

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Sept. 22, 2016

Highlands feeling effects of Alabama pipeline rupture

On Sept. 9, about 230,000 gallons of gasoline was discharged from a Colonial Pipeline's ruptured underground 36-inch pipe near Birmingham, AL with ramifications felt in six states – Tennessee, Virginia, Georgia, South

Carolina, Alabama and North Carolina. The number of gallons discharged has been increased to 336,000.

Gas stations in town – Farmer's Market, D&J and 4th Street Market vendors of Exxon, Citgo

and Shell gasoline, respectively, have not run out of gasoline but are taking precautions to keep it that way.

On Monday, Lenny Metrick, manager of both the Exxon and Citgo stations, initiated at \$25 lim-

it – which is about 11 gallons of gasoline.

"We are hopeful that this will be over by the end of the week, but it will probably take another week for everything to get back to

•See RUPTUREpage 8

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HS Middle School Soccer Team



Ethan Tate, Garrison Chalker, William Creswell, Jeffery Olvera, Mad-die Coen, James Earp, Nathan Keener, Reid Carrier, Jacob Holt, JJ Dearth, Connor White, Brent Sleight, Connor Thorsky, Owen Munoz, Luis Torres, Calvin Barloga

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Candidates for NC House District 120 face off at forum

Each election, Macon County's League of Women Voters invite candidates for office to

speak to voters about pertinent issues and to answer questions. Last

•See FORUM page 3

Town comes to 'terms' on Chestnut Hill water/sewer line

The Chestnut Hill water/sewer agreement has been the subject of lengthy discussions at the last couple Town Board meetings but it's not because the owner wants to build more houses, it's because clear title can't be conveyed on the 36 homes in existence that he wants to sell.

In a nutshell, the problem is that the town has an existing 2001 water agreement with the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Chestnut Hill – which board members upheld at the August Town Board meeting and again at the September meeting – but it doesn't have a formal sewer agreement with the hospital. Now that Chestnut Hill is no longer part of the hospital, that's a problem.

•See CHESTNUT page 18



Photo by Cynthia Strain

Highlands says good-bye to Santa/ex Mayor Buck Trott

Thursday, Sept. 15 was the September Town Board meeting but it also marked the passing of Buck Trott, Highlands long-time Santa and a two-term mayor.

His son-in-law Mayor Pat Taylor opened the meeting with a heartfelt tribute to a man he considered mentor, family and friend.

"Buck Trott died this morn-

ing at 88 after an active life and I would like to offer this tribute to him – the last stanza of the U.S. Air Force Song," said Taylor.

"Off we go into the wild blue yonder,

Keep the wings level and true – *that's what Buck did,*

If you live to be a grey-haired

•See TROTT page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Cherished lessons learned

Human beings learn from one another, and hopefully what we learn brings out the best in us. I learned many things about public service from several of my elders. These people had the experience, insights and wisdom that I would need and value in the future.

The town lost a great elder community servant last week, former mayor Buck Trott. He was my mentor, as well as my father-in-law, for many years. Buck informally taught me many important concepts by his words and actions that I will always cherish.

I remember when I was a young college professor climbing the academic ladder, Buck, a former Air Force colonel, provided me steady guidance and counsel. One day I was really animated and frustrated about a professional situation that I was embroiled in at the moment. What impressed me was not what Buck told me to do, but the calm, poised and mature response he had to my tirade of frustration.

Buck was a pilot who had "the right stuff" He conveyed that lesson to me that day. I expected him to tell me how to fight back with vengeance against my ad-



Mayor Pat Taylor

versaries. But, his calm response against my flying off the handle was the "the right stuff" for me to embrace in the path forward to resolve my problem.

On the other hand, Buck always had a passion and drive. Buck served under the famous General Curtis LeMay. Jean, his wife of 34 years, has quipped that if General LeMay would have told Buck that for the good of the

nation and glory of the Air Force he was to fly his plane straight to the gates of hell, Buck would not have hesitated. I suspect Buck would have only had one question for the general, "Sir, what air speed do you want when I crash the gates of hell?" Truly, some of the missions he flew for the Air Force were not far away from flying into hell.

