Volume 13, Number 3

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Thurs., Jan. 21, 2016

MC Commissioners are asked to support 'more wilderness'

While there are still two or more years left before the federal government decides on a final management plan for the Pisgah-Nantahala National Forest, at last week's MC Commission meeting. 13 groups in favor of additional wilderness areas, asked commissioners to reconsider a resolution against more wilderness areas which they passed in 2014.

"We aren't asking you to say vou oppose or support additional wilderness areas," said Nantahala Hiking Club's Bill Vanhorn. "Instead, we would like you to consider passing a resolution showing your support of the U.S. Forest Service's public input process and support any wilderness recommendations they may make after that two-year-long public input period."

Across Macon County, there

are 152,000 acres designated as National Forest lands, which amounts to about 46 percent of the land in Macon County. In 2015, the plan revision process included public meetings and milestones looking at a collaborative effort to deter-

•See WILDERNESS page 11

INSIDE • Mayor on Duty..... Letters..... Obituaries Events Police & Fire Reports Investing at 4,118 Ft. Classifieds.....

Security at MC Courthouse to be evaluated; concealed gun permit discussed

Citing December's San Bernardino, CA shooting, Macon County Commissioner Paul Higdon asked his fellow commissioners if the county would take a close look at courthouse security and the county's policy on concealed carrying options.

"It concerns me as the Board of Commissioners, one of our main roles is to provide a safe work environment for our employees, and a safe environment for citizens to utilize our services," said Commissioner Higdon. "I don't think we're doing that in the courthouse. It's nobody's fault, it's certainly not courthouse security, they do an excellent job, but they've got the courtroom to take care of. You come in the front door, it says 'secure building' yet you can walk anywhere in here. The crazy folks are coming to Macon County, they're here now."

Higdon said Macon County is unlike other rural courthouse buildings because there are four

entrances used by members of the community, while in neighboring Jackson County, there is one entrance with security and metal detectors.

Macon County courthouse security staff is positioned in front of courtrooms, but according to Sheriff Robert Holland, the staffing logistics of that can sometimes be

When multiple courts are in session, on multiple floors of the courthouse. Sheriff Holland says security is spread out and when transferring inmates to and from courts, extra sheriff office staff is needed to make it work. Holland agreed that one entrance would centralize the access points and reduce required staffing.

During his tenure as Sheriff, Holland said the state has conducted two courthouse evaluations and recommendations have been made. The last report was conducted more than five years ago, so Holland is

•See SECURITY page 7

Finally, some snow!



Though there were swirling flurries the Sunday before, on Sunday, Jan. 17, everyone woke up to a lightly snow covered Highlands. The first real snow in 2016. It wasn't deep enough to do anything, but it verified that winter is here. Forecast says more snow is on the way.

- Photo by Kim Lewicki

1st Baptist seeks B1-C Zone

Like the Methodist church down the block, First Baptist has begun the process of having its property bordered by Main, Second and Oak streets rezoned B1 Conditional.

The reason is basically the

same; it too, is expanding and wants to build a Fellowship Hall on its property between the current Fellowship building and Jim Tate's building on Oak Street without having to satisfy parking

•See BAPTIST page 9

Highlands gym roof to be repaired not replaced

Completing repairs at Highlands School was the topic of conversation last week during a Joint Facilities Review committee between members of the board of education and county commission-

The committee, which meets periodically to discuss significant infrastructure needs in the school system looked at ways to address the leaking roof on the new Highlands gym. Macon County School consultant Terry Bell said the problems with the roof date back to 2005 when it was initially installed.

Apparently, Shenaut Construction, the general contractor on the project incorrectly installed the roof 10 years ago and it has leaked ever since. While compensation was sought 10 years ago for the unprofessional work, Shenaut Construction has since dissolved, and according to Bell, at this point,

•See ROOF page 7

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Kirk Howard: Broker Stephen Sitz: Broker

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ATEAU'S POSITION

2016-'17 budget, broadband and more

7ith the holiday schedule it seems like it has been a long time since we have had a town board meeting. Finally, the January meeting is tonight, beginning at 7 pm at the Conference Center. The agenda will not be as long as the December meeting.

The main item on the agen- Mayor Pat Taylor da will be a review of the town audit presented by Martin and Starnes Associates. Like every year, their audit has been reviewed and approved by the CPAs of the North Carolina Local Government Commission. Highlands again has a clean audit for this past year.

Nevertheless, the findings in the audit can be informative as the town moves into the budget planning phase for the new fiscal year. A preliminary review of the audit indicates the town has spent substantial funds on infrastructure projects this past year. Much has been accomplished, yet at the same time our fund balances still remain strong. But, how do we proceed this coming fiscal year to address many legitimate needs, but also maintain the financial health of the town? That is the big question that the town staff and board will have to decide in the coming months.

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HighlandsEditor@aol.com Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki Copy Editor: Glenda Bell Digital Media - Jim Lewicki Locally owned and operated by Kim & Jim Lewicki Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com 265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28•741

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



The board will set the budget planning schedule and meeting dates for the next months at this board meeting. The first date will be for the town retreat that usually occurs sometime in early March. The retreat is followed by several budget workshops that are dialogues between the town staff and commissioners concerning budget priorities. Finally,

the town manager will present a draft of a balanced town budget in May, followed by modifications and final approval at the June town board meeting.

