

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 13, No. 7

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Feb. 18, 2016

County donates \$50,000 to K-H Founders Park

Leaders in Highlands set out to create a green space and park for residents and visitors 10 years ago and with a \$50,000 allocation from Macon County Commissioners, they are one step closer

to finalizing Phase 2 of the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park.

Phase 1 of the project started in 2006 with the original purchase of the property. The entire project was given a \$1,800,000 price

tag and over the last decade, Founders Park has been developed into much more than just a green space, with restroom facilities, covered stage, a respite area with benches and game tables

and most recently an ice rink. The park on Pine Street has become a focal point for Highlands.

To date, Friends of Founders Park have raised \$1,400,000 for

• See **FOUNDERS** page 3

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Senior Cheerleader Kimberly Griffin. Photos by Kevin Vinson



Senior Varsity Boys Basketball players, Johnny Lupoli, Cole Drummonds, Colin Weller, Remy Adrian, Dylan Vinson and Jackson Hall.



Senior Girls: Whitney Billingsley and Courtney Henry.

No aid coming for December floods; county is on its own

Despite experiencing some of the worst flooding over the Christmas holidays in 15 years, Macon County was informed by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety that it didn't qualify for financial assistance to clean up damages.

"Macon County has been notified that damages that occurred as a result of severe weather during the Christmas holidays will not be eligible for assistance through the individual assistance program of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety," said Warren Cabe, Emergency Management Director for Macon County. "Although the

Highlands School hosts Little Smokey Mountain Conference

Senior basketball players and cheerleaders were honored at the Friday, Feb. 12 game at home.

Last Friday night at the Senior Night home game, Highlands Varsity Boys beat Blue Ridge 76 to 63 tying them for first place in the Little Smokey Mountain Conference.

High scorers were Johnny Lupoli with 21 points and Jake

Billingsley with 18 points.

The Girls Varsity lost to Blue Ridge 45 to 54 but they are still in the Conference tournament.

High scorers were Whitney Billingsley with 13 points and Grace Crowe with 10 points.

As is tradition, Friday night

senior cheerleaders and Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball players and their parents were honored after the Varsity Girls game and before the Varsity Boys game.

The first round of Conference games was Tuesday night at Highlands School which is host-

ing the conference this year.

The Little Smokey Mountain Conference consists of schools in Highlands, Nantahala, Blue Ridge and Hiwassee Dam – schools that don't have a football team.

• See **CONFERENCE** page 5

• See **FLOODS** page 5

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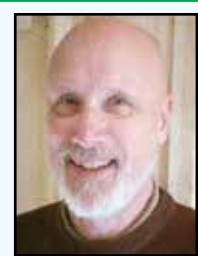


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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

US Cellular to outline plan tonight at 6:30p

Tonight's Highlands Town Board meeting has a light agenda. I want to remind everyone that US Cellular representatives will be at the Conference Center at 6:30 p.m. to share their proposed design for a cell tower. It would be located between and behind the EMS and Fire Department.

The board will also have a public hearing for the proposed addition to First Baptist Church.

We will also review the contract and plans for the proposed cell tower.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting. I also want to share my recent observations about our downtown area.

I have lived here for 17 years. Not too long ago, if I was on Main Street on a cold Saturday afternoon in February, I could look straight down the street without seeing cars in the middle parking area. Last Saturday afternoon I looked down the center of Main Street and all the center parking was full, as was the curbside parking.

Several thoughts came to mind. First, as I slowly drove down the street I noticed most car tags were from out of state. Second, I also rode down Spring Street, an employee parking area. It, too, was practi-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

cally full. My conclusion was that the filled parking spaces on Main Street was not due to employees parking there because our parking regulations are not in effect this time of year, but rather because now, even in winter, there are still many visitors in town.

One other wonderful observation was that the sidewalks were filled with people carrying shopping bags. What a great sight! The cold, but sunny weather, also resulted in our new skating rink being filled with folks enjoying skating.

Also, unlike the past, people are downtown well into the evening hours. Not too many years ago, at five in the afternoon the lights of the shops went out and everyone went home. Now, especially after this cold weather leaves us, people will be in Highlands enjoying refreshingly cool spring, summer and fall evenings.