When it came to supporting his beloved Highlands community and country, Buck had that same exuberance to duty. If he believed it was in the best interest of the community to follow a certain path, Buck was always at the front leading the procession. He never apologized for having the Rooseveltian "gung-ho" spirit when it came to supporting his town, state or nation.

By example, Buck taught me and others to always do our duty in service to others. He led by example in going that extra mile. He first learned that commitment to service in the military, and continued to live that ideal through the remainder of his life.

At the last Town Board meeting, the day of his death, I paid tribute to Buck by reading the last stanza of the Air Force song. The last line reads, "Hey, nothing can stop the US Air Force!"

Hey, nothing could also stop Buck Trott when it came to serving his fellow citizens and community. Devotion to serving others is his final lesson and legacy to me and to so many other Highlanders.

• THANKS •

The Houston Family would like to thank all for the prayers, food and flowers at the passing of Lois Houston, our sister, mother, grandmother and friend.

— The Houston Family.

• MILESTONE •

Moore named Gulf South Conference Women's Freshman of the Week



Last year Blakely Moore, 2015 graduate of Highlands School, made history by becoming Highlands' first ever Cross Country State Champion. She is now a freshman at Lee University and is running for the Lady Flames cross country team. After her first collegiate race on September 10th in the Furman Invitational, she was honored as the Gulf South Conference Women's Freshman of the Week. She finished 17th of all non-Division I participants with a time of 23:16.66. The race was 6K instead of the 5K normally run by high schoolers. Blakely is number 412 in the picture above. Blakely's efforts helped her team finish in third place among 18 non-Division I participating colleges.

• WEEKEND WEATHER •

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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 •

Allen 'Buck' Trott



dren and community groups as Santa.

As a U.S. Air Force officer, Trott had a distinguished career that included nearly 1,200 combat missions during the Vietnam conflict. He was awarded numerous medals and citations including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Presidential Unit Citation, and the Combat Readiness Award. He also received the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service and Campaign Medal. As a member of the U.S. Coast Guard, he was assigned to duty in the North Atlantic and received the World War II Victory Medal. He retired from the Air Force in 1980.

After World War II, Trott completed high school and went on to graduate from the University of Maryland where he played football, 1950-1951. While in the Air Force, he received a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University.

Trott is survived by his wife of 34 years, Jean Trott of Highlands. He is also survived by his three children, Mark Trott (Caroline), Lorna Beavers, and Amy St. Amand and three step children, Sallie Taylor (Patrick), Jeannette Chidsey, and Truman Chidsey (Gretchen). He had 19 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 1 pm at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands with Rev. Maurice Goldsmith officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Highlands Boy Scouts Troop 207, PO Box 1632, Highlands, North Carolina 28741, or the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, PO Box 89367, Tampa, FL 33689.

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

a graduate of Franklin High School, class of 1979, an Honors Graduate of Appalachian State University (ASU) in 1983, where he majored in Marketing and Business Management, served as News Editor of the university's "Appalachian" newspaper and interned for the university as a Public Information

• See FORUM page 6

Highlands has lost a public servant and community leader, and the nation has lost an American patriot and United States Air Force warrior. Former Mayor Allen "Buck" Trott peacefully passed away into his last flight into the wild blue yonder Thursday morning, September 15, 2016, at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center.

Trott, born in 1928, was 88 and had been a resident of Highlands for nearly 30 years. He served as mayor for eight years and retired as a colonel after 30 years of service in the United States Air Force. He was a veteran of the Second World War and did multiple tours in Vietnam.

As a community leader, Trott played key roles in numerous organizations including the Highlands Boy Scouts Troop 207. He served for many years as coordinator of Special Operations Warriors Adventure Race that is held in Highlands every summer. He was past president of the Hudson Library Board, the Mirror Lake Homeowners Association, and the Highlands Historical Society.

As mayor, he worked with the Highlands Biological Station to gain state and university support and led the town in many infrastructure and road improvements. He was an active member of the Highlands American Legion Post, and the Highlands Rotary Club.

Trott developed the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation's breakfast ministry where he was an active member for all the years he resided in Highlands.