Another item on the agenda will be an update by Matt Shuler on the Altitude Broadband initiative. Matt will brief us about the implementation of the network, a process that started this month. I anticipate Matt giving the town board a number of updates in the coming months.

He will also provide an update on the Big Bear Pen cell tower upgrade. Last year the board approved a 20-foot addition to the tower for a Verizon cell phone antenna. This project has not happened, and Matt will present possible options.

I want to invite everyone to the "Coffee with the Mayor" program which will be tomorrow (Friday), starting 11pm at the Hudson Library. As I stated in my last column, the topic for our discussion will be the problem of trash and litter on the Highlands Plateau. Come "Talk Trash with the Mayor." I am very interested in everyone working together to develop ways to mitigate this growing problem. Trash and litter are akin to sin, they will never go totally away, but each of us should fight the good fight to contain and control this horrible blight on our community.

See everybody tonight, and hopefully again on Friday morning for good discussion, coffee and refreshments provided by the Highlands B.E.A.R. Task Force.

Comparison was unfair

Dear Editor.

Sabin Maxwell's response to Griffin Bell's letter in the Ian, 14 edition of Highlands Newspaper was a giant over reach. 1865 secessionists are analogous to ISIS-type groups?

I searched Griffin's letter for signs of xenophobic hysteria, for a mindset that would lead to interment camps for Japanese-Americans. Sorry, Sabin. Just could find nothing but a letter encouraging Muslims to discourage violence in their communities and make their allegiance to

Griffin appears to be hopeful that this would help to isolate the bad guys in the USA and lead to their ultimate demise.

> Ioe Pollock Highlands/Lake Forest, Florida

Signage and penalties would be a start

Dear Editor,

I am saddened and angered by the Mayor's Forum last week on the trashing of Highlands. I have always felt but could never prove that it is not the summer folks that do most of the trashing. So, Highlanders, draw your own conclusions.

Years ago, way back in the forties, signs entering and leaving Upton, KY. read "Drive slow and see our town - Trash our town and see our jail." The signs didn't help much but made folks aware of the penalties involved if caught.

> Fred Wooldridge Highlands and North Palm Beach

Southern root reference not appropriate

Dear Editor,

I am writing in reference to a letter in your January 14th edition, entitled, "Stoking Fear is not the Solution," penned by Sabin Maxwell of Manchester, NH. The letter referenced a December 17th letter, by Griffin Bell of Highlands, entitled, "What are the Non-violent Muslims

On re-reading Mr. Bell's letter, I found no "fear stoking" or implication that all Muslims intend to harm us, but rather, some honest questions regarding the reluctance, or better yet, absence, of non-violent Muslims protesting against the Jihadist minority.

Ms. Maxwell attempts a lengthy discussion suggesting that Mr. Bell's Southern roots, and now "Ivory Tower" in Highlands, somehow provide him with inferior motives for questioning non-violent Muslims, even though Ms. Maxwell writes, "Mr. Bell calls for non-violent Muslims to call out, stand up to, and take action against violent extremists, a proposition with which I am in agreement...."

Confused? I am.

But I'm from Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas, and thankfully my "Ivory Towers" have been shipped to Highlands.

> Chip Wisdom Highlands

I don't understand the comparison

This letter is in response to the letter of Sabin Maxwell of January 14th in which she agrees with me. That is, Muslims should "call out, stand up to and take action against violent extrem-



ists." Nevertheless, Ms Maxwell uses a 14 line analogy about not hearing any news about " secessionists" who were plentiful 154 years ago. Not understanding the comparison, I will neither congratulate nor criticize. Her point, however, is that my questions about no news of nonviolent Muslim efforts stokes fear in non Muslims. How so?

There was no intent on my part, nor • See LETTERS page 13

• OBITHARIES•

Clarence Clyde Clark

Clarence Clyde Clark, 68, of Franklin died suddenly on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in an Asheville hospital. Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Clyde William and Katherine Ray Clark. He was a general contractor and loved fishing, nurturing and feeding wildlife and golf. He was former president of the Franklin Jaycees, serving during the

1970's, and was a member of The Shriners and a perpetual member of the Taveres, FL Lodge #234.

Mr. Clark was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Lucy Clark; two daughters, Areti Clark (Beau) of Lakeland, FL and Kristi Clark Davis (Mark) of Tampa, FL; one son, Chris Clark (Maris) of Lakeland, FL; four grandchildren, Marisa Clark, Mariah Clark, Kira Davis and Matthew Clark Davis; one sister, Jacqueline Clark Linscott Barnes (Graham) of Titusville, FL and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his infant brother,



John Clark.

A funeral service was held Sunday, January 17, 2016 at Snow Hill United Methodist Church with Rev. Timothy Howard and Rev. Wayne Sheffield officiating. Junaluskee Masonic Lodge #145 conducted Masonic Rites. Burial was in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were James Collins, Dustin Collins, Paul Collins, Boyd Win-

chester, and Benjamin Collins. Paul Daniel Collins, honorary pallbearer.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, 950 West Faris Rd., Greenville, SC 29605 or Snow Hill United Methodist Church, 330 Snow Hill Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

"If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart, I'll stay there forever."

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

Col. William DeFord Bathurst

Col. William DeFord Bathurst died peacefully at home after a long period of declining health. His beloved wife, Romney, and children, Dana Lee and Bill Jr., were with him. He was a man loved by many, and dedicated his life to service to others, his community and in defense of his country.

