

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., March 10, 2016

Re-purposing interior of Rec Park on 'to do' list

During the Rec Park portion of Thursday's retreat, renovations to the stage area upstairs and the lower level workout rooms was discussed and will hopefully make it to the "to do" list for budget year 2016-'17.

The projects have been put on the back burner for a number of years but scheduling classes and having the space to accommodate the many classes now available at the park is becoming increasingly difficult.

Since the stage in the gymnasium is rarely used, the idea is to make it into an aerobics/exercise classroom with men's and women's locker rooms.

There is room for a 600 sq. ft. exercise room and 425 ft. for

locker rooms which would include two sinks, two toilets and one shower.

Architect Paul Schmitt was on hand to discuss preliminary plans. There will be a 48-inch con-

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Skateboard park on Rec Park wish list

Skateboarding is making a comeback and Highlands might be ready to add it to its recreation options.

At Thursday's retreat – where the board heard from department heads concerning their wish list for the 2016-'17 budget year -- the construction of a skateboard park on the Rec Park's outdoor basketball court was suggested.

Back in August of 2015, Mayor Pat Taylor brought the idea to the forefront.

"I and the police have had to ask skateboarders to leave Kelsey-Hutchinson Park where they were potentially damaging aspects of the park," said the Mayor. "There needs to be a place that will accommodate them without jeopardizing the lifestyle of the rest of Highlands' citizens."

• See SKATEBOARD page 5



Miranda Dotson

Dotson wins fourth 'Television News' emmy

Highlands native Miranda Dotson won her fourth Emmy Award at the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences 30th annual awards gala in Nashville, TN on February 27.

Dotson's Emmy win was in the Breaking News category – coverage of a catastrophic mechanical failure on a building scaffold, costing three workers their lives. She was also nominated in the Weather category for coverage of a winter event which virtually shut down the Triangle area of

North Carolina in 2015.

Since 2011, Dotson has worked as a news producer for WRAL-TV, Raleigh's NBC affiliate. She was selected to launch and currently produces the station's 4pm newscast. WRAL has long been ranked number one in the country's 25th largest television market.

The daughter of John "Buz" Dotson and Mary Dotson of Highlands, Dotson graduated from Highlands High School in

• See DOTSON page 3

County leaders conference in Washington D.C.

The National Association of County officials' (NACo) annual conference is when county leadership from across the country gather to develop goals and strategies that can help strengthen government on the county level. County leaders travelled to Washington D.C. last month to participate in the NACo conference and meet with federal representatives

on behalf of Macon County.

"In my opinion, the trip to Washington DC to the NACo conference is one of the most important items that we do as a commissioner," said MC Commissioner Jim Tate. "Part of the art of being successful in politics for Macon County is having the ability to establish relationships

• See COUNTY page 11

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Recap of last Thursday's Town Board retreat

Let me provide an update on last Thursday's Highlands Town Retreat. I want to thank First Presbyterian Church for allowing us to again meet in Coleman Hall. The presentations by the town staff were, as always, very professional.

The first item was a mid-year financial update by Town Manager, Bob Frye. Annual revenue projections are on track and department lines are within budget. As the fiscal year nears, minor adjustments will be made to balance a few budget lines.

The Town Manager stressed that substantial reserve funds have been spent in the last two years for needed capital projects, although Highlands still has a strong 33% reserve balance. Bob recommends we slow down spending on capital projects and allow the reserves to replenish.

The good news is that no increase in electrical rates is anticipated this year. After the dust of coal ash litigation settles, some form of Duke cleanup surcharges may impact rates the following year. Highlands has not had a water/sewer increase for a number of years. Reserve funds used



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

to maintain our plants and distribution systems are declining. A small adjustment in the rates will be needed this coming or the following year.

The Public Works Department head, Lamar Nix, identified several important projects. A top priority is the conversion of the water plant from treating water with chlorine gas to a less hazard-

ous bleach system. A consultant from W.K. Dixon identified several system options. He stressed postponing a decision, which has occurred for a decade, is no longer an option. The project will cost over \$500,000.

Lester Norris of Parks and Recreation gave an update on new recreation programs, such as the year-round swimming pool and ice skating. The financials and pool use are on track to be somewhat better than initial projections. Ice skating this first year has

been very popular and revenues to operate the rink are good. He also presented a draft of park policies and rules that will be reviewed and developed further over the next two months.