My predecessor, David Wilkes, undertook several initiatives to enhance the downtown area. We continue enhancements such as the development of the park. Better communications throughout the town is an enhancement just around the corner. The Chamber, as well as our merchants who continually bring in new merchandise, promote events, such as musical concerts, all of which enhance downtown. Other amenities, like a movie theater showing first run movies, help make downtown the place to be while on the plateau. I must also salute our downtown church congregations who add a special character to our hometown as a caring community.

Highlands has many good things happening all over, including downtown. Let's all work together to keep the momentum going, and hope that the economy in the

• See MAYOR page 3

• LETTER •

Vote against 'Connect NC' bond March 15

Dear Editor,

Voters should vote AGAINST the \$2 billion "Connect NC" bonds on the March 15 ballot.

Gov. McCrory's original "Connect NC" bond proposal was primarily for transportation. However, the legislature removed every transportation project. Now WNC University would get \$110 million for a new building, but EVERY UNC university would also share in a \$1.065 billion honey pot for buildings.

Southwestern CC would get \$7.2 million for "New Construction, Repairs, Renovations," but EVERY NC community college would share in a \$350 million honey pot for the same. EVERY state park would share \$75 million for undefined projects, and the NC Zoo would get \$25 million for a new building. Other state entities would share the remaining \$485 million.

This is the first state bond in fifteen years, since the legislature had been appropriating money for these types of projects through its budgets. Depending on the terms of the bonds sold over the next four years, adding in interest payments the \$2 billion in projects could cost taxpayers as much as \$3.5 billion.

These bonds will provide special interest vote-buying and resumé enhancers for the governor and every state legislator running for re-election in November. Why else place the bonds on the March ballot when only about half as many voters will vote on the issue versus in November? Bond opponents also have less opportunity to educate voters on the facts about these bonds with a March vote.

With this Christmas-in-March shotgun cash distribution, our legislators are abdicating their responsibilities to select the true "needs" versus the "wants" of those seeking taxpayer money.

Vic Drummond
Franklin

• 2016 VOTING REGS. •

REGISTRATION OR PARTY CHANGE DEADLINE:

Residents who are not registered or those registered who need to make changes such as party, name, or address must do so by
Friday, February 19, 2016 at 5 pm to be able to vote on Election Day.

ONE STOP LOCATIONS, DAYS AND TIMES

Macon County Board of Elections Office
(Macon County Courthouse)

5 W Main St, Franklin

Dates: March 3 - March 12

Monday-Friday 8AM to 6PM

Saturdays, March 5 and March 12 9AM to 1PM

Highlands Civic Center, 600 N 4th St., Highlands, NC

Dates: March 3 - March 12

Monday-Friday 9AM to 4PM

Saturdays, March 5 and March 12 9AM to 1PM

NOTE: Any registered voter in Macon County may vote at the Highlands One Stop site, you do not have to be a resident of Highlands.

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

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

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



• OBITUARY •

Martha Reese Lamb

Martha Reese Lamb, age 78, of Highlands, NC, passed away Sunday, February 7, 2016. She was born in Macon County, the daughter of the late Joseph Reese, Jr. and Lucille Pierson Reese. She was a hairdresser and a member of Highlands Presbyterian Church, where she sang in the choir.

She is survived by a daughter, Gina L. Thacker (Greg) of Virginia, a son, Brett D. Lamb (Cheryl) of Highlands, NC; four grandchildren, Cole Lamb, Quinn Thacker, Brent Sleight and Kirstyn Lamb; two brothers, Louis W. Reese of Atlantic Beach, FL and Daniel Q. Reese of Lawrenceville, GA; several nieces and nephews also survive.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Joseph R. Reese. A memorial service will be held Saturday, February 20th at 3:00 pm at Highlands Presbyterian Church. The family will receive friends following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to a charity of your choice.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Lamb family. Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

...FOUNDERS continued from page 1

the completion of the park, with \$690,000 used to build out Phase I. The remaining balance of the money is slotted for the completion of Phase II of the park with \$510,000 used to purchase and clear the Phase II property and approximately \$200,000 to date for Phase II construction.

