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

Thurs., Sept. 1, 2016

Superior Court upholds original ruling in Shearl's favor

After years of back and forth court cases and thousands of taxpayer dollars spent, the NC Superior Court upheld a 2014 Court of Appeals ruling in favor of John Shearl in Shearl vs. Town of Highlands.

So it would seem that the commercial uses on Shearl's split-zoned property on NC 28 south stand – unless the town appeals.

Mayor Pat Taylor said the town hasn't reached an agreement with Shearl's lawyer so a decision hasn't been made.

"We are negotiating with him," said Taylor. "It could be that we don't appeal, but we may exercise that option depending on negotiations."

In 2014, the Court of Appeals

vacated the previous Superior Court ruling in favor of the town and remanded the case back to the Zoning Board where both parties were charged with providing evidence in their favor.

•See SHEARL page 27

■ INSIDE Mayor on Duty 2 Obituaries 2 The Fredster 7 Shopping Pullout 15-17 RE Snapshots 18-22 Investing at 4118 ft 19 Police & Fire 25 Classifieds 30

First Day of 2016-'17 School Year at Highlands School





A little before 8 a.m. the halls were filled with enthusiastic students returning to school, the cafeteria served up free breakfast for all and teachers greeted everyone with smiles. Members of the Highlands Police Department were on hand to greet students as they disembarked from buses. In Highlands "Community Policing" starts early.

- Photos by Kim and Jim Lewicki

Spending by U.S. visitors to MC is up by 3.7% - \$154.23 MM

It's no secret that business is up across all sectors in Highlands – in fact, it's up statewide.

2089 Highway 106

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Visit North Carolina an-

nounced that domestic visitors to and within Macon County spent \$154.23 million in 2015, an increase of 3.7% from 2014. "The latest report on the impact of domestic visitor spending in Macon County demonstrates the growing popularity of our community and the surrounding area as a vacation and second home destination placing Ma-

•See SPENDING page 22

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Recent court ruling could effect Highlands' Altitude Broadband

Town is considering options

Several weeks ago, a federal appeals court ruled that the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) could not block two states from setting limits on municipal broadband expansion.

The decision has been seen as a win for private-sector providers of broadband internet and a setback for the FCC and communities like Highlands that want to supply broadband.

Cities in Tennessee and North Carolina had sought to expand municipal broadband networks beyond current bound-

•See BROADBAND page 26



Page 2 - Highlands Newspaper - Thurs., Sept. 1, 2016 – 828-200-1371

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

Mayor on Duty

The logistics of a growing population

I still hold a community coffee hour on the last Friday of every month at the Hudson Library. Karen Hawk and the library staff are so wonderful in organizing the event. I appreciate all the community organizations, like Big Brothers Big Sisters this past month that provide the coffee and refreshments.

This past Friday Mayor Bob Scott of Franklin joined us to discuss our common concerns and is-

sues. Bob is on the board of the North Carolina League of Municipalities representing Western North Carolina. He recently returned from a league meeting in Raleigh where discussions centered around the upcoming legislative session and future state trends.

Bob and I both know that Raleigh is not like Las Vegas. What happens in Raleigh certainly doesn't stay in Raleigh, it affects us all, both counties and cities in North Carolina. Bob's remarks to our coffee group centered around the fact North Carolina is changing and the League is looking down the road into the future of towns and cities.

A major trend in North Carolina, especially in the western region, will be migration from other areas of the country. People will be relocating to Western Carolina, not just to retire, but to work and live. I see this trend al-

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Mayor Pat Taylor

ready taking place in Highlands, and I believe it will increase as we develop a broadband network. Generation X, those mid-career professionals, have the growing option to live and work anywhere in the world. A small community like Highlands is a very attractive location for these folks. And, just behind this generation will be the Millennials.

Also, tourism will continue to expand and local municipalities will

have to work to provide access and services. Dr. Steve Morse of Western Carolina University is an expert who tracks the hospitality industry in the region. He contends tourism is, and will continue to be, a main driver of economic development in the region. Preliminary figures indicate tourism in the state is up about 10% over last year. In our region final figures after the leaf season may even be stronger.

At our coffee, Mayor Scott stated Franklin is even seeing a strong increase in international tourism. Franklin is an insertion point to the Appalachian Trail. Bob notes that with the filming of the recent movie about walking the trail, foreign tourist, especially from Asia, are coming to walk the trail in record numbers.

Mayor Scott informed us the League of Municipalities is studying legislation that would allow towns to have the option of adding one cent to the room occupancy tax charged to our overnight visitors. Currently, this "head and bed" tax is earmarked for the promotion of tourism. The problem is that with increased tourism comes the need for cities to provide more facilities such as parking, bathrooms and sidewalks. The one cent option would be used by municipalities for providing the critical infrastructure.

I am very interested in this proposed legislation, although I know it might generate controversy in some quarters. The big increase in visitors to Highlands this summer makes me realize parking, sidewalks, bathrooms and other services will be critical if this growth in tourism continues.

Now I know some of my friends will tell me we should just shutter the windows and blow up the bridges, that we don't need more folks up here on "our" beautiful plateau. My response would be that it is not going to happen. In today's world everyone knows where everything is located. There is no place to hide. We must address future trends by planning wisely. Highlands has a tradition of making good decisions.

• OBITUARIES •

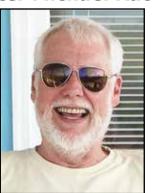
Peter Michael Raoul

Peter Michael Raoul of Highlands was born in Sarasota, FL November 1943 to Henriette Calhounde Lamater Raoul and Zadok Harrison Raoul. He died at home on July 20, 2016 surrounded by his family and close friends. Peter lived in Highlands since 1990 and most recently worked at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center. He also ran his own

bookkeeping business, Office Services. He and his son, Michael, owned and operated Appalachian ATV Adventures from 2010 to 2013.

In 1964 he enlisted in the US Air Force and served as an information officer translating Russian messages. He attended Western Carolina University and Winthrop University and had a long career in the mental health system. He had a tremendous gift for working with at-risk youth. In the late 1970s he opened a private practice in Charlotte, NC where he worked through the1980s.

He was a warm and compassionate



man with an infectious sense of humor...making everyone laugh, even at the end. He will be remembered as a dear friend, amazing father and silly grandfather to three who called him Babu. He loved to travel with family and friends and was an avid reader.

Peter was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Mary Raoul Fitzpatrick (Kevin) of Highlands and his brother William Raoul of

Missoula, MT. He is survived by a sister, Jane Raoul Heiss of Minneapolis, MN, his daughter, Perry Raoul Griffin of Charlotte, son, Loring Michael Raoul (Julie) of Franklin, grandchildren Katie Griffin, Jack Griffin and Jonathan Raoul-Schott as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, October 22 at 3 PM at Highlands Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in his honor to The Hudson Library or The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center.

Rev. Norman Henry Webb

Rev. Norman Henry Webb, age 79, of Otto, NC, passed away Friday, August 26, 2016. He was born in Oconee County, SC, the son of the late Norman Clyde Webb and Ruby Pauline Bottoms Webb. He was a house painter and a member of Calvary Baptist Church

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his former wife, Helen Webb, two sisters and seven brothers. He is survived by one brother, Clarence Webb of Clarkesville, GA.

A graveside service will be held Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at 11:00 am at Highlands Memorial Park. with Rev. Carson Gibson officiating.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Webb family. Online condolences are available at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• See OBITUARIES page 3

•Weekend Weather•



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

...OBITUARIES continued from page 2

William Brewster Pugsley

William Brewster Pugslev. age 81. of Highlands. NC. went to be with The Lord Thursday, August 18. 2016. He was born in Fairfield County, CT, and was the loving son of the late William Crosby and Florence Llenell Pugsley. He was a member of Community Bible Church. He enjoyed a career in real estate but passionately pursued many interests. William was a real people person and was referred to as Mr. Bill by his friends and family. He loved

restoring exotic cars and hand crafting knives. Mr. Bill was a member of the Road Hogs motor coach and motorcycle group and loved touring the country, visiting most of the fifty states in his travels. He was perhaps most at home riding his Harley Davidson as he rode until the age of eighty. Mr. Bill was an avid animal lover and never met an animal that he could not befriend.

He is survived by his loving wife, Susan



who referred to him as Billy. She accompanied Billy on all of his adventures for the past 28 years. He is also survived by five nephews, Trey Bentley, Michael Bentley, Mich Bentley, Ben Bentley, and Nick Bentley, whom he loved dearly.