Architect Paul Schmitt presented drawings and designs for conversion of the stage on the first floor of the Rec Park to an aerobics room, and the renovation of the lower level area. If both projects are done this coming year, the cost could be between \$400,000 to \$500,000. The board will make the decision of what recreation projects to fund this new fiscal year while considering all needs on the town priority list.

Finally, Matt Shuler of our new broadband department introduced a consultant from Magellan Broadband. The consultant identified a number of options for moving to the next stages of developing our fiber network. He also emphasized that Highlands is one of about 200 small communities in the country working to provide broadband as an essential utility similar to electricity and water. He will attend an upcoming Town Board meeting to provide an analysis of design options and financial implications. As we move forward in this effort, careful study and judicious decisions must be made.

• LETTER •

Satulah Summit should be accessible to all generations

Dear Editor,

Satulah Mountain is my earliest memory in Highlands. Two generations piled in a car and drove to the end of Worley Road and then walked comfortably through the woods. We came out on the summit where, to our right, the wise old man of Whiteside smiled at us. After hopping down a ledge to our left on to a large outcropping we spread our arms wide and, with the wind in our faces, stood on top of the world looking down on creation.

In the late '80s, our two generations grew into three and added a sprightly cocker spaniel. It took a van now to get us all up there. Parents would carry babies in backpacks and grandparents would gently hold small toddler hands as we enjoyed our favorite family outing, with the spaniel as our

• See LETTER page 10

6-car pile up on the Gorge Road



Last Thursday's afternoon snow fall netted 2-3 inches of slippery snow that resulted in a 6-car pile up on the Gorge Road around 4:30 p.m. Schools were dismissed early and opened late on Friday.

— Photo by Bonnie Potts



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 •

Michael F. Little



Michael F. Little, age 72 years, passed away on Monday, February 29, 2016 in New Orleans, LA. Beloved husband of Elizabeth Sherman Little for 34 years. Loving father of Michael F. Little, Jr. (Vivian Bai) and Graham P. Little (Meredith Gould). Son of the late John Pat. Little and Claire Dolph Little. Brother of John P. Little, Jr. (Carole Andrews). Grandfather of Annika Marjorie Little and Matthew Wade Little.

Mr. Little was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Highlands, NC. He earned his Juris Doctor in 1968 from Tulane University. He was Past President of both the World Trade Center of New Orleans and Can-

cer Association of Greater New Orleans (CAGNO). Mr. Little was a member of The Pickwick Club and The Tally-Ho Club.

There was a memorial gathering at Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home, 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd., New Orleans, LA on Friday, March 4.

Interment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in honor of Mr. Little to either CAGNO, 824 Elmwood Blvd., Suite 154, New Orleans, LA 70123 or Milne Developmental Services, 1065 Milne Circle, Covington, LA 70435.

To view and sign the family guestbook, please visit www.lakelawnmetairie.com

...DOTSON continued from page 1

2004. She went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts in Communication at Wake Forest University and a minor in Political Science.

In December 2015, Dotson successfully defended her master's thesis to complete her Master of Arts in Technology and Communication from UNC Chapel Hill's School of Media and Journalism.

Judges considered over 800 entries before announcing the winners at the 30th Annual Midsouth Emmy Awards ceremony at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, TN. In all, WRAL-TV accepted 7 Emmys. WRAL is owned by Capitol Broadcasting Company.



The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 20

10:30am

in the Nave

Monday, March 21

5:30pm

in the Chapel

Tuesday, March 22

5:30pm

in the Chapel

Wednesday, March 23

5:30pm

in the Chapel

Thursday, March 24

7pm Maundy Thursday

Centering Prayer Monday-Friday at 9am in the Chapel

in the Chapel

Good Friday, March 25

12 noon Community Stations

of the Cross

1:30 Good Friday Liturgy in the Chapel

Easter Sunday, March 27

Holy Eucharist Rite II

9am & 11am

In the Nave

*No Sunday School

Easter Egg Hunt on the

Playground after

the 11 a.m. service

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...REC PARK from page 1

crete ramp to connect the stage with the gym floor with the mechanicals adapted to the space.

Cost for the project including consultants, drawings, engineering and construction monitoring would be \$206,150 and would take about six months to complete.

The lower level, where the weight room, exercise machines and aerobic area is now would be renovated to accommodate and expand the weight and exercise machine areas. The aerobic area would be eliminated and would move upstairs to the stage areas.