For many years Trott was the Highlands' Santa Claus and made double appearances in the annual Christmas parade. He would lead the parade as mayor and then rush back to the end of the parade, change into his Santa Claus suit, and ride in a sleigh down Main Street at the end of the parade. He devoted countless hours during the Christmas season visiting with chil-

...FORUM continued from page 1

Thursday, the LWV hosted candidates for N.C. House of Representatives Republican Kevin Corbin and Democrat Randy Hogsed. Both candidates were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and then answer questions from the league.

Corbin:

Corbin is a Macon County native and

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M F G R O . C O M

...TROTT continued from 1

wonder – *which he did*

Keep the nose out of the blue!
Flying men, guarding the nation's border,
We'll be there followed by more!
In echelon we carry on
Oh, nothing'll stop the Air Force!"

"Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force! That spirit of exuberance I know Buck had for the Air Force he also had for this community," continued Taylor. "He was always pro and gung-ho for this Highlands community and I just wanted to pay this tribute to my father-in-law and former mayor."

More on Buck

My husband Jim and I first met Buck on a walk soon after we moved our family – Rachel a rising 6th-grader and Megan a rising 4th-grader to Highlands from Charleston, SC where we had lived for 16 ½ years. It was July 1997 and our friends and family thought we were crazy – but we knew better.

Buck was working outside what would become the old Book Worm which was on the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center. Dressed in blue overalls, sporting a baseball cap with his hair in a pony tail, he was busy building book shelves and explained how proceeds from used book sales would benefit the Hudson Library.

His joyful demeanor resembled that of a jolly ol' elf, which we quickly learned was exactly what he was and we looked forward to the annual Christmas Parade which he enthusiastically described.

He also told us he was running for mayor and encouraged us to register to vote – which we did, of course.

In a short time, we learned that after retiring from the U.S. Air Force he became the pilot for the CEO of the Co-

ca-cola Company; from there we learned of the Woodruff connection to Highlands, specifically the Rec Park and the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

He was full of stories and one of them involved the Coca-cola Santa ads which have been a mainstay of the company's since the 1920s.

Evidently, the Gulf Stream jet he flew for the CEO was fur longed and so during some down time at Coca-Cola headquarters in Atlanta, Buck set to work clearing out a warehouse where he found a poster of the Coca-Cola Santa. As the story goes, someone said the resemblance was uncanny and suggested he grow out his beard – which started his "Santa" career. He said he was even featured as Santa in a few advertisements.

Buck won the election and for eight years he rode in the first car in the parade as mayor and then quickly donned his Santa suit to bring up the rear of the parade.

His Santa days ended Dec. 2011 but he will always be remembered as that jolly ol' elf, who could talk to anyone and whose door as mayor of his beloved Highlands was always open. (See is obituary on page 3.)

– Kim Lewicki

...FORUM continued from page 3

Officer. Corbin also represented ASU in the North Carolina Student Legislature. He graduated from Appalachian with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Corbin has served four years on the Appalachian State University Board of Trustees, is a past Chairman of the Macon County School Board (20 years) winning five county wide elections and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Southwestern Community College Foundation and has served on the Franklin Chamber of Commerce Board. In 2010 Kevin was appointed to the Blue Cross Blue Shield NC Agents Advisory Board where he was involved in developing lower cost plans for citizens of North Carolina. Corbin was inducted into Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC Hall of Fame in 2013, with only 21 inductees in history. Corbin is also an active member of the Franklin Rotary, has served the past six years as county commissioner, and the past four years as chairman of the MC Board of Commissioners. Corbin is currently serving as Chair of the Region A Council of Government.

Hogsed:

Hogsed, a real estate agent and native of Andrews, NC. After graduating high school, Hogsed served in the United States Military for four years. Hogsed graduated with a degree in business administration from the community college and said the reason he decided to run for office is climate change.

"The most important issue facing us today is climate change," he said. "The climate I intend to change is the one in our state capital. That's the climate out in Raleigh that thinks its OK to change our taxing system to tax the wealthy people less and the working class more."

1) Infrastructure

Corbin:

Corbin noted that as a county commissioner, he and his fellow board members have made improving access to internet connectivity and cell phone service a priority and that is something he continues to do on the state level for the entire district.

"I think internet connectivity and adequate access to

• See FORUM page 14

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• THE FREDSTER •

Dear Fredster ...