A Celebration of Life Service was held Sunday, August 21, 2016 at 2:30pm at Community Bible Church in Highlands, NC with Gary Hewins officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be

made to Community Bible Church Children and Youth Ministries, P.O. Box 2916, Highlands, NC 28741 or Four Seasons Hospice, 171 Hospital Drive Suite 600, Highlands, NC 28741.

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

Carrie Vinson Speed

Carrie Vinson Speed, 78, of Highlands, NC passed away on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 following a long battle with dementia and heart disease. Born in Macon County, North Carolina, she was the daughter of the late Dan and Mary Clide Vinson. She was married to Felix Speed who preceded her in death.

She worked as a receptionist for the U. S. Forest

Service Job Corps and was a member of Highlands United Methodist Church. Mrs. Speed was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother.

She is survived by two daughters, Mary Helen Tester (James) of Demorest, GA and Lora Speed-Beegle of Highlands; three sisters, Virginia Bryson and Lorraine Talley (Jim) both of Highlands, and Marlene Vinson of Ela, NC; one brother, Olan Vinson (Lucy) of Highlands; step-grandchild, Dar-



rell Tester of Cornelia, GA; step-great grandchildren, Tabitha Tester of Mt. Airy, GA, Samantha Mundo of Stockbridge, GA and Sarena Tester of Demorest, GA; great-great grandchildren, Tatum Tester, Maleah Harbin, Dawson Jackson and Eric Angel Mundo, Jr., along with many nieces, nephews and beloved pets.

A memorial service was held Monday, August 29,

2016 at 2 pm at Highlands United Methodist Church with Jennifer Forrester and Rev. Randy Lucas officiating. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Highlands United Methodist Church Building Fund, PO Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741; or humane society or animal rescue of your choice.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Speed family. Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• See OBITUARIES page 10

MOUNTAINTOP WINE SHOPPE

Upcoming events:

Tailgating Saturdays – Georgia vs North Carolina Saturday Sept. 3 (3:30-8:00) In the front yard!! Bring your own food and we will provide the rest.

A Night with Opus One Sept. 16 (5:30-7:00) \$75 a person Tasting Overture, 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2013 vintages Limited seating...call to reserve a glass

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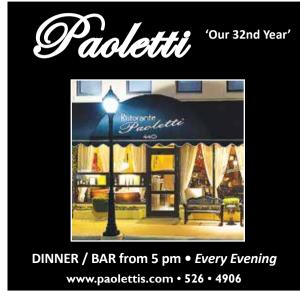
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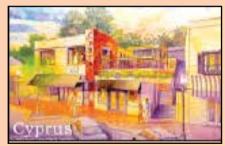
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apples and wild rice. Served with horseradish sauce and tarragon citrus vinaigrette.
\$16 • Obazda En Croute Bavarian cheese
spread baked into a puff pastry, served with
fresh fruit and raspberry crème fraiche.

Entrees

\$74 • 8 oz filet mignon with 4 oz Canadian cold water lobster and lump crabmeat, topped with Bernaise sauce.

\$30 • Tomato basil roasted salmon topped with asiago cheese and balsamic glaze.

Breakfast Special

\$13 • Norwegian Eggs Benedict w/
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The Center for Life Enrichment presents a FREE Community Event: "The Saint John's Bible: The Making of an Illuminated Bible with Contemporary Art" featuring presenter, David Altaway, the Director of the Heritage Program for the Saint John's Bible on Saturday, September 10 at the CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center in Highlands, 10a - NOON.

The Saint John's Bible is the first completely hand-written and illuminated Bible commissioned by the Benedictine Abbey since the invention of the printing press more than 500 years ago. The entire work is divided into seven volumes, when open, each volume stands two feet tall by three feet wide.

For more information, please contact Sandy Carlton at the Center for Life Enrichment at 828-526-8811. As well, please see attachments to this email which includes more details of the event as well as some photos of the Saint John's Bible.

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M F G R O . C O M

HCP's 'Don't Dress' continues this weekend

The PAC rocked with laughter on opening night of Marc Camoletti's, Don't Dress for Dinner. The French Farce witty dialogue and hilarious physicality had the audience roaring. The action started when Robert, played by Highlander Ricky Siegel, jumped over the couch to stop his best friend, Bernard, played by David Spivey from Franklin, from involving him in a dalliance that was sure to fail. Megan McLean, from Sapphire, who is Bernard's wife, stays above the melee until later in the first act. Lynleigh McLain, from Highlands, who played Suzette the cook, falls for Robert and on the couch while, Katy Potts who lives in Whiteside Cove and Craig Eister, Suzette's husband, bring down the house and a number of their fellow actors in the second Act.

Audience comments at the opening night reception were "fast paced" and "one of the best shows from HCP". The audience, probably because of the cast being from all over the plateau, came from everywhere. Fourteen of Craig Eister's co-workers from Atlanta drove all the way to Highlands just to see him act. Which, according to Craig, made him "very nervous." But no nerves were apparent from



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present Bluegrass by Balsam Range, (Back by Popular) on Saturday, September 17 at 8pm. They have won: 2013 IBMA Album of the Year, Papertown, 2011 IBMA Song of the Year WINNER, Trains I Missed, 2011 IBMA Emerging Artist of the Year nominee, 2011 IBMA Album of the Year nominee, Trains I Missed, 2010 IBMA Emerging Artist of the Year nominee and 7 National #1 Songs. Presented by Wilson Gas. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047



David Spivey and Rick Siegel ramp it up.

any of the cast who visibly brightened at the first ripple of laughter.

The play runs from September 1-4 at Highlands Performing Arts Center (PAC) on Chestnut Street. Performances on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday begin at 7:30, with the Sunday matinee at 2:30. Call 526-8084 for tickets. The box office is open 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. Please leave a message for a call back if the phone is busy.



The Phoenix Vocal Ensemble to perform at First Presbyterian Sept. 4 Sunday service

The Phoenix Vocal Ensemble from Pebblebrook School in Cobb County, GA will sing during the 11a worship service at Highlands First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 4. The group is directed by Katie Woolf.

The Cobb County Center for Excellence in the Performing arts (CCCEPA) is a magnet program housed at Pebblebrook High School in Mableton, GA, a suburb of Atlanta. Students are drawn from across Cobb County in a wide variety of cultural and socio-economic neighborhoods. In addition to regular academic studies, each student in the magnet program is enrolled in a major area in voice, dance, drama, or technical theatre. Many students also study in a secondary area.

Phoenix Vocal Ensemble is a chorus of approximately 20 students taken primarily from the junior and senior classes. Phoenix is considered Pebblebrook's most selective choral ensemble and performs jazz and pop repertoire in addition to music from the Western classical tradition. All members of Phoenix also participate in Pebblebrook's 50-voice Chamber Chorus and 200-voice Chorale. Some



members of Phoenix are also selected by the faculty to serve as Chorale Section Leaders.

Everyone is welcome to attend this and all services at First Presbyterian Church. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and Fifth Street.

•THE FREDSTER•

Is Highlands really safe?

nd the answer is.... of course it's safe.... especially when you compare it with Los Angeles, Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta and all the other crappy big cities where crime is rampant. And here's even better news. Highlands will remain safe because criminals are basically

Get out a road map or go on line and take a look at the southwestern part of North

Carolina. There's no easy way to get to Highlands. We have two-lane winding roads no matter which route you take to get here. Why come to Highlands when Atlanta is full of rich people who criminals can rob and steal from? Also Highlands' getaway roads are horrible.

And on the topic of Highlands being safe, here's a fun little thingy that will upset some of my liberal friends. If you're white and not a liberal, vou're automatically a racist. Actually I'm proud to be a racist.

In Chicago, where our president hails from, seven or eight black people are murdered every night. Is that a racist comment or what? Shame on the Fredster. Oh, and this is even more racist. These dead people, almost always black or Hispanic, were killed by murderers who are mostly black or Hispanic killers. Now how racist is that?

Now I'm feeling very sorry for our president. Let's not forget he's half white. Since all white people are racist, I'm sure it's his racist white side that allows all those black people to be killed each night in his own home town. Apparently he doesn't give a big fat rat's ass one way or another.



Fred Wooldridge

Our president is truly conflicted and it's his white half that makes him feel the way he does. SAD!

Back in the good ole days of the old wild west. I'm here to tell you there was little crime. Yeah, veah, I know vou think crime and shootings were rampant but it was the dad gum over-the-top liberal media who made a fortune writing good ole wild west stories. Yes, even back then there was a liberal media. In reality, everyone in the

old west carried a gun on his hip and had a rifle strapped to his horse. Folks back then minded their P's and Q's, whatever that

Now just for a moment, close your eyes and pretend every American citizen is carrying a gun on his or her hip. Instantly crime would decrease. Instantly there would be much less than eight or nine murdered black or Hispanic people in Chicago, Detroit or Washington, DC.