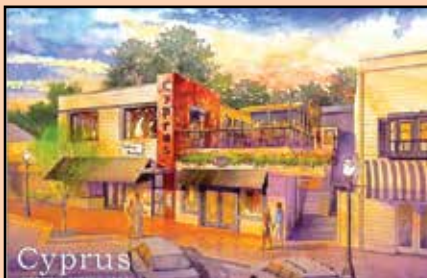
Rec Park Director Lester Norris said with the extra space, three machines would be added to the mix – a nautilus and an elliptical machine which are currently in storage and a recumbent machine would be purchased.

The cost to completely upgrade and renovate the area including the men's and women's locker rooms and bathrooms would be \$201,250 and would take about five months to complete.

Norris said the benefits include making use of wasted space, giving the 14 exercise classes their own space, separating the classes from the cable equipment which sits in the mechanical room across the exercise room. The stage

• See REC PARK page 7

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...SKATEBOARD continued from page 1

Due to town regulations, skateboarders aren't allowed to skate on town streets or sidewalks nor are they allowed to skateboard in K-H Founders Park.

"There has been a resurgence in skateboarding with skateboard parks being built across the country," said Rec Park Director Lester Norris. "And I have found it isn't as big a liability as people think. Participating in cycling, football, baseball and soccer causes more injuries than skateboarding."

Furthermore, Norris said the stigma of skateboarders' cult status has gone away and statistics show "a skateboard park is a place where skaters get together and enjoy the space, the camaraderie and the physical thrill of riding."

Norris said more than 10.5 million people skateboard nationwide now, making it one of the fastest growing sports in North America and Highlands would join the hundreds of municipalities open to the idea.

He said statistics show "when you give your community a safe place to skate, you will realize that skate

parks bring more life and attraction to your park, and that the investment was one of the best things you could have done for your community."

Commissioners were open to the idea but said it might have to wait until the 2017-'18 budget year since Rec Park building renovations that have been put on the back burner for a few years are at the forefront this budget cycle. Norris is pursuing grants to fund the construction and said that would fall in line with his time-line.

The estimated cost is \$100,000 to \$125,000 with possible grants from the Tony Hawk Foundation and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

Turns out skateboard professional Tommy Hawk may be able to help guide the town in its endeavor – his Foundation favors projects that have strong community involvement, grassroots fundraising, and a base of support from the skaters, parents, law enforcement, and local leaders.

Of course insurance is a big question when it comes to inviting people to participate in an extreme sport on

town property.

The range of costs for insuring a skateboard park varies widely depending upon the policies of a town's insurance company and on whether the town chooses to directly operate the skate park.

Mayor Taylor said it's likely all activities on the Rec Park grounds would be covered under the town's broad insurance policy, but these are aspects still under consideration.

– Kim Lewicki

Highlands ONE STOP LOCATIONS, DAYS AND TIMES

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

Dates: Through March 12

Monday-Friday 9AM to 4PM

Saturday March 12, 9AM to 1PM

Primary is Tuesday, March 15. Polls are open 6:30a to 7p

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.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Ballot Style R0001

Sample Republican Primary Ballot
Macon County, North Carolina
March 15, 2016

R001

BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS:
A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.
B. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.

PARTISAN OFFICES	NC Attorney General (You may vote for ONE)	Board of County Commissioners District 2 (You may vote for ONE)
Presidential Preference (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Buck Newton <input type="radio"/> Jim O'Neill	<input type="radio"/> Ron Haven <input type="radio"/> Karl E. Gillespie
<input type="radio"/> Mike Huckabee <input type="radio"/> John R. Kasich <input type="radio"/> Rand Paul <input type="radio"/> Marco Rubio <input type="radio"/> Rick Santorum <input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump <input type="radio"/> Jeb Bush <input type="radio"/> Ben Carson <input type="radio"/> Chris Christie <input type="radio"/> Ted Cruz <input type="radio"/> Carly Fiorina <input type="radio"/> Jim Gilmore <input type="radio"/> No Preference	NC Commissioner of Agriculture (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Andy Stevens <input type="radio"/> Steve Troxler	
	NC Commissioner of Insurance (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Joe McLaughlin <input type="radio"/> Ronald (Ron) Pierce <input type="radio"/> Mike Causey	Board of County Commissioners District 3 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Paul Higdon <input type="radio"/> Greg Boyer <input type="radio"/> Emmanuel (Manny) Carrion
		REFERENDUM
		Connect NC Public Improvement Bond
		The issuance of two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) State of North Carolina Public Improvement Bonds constituting general obligation bonds of the State secured by a pledge of the faith and credit and taxing power of the State for the purpose of providing funds, with any other available funds, to fund capital improvements and new facilities for the State, including, without limitation, the construction and furnishing of new facilities and the renovation and rehabilitation of existing facilities for, without limitation, the University of North Carolina System, the North Carolina Community College System, water and sewer systems, the State's National Guard, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, attractions and parks, and the Department of Public Safety.
US Senate (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Michael LaPaglia <input type="radio"/> A. J. Daoud	<input type="radio"/> For <input type="radio"/> Against
<input type="radio"/> Larry Holmquist <input type="radio"/> Paul Wright <input type="radio"/> Greg Brannon <input type="radio"/> Richard Burr	NC Superintendent of Public Instruction (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Mark Johnson <input type="radio"/> J. Wesley Sills <input type="radio"/> Rosemary Stein	
NC Governor (You may vote for ONE)		
<input type="radio"/> Pat McCrory <input type="radio"/> Charles Kenneth Moss <input type="radio"/> C. Robert Brawley	NC House of Representatives District 120 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Elliott J. Southworth <input type="radio"/> Kevin Corbin	