The son of Army Col.

Charles and Hildegarde Bathurst, Bill was born in Duluth, MN, in 1931. Bill spent his youth on bases at West Point, NY, Ft. Leavenworth, KS and his favorite - Schofield Barracks at Pearl Harbor. He attended the local Japanese school and enjoyed the tropical paradise, spearfishing, horses and polo. After the attack, he and his mother and brother were shipped stateside in a "blacked out" ship.

He graduated from St. Andrews School, Middletown, DE, and upon graduation from the US Military Academy at West Point, he joined the US Air Force. He excelled at and enjoyed his military career, and was the youngest Colonel in the Air Force at the time of his commission. His assignments spanned a wide range, including photo-mapping the Iberian Peninsula, systems analysis in Vietnam, and three tours of duty at the Pentagon. A severe



heart attack forced his retirement to Delray Beach, FL in 1976. His last position was as Deputy Comptroller of the US Air Force Budget. He was always ready for the adventure, challenge and rigorous demands of a military career.

Upon retirement, he walked his way back to good health and returned to work as a broker with Merrill Lynch in

the Delray Beach office, where he met and fell in love with his second wife, Romney. They moved to the mountains of Western NC in 1982, living in Cashiers for 16 years, before moving to Highlands. Bill loved his mountain homes and enjoyed long walks with his dogs and visits here from his family. He and Romney had 22 years of holidays in their cottage in the Scottish Highlands, an area which was close to their hearts.

He was active in many community organizations, ranging from the founding days of the (then) Cashiers Humane Society to the Jackson Co. Homebuilders Assn. Bill loved assisting with the Special Operations Adventure Race, and supported the Special Ops Warrior Foundation in any way he could. He served as a Vestryman and Senior Warden at the Church of the Good Shepherd, founding President of

• See OBITUARIES page 4





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...OBITUARIES continued from page 3

the Cashiers Rotary, a member of the Foundation Board of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, a Mentor with the Georgia Liver Transplant Foundation and Director of the NC Cardio-pulmonary Rehabilitation Association. His involvement with Cardiac Rehab continued until the end of his life, with volunteer service at Healthtracks, and his appreciation for excellent healthcare given by his doctors, nurses and care-givers was endless. He supported the Highlands-Cashiers Audubon Society, referring to himself as a "Birder by Marriage," and was a member of the Highlands Falls Country Club.

Bill always encouraged his family and friends to be the best at whatever they were doing. He will continue to be loved and missed by his family, daughter Dana Lee Bathurst, son Bill Bathurst, Ir and his wife, Debra, and two grandsons, William III and Ian, of Delray Beach, FL and by his niece, Iill J. Bathurst, and her children Jimmy and Kelly of Lasne, Belgium. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Stephen and Ruth Willson, and

his nieces, Lauren Lawson and Romney Beebe, Their husbands and children were dearly loved and very much a part of his life.

As a mentor and inspiration, Bill was a part of many lives, always encouraging education, advancement and improvement. He mentored many young people and touched

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, at 2PM at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Highway 107 S., Cashiers. A reception will follow in Hines Hall His ashes will be interred at the US Military Academy Cadet Cemetery in a private service later this year. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, Tampa, FL, Four Seasons Hospice, or the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Association.

As long as our friends and loved ones live on in our hearts, they will never die. Grip Hands.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Bathurst

•See OBITUARIES page 5

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...OBITUARIES continued from page 4

family. Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Mary Regina Paoletti

Mary Regina Paoletti, a long-time Highlands resident and business owner passed on to be with our Lord on Monday, January 18th after a lengthy illness. She was surrounded by family and her dear friend, Stella White, when she passed very peacefully.

'Gina' as she was affectionately known, was a parishioner of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church where she was a proud Eucharistic Minister.

She was born in South Bend, IN on May 2nd, 1935 the second of two daughters. Upon

graduating St. Mary's Academy in South Bend she moved to Miami, FL and attended Barry College, where she was the Editor-in-Chief of the Barry Gazette and earned a degree in English. In 1952 she met Louis Francis Paoletti. They married in 1956 and had six children.

She learned the restaurant business from Louis and together they had two restaurants in the greater Miami area. At their Coral Gables location she was instrumental in obtaining the city's first liquor license given to a restaurant. In 1975 Louis and Gina relocated to Delray Beach where they promptly opened another Paoletti's. The seasonal winter business of Delray led her to explore a tip

from a fellow former parishioner, Leo Blair, to consider Highlands for a second 'summer' location. Having no fear of the unknown Gina made her way to Highlands and found a cheese shop on Main Street that she converted

> into a restaurant. With every penny they could borrow, Paoletti's on Main Street opened on July 8th 1984 with the help of sons, Arthur, John and Kevin.

> An avid animal lover and member of the Humane Society & ASPCA, Gina especially loved dogs and always had one at her side. She was also a lover and benefactor of the Arts, especially the opera and symphony.

She is survived by her eldest daughter, Regina Paoletti Moller, her son, Arthur Paoletti and wife Meg, Louis Paoletti and wife Julie, daughter, Rita Paoletti, son John Paoletti and wife, Ingrid,

son Kevin Paoletti and fiancé, Kim Brennan. Five grandchildren, Arthur Moller IV, Adriana Moller, Louie Paoletti, Jr., Joseph Paoletti and Nicole Paoletti, also survive her. She was predeceased by her husband Louis in 1978.