From my book, 'I'm Moving Back to Mars'

You recently called yourself a "winter wimp" and it dawned on me you're not living in Highlands during the winter. It's so beautiful here that time of year and I'm perplexed as to why you would ever leave Highlands and head for hot and sweaty, flat Florida? – *A Winter Angel, Suddenly Perplexed.*

Dear W.A.S.P:

My definition of a winter wimp is.... "A person whose nose stops up in mid-October and doesn't drain until late April." Breathing is something I've grown quite fond of and I don't want to give it up until I croak. I leave Highlands for warmer climes but that's only part of the reason I leave.

I go for the infamous cart wars. By the way, do not croak until you have experienced the Florida cart wars.

Let me fill you in. Each winter, thousands of tiny little women, mostly fat and wearing sneakers, descend on South Florida supermarkets for the cart wars. Some of these old gals have reputations for being the toughest and most skilled cart fighters in the land. They come to Florida to duel with the best. The cane is their weapon of choice. If you choose not to participate, peek through the window and you'll see some of the best "cart rage" you'll find anywhere.

As a skilled cart fighter, you never take your hands off your cart to get food. If you do, your opponent will opt to either ram your cart, sending it flying up the aisle, knocking over the large display of on-sale cockroach poison, or she'll take your cart two aisles over and put 64 cans of Ensure in it. Who can afford that?

I spotted a cart fighter in aisle four. "That's the old gal who gave me the groin shot last week," I muttered to my li'l missus. As usual, she ignored me. I maneuvered my cart into position and got a good glancing blow. Wham; over went her milk and a large pink bottle of Pepto-Bismol. I rolled by, pretending not to notice. Always remember that revenge is so sweet when it's a week old.

But that's amateur stuff. To be a really good cart fighter, you must be subtle with your moves, like placing your cart in the aisle so no one can get by. Then, jam chocks in your cart wheels so it won't move.



Fred Wooldridge

Now, step back and watch. Warriors will appear out of nowhere to take advantage of your carelessness. Ramming your cart, locked in position, will send shock waves up your opponent's arms, rattling their upper plates and knocking the tease out of their blue hair.

Here's another great move I've mastered. You must pretend to be totally absorbed with looking at something on the food shelf. Then, without looking at

your opponent, slowly push your cart forward, crushing her between your cart and the tomato juice display. To score a point, you must push until she knocks over several cans of tomato juice. POW - one point for you.

I have fought with the best. Last week I knew I was in trouble when I felt a hand push against my shoulder. "Excuse me, but I need to be here," she commanded as she pushed me away from the cottage cheese. That's when I noticed the cane protruding out the front of her cart, like a giant lance, just the right height for groin shots. Not only had she pushed me away from the cottage cheese but her cart had me pinned in the chicken livers. She was good... really good.

Later, I watched her nail an old geezer with her lance that left him doubled up in pain. She worked her way through the aisles, taking out one opponent after the next. She was awesome. I waited for just the right moment. Then, it happened. She took her eyes off her cart to reach for food. It was one of my subtler moves. I rolled by her, careful not to have our carts touch. I was able to slip a few items into her cart while she was deciding which laxatives to buy. Then I followed her to the checkout counter where the cashier looked on in disbelief as she rang up an oversized drum of high energy, muscle building protein drink, a large box of condoms and two boxes of Lucky Boy chewing tobacco. That's a three-pointer.

Sooooo Miss Perplexed Winter Angel, Highlands' grocery stores may have courteous and friendly employees, where even the customers are considerate and polite, but they don't have cart wars. When spring finally rolls around again, I'll be pretty banged up and be in need of some healing time at Mountain Fresh and Bryson's where even the slightest cart touching is considered obscene.

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...RUPTURE continued from page 1

normal,” he said.

Metrick said he hasn’t had to raise prices yet – it will depend on the cost of his next delivery.

At the 4th Street Market the limit is eight gallons per day.

“We didn’t raise prices until we ran out and the new load which was delivered Sunday came in at a higher rate,” said owner David Bock. “It’s still not enough gasoline, but we are better off than other places.”

All three stations get their gasoline from the Spartanburg-Belton terminal in South Carolina.

All allocations are based on product supply which is controlled by Colonial Pipeline.

On Monday, the company issued an update regarding shipments which began late last week and are in the process of being delivered – and many have been delivered – to terminals throughout the system.