SAMPLE BALLOT

Ballot Style D0003

Sample Democratic Primary Ballot
Macon County, North Carolina
March 15, 2016

D003

BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS:
A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.
B. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.

PARTISAN OFFICES	NC Lieutenant Governor (You may vote for ONE)	REFERENDUM
Presidential Preference (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Holly Jones <input type="radio"/> Ronald L. Newton <input type="radio"/> Robert Earl Wilson <input type="radio"/> Linda Coleman	Connect NC Public Improvement Bond
<input type="radio"/> Martin J. O'Malley <input type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders <input type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton <input type="radio"/> Roque Rocky De La Fuente <input type="radio"/> No Preference	NC Attorney General (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Josh Stein <input type="radio"/> Marcus W. Williams	The issuance of two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) State of North Carolina Public Improvement Bonds constituting general obligation bonds of the State secured by a pledge of the faith and credit and taxing power of the State for the purpose of providing funds, with any other available funds, to fund capital improvements and new facilities for the State, including, without limitation, the construction and furnishing of new facilities and the renovation and rehabilitation of existing facilities for, without limitation, the University of North Carolina System, the North Carolina Community College System, water and sewer systems, the State's National Guard, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, attractions and parks, and the Department of Public Safety.
US Senate (You may vote for ONE)		<input type="radio"/> For <input type="radio"/> Against
<input type="radio"/> Ernest T. Reeves <input type="radio"/> Chris Rey <input type="radio"/> Deborah K. Ross <input type="radio"/> Kevin D. Griffin	NC Commissioner of Labor (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Charles Meeker <input type="radio"/> Mazie Ferguson	
US House of Representatives District 11 (You may vote for ONE)	NC Superintendent of Public Instruction (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Henry J. Pankey <input type="radio"/> June Atkinson	
<input type="radio"/> Tom Hill <input type="radio"/> Rick Bryson		
NC Governor (You may vote for ONE)	NC Treasurer (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Dan Blue III <input type="radio"/> Ron Elmer	End of Ballot
<input type="radio"/> Ken Spaulding <input type="radio"/> Roy Cooper		

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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

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

\$20.95 serves four

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

\$23.95 serves four

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

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...REC PARK continued from page 4

room will add another multi-use space when needed, minimize sound disruptions from music which is often played during the exercise classes and frees up much needed room in the Nautilus and free weight room.

No decisions were made concerning funding. Town Manager Bob Frye said that across the board not everything can be funded this year.

"During 2014-'15 we used our fund balance for capital projects, but that's what it is for. Our fund balance is at 38% but it enabled us to do the things we did. It has been as high at 48%. But we can't continue to rely on the fund balance to fund everything because we will eventually run out of money."

Ice Skating Rink

Even though Art and Angela Williams of Old Edwards Hospitality Group are footing the bill for the ice rink operations for five years, figures show that including one-time expenses and consumables, the ice rink netted \$10,000 the short time it was open.

"We had anywhere from 80 people a day to one day when we had 240 people," said Rec Park Director Norris.

The rink is closed now and will be dismantled once the ice completely melts.

Town Manager Frye said areas of the

plaza under the rink have to be repaired and when the temperature is over 45 degrees it's hard to keep the ice frozen.

He said the plan is to have the rink open Thanksgiving weekend through Feb. 14 next year.

"All and all, the ice rink did really well," said Norris.

Pool

Likewise business at the Rec Park pool has been better than expected considering it opened later than planned.