Finally, here's a fun test you should take after reading this newspaper. Lay the paper down, set your stopwatch and see how long it takes you to go for your weapon. If it took longer than five seconds, vou're a dead person if someone really wants to kill you.... like a terrorist.... or the husband of the woman you're sleeping with or even worse, the wife of the husband you're sleeping with... or even worse, worse, worse than that, the husband of the husband you're sleeping with. Write in with names, if you know of such shenanigans.

Note: Buy my two books titled "Deceived" and "I'm Moving Back to Mars" on line if you like mystery / thrillers or over the top foolishness.

Don't miss the 'Food for Fuel' luncheon Sunday

First Presbyterian Church and the Highlands Emergency Council are joining together and giving the Highlands community an opportunity to "warm the hearts and homes" for those struggling financially.

On Sunday, September 4th between 11:45 and 1:45, at First Presbyterian Church in Coleman Hall, you are cordially invited to an elegant luncheon prepared by Marty Rosenfield. Everyone is invited!

Instead of charging for the lunch, we are asking for "Love Donations" to the Highlands Emergency Council Fuel Program. This is one of Highlands Emergency Council's biggest fund-raisers for its fuel program. The majority of those who apply and met the requirements for this program are senior citizens living on a fixed income.

Your support can mean the difference of a decision between medication or a warm home this winter. Please consider joining us this important community event.

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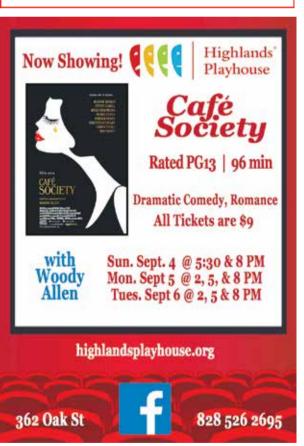
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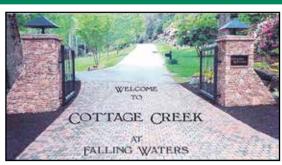
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•Lessons Learned from Golf•

First foster friendship within yourself ...

"Friends are a man's priceless treasures, and a life rich in friendship is full indeed. When I say, with due regard for the meaning of the word, that I am your friend, I have pledged to you the ultimate loyalty and devotion." Bobby Iones

n the game of golf, there is no greater display of friendship than the final meeting of Bobby Jones and the people of St Andrews in 1958. A physically sickened



FALLING WATERS

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Jones stood to say the above words as he received the "Freedom of the City" award. Jones is the only American besides Benjamin Franklin to receive the great honor.

This friendship didn't start out with such pleasantries. Years earlier, a young Bobby Jones insulted the people of St Andrews by disrespecting both them and the game of golf when he walked off the golf course while play-



Davis Picklesimer

ing in the 1921 British Open. You see, "The Old Course" at St. Andrews is where the game of golf started and not only does it challenge your golf game but your character. An angry Bobby Jones failed both that day. A scorecard displaying internal unrest was the only one turned in at the end of the round.

What changed from such a rocky start to maybe the greatest display of friendship between a man and an entire community? Humility and forgiveness.

First, Jones had to find an internal peace so he could have external friendships. Bobby Jones' golfing accomplishments and friendships started when he found a friendship with himself. Second, the people of St. Andrews had to be willing to forgive. Like all genuine friendships, it is a two way street. The people of St. Andrews needed to see past the shortcomings of a young man on the surface and be willing to risk insult again. Fortunately, their character that is symbolized in the game of golf, welcomed Bobby Jones back and celebrated his later golf and personal victories with him.

Their friendship was based on more than just Jones' golf accomplishments. In 1936, a retired Bobby Jones was traveling and decided to make an unscheduled visit to St. Andrews. With only his name on a tee sheet announcing the visit, a town closed their doors to come unknowingly watch Jones play his final round on The Old Course. Many of the closed store signs read, "Our Bobby is back!"

Whether you've been in Highlands for hours or generations, the experiences in Highlands (a round of golf, a meal, a stroll through town, a bottle of wine, a hike) is meant to be shared between friends. Even the founding of Highlands was a shared experience between two friends... Kelsey and Hutchinson. Even Bobby Jones visited Highlands to enjoy the summer weather and play a few rounds of golf with friends at Highlands Country Club.

In closing, I want to thank my two long-time friends Jay Calloway and Jimmy Tate. Both of you exemplify the definition of friendship and I'm forever grateful. This friendship was forged thanks to the town of Highlands. Both new and old friendships alike are available for all who grace this beautiful plateau. Now, let us all do our part by extending the hand of friendship to someone and inviting them to spend time with us in Highlands.

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER • GRILL WOOD • FIRE PIZZA COFFEE • BAKERY • ESPRESSO • WINE • CRAFT BEER BUTCHER • ARTISAN CHEESE • OIL AND VINEGAR



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BREAKFAST

Full breakfast made to order every morning until 11:00am
Cage free eggs, waffles, French toast, bacon, sausage, ham, biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

LUNCH

Grill - every day of the week starting at 11:00 until close
Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade potato chips, daily soup specials.

Deli - Serving all day
Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli
salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade
potato chips, daily soup specials.

Wood Fire Pizza Oven -Every day from 11:00 to close Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage, pancetta, and daily specials.

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11am – 3pm
Skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire soup & salad bar.
\$11.99 (dine in) or
\$9.99 a pound (to go)

PREPARED FOODS

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

DINNERS TO GO

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

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

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

\$24.95 serves two

Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked Potatoes & Salad - Premium Angus standing rib roast, cooked medium rare w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes & a large Caesar salad. \$34.95 serves two

Thursday - Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs - cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender. Served with house made bacon/apple baked beans and potato salad.

\$27.95 serves two

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

\$28.95 serves two

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

WINE MARKET & CRAFT BEER

An excellent, comprehensive selection of wine with the best prices in town, and run by a friendly knowledgeable staff. Craft beer and wine available by the glass while you shop and dine.

BAKERY

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BUTCHER SHOP

We sell only 100% Premium Angus beef, hand-cut and ground in house. Seasonal seafood, all natural chicken, made-in-house sausage and more. See out weekly ad for this week's pricing.

SPECIALTY CHEESES

Dozens of cheeses, tapenades, olives and specialty items including our made in-house crackers.

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- Second Coming of the Invisible Empire Thursday, 9/1 Presenter. William Rawlings
- iPad Pro Priday 9/2 Presenter; Nigel Simmith
- Presidential Election of 2016 Prider, 9/9 Presenter: Charles
- St. John's Bible Saturday, 9/10 FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
- A Himmimiery Primer Tuesday, 9/13 Presenter: Jumes Costs.
- Willametta Valley Wine Thur 9/13 9/17 FULL
- Dublia Show and Day Trip to Ashavilla Saturday, 9/17
- Tiger Mountain Vineyand Tour Tourday, 9/20
- Preparing and Savaring That Fund...On the Varendah Wednesday. 9/21 - Presenter: Chaf Andrew Figal
- SS Normandia Priday, 9/23 Presenter, Rone Silvin.
- Ignorance is No Defense Touday, 9/27 Presenter: J. Tim Morgan.
- Electromagnetic Pulse Thursday, 9/20 Presenter, Col. James Clark.
- Life and Times of Herbert Creacy, Artist Thursday, 9/29 Presenter: Susan Robert



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It's time to be dazzled by Dahlias

The Dahlias are dazzling this summer in Highlands! As I stroll through town, I see the most exquisite dahlias growing everywhere this time of year. To celebrate this beautiful flower, the Sixth Annual Dazzling Dahlia festival returns September 8th – 10th to benefit the Highlands Historical Society.

The Festival kicks off with a Patron

Party on Thursday evening, September 8th at the Highlands Falls Country Club. Guests will enjoy music and dancing to the Joe Gransden Trio. Another highlight of the party will be to have the opportunity to buy beautiful works of art that have been generously donated by nationally acclaimed artists Katherine Bell McClure, Ruthie Watts, Dr. Murphy Townsend and Jill Wolfe for the silent auction. Patron Party tickets are \$125. Come enjoy a night of dinner, drinks and dancing for a great cause.