Gina will be greatly missed by her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many friends. Her memory will live on through her at Paoletti's Restaurant on Main Street, where 'Mrs. P' is a legend in her own rite and was known to have said 'They put it all on me!'

A viewing will be held on Friday January 22, 2016 from 6-8 p.m. at Macon Funeral Home in Franklin, North Carolina. Mass of a Christian Burial will be celebrated on

Saturday, January 23, 2016 at noon at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Highlands, NC. A reception will follow the service at the Old Edwards Inn on Main Street.

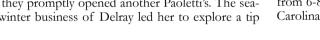
Memorial donations can be made to Hospice House Foundation, PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744; local ASP-CA or local humane society.



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MLK, Jr. Event Honors Boy Choir
Choir to perform at the Episcopal Church on Sunday, May 22 at 5 p.m.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service held last week at Georgia's State Capitol in Atlanta honored Maestro Fletcher Wolfe and The Atlanta Boy Choir for their long time service to the Civil Rights Movement.

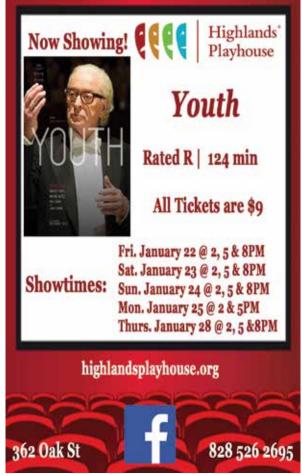
Maestro Wolfe, friend of Coretta Scott King for many years, was responsible for the first time integrating the Arts in Georgia. Along with his acceptance of all races into the Atlanta Boy Choir, his Atlanta Chamber Opera Co. was the first to present Black and White performers together. His Magic Flute performance many years ago cast Donna Angel, a white girl from Mississippi who later founded the Capitol City Opera Co., and Lawrence Weaver, a black tenor who continued his opera career throughout the world.

Coretta Scott King praised Maestro Wolfe's efforts and became one of his ardent supporters. Mrs. King invited Maestro Wolfe's choir to be seated and sing on the very first float from The King Center taking part in the initial Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. Later on, during their close cooperation on several projects Maestro Wolfe invited Mrs. King to preside at the occasion of Italy's First Lady, Maria Pia Fanfani's visit to the Atlanta Boy Choir whom she regarded as her "Godchildren."

Last week's event honoring Maestro Wolfe and The Choir took place in The Capitol Rotunda with the King Family present along with members of Georgia's General Assembly and Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle. Maestro Wolfe and The Choir are well known in Highlands due to Maestro's long tenure as Choir Director at Highland's Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Dr. Robert Henry, Maestro Wolfe's protégé and assistant director, is now Music Director at Incarnation and was present for this event along with Jeff Akana, tenor soloist from Incarnation.

The Atlanta Boy Choir appears each Spring in concert at Highland's Episcopal Church and this year's concert will take place on Sunday, May 22nd at 5pm. You may receive more information concerning this concert by calling 404.378.0064 or by emailing info@atlantaboychoir.org.





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Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad. \$20.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad. \$20.95 serves four

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...ROOF continued from page 1

a remedy to the situation will only be done if handled by the county and school board.

During the December meeting of the board of education, Bell noted that to replace the roof it would cost anywhere between \$175,000-\$200,000, something the school board supported approaching the county to fund.

During the joint meeting between the two boards, the county offered a different approach to addressing the problem.

"We agree 100 percent with the school board that this problem needs to be addressed," said County Manager Derek Roland. "In addition to considering a \$200K complete roof replacement, county representatives on the facilities review committee felt it necessary to see if any other options were available. Upon discussions with the county maintenance director, a certified roof installer, and an engineer who designs these types of roofing systems and following their site visits to Highlands School, it appears that a lack of ventilation could play a major role in the leakage."

With improper ventilation being one of

the problems on the roof, Roland said adding ventilation might fix the problem without having to replace the roof entirely, saving capital outlay funds for other projects within the school system.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said that it doesn't matter which approach is taken to remedy the problem, as long as the roof is fixed in the near future as the water damage is significant and prompts a safety issue for students.

"Our desire is to have the roof leak eliminated," he said. "We are hopeful this can be accomplished with a repair. Since it is impractical to replace a roof during the winter months, we have time to consider alternatives."

While meeting jointly, Dr. Baldwin noted that the roof is one issue at Highlands and another is windows that need to be replaced were left out of the QZAB project. "Highlands and Union are over 99 percent complete," said Dr. Baldwin. "We are finishing up with the installation of blinds, etc., at Union this week. Some of the windows at Highlands have been delayed due to issues with the manufacturer, but we expect those to be installed next week."

...SECURITY continued from page 1

going to look at the courthouse now to see if those recommendations still make sense today.

Charged by the Macon County Board of Commissioners, Holland is in the process of developing a committee comprised of court-house staff, judges, security, and members of the community to take a cautious, in depth look at the issue and make a recommendation. Holland noted that the process wouldn't be rushed and would be something that takes time to ensure the best option is met for the community.

"I have said for a long time that we need to take a serious look at our security measures at the courthouse and I agree with Commissioner Higdon that now is as good a time as any," said Holland. "Superior Court Judges across the state have given commissioners directives to address the same issues Commissioner Higdon mentioned, so I don't think we need to wait until we get ordered to take the appropriate steps."

