-winged warbler and oriole populations.

Birds are flying into buildings, getting hit by cars, losing nesting ground, and hundreds of millions of songbirds are killed by house cats every year. So what can we do to fix this? How can we protect these incredible creatures? Come learn



more about these issues and hear some solutions on Thursday, September 1st at the Highlands Nature Center from 6:30-7:30pm. This lecture given by Dr. Olga Milenkaya is free and open to the

public and is sponsored by Julia and Bill Grumbles.

Olga Milenkaya is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Young Harris College. She particularly enjoys teaching ornithology, conservation biology, and animal behavior, and is starting a new research project on cavity nesting birds in collaboration with Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. She earned her Ph.D. from Virginia Tech by researching crimson finches (*Neochmia faeton*) in northern Australia, and has worked on various avian research projects from Maine to Mongolia.

For a full schedule of lectures and programs, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org/foundation/ or

Spiritual Concert at First Presbyterian Sun.



Keely Smith
Mezzo Soprano



Michael Lancaster
Baritone



Wayne Coleman
Tenor

At 4pm on Sunday, August 28, the Music Committee of Highlands First Presbyterian Church will present a Spirituals Concert. Featured will be soloists from First Presbyterian Church's Chancel Choir, Western Carolina University Vocal Majors, and the First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir under the direction of Dr. Michael Lancaster. You won't want to miss this delightful event. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.



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someone special

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exhale slowly.
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& Spa you are
a little closer to serenity!

...EVENTS continued from page 13

community. Suggested ages are 2-12. Call our church office at 828-526-2968, or email Kirsten Huscuson at incarnationwnc.org to reserve your spot.

Tues., Aug. 30

• Protecting Digital Data – 10 AM – NOON, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

• Renewable Power - 2: – 4 PM, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811. • Village Nature Series. Dig deeper and learn more about our natural and cultural heritage at these free family friendly programs, the final Tuesday of the month from May through September at The Village Green Commons in Ca-

shiers. Programs begin at 5:30 PM, rain or shine. No reservations required, everyone welcome. Mother Nature's Secret Garden- Gleaning and Cooking From a Harvest You Didn't Plant with Ila Hatter.

Wed., Aug. 31

• Future of Humanoid Robots – 10AM –NOON, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

• Volatility & Influence of Oil Markets – 2– 4 PM, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 1-4

• Highlands Cashiers Players Aug. production, Don't Dress for Dinner. Call 828-526-8084 for tickets.

Thurs., Sept. 1

• At the Nature Center, Zahner Lecture Series. What Threatens Birds Today? An exploration of Contemporary Conservation Challenges and Solutions at 6:30 p.m. Free.

Sat. & Sun., Sept 3-4

• The Cashiers Rotary Fall Arts & Crafts Show at the Village Green in Cashiers from 10a to 5p both days, rain or shine. Music and food, too.

Sun., Sept. 4

• At Cliffside Lake, Michael Skinner with Balsam Mountain Trust and live raptors at 11 a.m.

• Food for Fuel Luncheon at First Presbyterian Church from 11:45 to 1:45. Donations to help fund the mission of the Highlands Emergency Council.

Thurs., Sept. 8

• Dazzling Dahlias Patron Party benefitting the Highlands Historical Society 6:30 p.m. at Highlands Falls Country Club cocktails dining and live music from Joe Gransden Trio.

Thurs., Sept. 15

• America Red Cross Blood

Drive at the First Baptist Church, 69 Iotla Street, Franklin, 12:30 pm to 5 pm. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (828) 369-9559.

Sat., Sept. 17

• At PAC, Bluegrass: Balsam Range at 8 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

Sept. 22

• The Bascom Book Club meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Meetings are held in the downstairs conference area at the Bascom. The meeting time is 3-5p. A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson

Sat. Sept. 24

• At PAC, Comedy, The Capital Steps at 8 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

Tues., Sept. 27

• American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Macon County Library on 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, 10 am to 2:30 pm For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (828) 524-3600.