The Dahlia Show begins Saturday, September 10th from 1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m. at the Highlands Recreational Park. New this year is the selection of a "Best in Show" blossom, which will be featured in the publicity for the 2017 Dazzling Dahlia Festival. For those who wish to enter dahlias



Recently Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor signed a proclamation declaring the week of Sept. 8 "Dahlia Week." From left, Dazzling Dahlias Committee Members: Ruthie Oliver, Mary Ann Hardman, Sally Caffery, Mayor Patrick Taylor, Janice Duke, Libby Eustis

in the Show, bring them either Friday, September 9th from 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. OR Saturday. September 10th from 8:00a.m. to 10:00a.m. to the Highlands Recreational Park. The entry fee is \$10 per exhibitor. There is a special category for youngsters 17 years and younger to show their growing prowess. For those wishing to enjoy the

beautiful dahlias on display, including the winners, the admission fee is \$5. Local dahlia expert, Iodie Zahner will give a presentation at 2:00p.m. on tips to grow the prettiest dahlias. Dahlia floral arrangements will also be available for purchase and they are the best bargain in town. Remember to drop by the Prince House at the Highlands Historical Village next door to enjoy the music of Les Scott on his Appalachian Dulcimer from 2:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.

Come to the Dazzling Dahlia Festival September 8 - 10! There is something for everyone at this delightful event that supports a great cause, the Highlands Historical Society. For more information, call (828) 787-1050 or go to www. highlandshistory.com.

...OBITIARIES continued from page 3 **Lois Juanita Houston**

Lois Juanita Houston, age 82, of Highlands, NC, passed away Thursday, August 25, 2016. She was born in Macon County, the daughter of the late Claude and Fannie Stiwinter Tilson. She was married to Frank William Houston, who died December 17, 1977. She was a homemaker, a loving wife, mother and grandmother, she loved to travel and loved going to Church.

She is survived by a daughter, Sandy McCormick (David) of Waco, GA; sons, Bill Houston, Tommy Houston and Larry Houston (Faith) all of Highlands, NC; a sister, Ola Holland of Carrollton, GA; brothers, Ronnie Tilson (Nancy) of Highlands, NC, Thomas Tilson (Becky) of Brevard, NC and Randall Tilson (Peggy) of Franklin, NC; a brother-in-law and



sister-in-law, Mike and Kay Houston of Highlands, NC: eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, James "Jim" Houston, a daughter-in-law, Sarah Houston, and brothers, Vernie Tilson and Howard Tilson.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, August 28, 2016

at 2:30 pm at Buck Creek Baptist Church, with Rev. Jamie Passmore officiating. Burial will be in the Church Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Chris Houston, Charlie Houston, John McCormick, Daniel Houston, Adam Benedict and Bob Staffelbach.

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

Octoberfest at Highlands United Methodist Church Main st. Highlands

On Sat., Oct. 1 from 9a to 3p, there will be an Arts & Craft Festival & Market offering a wide variety of unique hand-made items by artisan teams led by Gay Kattel and Jody Zoellner. Artisan's creations feature moss, twigs & bark. Wonderful accent items for your mountain decor. Great decorations for fall & Christmas plus mailboxes, vases, wine holders, & more. Wood working creations will brighten your garden when winter arrives. Homemade jams, jellies, & relishes plus home-baked good like pies, cakes etc. make wonderful gifts.

Seamstresses have created decorative

baby blankets, bibs, aprons, table runners

Enjoy breakfast from 9-10:30a at the J.W.Cafe or lunch (11:30a-1:30p) featuring hot dogs or brauts and all the trimmings at the Grille. Buy freshly made lemonade as you browse the Pumpkin Patch for the per-

fect pumpkin for your home(s).

All proceeds go to the church's new Faith & Fellowship Center which will be the heart of many community-based ministries. For more info call the church office at 828-526-3376.











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Page 12 - Highlands Newspaper - Thurs., Sept. 1, 2016-828-200-1371



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GHLANDS

ONGOING

- Terry Johnson, owner of Estate lewelers of Highlands - 360 Main Street, has merchandise from an anonymous individual whose sale will benefit the Hospice House Foundation of WNC. To date, this effort has raised roughly \$20,000 in support of HHFWNC. Johnson is waiving the consignment fee on the sale of this select merchandise. Go into Estate lewelers of Highlands and to see the merchandise.
- Summer Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Sundays 5:30 and 8 pm: Mondays and Tuesdays, 2, 5, and
- · Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

Daily

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

First Mondays

 Shortoff Baptist Church nondenominational Men's Meeting at 7

Mondays

•At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to Ip. For more information, call 828,342,2498.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The loy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more information, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.
- · Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

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

Tuesdays

- The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library.
- FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.
- The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

Tuesday and Thursdays

- Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.
- Pickle ball from 11:30a to 1p

in the gym at the Rec Park. Wednesdays

- 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 8:45 a.m. Be seated by 8:30.
- Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

1st Wednesdays

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

3rd Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

- Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.
- · Zahner Lecture Series at 6:30 p.m. at the Nature Center.
- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. . Call Lisa 828-506-3555.
- NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc., and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home, Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

· Kidney Smart Classes in

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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS

Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

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

Fridays

- 99ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.
- Open Duplicate Bridge at I p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.
- Friday Night Live, 6-8pm in Town Square. Live music. Free

Saturdays

- At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from I-3 p.m.
- At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.
- Highlands Marketplace at K-H Park 8a to noon.
- The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon. In event of cold/rain, meet downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 1-4

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

Thurs. Sept. I

- At CLE, Second Coming of the Invisible Empire 2:00 4:00 PM, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.
- At the Nature Center, Zahner Lecture Series. What Threatens Birds Today? An exploration of Contemporary Conservation Challenges and Solutions at 6:30 p.m. Free.

Thurs. - Sun Sept I-4

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

Fri., Sept. 2

• At CLE, IPad Pro – 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM, CLE Classroom, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-881 I.

Sat., Sept. 3

• Benefit Breakfast. 8-11a at the Cashiers Community Center. \$5 suggested donation. All proceeds to benefit Crossroad 2016 - A Benefit Concert for Boys + Girls Club of the Plateau, Life Challenge and Teen Men's Challenge of the Smokies.

Sat. & Sun., Sept 3-4

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

Sun., Sept. 4

- At Cliffside Lake, Michael Skinner with Balsam Mountain Trust and live raptors at 11 a.m.
- The *Phoenix Vocal Ensemble* from Pebblebrook School in Cobb County, GA will sing during the I Ia worship service at Highlands First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, The group is directed by Katie Woolf. All are in-

vited

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

Thurs., Sept. 8

- Dazzling Dahlias Patron Party benefitting the Highlands Historical Society 6:30 p.m. at Highlands Falls Country Club cocktails dining and live music from Joe Gransden Trio.
- The September 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.
- The final Zahner Conservation Lecture of the 2016 Series will be held on Thursday at 6:30pm in the Nature Center of the Highlands Biological Station. This series is designed to help educate and inspire the public through a series of talks from well-known regional scientists, conservationists, artists, and writers. Please join us for a talk by Dr. Karen Kandl, former Associate Director of the Highlands Biological Station and Dr. Patricia Bricker, Associate Director and Associate Professor at Western Carolina University, for a talk on "Watershed Moments: Exploring Science and Math in Cullowhee Creek."

Fri., Sept. 9

At CLE, Presidential Election of 2016 – 10:00 AM – NOON, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

Sat., Sept. 10

• Center for Life Enrichment presents FREE Community Event: "The Saint John's Bible: The Making of an Illuminated Bible with Contemporary Art" featuring presenter, David Altaway, the Director of the Heritage Program for the Saint John's Bible at the CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center in Highlands, IOAM - NOON.

Tues.,, Sept. 13

 At CLE, A Biomimicry Primer – 10:00 AM – NOON, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

Thurs., Sept. 15

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

Sat., Sept. 17

- At PAC, Bluegrass: Balsam Range at 8 p.m.
 Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.
- At CLE, Dahlia Show and Day Trip to Asheville – 9:30 AM – 5 PM (by van from CLE office, Peggy Crosby Center)

Tues., Sept. 20

• At CLE, Tiger Mountain Vineyard Tour -

• See EVENTS page 15

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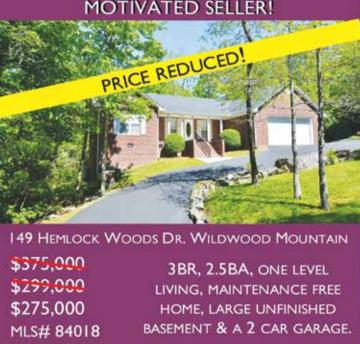
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...EVENTS continued from page 13

9:30 AM – 3 PM (by van from CLE office, Peggy Crosby Center)

Wed., Sept. 21

• At CLE, Preparing and Savoring Thai Food – 12 NOON – 2 PM (...on the Verandah Restaurant, Highlands)

Sept. 22

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

Fri., Sept. 23

- At The Bascom, A Night with WellStrung, bluegrass, folk and Americana. 6-9 p.m. For tickets visit www.thebascom.org or call 828-526-4949.
- At CLE, SS Normandie 2:00 4:00 PM, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

Sat. Sept. 24

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

Tues., Sept. 27

- American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Macon County Library on 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, 10 am to 2:30 pm For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (828) 524-3600.
- At CLE, Ignorance is No Defense 10:00 AM NOON, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.
- Village Nature Series. Dig deeper and learn more about our natural and cultural heritage at these free family friendly programs, the final Tuesday of the month from May through September at The Village Green Commons in Cashiers. Programs begin at 5:30 PM, rain or shine. No reservations required, everyone welcome.