"The park has clearly been well received and is seeing greater and greater use over time," said Nicholas Bazan, president of Friends of Founders Park, Inc. "In addition, I believe that it has begun to attract a younger visitor population to our town that tends to spend more in our restaurants, hotels and retail stores."

Last Tuesday night, MC commissioners voted to allocate a one-time donation of \$50,000 to keep the project moving forward which will allow Phase 2 of the project to be completed on time.

Friends of Founders Park plan to continue raising money to ensure that the entire budgeted cost is secured. Commissioner Jim Tate, whose company Tate Landscaping is working on the project, abstained from voting or discussing the project.

The park was opened to the public last spring after the first phase of the park was completed. Since then, contractors have been working diligently on the second phase of the park and with the recent completion of the new square upon which

the seasonal ice rink now stands, contractors can move on to the rest of the area.

The fundraising arm of the park, the Friends of the Founders Park has additional work to do to complete the park project including the construction of a central water feature, the addition of the reproduced Kelsey two-story fireplace, the extension of the pavers on Pine Street and Pine Street Alley, connecting walkways to tie the two phases of the park together and completion of plantings on the lower two levels of green space.

In addition, plans include the construction of memorial alcoves honoring the founding pioneers of Highlands — Samuel Truman Kelsey and Clinton Carter Hutchinson.

Major portions of the funding has come from the Town of Highlands, several foundations, members of the park coalition and over 450 private citizen donors. Art and Angela Williams of Old Edwards Hospitality Group (OEH) donated over \$300,000 some of which went toward the completion of the ice rink project including the ice rink, the building and storage for the rink as well as the cost of ice-skates for the rink.

According to Bazan, the group plans to continue raising money to ensure the park is fully funded and completed on time — plans are for it to be completed by May of this year.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

region continues to remain strong.

I will have the honor of attending the Annual Highlands Fire Department Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Saturday night. On behalf of all Highlanders, I thank these fine people for all the work they do throughout the year.



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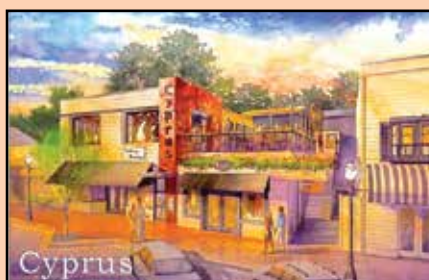
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Ghosts & Grotesques: Friday & Saturday, February 19 & 20 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, February 21 at 2:30 pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Adults: \$10 Students: FREE Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

...FLOODS from page 1

damages that occurred were overall a significant amount, there were not at least 25 primary homes, businesses or other eligible institutions that sustained uninsured major damage to request additional assistance."

Without state or federal assistance, Macon County Manager Derek Roland requested up to \$67,000 from commissioners to cover the cost of damages experienced throughout the county. Last Tuesday night, commissioners unanimously voted to approve the funds.

According to Roland, while the flooding event caused substantial damage in the county as a whole, the county was not able to receive any reimbursement from its flood insurance policy either, because Industrial Park and Cullasaja Park – where flooding occurred -- are located in an AE zone (special flood hazard zone) designation and require a \$500,000 deductible be met before any compensation. The damages at both of those facilities did not come close to the \$500,000 deductible, said Roland.

Macon County was also not able to qualify for assistance from the North Carolina Emergency Management, because in order to receive this type of assistance the total losses would have to be equal to at least one percent of the county's budget. Macon County's operating budget of \$46.6 million would require \$466,000 worth of damage to receive money from the state's emergency management.

Among the thousands of dollars lost due to the flooding, the majority of the damages were realized by the Macon County Youth Football Program which lost all of its equipment including shoulder pads, helmets and uniforms. Of the \$67,000 approved by the county \$40,960 will be used to replace the bare necessities of the youth football equipment which has been stored at the Cullasaja Park.

At the Industrial Park, the Macon County Soccer Program also experienced a loss with commissioners allocating \$5,300 to replace all the soccer nets and the irrigation pump that was damaged in the flooding.

An additional \$5,000 will be used to repair damage at the Industrial Park and Cullasaja Park for mold removal as well as to repair buildings and fencing at the two parks.