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...FACES continued from page 1

face at Highlands School this year. Mrs. Mason studied Early Childhood Education at Thomas University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree. Mason then earned her Masters of Arts in Teaching and Learning, specializing in Elementary Math, from Nova Southeastern University. Mason began her teaching career at Dooley Elementary School in Vienna, GA. She taught second-grade for the 2008 school year. Then taught first-grade for eight years from 2009-2016.

Third Grade

Kristen Huneycutt will be joining the staff this year as a new third-grade teacher. Ms. Huneycutt graduated from Eastern Carolina University in 2012 with a Bachelor in Elementary Education with a concentration in English. Huneycutt then went on to teach kindergarten at Pink Hill Elementary School in Pink Hill, NC for the 2013 school year. Immediately following, Huneycutt taught English and Language Arts at Farmville Middle School in Farmville, NC for 2014-2016 school years.

Online Classes

Teresa Ford will become the new online classroom teacher. Mrs. Ford is originally from Greenville, SC. She originally attended college at Anderson College in South Carolina, then went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education at Clemson University. Mrs. Ford received her Master of Science in Agricultural Education from Clemson as well. Now she has found her place in the online classroom at Highlands School.

Media Specialist

Terry Stamey will be Highlands School's new Media Specialist. Stamey is currently pursuing a Master's in Library Science. Originally, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Western Carolina University. Stamey has teaching experience as a Middle School Business Teacher for Macon Middle School. She also was an Education and Career Development Facilitator for Macon County Schools. In 2013, Stamey became a Media Coordinator and Teacher Librarian at East Franklin Elementary School for three years. Upon the retirement of Carol Bowen, Stamey requested a transfer to Highlands. "I am extremely honored to be chosen for this position, and I look forward to working with faculty and students of Highlands School," she said.

Returning Teacher

Christine Murphy will be returning to Highlands School after two years at MountainTop Wine in Highlands. For eight years, from 2006-2014, Murphy taught both third and eighth grade for eight. This year she

will return to her "first love" – teaching. Murphy taught in Virginia for five years as well as in Georgia for five years. She attended James Madison University in Virginia where she earned a degree in Early Childhood Education. Murphy's childhood was spent as a self-proclaimed "Navy Brat." She grew up all over the United States and spent five years overseas in Spain. She became a full time Highlands resident in 2005. Two of her children have graduated from Highlands School and her third child is a senior this year.

Class Sizes

Every year Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter has to get permission from the Macon County School Board to accept student transfers to Highlands School. Each year, for various reasons, several parents ask if their children, who either live out-of-district or out of county can attend Highlands School – which is the school their children aren't assigned to. As long as there is room and the students are in good standing behavior- and school-wise they are usually admitted.

This year 51 students have been given permission to transfer from their home districts, which Principal Jetter says is "about normal."

However, this is the first year in decades there is only one kindergarten class.

In years past, there was the Great Beginnings Class which incorporated kindergarteners and first-graders as well as a regular kindergarten class. The kindergarten teacher this year is Jaime Dooley and there are 23 students registered for her class.

The first-grade teacher is Stephanie Mason with 17 students.

There are two second-grade classes with teachers Emilee DeForest and Margie Potts. Between the two classes there are 23 students.

There are two third-grade classes with teachers Cynthia Henderson and Kristen Huneycutt. Between the two classes there are 31 students.

There are also two fourth-grade classes. Between teachers Kate Messer and Angela Sanchez there are 31 students.

There is one fifth-grade class taught by Christine Murphy with 16 students and one sixth-grade class taught by Joy Archer with 21 students.

Some parents in the community have voiced concern over the number of students in the kindergarten class – saying it's overloaded – but Principal Jetter said it isn't overloaded at 23.

"We've had as many as 25 students in the kindergarten class in the past. Last year kindergarten had 22 students," said Jetter.

Due to state class size requirements

the third and fourth -grade which each have 31 students, had to be split. That made 16 and 15 students per class, respectively, two classes in each grade.

Teachers and staff said the End-of-Grade (EOG) state testing requirements played a key role in their decision concerning class sizes in the two second-grade classes.