Wild about Wapiti- Learn about the Mighty Elk that Now Roam the Mountains and Valleys Among Us with Ann Clayton.

Thurs., Sept 29

- At CLE, Electromagnetic Pulse – 10:00 AM – NOON, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.
- At CLE, Life and Times of Herbert Creecy, Artist – 4:00-5:00 PM, Bascom. 828-526-8811.

Shop Highlands this Labor Day!



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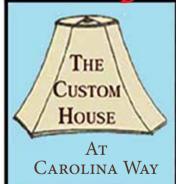
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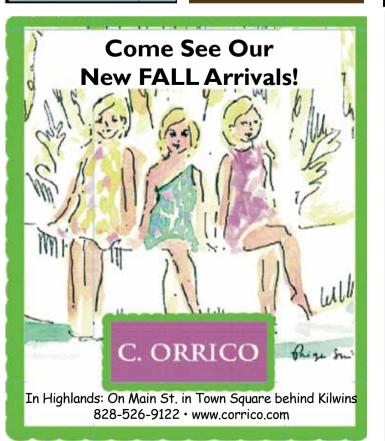
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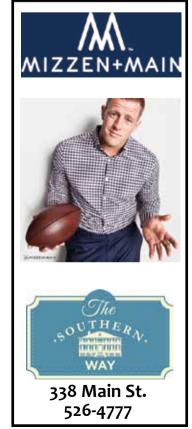
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Page 18 - Highlands Newspaper - Thurs., Sept. 1, 2016-828-200-1371



Lovely 3br/3ba home overlooking 4th fairway of Highlands Falls Country Club plus mountain and 3rd fairway views. Cozy living room with wood floors and a stone fireplace and lower level family room. Club membership is optional. \$445,000. MLS #83402



This timeless and wonderful home was once owned by the renowned botanist Thomas Grant Harbison and is on the National Registry of Historic Places (see Wikipedia). This historic home features 5br/3ba and a sleeping porch on 3.29 acres! \$1,070,000. MLS #82122



Reduced \$100,000! Lovely 4br, 3 1/2ba home with beautiful mature landscaping located 1/2 mile from Downtown Highlands. Wood floors in the main living area and vaulted ceilings and expands to the lower level with a family room & 2nd full kitchen & bedrooms. \$495,000. MLS # 84361



This comfortable, livable, 2 br, 3 1/2 ba home with additional guest quarters is in a most desirable walk to town location. This home is great for entertaining! Great screened porch with fire-place, 2-car garage. \$519,000. MLS #83227



Highlands Falls Country Club. An amazing remodel of this 3br/3 1/2ba beautiful home. Every space was updated. 3 en suites plus a guesthouse, privately located, club membership optional. \$759,000. MLS #82523



Immaculately cared for 4br/4 1/2ba home in Highlands Falls Country Club. Great mountain view, very private and has a lovely water feature, 2 screened porches, wonderful office/den, high wood ceilings, 2 stone fire-places. Club membership is optional. \$1,097,000. MLS #83833



Great view of pond and 11th fairway from this 2br/2ba condo in Highlands Falls. Upper unit with few steps to enter is light, bright and fully furnished. Club membership is optional. \$225,000. MLS #83619



This updated 4 bedroom, 3 bath villa style home located at the end of a cul-de-sac in Highlands Falls Country Club offers amazing views of the golf course, lake, mountains & National Forest. There are 2 complete living areas. Club membership is optional. \$379,000. MLS #83450



One level living in this 3br/2 1/2ba home in Wildwood Mountain. Immaculate and move-in ready with lower level expansion area and attached garage. \$275,000. MLS #84018



In HIGHGATE one of the highest altitudes in Highlands. This 5br/6 1/2ba home is in this upscale private community within a 4 minute drive to downtown Highlands. Open floor plan, high ceilings and 5 en suites. \$1,275,000, MLS #83155A



Walk to town from this gentle homesite with 250 feet of road frontage and view of Mirror Lake! No one can build across the street City water and sewer is available. \$147,000. MLS #84287



Meticulously maintained home with tremendous mountain views! 3.46 acres for plenty of privacy. Kitchen features granite counter tops, new appliances, cabinets and flooring. \$500,000. MLS #80134



Lake Sequoyah access. Wow! Oozing with Old Highlands Charm! This adorable 3br/3ba cottage sits well back from the road. Wonderful family/sunroom with terraced gardens. \$599,000. MLS #81800.



Fabulous non-traditional 3br/3ba mountain home in Highlands Falls was remodeled and designed by Darren Whatley. End of road privacy with forest service land on two sides. The terrace level features a large family room. Club membership is optional. \$698.000. MLS #67817



Great mountain view from this well maintained 3br/3 ba home in Highlands Falls. Open floor plan with island kitchen, vaulted ceilings throughout, 2 car garage, stone faced fireplace in great room, partially covered deck.\$465,000. MLS #84522



Wonderful home in Cold Springs Saddle & Tennis Club with 3br/3ba plus a bonus room and full bath for office or bunk room for grands, located over the 2-car garage. Beautiful wood floors throughout, spacious updated kitchen and oversized deck with total privacy. \$650,000. MLS #82434



Lovely and immaculately maintained 3 br, a bonus guest room and four baths located in Highlands Falls Country Club. Wood floors in the main living area and vaulted ceilings. Lower level family room with gas fireplace, and a second full kitchen....great for guests or mother-in-law suite. \$590.000. MLS #84161



Cullasaja Club. This 5br/4ba/2hb home on the 6th fairway has mountain and lake views and large open spaces. This home offers extensive quality features and includes sunroom, 2 offices, wine room & cellar, billiards room, great outdoor decks, patio & firepit. \$1,390,000. MLS #8373 I



Lovingly maintained, immaculate 4br/5ba is the best value Highlands Country Club. Home is surrounded by natural landscaping with a sweet sitting area and a water feature plus numerous decks and porches off of most rooms. Open floor plan, 2 car garage, workshop space and lots of storage. \$949,000. MLS #81619



Exceptional long range views with 2br/2ba updated log cabin on over 10 acres. Drive to the top and see a wonderful flat building sites with even better long range views. Enjoy the extreme privacy or develop additional homesites. Short drive to town. \$700,000. MLS #84525



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our friends, but that they also apply to our homes. Here is how:

- 1. Attention. When another person is speaking to us, it is important to pay attention to make them feel important instead of thinking about something else or letting your eves wander around the room. Concentrate on the moment. Likewise, with your home, pay attention to what it is communicating. If the refrigerator is louder than normal have it checked out. If the sink is not draining, have it fixed. Listening to the small issues regarding your home and taking care of them will obviate the need for big fixes in the future.
- 2. Appreciation. One of the benefits of traveling is to come home and appreciate what we take for granted on a daily basis. Write down the reasons you purchased or built your

home and think about the traits that appealed to you initially. If you are selling your 1

home, share these with your listing broker as the sunny window seat in the morning might not be obvious to someone else.Emphasize the positive on a daily basis,and appreciate how fortunate you are to have a beautiful home.

3. Affection. Show your house you care by taking care of it. Deferred maintenance is a major turn-off when showing homes. One can easily tell the homes that have been lovingly cared

for and those that have been ignored. This will allow you to enjoy your home more, and, when selling,prospective buyers willview your home as a well maintained residence instead of a place that you refused to invest in.

4. Attraction. We all try to keep ourselves groomed and attractive for those around us. This pride in appearance should extend to our homes. We want to be around people that are happy and handsome. The same principle applies to homes. The curb appeal of a home is the first impression we give to others. Sometimes prospects refuse to even get out of the car at a showing. I am embarrassed as Ihave made an appointment, and I excuse myself to run in to leave a card. Go outside and pretend that you are a stranger to your home and a potential buyer. Would you want to come inside? A welcoming exterior is a foreshadowing of a warm and attractive interior.

Practice the four "A"s and these same traits will be returned

• See INVESTING page 21

Investor's Dream



LOCATION! An easy, I/2 mile stroll to Harris Lake in the center of town from this 3BR/3.5BA home! Potential to become a fantastic mountain getaway, vacation rental, or year 'round home. Hardwood floors throughout the main level; formal dining area; den with fireplace; expansive, eat-in kitchen; workshop area; bonus rooms on the lower level; single garage; paved access; and open decking. Enjoy the sounds of the stream from the deck.Appraised in 2011 for \$400,000!