Commissioner Higdon's security request was two-fold. In addition to increasing security at the Macon County Courthouse, he asked the board to consider the county's policy surrounding the county's concealed carry permits. Higdon said that he wants county employees to be able to protect themselves if so desired while working in county buildings, but as it stands, weapons, including those permitted through the state's concealed-carry laws, are not permitted on county property.

Higdon suggested that law be examined. Higdon said his concern came after speaking to county employees housed in the basement of the courthouse.

While commissioners said the county's policy could be evaluated, even if concealed-carry permit holders were allowed to carry weapons on county property, state laws prohibit weapons from being in the courthouse or where state employees are housed, which is the case for the Macon County courthouse.



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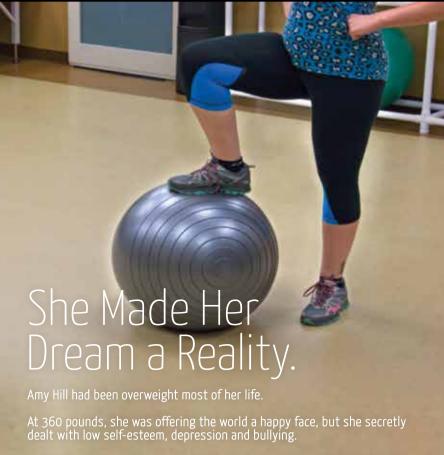
Owner/Stylist: Lacy Jane Vilardo Stylists: Heather D. Escandon, Maggie Barden, Bri Field Nail Tech: Jenna Schmitt

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AUDITIONS "MARCH MEDLEY" Four One-Act Plays Highlands-Cashiers Players' Winter Production **A Dinner Theatre** Directed by Donna Cochran 828-526-2080 When: Sunday, January 24 2:30 p.m. Where: Downstairs in the PAC (Performing Arts Center) **Performance Dates:** March 11, 12, 13 & March 18, 19, 20

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Amy believed her ability to overcome obesity was only a dream. Even after both of her parents underwent successful gastric bypass surgery and began losing weight, Amy was resigned to always being heavy.

Then her doctor said she would likely be unable to have children unless she managed her weight.

Fueled by determination to become a mother, Amy chose the Mission Weight Management program, the same program trusted by her parents, to help her meet her weight-loss goals. Under the direction of an expert team including Dr. Peeter Soosaar of Regional Surgical Specialists, Amy committed to following significant lifestyle changes and underwent a successful gastric bypass surgery, the last necessary step toward living a new, healthier life.

Now Amy is 180 pounds lighter. As a family, she, her husband and her parents have lost over 670 pounds.

Having achieved a healthy and manageable weight, Amy can now focus on making her biggest dream come true – becoming a mom.

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 goals.

To hear more personal stories like Amy's, visit: mission-health.org/AmyHN



Be Well. Get Well. Stay Well.

Highlands Events

Winter Pool Schedule

Through May 27, 2016
LAP SWIM – ADULTS ONLY
Monday thru Friday
7 – 10 am, 6 lanes
AND Monday thru Thursday
5 – 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes
Sharing pool with water

aerobics @ 5:15 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays

PUBLIC SWIM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
3 - 5 pm & 6 - 8 pm
Wednesday 3 - 5 pm
Saturday I I am - 6 pm
Sunday I - 5 pm

WATER AEROBICS

Monday-Friday 10 - 11 am

Saturday 11:15 – noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:15 – 6 pm

Fee: \$4 per class or \$30 for 12 classes POOL PARTIES

Pool available on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

6 – 8 pm

Fee: \$75 // \$50 deposit required \$50 non-refundable deposit if party is cancelled or a no show less than 2 days before

Ist Wednesday of the month— Kayak Clinic

2nd Wednesday of the month— Youth Night

3rd Wednesday of the month— Water Volleyball

4th Wednesday of the month— Senior Night

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Call us about membership fees

ICE SKATING RINK

Open Thursday 1-8p Friday & Saturday 1-10p Sunday 1-8p

\$5 fee with our without skate rental

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.

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.

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 Bolshoi Ballet's 'Taming of the Shrew' Live from Moscow via satellite at PAC



Sunday, January 24 the Highlands Performing Arts Center will screen LIVE via Satellite on our Theater Screen the Bolshoi Ballet's production of Taming of the Shrew live from Moscow, at 12:55 p.m. Rather than a macho handbook, Taming of the Shrew can be construed as an encounter between two forces of nature, who recognize one another at last. They are fundamentally different from the society they live in, albatrosses among sparrows, and their excesses signal that they have yet to find a partner who can measure up to them. Their love is out of the ordinary. Tickets are available online at highlandspac. org, at the door or by calling the Performing Arts Center 828-526-9047. Adults: \$22 PAC Members: \$19 Students: FREE. Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

• 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.

Tuesday and Thursdays

- Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 \$5
- Pickle ball is played from 9:30-11a in the gym at the Rec Park.

Wednesdays

 Donation Based Meditation Wednesday nights w/Christopher Baxter at 6:30. at The Wellness Place.4 68 Dillard Road Highlands 8285269698

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 828-526-303 I 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 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

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

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 Maiestic 828-369-9474

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

Friday

Bolivia Pizza Night Fundraiser is Sunday

- 99ers Bridge at the Rec Park 9a to noon. **Every 3rd Friday**
- Senior Dinners are at noon November through April.