"We were concerned about heating in the winter and budgeted \$50,000 but it turns out the pool is like a big green house so it's only cost \$22,000 to heat it," said Frye.

"It has been used more than we thought it would be, not as much as we would like, but still good," said Norris.

Besides Rec Park improvements, commissioners must consider capital outlay expenses requested in the Public Works Department which includes wall repair projects, paving, water system projects, sewer system projects and the water plant gas treatment replacement project.

General Fund revenues are down but so are expenditures. Expenditures in 2014-'15 were \$7.1 million and so far for 2015-'16 they are only \$3,745,762.

"Overall we are working on less rev-

enues than last year, but still doing very well," said Town Manager Bob Frye.

Since expenditures outweigh revenues in the water and sewer funds as well as the sanitation fund, it's likely rates will increase.

Happily the electric rates are holding steady and a rate hike isn't planned for the upcoming budget year.

— Kim Lewicki



Pottery Sale

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Owner/Stylist: Lisa L. Shearon; Stylist: Jane B. Earp;
Stylist/Nail Tech: Kristi Billingsley; Nail Tech: Katie Baker Passmore
828-526-9477 • 225 Spring Street, Highlands

Call for an
appointment
TODAY

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Sina & Simon

Color, Cuts, Up Do's, Highlights, Massage, Facials, Manicures,
Pedicures, Reflexology, Personal Training

OPEN: Tuesday - Saturday at 10a

Located behind Highlands Decorating Center
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Upstairs and Across the Walkway
at "Falls on Main" Highlands (828) 526-3939

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Nail Tech: Jenna Schmitt

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Located at 680 N. 4th. St., Highlands
Open Mon-Sat 10a to 5p

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Winter Pool Schedule

Through May 26, 2016

LAP SWIM – ADULTS ONLY

Monday thru Friday

7 – 10 am, 6 lanes

AND Monday thru Thursday

5 – 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes

Sharing pool with water

aerobics @ 5:15 on

Mondays, Tuesdays, and

Thursdays

PUBLIC SWIM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

3 – 5 pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

6 – 8 pm

Saturday 11 am – 6 pm

Sunday 1 – 5 pm

WATER AEROBICS

Monday-Friday

10:15 am

Monday - Thursday 5:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Saturday 11:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Fee: \$4 per class or

\$30 for 12 classes

POOL PARTIES

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

1st Wednesday of the month—

Kayak Clinic

2nd Wednesday of the month—

Youth Night

3rd Wednesday of the month—

Water Volleyball

4th Wednesday of the month—

Senior Night

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Call us about membership fees

Ongoing

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

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

Last Sundays

• At The Wellness Center, donation based Sound Healing Concert. Learn how to use Music to heal your Nervous System and Reduce Your Stress Naturally at 3pm. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698

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

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

Mondays

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

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

Mon. & Wed.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

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

Tuesdays

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

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

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

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

Every 3rd Tuesday

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

Last Tuesdays

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

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

1st Wednesdays

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

3rd Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Choral Workshop and Concert



On Saturday, May 7, Highlands First Presbyterian Church's Chancel Choir will host a Choral Workshop which will be open to all interested singers in the area. Participants will perform in a concert for the public at 7pm that evening in the church's sanctuary. The event will be facilitated by Master British Composer/Conductor Philip W.J. Stopford, a close friend of First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir member Nan Hunter. Through her generosity, Nan is making this event possible.

In addition to being a highly acclaimed composer of choral music, Mr. Stopford is also an accomplished organist, conductor, and choral trainer. He has recently accepted a position as Director of Music at Christ Church in Bronxville, NY, and just relocated there from his home in Chester, England.

The Choral Workshop will take place in First Presbyterian Church's sanctuary as follows:

• 12:30- 2:45pm - **1st Rehearsal Session**

• 2:45-3:15pm - **Break**/brown bag snack brought by singer

• 3:15 – 5:30pm - **2nd Rehearsal Session**

• 5:30pm - **Light Dinner** served in Coleman Hall at a cost of \$5

• 7pm - **Concert**

Attire for the concert will be all black for ladies: long black dresses, long skirts/tops, or dress slacks/tops; Men: black trousers, white long sleeved dress shirts, long dark neck ties, preferably black.

If you plan to participate in this event or if you would like more details, please call Nan Hunter at 828-526-1881 or 828-200-3101. Rehearsal time will be limited, so to the extent they can, participants should become as familiar as possible with the music before our big day.

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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.