Offered at \$338,000. MLS #84561. Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Sought-After Breathtaking Views



Reduced Price! This immaculate 3BR/2BA home on 1.69 +/- acres has the most sought-after, breathtaking views that will soothe your soul. Features include an open floor plan, tons of natural light, vaulted ceilings, wood flooring, and stone fireplace with gas logs in the living room and eat-in kitchen with a wood-burning stove. Finished bonus room upstairs. Other features include double garage, paved access, and automatic generator. Stunning view lot with mature landscaping.

Offered at \$649,000. MLS #84298. Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Walk to Main Street + Views



This 3BR/2.5BA getaway is the perfect blend of rustic and contemporary with expansive decking. Features include hardwood flooring; stone, wood-burning fireplace in the living room; spacious kitchen; single garage (with workshop); fenced yard; and paved access. Best of all, when you want to pry yourself away from your paradise, take an easy walk to Main Street.

Offered at \$425,000. MLS #84467. Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Highlands' Best In-Town Investment



Tucked away in the heart of Highlands, this property, with 11 bedrooms and 11 1/2 baths, affords plenty of room for family reunions and wedding parties. Features include: wrap around porch, open deck, 4 fireplaces, hardwood flooring, spacious dining and kitchen areas, and plenty of parking, Mature landscaping and gorgeous grounds include subdividable land that fronts Chestnut St. Continue as a Bed & Breakfast or convert into a stately home. Would be a great VRBO.com rental!

Offered at \$1,200,000. MLS #84482. Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.



Susie deVille Broker-in-Charge (828) 371-2079

WHITE PAK

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114 N. 4th Street Highlands, NC

www.highlandssir.com

Great Visibility One Block from Main Street

Great investment opportunity located in the heart of downtown Highlands! Two story building remodeled with +/- 3,700 square feet of professional, retail or restaurant space. There are four apartments located upstairs. Zoned B-1. \$985,000 MLS # 84440



Commercial Opportunity! Office Space and Warehouse



Great opportunity to own a large, professional office/building (+/-2,100 sq ft) and a warehouse (+/- 2,100 sq ft) located in Highlands.. The furniture and shop equipment are negotiable. Zoned B-3. \$650,000 MLS #83335



Broker

O: 828.526.8300 or C: 828.337.0706 sheryl.wilson@sothebysrealty.com

Main Street COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES Mtn. Fresh

Wright Sq. 828-526-2520 | www.ccphighlandsnc.com | ccp4info@frontier.com



3 bedroom, 3 bath with stupendous view of Whiteside Mountain and Cashiers Valley. Main floor living with guest quarters above. Huge lower level that can be finished to make another house. Move in condition upon custom colors of your choice. Offered at \$1.275.000. mls #84533



IN TOWN! Very nice home with old Highlands charm has extensive landscaping, privacy and a flat approach. 3 bedrooms 2.5 baths, wood floors, updated kitchen and baths, den and one car garage. Offered at \$545,000. mls #83999



Walk to town Townhouse. Totally renovated and in new condition, located in Trillium Place. Main level living room, dining room, kitchen, half bath and large covered back porch. Upstairs has 2 bedrooms and one bath. Offered at \$365,000. mls #84269



3 bedrooms, 2 bath For those seeking move in ready with some acreage, this 3 bedroom 2 bath plus full basement is in great condition with new kitchen and baths. Cathedral ceiling with fireplace. Great garden spot! Grab your own little piece of Heaven! Offered at \$349,000. mls #84595



Lovely setting with level access on this 3 bedroom 2 bath on Elm Court. Updates galore in the open plan that features 3 levels, Main level living room with a wall of glass to enjoy the super mountain View Large private deck that overlooks the mature grounds, Cheery kitchen, Master bedroom and bath. Upper level Master with full bath, Terrace level has private deck, bedroom, bath Family room with pool table/TV room. Large 2 car garage. Offered at \$350.000, mls #80386



Escape to Serenity! This picture-perfect post-card mountain retreat features both a main house and separate guest quarters with waterfalls along property line and almost 5 acres bordering a horse pasture and Christmas tree farm. There is a pond, huge yard or mini pasture with several pavilions and a gentleman's shed. Deck with tin roof overlooks pond and pasture with sound of waterfall. Offered at \$549,000. mls #84082



Amazing long range mountain views and stunning sunsets. 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, a Jim Fox designed home that welcomes the views and offers great outdoor spaces for entertaining and enjoyment from the afternoon grilling patio with stone firepit to the sunset deck, or the tree house that connect to the house by bridge. The lower level suite opens to a perfect croquet court with gazebo and stunning view back drop. Offered at \$1,995,000. mls #84187



Great year round or weekend getaway. This love home sits on a gentle knoll with a nice natural yard and wooded view. living area has cathedral ceiling, spacious kitchen, split bedroom floorplan and great loft. Huge deck. 2 car garage. This house has great light and is a do not miss in this price range. Offered at \$329,000. mls #84027



with a mountain décor and feel. Shiplap wood paneling Plank wood floors and top quality materials in the Kitchen and baths. Split bedroom plan and great upper level guest suite. One of the nicest home available in this price range bar none. Offered at \$750,000. mls #84125



Wonderful location and Stunning views with this move in ready home located off Bowery Road. Only a few minutes from downtown and all paved roads makes this a hugely desirable property. Mountain contemporary, with hardwood floors, huge stone fireplace as one wall of the living room, wrapping around into the kitchen on one side. Master bedroom has double baths, that meet through a connecting shower, and a large walk-in closet. Upstairs has two guest bedrooms with a connecting bath. The massive decks boast some of the best views in the area. All of this is located on over 3 aces with a water feature and manicured grounds. Offered at \$2,200,000. mls #84268



First time available in over 50 years, this family house is located on the 5th green. Golf course view from the wrap around deck with a mid-century modern feel. Open living room with fireplace. Stone patio off back side with small yard. Kitchen and butlers kitchen for great entertaining. master and guest on main level. Lower level has spa area, living room, bedroom and bath. nice storage and workshop. Offered at \$995,000. mls #84068



2 Bedroom I bath cabin is waiting for a renovator. Cute bones and nice setting in Horse Cove. One of the cheapest homes currently on the market in the Highlands area. Offered at \$79,000. mls #84185

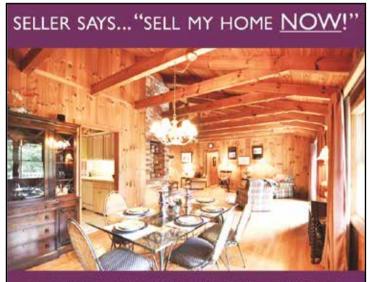


Nice 3 bedroom 3 bath home on beautiful property with Clear Creek in your backyard. This would be a great home for year round, seasonal or rental. Less than 10 minutes to town. Completely remodeled with addition and garage in 2008. Offered at \$389,000. mls #84483

...INVESTING continued from page 19

to vou!

• Jody and her husband, Wood, have been full-time residents in Highlands for the last sixteen years. They are owners of Highlands Sotheby's and are leaders in the sales on the Plateau. They have two offices: one at the gate of Cullasaja Club and one at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64. They are soon opening a Cashiers office across from Cornucopi



LOCATED BETWEEN HIGHLANDS & CASHIERS IN PRIVATE GATED COMMUNITY. 4BR/3BA, LEVEL YARDS WITH WHITESIDE MTN VIEW POTENTIAL, REAL MTN "CABIN" FEEL LIKE WOOD WALLS, CEILINGS & BEAMS. UNDER PRICED & AN AMAZING BUY!

REDUCED TO \$299,500 MLS# 82461



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Two Open Houses Sunday, Sept. 4, noon-2pm



610 Hickory Hill Road, Highlands Please join Pat and Deborah Gleeson to preview this beautiful home in Mirror Lake. Offered for \$475,000. MLS 82496

Architecturally Stunning in Cold Springs!



This architecturally designed post and beam beauty boasts walls of windows allowing natural light to filter through. Enjoy the open floor plan with large great room and stone fireplace for chilly evenings. Three bedrooms on the main level and a loft/art studio overlook the greenroom. Grab a walking stick and hike from your back yard! Offered for \$549,900. MLS 84644



425 Wyanoak Road, Highlands Please join Pat and Deborah Gleeson to preview this beautiful home in Mirror Lake. Offered for \$425.000, MLS 84008

Meticulously Maintained in Wildcat Cliffs CC!