Damages of up to \$6,660 occurred at the Greenway with \$4,740 designated for grading to replace the undermined road at Fox Ridge and an additional \$1,920 to replace tables, trash cans and fencing at the park.

The Parker Meadows Recreation Complex saw the least amount of damages of all the county parks, but \$2,000 is needed to repair a section of the walking trail that was damaged from flooding. Southwestern Community College also requested \$5,300 to replace damaged panels on the public safety training center's burn building.

...CONFERENCE from page 1

According to Highlands School Athletic Director and Head Coach of the Boys & Girls Varsity team Brett Lamb, all four teams make it into the tournament – they are seeded from the outcome of the regular season conference games.

The Tuesday night Varsity Girls game against Blue Ridge was postponed due to a wintery mix of snow and sleet. However, Varsity Boys did play Hiwassee Dam as scheduled. Highlands lost to Hiwassee 60 to 62. High scorers were Jose Jimenez with 21 points and Johnny Lupoli with 15 points.

The girls play tonight, Thursday, at 5 p.m. against Blue Ridge. If they win they will play in the championship game tonight at 6:30 p.m..

The boys are currently tied for 1st place with Nantahala and since both teams were eliminated from the conference tournament they have to break the tie. The boys will play Nantahala at Franklin High School this Friday at

7 p.m. This will determine who gets the #1 seed from the conference. The game has to be played on a neutral court by conference by laws.

– Kim Lewicki



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\$20.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.

\$20.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.

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Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw.

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Saturday: In-house smoked bbq, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls.

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Jody Lovell
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• What the tax office says it is worth

- What it is insured for
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Work closely with your real estate professional to determine a fair listing price as your home will attract the most attention when it is first listed. This selling season will still be, in all likelihood, a "Buyer's Market," so do not test the market by listing

your home with an unrealistic asking price.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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6:00 – 7:30 pm

Call us about membership fees

ICE SKATING RINK

Open Thursday 1-8p

Friday & Saturday 1-10p

Sunday 1-5p

Ongoing

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

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

Last Sundays

• At The Wellness Center, donation based Sound Healing Concert. Learn how to use Music to heal your Nervous System and Reduce Your Stress Naturally at 3pm. 468 Dillard

lard Road (828) 526 9698

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

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

Mondays

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

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Monday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library.

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

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. Sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI. For info call 828 369-7385.

Tuesdays

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

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

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

Every 3rd Tuesday

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

Last Tuesdays

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

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

1st Wednesdays

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

3rd Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the

ValleyCall Lisa 828-506-3555.

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

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

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

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

Fridays

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

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

Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are at noon November through April.

Saturdays

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

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

Thurs., Feb. 18

• Primary Candidates face off at the League of Women Voters Forum in Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin at noon.

• Taize at the Holy Family Lutheran Church in Highlands at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 704-516-7893.

• The Macon County Caregiver Group will be meeting at 6 PM at the Macon County Public Library. In the large meeting room.

Fri.-Sun., Feb. 19-21

• At The PAC, the PAC Youth Theater will perform Ghosts & Grotesques. Adult tickets are \$10 and all students and children are FREE. The PAC Youth Theater program is open to all students in the Highlands, Cashiers, Frank-

PAC Youth Theater opens with Ghosts & Grotesques Feb. 19-21

Ghosts & Grotesques is a literary compilation of stories that guarantee to spook you and send your imagination on a wild ride. The stories are acted out and told by the students using special effects. Classic stories, some standards and some not so well known: Edgar Allen Poe's *Tell-Tale Heart*, T.H. White's *The Troll*, *Irish Folk Tales Anthology* (*Grave of his Fathers*, *Terrible Ghosts* and *Grandfather's Ghost*), and Alfred Noyes' *The Highwayman*. Directed by Megan Potts, with assistant directors, Luke Osteen and Serenity Richards. Starring students from Blue Ridge, Highlands and Home-schooled: Brooke Amundrud, Sarah Ballentine, Raina Trent, Tiffany Preda, Alley Preda, Jordon Powell, Destiny Ferra-Martin, and Kathryn Potts. As always, there is a lot more to launching a production than the actors. The technical production requires tremendous work and learning. The student production team include: River Trent, Raina Trent, Kathryn Potts, Noah Carver, and Destiny Ferra-Martin.