"So the question was, do we have two small kindergarten classes or two small second grades? We chose two small second grades because of the mandatory state retention requirements in third grade. This will give us two years of intense small-class reading focus which will help get as many students through the third grade EOG as possible with few, if any retentions," said Jetter.

There is an automatic state retention

requirement in the third grade if students don't pass the EOG test in reading.

Jetter said overall, state requirements helped staff determine class sizes.

"Since second grade is the lead-in to third grade with those retention requirements, we chose to make the second-grade classes small to give the students a running start on reading, so they will be best prepared for the EOG reading test in third grade," he said. "We have no choice in the third and fourth grades because there are too many students in each grade level to have only one class and we had no choice in the first, fifth and sixth grades because there are too few students to have more than one class at that grade level," he said.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Come to Rest

By Pastor Sam Forrester

Whiteside Presbyterian Church

Being tired is something everyone knows. This weariness can come through many different activities. The ditch digger is wearied by his back ache. The welder by his constant eye strain. The farmer by his sore hands. The accountant by his hours of pouring over figures. The policeman by his continual vigilance against crime. The pastor by his constant study to learn from God's word. The doctor by his duty to ever balance his compassion with the truth.

There are darker ways to experience weariness. Those who are addicted to drugs, alcohol or other things are caught in a weariness that can kill them. Those trapped in poverty with no way of escape. Those trapped in nations that are run by tyrants. Those who have been committed to prison because of their own bad actions.

These people can all be trapped in a weariness that will show them no pity. They are tired and have lost all hope of escape. They have given up. They see life as hell itself. They think death can deliver them but they are afraid that it will only make things worse for them. You cannot imagine a worse life than one trapped in this way.

Is there any hope for such people? Is there any way you can help rescue them from such a life? The Bible says, Yes! there is an answer, there is a way they can be delivered from such darkness.

Jesus gives the answer in his own words. Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

We all carry a large and very heavy burden. That burden is carried by the ditch digger, the welder, the farmer, the accountant, the policeman, the pastor, and the doctor. It is shared by the drug addict, the alcoholic, the poor person, the oppressed, and the prisoner. What is this all encompassing burden? It is sin. You cannot on your own escape this burden. The only hope you have is divine help. Jesus Christ came into this world to do for you, the sinner, what you could never do for yourself. Jesus says he is the divine help you need. He came to take your sin, its power and guilt on himself in your place. He paid the ransom for you to deliver you from sin and to set you free. He took your weariness and burden of sin on himself and gave to you his righteousness and strength. The apostle explains in I Peter 2:24 "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness by his wounds you have been healed."

To come into rest, you need to come to Jesus Christ. You must place your hope and trust in Christ and in him alone. He is the only place you can come into rest from sin.

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/ Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 8:30a Traditional (Quiet) 1928 Prayer Book Service;

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music 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.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting 3rd Wednesday at 5 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 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 U.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Dr. Maurice L. Goldsmith, Interim Rector

526-2968

Sundays: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m.

Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30, nursery available

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II.

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

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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 Randy Lucas 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); 7pm

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

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

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-524-9463

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 Jerry David Hall • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 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. Rob Wood

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 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist: 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

Beginning Memorial Day weekend

Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009

Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• FIRE REPORT •

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Aug. 4

Aug. 4

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at VZ Top.

Aug. 5

- At 9:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rocky Ridge.
- At 3:19 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at US 64 east and Flat Mountain Road.

Aug. 6

- At 8:06 a.m., the dept helped a motorist on US 64 east.
- At 10:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sagee Drive.
- At 1:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

Aug. 7

- At 4:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Edwards Lane.
- At 8:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.

• THANK YOU •

Event raises \$3,500 for HEC

The Highlands Emergency Council held its 3rd Annual Bluegrass Bash community fundraiser at the Kelsey & Hutchinson Founder's Park on August 13th and it was a success raising over \$3,500! This old-fashioned sunny afternoon of fun featured the smell of hotdogs on the grill and toe-tapping bluegrass music from two bluegrass bands, The Wild Hog Band and Limited Distance. Fun was had by all who joined the officers and volunteers of the Highlands Emergency Council for this very important fundraiser.