Thurs. Jan. 21

- Taize at Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30 PM
- The Macon County Caregiver Group meeting (weather permitting) starting at 6 PM at the Macon County Public Library located at 149 Siler Farm Rd Franklin. There will be a showing of

a taped webinar called "The Top 10 Mistakes Parents Make in Planning for Their Child's Future."

Fri., lan, 22

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor IIa to noon in the Hudson Library Meeting room. The mayor will discuss his trash initiative.

Sun., Jan 24

- Auditions for HCP's March Medley, 4 oneact plays, at 2:30 pm. at PAC downstairs.
- At PAC, Bolshoi Ballet Live via Satellite in HD at 12:45 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.
- Bolivia Mission Pizza Night Fundraiser for during the NFL Conference Championships. Order from noon until 8PM. You can order an 18-inch pizza with two toppings for \$25 or three or more for \$35. The toppings include cheddar cheese, mozzarella cheese (counts as only one topping) plus, mushrooms, beef, sausage, pepperoni, onions, peppers or black olives. A special order of a gluten-free pizza crust is also a possibility, but needs to be ordered ahead of time. To order a pizza call the Methodist church office at 526-3376 or Dr. Baumrucker at 526-3605.

Mon., Jan. 25

• The monthly meeting of the Jackson County Republican Party will be on Monday at Ryan's in Sylva 6 PM to eat, 6:30 PM to meet. Come meet the two Republican candidates who will be running for Commissioner in Jackson County. Mickey Luker is running for the District 4 seat now held by Mark Jones and Ron Mau is running for the District 3 seat held by Vicky Green. Say hello to and visit with For Jackson County GOP information, please call Ralph Slaughter @ 828 743-6491 or email: jacksonctygop@yahoo.com. Like us on Facebook at Jackson County Republican Party

Sat., Ian 30

At PAC, The Met Live in HD at 12:45 p.m.
 Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

Sat.. Feb. 27

• At PAC, National Theatre of London Live in HD at 1 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

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Angel w/Heart on Blue by Peter Max

...BAPTIST from page 1

requirements.

Basically, the addition would be built on the asphalt area between the two buildings. According to Town Planner Randy Feierabend the projects satisfies the required 70% built upon in the WS111-BW zone.

Though in the B2 zone, some years ago the traditional parking requirement for that zone was waived by the Town Board and public parking on Second and Oak streets has been used by members of the church. Members of the other churches in Highlands use public streets to park because the B1 district doesn't require parking.

However, though most of the asphalt area will be occupied by the new two-story Fellowship Hall, two spots will be designated handicap spots.

According to the application submitted by architect Jeff Weller, church staff doesn't believe the addition will draw more people, just better accommodate current members and staff.

The first step involved a recommendation by the Zoning Board, which was made last week; next the Town Board will set a public hearing followed by a vote.

The Zoning Board requested the property stay a church. If it ever changes it reverts back to is B2 zoning and as such would have to adhere to all stipulations in a B2 zone, including parking.

- KL



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Boys in the kitchen in the foster home in Montero, Bolivia preparing a pizza. Sun., Jan. 24, is the Bolivia Mission Pizza Night Fundraiser during the NFL Conference Champion-

sun., Jan. 24, is the Bolivia Mission Pizza Night Fundraiser during the NFL Conference Championships. Order from noon until 8PM. You can order an 18-inch pizza with two toppings for \$25 or three or more for \$35. The toppings include cheddar cheese, mozzarella cheese (counts as only one topping) plus, mushrooms, beef, sausage, pepperoni, onions, peppers or black olives. A special order of a gluten-free pizza crust is also a possibility, but needs to be ordered ahead of time. To order a pizza call the Methodist church office at 526-3376 or Dr. Baumrucker at 526-3605.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The art of being present

By Paul Christy

Pastor, Highlands United Methodist Church

had the honor of going to a funeral last week in John's Creek, GA, for one of my close friends and mentors in life, a man by the name of Bill Self. Bill was a big time Baptist preacher for more than 60 years of ministry and was very well educated and respected, not just in Baptist circles, but the church worldwide.

It may seem a little odd that a Methodist preacher would have so much respect for a Baptist preacher, but Bill was a preacher to all people, to all denominations and to even us Methodists.

Bill retired several years ago and he had a home here in Highlands with his wife Carolyn and Bill used to come to our church to worship on Sunday mornings when he was in High-

For the first few months after worship he would slide out the chapel side rather than the front to be anonymous. But then one day he came to see me during the week and sat in my office and said, "Hey Paul my name is Bill and I am a retired preacher and just wanted to come talk to you about ministry."

My initial thought was, I don't know who you are and why would I talk about ministry? But then something happened, he put me at ease and before I knew it I was bearing my soul to a total stranger. Then I googled him and I was impressed and amazed. Bill and I became fast friends and I don't know of anyone with whom I have shared a kindred spirit for ministry since my dad, who was a preacher.

Before I knew it Bill and I were talking every week and he was that person I could bear my heart and soul to about church, about life, about family, and even ask any question. I thought I was special because this big time preacher liked me.

But during the funeral for Bill last Thursday, I came to understand that Bill did that for everyone he met. Though a famous man, Bill never thought too much of himself, instead he thought more of the person he was talking to at any given moment -- he was present in the conversation. That is just who he was, he made all people feel like they were the only person in the room when he talked with them.