David Bortel, Technical Director for the Bardo Theater at WCU is our guest Lighting Designer helping with the special effects. John Roman and Steve Hott are back with their expertise in set design and sound. All of the professionals instruct the students in all things technical.

Director Megan Potts says about *Ghosts & Grotesques*, "What makes a story 'Gothic.?' The answer to this question has eluded scholars and writers for years. I, of course, have my own opinion. In a Gothic Tale, the villain is not a guy named Freddie or Jason, but a character without a name. Dread becomes the antagonist. In these six stories, written by literary greats, some characters run from Dread; others run head-long into it. However, all eventually meet it face to face. As in our lives, sometimes the battle is horrific; sometimes it is humorous. Enjoy our Theatrically staged versions of these classic Gothic Tales. They have certainly sparked our imagination!"

The PAC Youth Theater program and production would not take place without the students' parents volunteering their time and talents towards making it all happen. The PAC Youth Theater program is offered to all students 8th grade and up in the Highlands Cashiers area Free of Charge. It is through the generosity of the Community Foundation of WNC, the Cullasaja Women's Outreach and many other organizations who award the PAC Youth Theater grants to be able to continue this program. The Performing Arts Center thanks everyone who makes this program possible!

Ghosts & Grotesques: Friday & Saturday, February 19 & 20 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, February 21 at 2:30 pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Adults: \$10 Students: FREE Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

lin areas free of charge. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

Fri., Feb. 19

• The High Mountain Squares will host its annual "Rock n' Roll 50's Dance," Friday night, February 19th. At the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC. Work shop at 6:15, square dancing at 6:45 till 8:45 PM. The Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels.

Sat., Feb. 20

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct its monthly work day from 9a – noon this Saturday. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-482-1451.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6.5-mile hike, elevation change 1000 ft., to Trimont Ridge on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch, coming back by way of logging roads with views to the south of Franklin and north toward Burn-

ingtown. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 9 am, drive 6-miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

• Jackson County NAACP Branch Membership meeting at 10 a.m. At 10:45 a.m., Black History Program at the Morning Star Baptist Church, 56 Morning Star Drive, Bryson City.

Thurs., Feb. 21

• US Cellular to make a presentation about its proposed 80-ft. tower at 6:30 p.m. BEFORE the Town Board meeting at the Community Building.

Fri., Feb. 26

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

Sun., Feb. 27

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike, elevation change 520 ft., to Martin Creek Falls on the Bartram Trail from Warwoman Dell near Clayton, GA, passing a couple of waterfalls and interesting formations in the creek bed. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto at 9 am, drive 35 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations.

HCP's March Medley features 4 one-act plays and dinner!



Wayne Coleman asks Vangie Rich "Are you really going to buy those shoes?" A scene from "Metaphorical Shoes," with Lynleigh McLean, directed by Donna Cochran.

Highlands Cashiers Players is preparing for its winter production, "March Medley." It will consist of a four course dinner/brunch interspersed with four one-act plays to be performed downstairs at the Performing Arts Center March 11, 12, and 13, and March 18, 19, and 20. Each of the four plays: "One Day at the Christmas Party," "Funeral Arrangements," "Metaphorical Shoes," and "Misfortune" poses a common question audiences will empathize with. As seating is limited, please plan to call 828 526 8084 for reservations. Dinner theater goers are sure to enjoy a pleasant evening of dinner and 4 "good plays well done."

Flying high at 99

In WWII, Nels Glesne served in the Army Air Corps, training the greatest generation's flyers. His passion for adventure continued in civilian life where he would walk ten miles a day through the backwoods of Wisconsin selecting trees to cut for timber. After retiring to western North Carolina, he continued to be active, playing tennis and hiking daily, well into his nineties.

One day he noticed his usual high level of activity was leaving him winded. His doctors at Mission Heart discovered one of his heart valves was failing. Just a few years prior, this would have meant the end of Nels' dynamic, athletic lifestyle and the beginning of gradual decline. But Mission Health had just become the first in the region to offer a revolutionary new treatment – TAVR – which could repair his valve without open-heart surgery.