Gratitude is extended to the following sponsors for making the 3rd Annual Bluegrass Bash event possible; August Produce, Blair Realty, Bryson's Paving & Grading, Country Club Properties, Dodge Packaging, Elevation Motorcars, Highlands Automotive Services, Long Transfer, Inc., Lucas Patton Design, LLC, Mr. & Mrs. H. Ray McPhail, Mountain Motorworks, Tate Landscaping Services, Inc., Wilson Gas, U.S. Food Services.

Sign up now for After School care

Most working families struggle with what to do with their children between the time school gets out and they get off work.

Luckily, there are three low-cost or no-cost options in Highlands.

Sunshine School

At the First Presbyterian Church there is Sunshine School Monday – Friday after-school until 5:15 pm. Space is available on a first come, first serve basis for children kindergarten through 5th grade. The cost is \$5 per day.

Children are provided a snack, time to do their homework, and lots of play. The Sunshine School works with the Literacy Council and is a part of its Science Explorer Program. There are also weekly visits to the Library and art classes partnered with The Bascom.

For more information and to register, call the First Presbyterian Church office at 828-526-3175.

The Gordon Center

The Gordon Center afterschool program is at the Highlands United Methodist Church for ages Kindergarten to 6th grade. The program only runs Monday- Wednesday and is free.

Mondays it's art class at The Bascom. On Tuesdays activities rotate between the Nature Center and Highlands Land Trust and the pool.

Wednesdays it's music at the church.

There is snack every day and homework time on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

To sign up, contact Margie Potts by email humcmargie@icloud.com or call the Highlands United Methodist Church at 526-3376.

Highlands Rec Park

At the Highlands Recreation Center, the after school program is Monday- Friday 3:15-5:30p for ages 5-12. If available, students gather in the gym where they get a snack and work on homework. After that they usually go to pool at least three days a week, weather permitting. When the pool isn't available, students go to the Houston House on the Rec Park property to watch a movie. Some days students go to playground or play outside on the Houston House grounds. The cost is \$2 a day. To sign up or for more information call 828-526-3556.

– Kim Lewicki

- At 1:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a rescue on US 64 west.

Aug. 9

- At 3:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street.

Aug. 10

- At 3:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.
- At 9:09 a.m., the dept. was first-repsnders to a residence on Kent Drive.
- At 5:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.
- At 6:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Church Street.
- At 7:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Church Street.
- At 2:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on NC 106.

Aug. 11

- At 11:16 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible fire at a residence on Stoney Creek.

- At 5:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.
- At 11:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on N. Hemlock Drive.

Aug. 12

- At 1:33 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital.
- At 1:48 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Church Street.
- At 1:38 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street.

Aug. 15

- At 11:27 a.m., the dept. was first responders to Main Street.

Aug. 16

- At 10:06 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible fire at a residence on Lost Horse Trail.

Aug. 17

- The dept. responded to a structure fire at a residence on W. Kelsey Court.
- The dept. responded to the call of a gas leak at a residence on Old Orchard Road.

Aug. 18

- The dept. was first-responders at a residence on Blue Valley Road.
- The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

Aug. 19

- The dept. was first-responders to Main Street.
- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Mirror Lake Road.

Aug. 21

- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

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Veterans Memorial to get new home



The Town, Police Department and Veterans Association have agreed to move the Veterans Memorial, currently at the corner of 6th and Horse Cove Road, to a permanent location behind Town Hall by the Police Department. The site, which will be landscaped with boulders and foliage is being excavated now and will be ready for a Veterans Day unveiling.

— Photo by Jim Lewicki



The Highlands Cashiers PLAYERS
Present
Marc Camoletti's
hilarious smash hit:
Don't Dress for Dinner
Directed By ADAIR SIMON

Thursday–Sunday, August 25–28
Thursday–Sunday, September 1–4

Evenings at 7:30 p.m., Sunday Matinees at 2:30 p.m.