Bill noticed the waitress to the president of the bank and he made each one feel like they were special. That was his gift; that was his grace. I think about my life when I meet people and talk with them, I am not always present with them. I am often thinking about all the other things I need to be doing and I not always present. Bill was always present when he was talking with you and that affected me a lot.

So this week I want to challenge you as I challenge myself to be present when you talk with others because it is amazing what the simple gift of time and presence can give someone else. Who knows it might just change your life. I learned that from my dear friend Bill Self and I think he learned it from a man who lived some time ago who is still alive and well today. Jesus Christ.

I believe that Christ is alive when we are present with others. I believe Christ is alive when we take the time to get to know one another, and I believe Christ is alive when we love each other.

I challenge us all to stop, take the time to talk to each other, get to know each other, and to be present with one another because in doing that we might just find some common ground and in being present with one another we might just find a friend and a mentor in life. You never know.

John 3:16 **Proverbs 3:5** ACES TO WORSHIP

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 lim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: I Ia.m. Ist & 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

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 II a.m.; School: 9:30 Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast Wednesdays: Choir:5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am Bible Study:6 pm

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship 242 Hwy 107N, I/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814 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 I Ia & 7p. Bible Study 6p Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street Sundays: Worship: LL

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 SYNAGOĞUE

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: II 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-Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARÍAN UNIVERŠALIST 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

...WILDERNESS continued from page 1

or so of the forests.

While counties throughout the National Forest each have special interests in specific provisions of the proposed plan, locally, community members are split on whether additional acreage in the forest should be designated as wilderness areas.

A wilderness designation essentially puts the land off limits to anyone who wants to change the landscape. The federal government would not be able to change the area any more than a timber company wanting to harvest the

Wilderness areas are still fully accessible to the public, but the means of access are restricted to horseback, or other non-motorized access. Hunting, fishing, hik-

mine the plan for the next decade ing, and other outdoor recreation are permitted in wilderness areas.

> Currently in Macon County. there are 6,600 acres designated as wilderness, around four percent of the entire National Forest land in

This spring, the forest service is expected to reveal the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which is the next major milestone in the revision process.

The DEIS will present a range of management alternatives to the public, including recommendations for special land designations. such as wild and scenic rivers and wilderness.

The currently proposed plan calls for the wilderness areas in Macon County to essentially double. Groups in support of the additional proposed wilderness areas asked county commissioners for their support.

However, the resolution the commissioners passed in July 2014 was against additional wilderness areas. They agreed with local hunting groups citing the detrimental impact wilderness areas could have on wildlife habitats and the economy through the timber industry.

Macon County Commis-

sioner Chair Kevin Corbin said that while the county supports the public input process and he appreciates what the 13 groups supporting wilderness areas were trying to accomplish, he didn't think rescinding the previous passed resolution was justified, because the commissioners were simply stating their opinion and he didn't think that opinion had changed.

Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.

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OLICE & FIRE

The Highlands Police log entries from Ian. 5 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Ian. 5

• At 2:15 p.m., officers responded to a call from Scudders Gallery concerning a man drinking at the business after being told to leave.

lan. 10

· A little past midnight, William Carlos Green, 40, of Highlands, was arrested for escaping from custody, resisting arrest and fleeing to elude. He was held on a \$4,000 secured bond. His trial date is Feb. 4, 2016.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Jan.

Ian. I3

· The dept. conducted a smoke investigation at a residence on Raoul Road.

Jan. 14

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at Highlands School.

 At 5:50 p.m., the dept. investigated an odor at a residence on Satulah Ridge Road.

• At 5:53 p.m. the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

 At 6:14 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly F&R.

Ian. 17

• At 2:07 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on NC 28

• At 9:15 a.m., the dept, was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

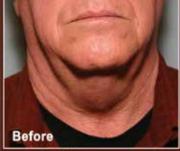


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Discovering the Magic of Our Communities Next Door

By Susie deVille Broker/Owner White Oak Realty Group

The Highlands-Cashiers area deservedly receives lots of sterling press and media attention and is rather well known throughout the Southeast and beyond as the best destination mountain resort. Many of our visitors and investors are well versed in the two communities and know the neighborhoods and amenities each offers. As wondrous as the Highlands-Cashiers offerings are, they sometime overshadow the visibility of our neighboring communities like Scaly Mountain, Sky Valley, and Heatherstone. In fact, some people who have been visiting the area for years are not even aware of the Scaly Mountain and north Georgia areas, much less their very appealing attributes.

I certainly understand that some investors simply want to be as close to Highlands as possible, with an ever-growing number of them wanting to be within a few blocks of Main Street. These buyers are attracted to the close proximity of restaurants, shops, pubs, and cultural offerings and want to walk to each. However, there are others who do not share the interest in being close to town and consider their mountain home as the ultimate sanctuary from their daily living, giving them a tranquil, traffic- and hubbub-free oasis. Such investors should consider exploring the Scaly Mountain and north Georgia areas as one can find a variety of home styles with amenities like lake/pond frontage, mountain views, and tennis/swimming/golf/hiking trails — at great price points and cool elevation.