Thur., March 10

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Riverview Street, Franklin. Sherrie Peeler, Family and Consumer Science Agent with the Jackson County Extension Center will speak on Radon and its connection with Lung Cancer in our area. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

• The March meeting of the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club, Inc. will be on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School in Glenville, NC. The School is located at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashers NC. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets in Glenville the second Thursday of every month March through November.

Fri.-Sun., March 11-13

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents a Dinner Theatre. with four one-act plays. Fridays and Saturdays at 6:15 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 1:15 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Sat., March 12

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 7-mile moderate hike, elevation change 950 ft., on the Ridge Trail to Dyke Gap in the Coweeta Hydrological Lab area, returning to Shope

Creek Rd. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9:00 am, drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Mon., March 14

• The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 on March 14, 2016, in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For Further information, please contact 828-524-2673.

Tues., March 15

• Highlands School kindergarten registration at 10 a.m.

• Yoga Highlands offers Nourishing Our Children: Food and Behavior and the Connection to True Health. We welcome parents, teachers, and anyone wanting to know more. Tuesday, at 5:30 pm, 464 Carolina Way, 828-526-8880 for more info. FREE

Sat., March 16

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

Thurs., March 17

• The Walking of a Labyrinth at 5:30p at the Incarnation Episcopal Church. This is an ancient form meditating and /or praying in the church. The Cathedral in Chartes, France has a labyrinth in mosaic as the floor of the sanctuary. We are very lucky to have a visiting labyrinth available to us. Please come join us for a time of soft music, special lighting and peace. This is a practice for all seeking a time of introspection and meditation. All welcome.

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



David Spivey and Virginia Talbot play a couple receiving strange fortune cookies in a Chinese restaurant; the scene occurs in the Highlands Cashiers Players' dinner theater, "March Medley," featuring four short plays and a four course meal March 11-13 and 18-20 at Highlands Performing Arts Center. For tickets and more information, call 526-8084. Leave your name and number for a call back if phone is untended or busy at the time you call.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Obituary

By Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist Church

I've written my obituary. The answer is no, no, I don't have any premonition of nor wish for death. But as someone has said: The statistics for death are impressive. One out of every one persons dies.

My obituary doesn't contain any of the information found in most obituaries. Conspicuous by their absence are any references to where I've been, what I've done, schools attended, degrees earned, awards received, etc. Those things are already known to those to whom they matter.

My obituary includes only three or four typed lines. Those lines will be sufficient to communicate what my life's been about.

Lest you think I'm trafficking in morbidity, the truth is that you also have been and are writing your own obituary as well. However, there's a critical difference in all obituaries – a dividing line, if you will. It is this: On the one hand an obituary deals solely with the life that's been lived. This typifies most obituaries. On the other hand an obituary deals with the life that has been lived in preparation for the continuing life.

The Bible never speaks of death in terms of cessation, only separation. A person who dies doesn't cease. They're only separated from this life. The Bible goes on to teach that our ongoing lives are either in the presence of Jesus Christ in Heaven or separated from it in the presence of hell. Both a wonderful and terrible truth – all in one sentence.

Easter is a little more than two weeks away. For Jesus – a torturous cross and a miraculous resurrection.

The Savior of the world came and lived, died and then resurrected for you! He wants you in heaven with Him forever. To be sure, unless Jesus returns soon we will all die a physical death. But it's not the end. It's only the doorway to heaven and eternity.

I hope you will turn to Him in this Easter season. I hope you will come to know Him increasingly and passionately. He has forever conquered death, hell and the grave.

Every obituary CAN read differently because of Jesus Christ. For eternity's sake, I hope yours will.

...LETTER continued from page 2

line leader.

We added handfuls of photographs as we shared Satulah with friends who came to visit. Satulah became the traditional Thanksgiving hike we shared with extended family and a quiet New Year's stroll. Our cocker spaniel felt like a mastiff up there.

Our three generations will soon turn into four but things have changed up on Worley Road. We are no longer welcome to park at the end of Worley Road and load babies in backpacks. My parents, physically hampered, will not hold their great grandchild's hand as we walk comfortably to see the wise old man of Whiteside, nor teach about the unique flora there, nor will they be with us when we spread the ashes of our beloved cocker spaniel. For what reason are the youngest and the oldest of us being restricted from The Sea of Views?

The first home we purchased in Highlands was bordered on two sides by Land Trust land. We understood

• See LETTER page 14

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

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

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

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

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 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.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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

• POLICE & FIRE •

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 1:30 p.m., a person verbally threatened a 7-year-old on a school bus while parked at Highlands School.