Nels leapt at the chance to reclaim his former vitality. He underwent the elective surgery, and within weeks he was back on the courts, playing doubles tennis with men decades his junior. On his 99th birthday, Nels returned to the air by zip-lining through the trees, and for his 100th, he's learning to kite surf.

Apparently, he's not quite ready to come in for a landing.

Whether you're trying to be well, get well or stay well, Mission Health offers you and your family access to the best people, resources and advanced technology to help you achieve and exceed your personal health goals.

To hear more personal stories like Nels', visit: mission-health.org/NelsHN



Be Well. Get Well. Stay Well.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Trusting God & the Highlands Police Force

By Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

Our nation is going through a troubling time regarding our public perception of police officers. On one hand there has been an erosion of respect for police officers as our protectors and authority figures. On another hand, many are voicing their strong opinions that while there may be some "bad apples" out there, they don't necessarily spoil the whole bushel. Some communities are demonstrating their strong support of their police force by placing our national motto on police cars, "In God We Trust." Highlands as a community has chosen not to do so such a thing. Highlands police will not be seen patrolling our community with the words "In God We Trust" on their patrol cars.

Is it that important that such words be adhered to a police car? I have been thinking about that recently. Does having our national motto on our money or on some of our governmental buildings or police cars actually mean that we do in fact trust in God? Of course not. Such a debate is certainly secondary to actually trusting in God whether the words are written or not. I suppose from an atheistic perspective it would be better not to make such words visible, at least it is honest and authentic. Who needs a farce? We have enough farces.

However, the decision to refrain from such offensive things like "God" or "trusting in God" on behalf of police officers does send a message of sorts to our officers who stand in harms way on our behalf. We should probably think about that, too.

When an officer draws his gun and in a matter of nanoseconds makes a decision whether to pull the trigger or not I would prefer we would trust in God not just on the officers training, mood, agenda, perception or what kind of sleep they had last night. Who wants innocent people shot or guilty people wasted for that matter? Trusting in God can't hurt there can it?

When someone pulls a gun on an unarmed officer, I wonder if the officer, after thinking of his/her children and spouse, wants to trust in the perpetrator's judgment, rage, hurt, or altered state to make a decision to fire? I am thinking the officer might be trusting in God on some level in that moment.

When an officer is desperately searching for an abducted child, should we have the audacity to call upon God in such dyer circumstances? I hope that is OK. What would the parents prefer? I hope we don't have to read a motto on our patrol cars to have license to believe.

When an officer enters a home with a warrant for a violent criminal, heart pounding, and adrenaline pumping, does he or she sense the backing of the local government and the sentiment of the community to perform their duties and return home after their shift knowing that the community of faith in the area appreciates them and prays for them? I hope so.

Words on cars can communicate ideologies that individuals in government despise. We all have this guaranteed right in this country. A flag, which we do not have

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 11

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUEVALLEY 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

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.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

University

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

Sundays: Education for Adults, 9 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (chapel), 10:30 a.m.

8 a.m., services and Healing services will resume in the spring.

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: 8:30a and 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

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

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, 6p.

Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

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);

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.

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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. Douglas E. Remer

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-Infomral 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.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

The Highlands Police log entries from Feb. 2. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Feb. 2

- At 9:23 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106.

Feb. 4

- At 8:30 a.m., criminal damage to property and a larceny was reported at Dusty's Superette where the locks on two drink machines were broken and money was taken.

Feb. 10

- At 9:20 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Wilson Road.

- At 8:35 p.m., officers responded to a call about a possible prowler at a residence on Williamsburg Court.

Feb. 16

- At 8:45 a.m., officers received a call about damage to property at Old Edwards Inn Warehouse on S. 4th Street where someone hit a mailbox and drove away.

**The Highlands Fire &
Rescue Dept. log from Feb.
10**

Feb. 10

- At 6:08 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

Feb. 13

- At 3:15 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheyenne Drive.

- At 10:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 10

the freedom to burn is in no way
a true symbol of freedom.