Situated closest to Highlands is the gated King Mountain development in Scaly Mountain, offering tennis, a clubhouse, and swimming Rocky Knob, also a gated community in Scaly Mountain, features 17-acre Lake Osage, with a lakeside green space perfect for enjoying a picnic or simply relaxing. Next door to Rocky Knob is the Heatherstone area where the Heatherstone Tops and Heatherstone at Ford Mountain developments are located. Heatherstone Tops is a gated community with spectacular views, ponds, paved access and stunning homes. Heatherstone at Ford Mountain offers great mountain and lake views with charming year-round and getaway homes starting in the low \$200s and going up in value to the \$800K range.

Highland Gap is a mature, high-end private community with paved access from Highway 106 in the Scaly Mountain area. Designed with the buyer seeking a lower density neighborhood and almost pastoral feel, the development features larger-sized parcels at high elevation. Homes range in value from the \$400s to well over the million dollar mark.

Sky Valley has a public golf course, with 5 sets of tees, giving every level of player an enjoyable golfing experience. The golf course was originally developed by Bill Watts and was redesigned in 2007 by Atlanta golf course architect Bill Bergin. Golf Georgia noted, "Sky Valley can convincingly make a claim to be not only among the best mountain courses in Georgia, but among the best in the entire Southeast Mountain region." The new Sky Valley Country Club is open for lunch and dinner and hosts a great social program

• See INVESTING page 13



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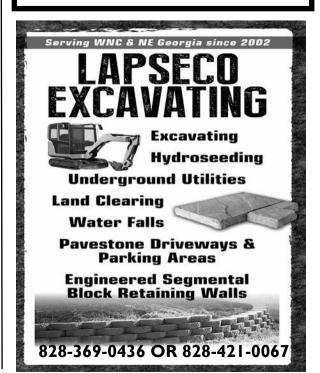
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...LETTERS continued from page 2

There was no intent on my part, nor awareness that my query would be construed as such. Merely asking the question is not painting with the same brush, xenophobic hysteria, Japanese internment nor. "countless other epic mistakes." The remarks of Ms Maxwell are conclusory and certainly not evidentiary.

Griffin Bell Highlands NC

Please clean up your county!

Dear Editor.

I live in the Triad area of NC and was on my way to work early last Monday morning after a long New Year's weekend. I saw a driver in a line of traffic two cars ahead of me pull over to the right side of the lane, slow down, and toss two large drink cups out the passenger side window. It amazed me that this guy had no concern whatsoever about doing such a thoughtless and inconsiderate thing in front of so many people! He obviously thought nothing of it – business as usual. I guess that is how it is now in the urban areas of our state. I urge the citizens of Western North Carolina





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not to let this level of indifference seep into your beautiful mountain communities.

Over the last 10 years, I have traveled from Greensboro to Macon County, NC, three times a year for fishing trips and rafting, to drive the Blue Ridge Parkway, to see the many waterfalls and hike the mountain trails, and to visit your local shops and restaurants.

I have always tried to teach my kids to appreciate their surroundings and to "leave it better than they found it." It appears that not everyone is teaching the same lessons.

Sadly, I have noticed in recent years an increased amount of trash and debris on the roadsides and in the streams. It has become almost as bad as the cities! It truly detracts from my family's vacation experience and I hope your local community leaders will take the issue seriously.

To be able to live full time in such a picturesque area of our state is a blessing that should not be taken for granted. Those of us who can only visit the Great Smokey Mountains periodically hope that you will recognize how lucky you are and take steps to preserve the natural beauty that surrounds you. I know there are already laws against littering on the books and I hope you will take steps to see that they are enforced to the greatest extent possible.

We have already started planning our next trip to the mountains. I know tourism is very important to your local shops and businesses so please keep in mind the negative effect so much litter and roadside trash can have on visiting families. If not, I am afraid many families like mine will start spending their vacation dollars at the beach!

David B. Greensboro, NC

...INVESTING continued from page 12

for those in the area. In addition to golf, the Sky Valley community offers a pool, tennis courts, fitness room, hiking trails and fishing.

I heartily encourage everyone to learn more about the fun and inviting communities next door to Highlands. There are myriad activities to enjoy for every level of desired adventure: zip line tours, tubing, skating, fishing, hiking, swimming, golf, and more! Similarly, there is a wide range of property types in all price ranges for every budget. With only a 15-20 minute drive into downtown Highlands, you can, as Voltaire's character Pangloss would say, enjoy "the best of all possible worlds."

• Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

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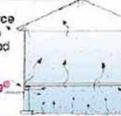
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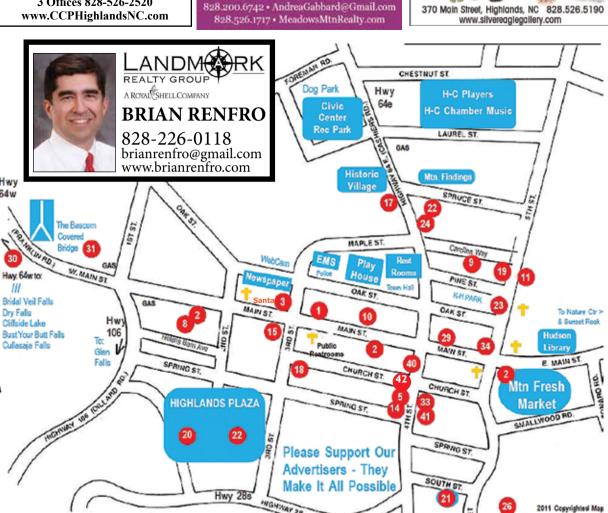






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