Feb. 23

• At 8:16 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

Feb. 24

• At 1:10 a.m., Edward Madison Minus, 28, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI, driving without a license and driving with an open container. He was issued at \$1,000 unsecured bond. His court date was March 9. His vehicle was impounded at the Highlands Police Dept.

Feb. 25

• At 5 p.m., officers received a call for service regarding the welfare of a 4-year-old.

The Highlands Fire & Res-

cue Dept. log from Feb. 20.

Feb. 20

• At 10:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

• At 5:49 p.m., the dept. investigated the source of smoke at Edwards Creek Road.

• At 11:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falling Water Drive.

Feb. 23

• At 12:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Cullasaja Club Drive.

...COUNTY continued from page 1

with all levels of government. Our Federal government is a tremendous portion of that due to the quantity of land that it owns in Macon County and the massive Federal funds that flow through our local government to benefit our citizens. It is difficult to describe the importance of having and maintaining a first name relationship with our senators and congressmen, especially when we need something for Macon County that our Federal government controls.”

Tate, along with Commission Chair Kevin Corbin, Commissioner Ronnie Beale, and County Manager Derek Roland spent the week in Washington D.C. in late February, joining more than 1,600 county leaders from across the United States.

A contingent of almost 150 county officials from North Carolina attended the conference and worked with their counterparts from across the nation to emphasize to Congress and the White House that federal policies matter to county government and county government matters to America.

In meetings with lawmakers and Administration officials, county leaders outlined several key federal policy priorities including:

- Protecting municipal bonds
- Supporting marketplace fairness
- Supporting the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs
- Achieving mental health and criminal justice reform, and
- Preserving county interests

in the “Waters of the U.S.” rule and other federal regulations that impact counties

Many congressional and Administration leaders spoke at the conference, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Sen. John McCain, Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Acting Secretary of Education John B. King, Jr., Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julián Castro, Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Jerry Abramson, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Michael Botticelli and Director of the National Science Foundation Dr. France Córdova.

There were more than two dozen educational workshops focused on topics like work-

force and economic development; transportation and infrastructure; public health and safety; mental health and jails; and cybersecurity and technology.

While at the conference, Corbin, Tate, Beale and Roland attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) annual Congressional Breakfast. Both of the state’s senators and seven of the 13 members of the House of Representatives participated in the breakfast. Many delegates pledged to work with counties on many of the 11 federal priorities adopted by the NCACC Board of Directors for 2015-16.

“It was very nice to have an opportunity to sit down and have breakfast with our national representatives and senators,” said Roland. “It gave us an opportunity

• See COUNTY page 13



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Friday—Sunday, March 11, 12, 13
Friday—Sunday, March 18, 19, 20
Fridays & Saturdays at 6:15 p.m.
Sunday Matinees at 1:15 p.m.

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Real Estate Design Trends for 2016

"Everyone has to invent his/her own thing."

~ Karl Lagerfeld

As I write this, we are coming to the end of the series of Fashion Weeks in New York, London, Milan, and Paris. Designers have brought their best, wowing "A-List" crowds, fashion editors, and street style fans across the world.

As is the case every season, there are a number of new trends and fashion-forward styles captivating the imaginations of those who live and breathe fashion. Some runway designs will be modified for everyday wear, while some bold souls will don the outlandish and will confidently strut their stuff.

Regardless of where one falls on the fashion continuum, each of us expresses ourselves via our clothes, whether one is in a track suit, a Dior dress, or pair of jeans and a tee shirt. One makes dozens of fashion choices each week; those choices comprise our expression of style to the world.

Similarly, our homes offer an array of style and design choices and reflect our tastes – our deepest reflections of whom we are and what we value. I thought it would be fun to have a look at what is trending now in real es-



Susie deVille
Broker-in-Charge
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tate style and share some of the top interior design trends for 2016.

1. Geometric Patterns.

While we have been heading in this direction for some time now, there seems to be an even stronger push now toward very bold pattern choices. We are seeing bold, geometric

patterns in everything from back-splashes, wallpaper designs, and flooring. These patterns feel very modern, contemporary, funky, and fun.

2. Metallics and Metals.

This was a surprise! Gold and metallic finishes are very popular once more (didn't we just renovate our fixtures and remove all things brass?). This Midcentury Modern trend is bringing the '50s and '70s back to interiors this season.