Meticulously maintained and lovely home in Wildcat Cliffs. The open floor plan with vaulted ceiling and walls of windows exposes the mountains and beyond! A chef's kitchen awaits entertaining and features Viking and Subzero appliances. An expansive deck leads to a self-contained guest house, garage and workshop. Offered for \$895,000. MLS 84510



Julie Osborn Broker Cell: 828-200-6165 jajosborn@gmail.com

Pat Allen REALTY GROUP

www.patallenrealtygroup.com 828-526-8784

295 Dillard Road, Highlands



Pat Allen Broker-in-charge Cell: 828-200-9179 pat.f.allen@gmail.com

4 BR/ 2.5 baths \$459,000



Located on one very large acre, this home lives like a small gentleman's estate. Custom wood features throughout, workshop/hobby room, partially fenced yard, walnut trees, producing apple tree, full house generator, and more. Inspections DONE This home isn't a 'drive by'- make an appointment to really SEE this home. Seller financing is an option.

REDUCED NOW \$730,000



Located just outside town limits on Hicks Road. Be Residential like the neighbors, or keep it commercial, OR have a mixture of both. Amazing space inside and out. You have to see it to see you in it. You may think you know this property, but you haven't seen the half of it- literally. Super easy access, location makes it convenient to Highlands, Cashiers and Franklin.



Tucker & Jeannie Chambers Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals 828-526-3717



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ANDREA GABBARD, BROKER

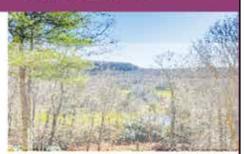
CALL OR TEXT 828.200.6742



HISTORIC HIGHLANDS ESTATE- \$1,070,000 3 ACRES, 5BR/3BA, AMAZING GROUNDS, RESTORED & UPDATED, MLS# 82122



\$375,000 WILDCAT CLIFFS CC-4BR. 4BA, MTN & GOLF VIEWS, 2 MASTER SUITES. VAULTED/BEAMED LIVING ROOM, MLS# 82872



WILDCAT CLIFFS CC-\$597,500 3BR/2BA, INCREDIBLE FIREPLACE, DEN. LOCATED ACROSS FROM THE CLUBHOUSE. MLS# 81738



SCALY MOUNTAIN-3BR, 3BA, CUSTOM LOG HOME, WOOD BEAMS & WALLS, MTN VIEWS! MLS# 84143



5BR, 6.5BA, CUSTOM HOME W/FINE LUXURY, A TOBY WEST INTERIOR DESIGN! MLS# 83155



4BR, 4BA, BREATHTAKING MTN VIEWS, FULLY REMODELED & UPDATED. MLS# 882373



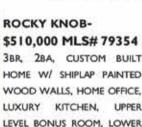
\$290,000 SCALY MOUNTAIN-5BR, 6.5BA, CUSTOM HOME W/FINE LUXURY, A TOBY WEST INTERIOR DESIGN! MLS# 84520



5BR, 6.5BA, CUSTOM HOME W/FINE LUXURY, A TOBY WEST INTERIOR DESIGN! MLS# 83166



5BR 6.5BA CUSTOM HOME W/FINE LUXURY, A TOBY WEST INTERIOR DESIGN! MLS# 84081



GATED

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PRIVATE LAKE.



SCALY MOUNTAIN-\$1,257,000 MLS# 84555 49 ACRE GENTLEMAN'S FARM, 4BR/3.5BA HOME WITH LONG MOUNTAIN VIEWS, TROUT POND, GAZEBO, SITS AT THE TOP OF THE MTN FOR IDEAL PRIVACY & PANORAMIC VIEWS. SEPARATE **GUEST** INCLUDED.

...SPENDING from page 11

con County 31st among North Carolina's 100 counties in tourism spending," said Bob Kieltyka, executive director of the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce. Tourism spending contributes significantly to reducing local taxes as state and local tax revenues generated in 2015 from tourism spending saved each Macon County resident \$560.36.

Tourism impact highlights for Macon County in 2015: The travel and tourism industry directly employs more than 1260 employees a 3.9 percent increase over 2014; Total payroll generated by the tourism industry was \$27.28 million - an increase of 8.0 percent over 2014; State tax revenue generated totaled \$6.95 million through state sales and excise taxes, and taxes on personal and corporate income. Additionally, \$12.22 million in local taxes were generated from sales and property tax revenue from travel-generated and travel- supported businesses.

Governor Pat McCrory announced in May that visitors to North Carolina set a record for spending in 2015. The \$21.96 billion in total spending represented an increase of 3% over the previous year.

These statistics are from the "Economic Impact of Travel on North Carolina Counties 2015," which can be accessed at partners.visitnc.com/economicimpact-studies. The study was prepared for Visit North Carolina by the U.S. Travel Associa-

All eight economic development regions of the state had spending growth of 2 percent or more, and 91 percent of the state's counties saw direct tourism employment growth from 2014 to 2015," said Wit Tuttell, executive director of Visit North Carolina.

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Page 24 - Highlands Newspaper - Thurs., Sept. 1, 2016-828-200-1371

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Live a well-lived life

By Rev. Dr. Curtis Fussell First Presbyterian Church

ne day a little girl asked her Sunday School teacher a question, "The Bible says that the children of Israel crossed the sea, and the children of Israel built the Temple, and the children of Israel did this, and the children of Israel did that. Didn't the grownups do anything?"

Yes, the grownups did a lot of things. And, a grownup will surely ask this little girl. "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

That question reminds me of the story about another little girl who came home with an assignment from her teacher to write a brief essay on the subject, "What Am I Going to Be When I Grow Up?"

The girl's father happened to be a preacher and he told his daughter, "what your teacher really wants to know is what you are going TO DO to make money when you grow up?" As a preacher this father was keen to find lessons in life related to spiritual matters. He saw one here and said to his daughter, "What you ought to tell your teacher is this: when I grow up what I want TO BE is a real person like Jesus, but right now I haven't made up my mind what I'm going to do to make money."

Well, I doubt that this father's answer would have gone over very well with his daughter's teacher. But the point is well made. There is a difference between what you are going to DO and what you are going to BE.

We know we are accountable for our actions, for the things we do. But it is also true that we are accountable for our character, for who we are. Not only do we decide what we are going to do today, but we also decide who we are going to be today. Am I going to be cheerful or grumpy today? Will I frown or smile at people today? Will I encourage others or discourage? Will I act towards others with patience or with anxiety? Over time, people know what we're going to do by our character -by who we are.

The Apostle Paul said that "whatever you sow, that you also reap" (Gal. 6:7). Paul knows clearly that we decide what we will be. He goes on to say, "do not grow weary in well-doing, but at every opportunity do good to all people." This remark sets out a basic principle for tying together being and doing for daily living: never grow weary of well-doing but with every opportunity do good to all people.

If you seek to be a person with a life-giving spirit, a person who is at peace with self and others, who is a non-anxious presence in the midst of anxious events and people, then seek to do good for others. Have you ever noticed that if you smile at people, people will smile at you? If you speak good to others, others will speak good to you. Before too long, who you are becomes what you do; and what you do becomes who you are. It's a wonderful strategy for a life well-lived.

Proverbs 3:5

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/Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Iim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers Sun.; 8:30a Traditional (Quiet) 1928 Prayer Book Service; 9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music Mon.:

Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m. CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching. Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CHRISTIÁN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: II a.m.

Testimony Meeting 3rd Wednesday at 5 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11a.m. 1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7.p.m.

Wednesdays -Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

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

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Dr. Maurice L. Goldsmith, Interim Rector 526-2968

Sundays: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m. Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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

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

Choir 5 pm FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors 526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 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

John 3:16

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship IIa & 7p, Bible Study 6p Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p. HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center) Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15: Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided): 7pm

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH:ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741 Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.: Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOĞUĖ

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. Rob Wood

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30 June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25-Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m. Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

LITTLÉ CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

Beginning Memorial Day weekend Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009 Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FÉLLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777 Sunday Worship - II a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Police & Fire Reports

The Highlands Police log entries from April 30. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

April 30

• At I p.m., a breaking and entering with larceny at a residence on Cherokee Drive was reported. Numerous tools were taken valued at more than \$1,000.

July 5

• At 2 p.m., a breaking and entering with larceny was reported at a storage unit on Pierson Drive where numerous tools were taken valued at \$1,680.

Aug. 3

• At noon, a case of identity theft was reported by a resident of VZ Top.

Aug. 10

• At 3:40 p.m., officers received a report about a runaway vehicle on NC 28.

Aug. 11

- At noon, officers received a report of a breaking and entering at Mill Creek Gallery where \$250 in cash was taken.
- At 2:51 p.m., a larceny was reported at the Memorial Park Cemetary where name plaques and vases were removed from monuments.