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2016

...FRYE continued from page 6

Taylor said the town will begin advertising for Frye's replacement immediately.

Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix will be acting Town Manager until a replacement is found.

Frye – with more than 20 years of experience in local government – was hired the end of

November 2011. He replaced Jim Fatland, who served as Highlands first Town Manager since it changed its form of government to the Manager-Council form. Fatland was terminated July 6, 2011. Bob Zoellner was Acting Town Manager until Frye was hired.

– Kim Lewicki

A Skatepark could be coming to the Rec Park!

**Come to the meeting,
Tues., Aug. 30 at 7 p.m.**

If you want a place to skateboard in Highlands, come to the Rec Park Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The American Ramp Company will be in Highlands to gather information on what the skateboarding community wants in a skatepark.

From this information, it will put together a conceptual design. Then, with design in hand, the Recreation Department can start applying for possible grants to help fund a Skatepark.

For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

Plan now for the Town Scholarship Golf Tournament

October 20, 2016 marks a special date in Highlands.

Wildcat Cliff Country Club will once again host the annual Scholarship Golf Classic.

The Town of Highlands Scholarship fund began in 1975 through the generosity of a local businessman named Jack Taylor. His gift of \$5,000 was the initial funding for this scholarship program enabled by special legislation in the NC General Assembly making Highlands unique in the state with the ability to administer such a fund for the benefit of Highlands School graduates who are committed to higher education through college, university or vocational training.

In succeeding years Jack Brockway along with other prominent concerned citizens became increasingly involved in the development and promotion of the Town of Highlands Scholarship Endowment Fund which at the time exceeded \$780,000.

Through the ensuing years, various Clubs including Highlands Falls, Cullasaja, and now

Wildcat Cliffs, have graciously provided each of their unique golf course and clubhouse facilities for the purpose of creating an annual one day "fund drive golf tournament."

The historical generosity has been essential in building and sustaining the endowment fund with the ultimate goal of providing financial and moral support to our young highland school graduates.

"We are excited to continue this important tradition. Wildcat Cliffs management and staff have gone above and beyond to make this a successful event on all levels. We are grateful for the membership and staff of WCCC, said Event Co-Chair Brian Stiehler.

The event kicks off at 7:30am with breakfast and use of the driving range and practice green. A 9am shotgun start is followed by cocktails, lunch and awards ceremony. The cost for the event is \$150 per player. For sponsorship information or to sign up, please contact event co-chairs, Brian Stiehler (787-2778) or Rebecca Shuler (526-2118).

An update from The Mayor

NC DOT plans for additional road resurfacing

I was driving home from Town Hall and approached Popular Street. There was a yellow NC DOT truck parked beside the road with yellow flashing lights. A DOT worker was there in a yellow-green road vest taking some kind of measurements.

I pulled up beside him and told him I was the mayor. I asked what DOT was planning to do.

He told me Popular, a state road, was scheduled to be resurfaced. I asked if they were going to use chip and seal like they did on Foreman. I let him know some folks contacted Town Hall to express their displeasure with the use of chip and seal. He smiled and said it is hard to please everyone.



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The worker went on to say their road resurfacing specialists have a reason for using chip and seal. If they see an asphalt road beginning to develop a serious network of cracks, they have discovered that the chip and seal application settles the asphalt surface down. The cracking problem can be mitigated over a period of time. He said he suspects that was the strategy for Foreman and may be for Popular, too. If the road does stop cracking after the chip and seal, DOT may comeback several years later and reapply an asphalt surface.

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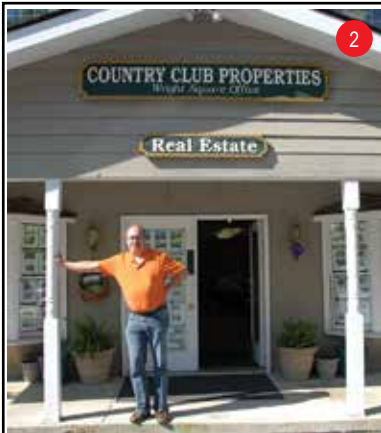
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