3. Blurring the Line between Inside and Outside.

This is one trend I can solidly support – especially here in the mountains. The idea is to beautify your interiors with lots of greenery, update your landscaping for maximum outdoor living, and transform porches and decks into highly-designed spaces with luxurious furnishings and decorative accessories.

4. Handmade Decorative Accessories.

From baskets to pillows and from rugs to lamps, the trend now

is to source local, handmade items to jazz up what might have been a more "mass-produced" feel inside the home. Designers are suggesting that homeowners seek out the unusual – the unique – for interiors, as well as make strong pairing choices with different textiles, materials, and patterns.

5. Blue.

Blue is the new black! According to experts, blue will be the most popular accent color this year, and we will begin seeing indigo blue and navy pops of color in throws, pillows, draperies, and decorative accessories.

As I did my research, all I could think of was the prevailing attitude among real estate agents when it comes to interior palette choices (when one is putting a house on the market to sell).

The common refrain is to go neutral, neutral, neutral for interiors. And I totally understand the advice: you want the Seller's home to appeal to the masses, and you don't want design choices to distract a potential Buyer from falling in love with the house. Agreed!

However, another part of me says, "Go WILD!" Make your home a complete reflection of your style and tastes. Let us see your fun and funky self! Follow trends or not, but live out loud and fully be YOU. Follow Lagerfeld's advice and invent your own thing.

• 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 nego-

tiating 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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...COUNTY continued from page 11

to hear about issues not only facing Western North Carolina, but across the state as well. While issues such as PILT funding are mainly focused toward Western North Carolina, issues such as mental health and criminal justice reform are statewide. It was reassuring county representatives on both sides of the aisle as well as each of our senators stress the importance of working together to find effective solutions to these issues."

Macon leaders were able to meet with Senator Thom Tillis,

Senator Richard Burr and Congressman Mark Meadows on issues that directly impact Macon County.

"Without a doubt, Macon County Commissioners are some of the most active commissioners in the nation," said Congressman Meadows. "In terms of working on the federal level for issues directly facing their county, Macon commissioners work harder and do more than most county leaders in the country."

Rep. Meadows noted that just as it is important for him to have a

presence in District 11 to best understand his constituents, opportunities like the NACo conference is important for county leaders to better understand how the federal government operates.

"Once you sit down and talk with someone face to face, it takes the politics out of it and it's no longer Democratic or Republican, it becomes about the person or issue," said Congressman Meadows. "Being able to do that puts people first, not politics or party, and that's when we are able to get things done."



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...LETTER continued from page 10

when we signed the contracts that we would likely see walkers and cars from time to time. We never saw our property or the Land Trust property treated disrespectfully. Hearing small voices interacting with deeper voices meant there was a family bonding in nature. People that come to Highlands are most appreciative and respectful of God's creation.

Access to Satulah Mountain is mired in legalities at the moment because of debate over public vs. private roads, old deeds and questions of intent. When the 32 acres on the summit was purchased in 1909 the land was dedicated as a public park for public use in perpetuity. John Muir once said "When

one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

Satulah Mountain is not only attached to the people of Highlands and its visitors, but also to common goodness and the common good. Muir also said, "Society speaks and all men listen, mountains speak and wise men listen." So let's be wise and listen to the mountain - let's set aside our personal agendas and find a way for people of ALL ages to continue enjoying comfortable access to spectacular Satulah Mountain.

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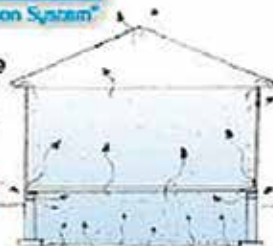
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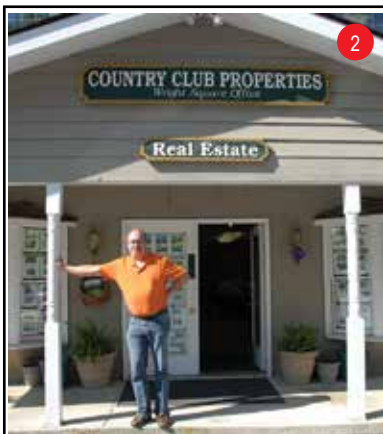


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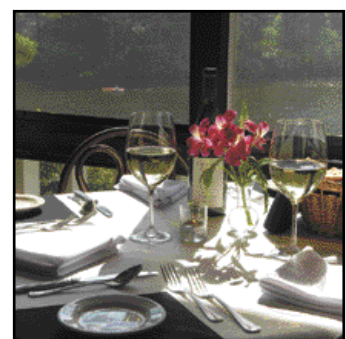
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