We all have the freedom of choice given to us by God. Given to us by God is the freedom to

• BIZ.ORG NEWS •



Dino A. Graziano, MD, has joined Highlands-Cashiers Hospital emergency department/hospitalist group in Highlands.

Dr. Graziano earned his medical degree at Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, DC. He is board certified in family medicine, advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support and advanced trauma life support.

He is a member of the American Academy of Family physicians, as well as the American College of Emergency Physicians. Dr. Graziano most recently practiced at Pioneer Community Hospital of Stokes in Danbury, North Carolina.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is located at 190 Hospital Drive, Highlands. For inquiries, call (828) 526-1200.

reject him. Why is that so? God wants a relationship with each of us and he wants to enter into that relationship when each of us is willing. Love without willingness isn't love at all.

In the meantime we will go without our national motto on the Highlands police cars. But so what? The real question is whether or not we are supporting and praying for our first responders. If ever you need a potential hero in a grievous situation wouldn't you want them already prayed for and trusting in God rather than operating on their own personal

limitations? I know I would.

Here is a message for the police and first responders in Highlands. Thank you! The church in Highlands is trusting God on your behalf. Keep up the good work. Here are two verses that communicate the sentiment of those who appreciate you most:

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

Some trust in chariots and
some in horses, but we trust in
the name of the Lord our God.
Psalm 20:7



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Public Information from the Town of Highlands

Public Information Town Hall Meeting on the proposed US Cellular Cell Phone Tower. The meeting will be at 6:30pm, February 18th before the regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting in the Community Building. This is not a required meeting and is for information only.



Youth Theater

**Friday, Saturday
7:30pm
Sunday: 2:30pm
February 19, 20, 21**

Directed by Megan Potts

**Starring Students from:
Highlands School
Blue Ridge School
HomeSchooled**

Ghosts & Grotesques

**Sponsored by
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Mrs. Fletcher Wolfe honored at birthday celebration

Highlands residents Mr. and Mrs. John Maddox joined a group of 75 artists and educators who honored Mrs. Fletcher Wolfe on the occasion of her 85th birthday last week in Atlanta. Mrs. Wolfe, well known for her contributions to Atlanta's art community, taught art in Atlanta for many years there while also acting as the set and costume designer for the opera and ballet companies.

Mrs. Wolfe has received many accolades over the years for her art work abroad and they include the Jeanne D'Arc Gold Medal awarded her by the City of Orleans, France. She was also honored by Italy's Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and had an audience with the Late Pope John Paul II. Other Highlands attending this event were the speaker of the evening Reverend Brian Sullivan, former Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation and his wife, Mindy.

Following an hors d'oeuvres and cocktail hour in the Druid Hills home of The Atlanta Boy Choir, a seated dinner was given for all the guests. Some of those attending this event were Dr. James Mellichamp, president of Piedmont College and Dr. Joseph Meeks, Fine Arts dean

at Kennesaw State University. Hans Fräbel, the internationally renowned glass artist, presented Mrs. Wolfe with a special creation of his incorporating life-like flowers.

After a documentary slideshow featuring Mrs. Wolfe's life and works, the guests were entertained by recording artist Darrel McGhee and Highlands own concert Pianist, Dr. Robert Henry. Also attending this event was Highlands art gallery owner, Ann Jacob.

Maestro and Mrs. Wolfe, longtime Highlands residents, now reside in Sky Valley, GA. Maestro Wolfe still directs The Atlanta Boy Choir. The choir sings in Highlands on May 22nd at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

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Rev. Brian Sullivan speaks at celebration. Bobby is far right.

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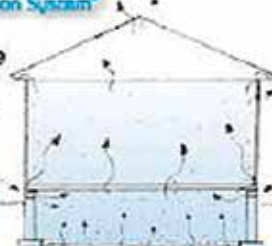


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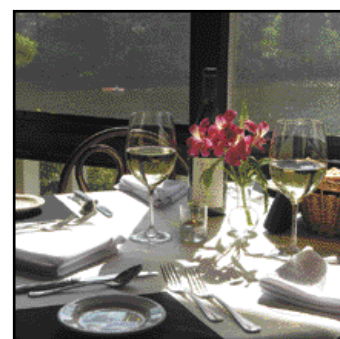
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