Aug. 16

• At noon, a breaking and entering, vandalism and possessing and concealing stolen property was reported at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive where numerous items were taken as well as a Samsung TV.

Aug. 17

• At 5:50 p.m., officers issued a ordinance violation to lawn workers at Highlands Manor Court who were working after ordinance hours.

Aug. 18

• At 4:30 a.m., Davis Denson Tayor,

26, of Montgomery, AL, was arrested for assaulting a female. He was arrested at a residence on Happoldt Drive. His trial date is Sept. 13.

• At 7:30 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106.

Aug. 20

 At noon, a larceny of firewood was reported at a residence on Chowan Drive.

Aug. 23

- At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at the Bank of America parking lot and Carolina Way.
- At 12:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Cullasaja Drive

Aug. 27

- At 3 p.m., a shoplifting incident was reported at Potpourri on Main Street.
- At 5 p.m., a shoplifting incident was reported at Wits End where a shawl valued at \$253 was taken.

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

Aug. 22

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Netsi Place.

Aug. 24

• The dept. responded to a structure fire on Hicks Road.

Aug. 25

- The dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.
- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Lower Brushy Face Road.
- The dept. was first-responders at a residence on Buttermilk Lane.
- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bonnie Drive.
- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Apple Mountain.

Aug. 26

• The dept. responded to a fire

alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Queen Mountain.

Aug. 27

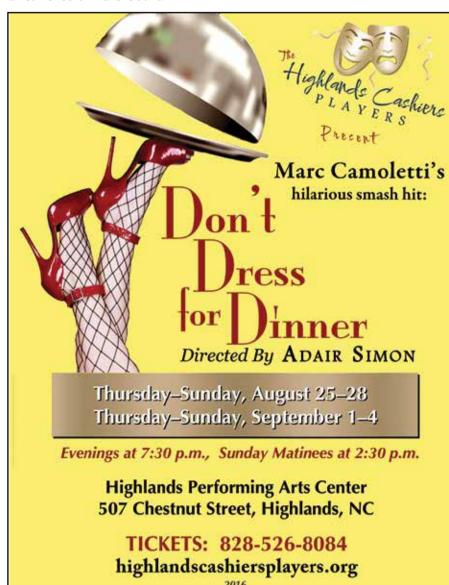
- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wyanoak Road.
- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cook Road. a residence on Lake Court.

Aug. 28

 The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Upper Lake Road.

Aug. 29

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cook Road.



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...BROADBAND continued from page 1

aries, but faced laws forbidding or placing restrictions on the expansions.

In 2015, the FCC voted 3-2 to issue an order seeking to pre-empt those state laws saving a 1996 law required it to remove barriers to broadband investment and that the municipalities in Tennessee and North Carolina wanted to expand service into areas with little or no internet service.

"It is essential that the state is aware of the broadband needs of its underserved. isolated, rural communities," said Mayor Pat

According to the FCC, since 2015 more than 50 communities have taken steps to build their own broadband options.

"The efforts of communities wanting better broadband should not be thwarted

by the political power of those who, by protecting their monopoly, have failed to deliver acceptable service at an acceptable price" said a FCC representative.

In 2005, Wilson, NC – the community Highlands has tried to emulate concerning broadband - constructed the backbone of a fiber-optic network connecting all city-owned facilities and it was expanded to a municipal broadband network called "Greenlight."

The city offers phone, internet and cable services which it says are cheaper than its private-sector competitors. The city also provides free Wi-Fi service to its entire downtown area.

Offering free Wi-Fi to its downtown

• See BROADBAND page 27



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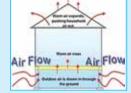
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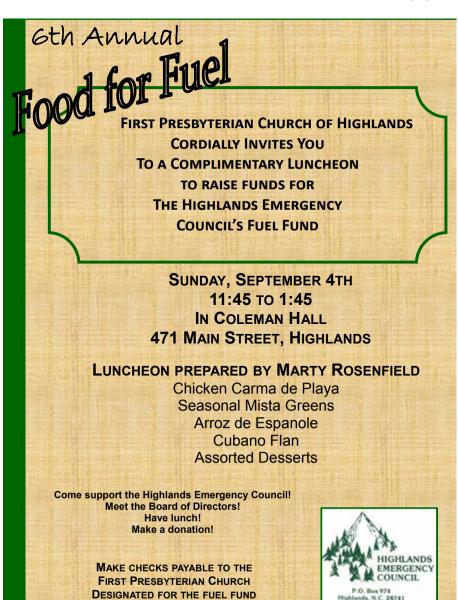
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...SHEARL continued from page 1

It all began on Aug. 19, 2009, when the town of Highlands issued a zoning violation notice to John Shearl, owner of I&I Lawn and Landscape, saving he was making commercial use of a building on property zoned as residential.

His company uses two buildings on the split-zoned property, a shop building near the road on the commercial portion and a storage building further back on the property which is zoned residential. But was it, is the question.

The 1988 zoning map line of demarcation shows 230 feet from the center line of NC 28 which would put the buildings in question in the commercial zone; the 1990 amended zoning map – which can't be found - has the commercial buildings in the residential zone.

Since the town couldn't produce the 1990 zoning map that showed the line of demarcation moved from 230 feet to 150 feet from the center line of NC 28, the case was vacated and remanded back to the Zoning Board.

"We believe that where, as here, a town fails to comply with its obligations under local ordinances and state law by failing to keep

...BROADBAND from page 1

is something Highlands opted not to do reasoning that free Wi-Fi offered by many businesses in Highlands was one way for them to draw patrons and the town didn't want to compete with

Mayor Pat Taylor said the federal court's unanimous vote has put Highlands and its new Altitude Broadband service into a "wait and see" mode.

"We need to see how North Carolina responds. We don't know where we stand but we are studying and will be sharing ideas with the public very soon. - possibly within the month. Our specialists both here and in Washington are looking at the current law to see how and if we can move forward with this issue. We are not backing away from having to have broadband in this community. It is an essential utility," he said.

- Kim Lewicki

official zoning maps on record for public inspection, the appropriate remedy is to place the burden back on the town to establish the location and classification of zoning districts when the landowner began his or her nonconforming use. Because the BOA placed the burden on Mr. Shearl to establish the location of the zoning line when he began his nonconforming use in 1993, the Superior Court's order affirming that allocation of proof must be vacated and the matter remanded for a new hearing. At the new hearing, the town must: (1) present evidence establishing the existence of a current zoning violation, and (2) present evidence that the 1990 zoning ordinance moved the zoning line on the subject property from 230 feet to 150 feet from the center

line of Highway 28. Mr. Shearl

In the past, Highlands has amended its zoning ordinance and the adoption of its maps by logging such actions in its Town Board

Though Town Attorney I.K. Coward agreed at the time that the town's record keeping had been "sloppy" in the past, he said steps have been taken to change that.

And that is what he hung his case on – winning in the eves of the Zoning Board with a 4-1 vote.

"All of the previous ordinances were properly adopted by the previous boards and are fully enforceable; they just weren't housed in the right book," he said. "The town has now created the correct record keeping process."

So, at the Jan. 14, 2015 Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing, the

must be allowed to offer additional evidence in rebuttal," wrote Judge Robert Hunter, Ir.

board upheld both 2009 Zoning Board rulings and the 2013 Superior Court ruling affirming a zoning violation issued by the town to Shearl for having commercial activity on the residential portion of his splitzoned property.

At that time Shearl vowed to return to Superior Court - which he did – winning, he said, once again.

"When the time comes, I am going to let everyone know what a waste of taxpavers money this was,"

said Shearl on Tuesday.

Exactly how much this has cost taxpavers wasn't available by press time. Finance Director Rebecca Shuler said her department is working on it.

Meanwhile, in a Closed Session Tuesday night, Mayor Pat Taylor said the Town Board directed Attorney Coward to "continue negotiations with Shearl's attorney and the judge in resolving the case."

– Kim Lewicki

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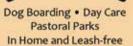
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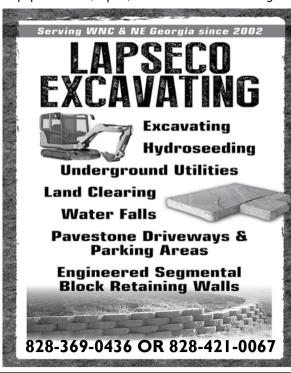


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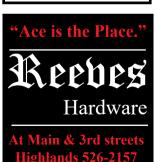






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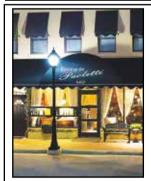
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