To minimize supply disruptions, last week Colonial Pipeline gathered gasoline from Gulf Coast refiners to ship supplies on its distillate line to markets throughout the affected region. As a result, supplies of gasoline have been delivered and/or are



Colonial Pipeline Map

in route to terminal locations in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Delivery times to mainline and stubline terminals in these markets vary.

Meanwhile, North Carolina Governor McCrory declared the state of emergency to “help ensure that there will be adequate supplies of fuel across the state and prevent excessive fuel pricing.”

A by-pass line is being constructed around the ruptured pipeline to facilitate the transportation of fuel while the rupture is being repaired.

According to Monday’s statement from Colonial Pipeline, “Gasoline shipments on Lines 1 and 2 (Mainlines) initiated on the system starting last week were delivered this past weekend or are in route to the following markets, with local and regional fuel marketers distributing the product from their terminals to retail stations: in Boligee, Oxford and Birmingham, AL; Opelousas, LA; Atlanta, GA; Meridian, MS; Belton and Spartanburg, SC and Greensboro and Charlotte, NC.

“Upon arrival at the mainline terminal locations outlined above, Colonial will deliver fuel directly to local terminal customers or re-originate the fuel down lateral or stublines to additional terminals in several other markets. Fuel terminal operators will then determine distribution patterns for each respective market, where gasoline will be off-loaded into tanker trucks for delivery to retail stations.

“Under normal circumstances, the Colonial Pipeline system transports approximately 2.6 million barrels of refined products each day, with Line 1 accounting for half of this volume.

Due to the rupture, Colonial is cur-

rently shipping significant volumes of gasoline on Line 2, the distillate mainline, to help mitigate the impact of the service interruption to Line 1.

“These changes have allowed all origins and delivery markets to be served along the entire system, albeit in a reduced capacity,” they said.

Colonial Pipeline began implementation of its plan to construct a bypass around the impacted segment of Line 1. The projected restart of Line 1 remains unchanged – possibly the end of next week – but recovery efforts at the initial release site will continue along with bypass construction.

Colonial Pipeline is one of two major pipelines that connect more than two dozen refineries in Texas and Louisiana with cities in the Eastern U.S. The pipeline provides nearly 40 percent of the region’s gasoline and usually runs at or near full capacity.

It operates two parallel pipelines through Alabama: Line 1, normally used for gasoline; and Line 2, normally used for distillate products like diesel fuel, jet fuel, and home heating oil.

Both lines are operating in west Alabama. Line 1 is taking limited shipments of gasoline from Houston to west Alabama, but stopping before the leak site in Shelby County.

Line 2 is now alternating between its usual distillate products and regular gasoline from Houston to Atlanta.

From Atlanta, Colonial operates seven “stublines” or shorter pipelines that transport gasoline to places like south Georgia, Nashville, Knoxville and South Carolina. Those appear to be areas experiencing the most outages.

– Kim Lewicki

OCTOBER 1 SATURDAY

Artisan's Market

Breakfast
9-10:30am
\$2.00

Lunch
11:30-1:30pm
hot dogs and bratwurst
\$5.00-6.00

Highlands United Methodist Church **9:00am - 3:00pm**
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Grandma's Kitchen	Mountain Crafts
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Every day from 11:00am - close
Fresh angus burgers, fresh
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See our website for more info.

Pizza

Every day from 11:00am - close
Authentic Neapolitan and NY deck
oven pizzas made from scratch. Pasta
bowls, daily specials and weeknight
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See our website for more info.

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Mon-Sat 11:00am - close
Fresh salads, homemade dressings,
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\$9.99 each (dine in) or \$9.99 a pound (to go)

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Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm
Skillet fried chicken, country angus
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Four chicken and four cheese enchiladas,
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Or...

24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken
tenders and hand cut fries.
\$21.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage
lasagna and a large house salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie
and a large salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with
mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp,
baked potatoes, hush puppies &
coleslaw. \$24.95 serves four

Saturday: In-house smoked bbq,
coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked
beans, and yeast rolls. \$21.95 serves 4

Weeknight Pizza Special:

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

ONGOING

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

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Friday - Tuesday: 2, 5, and 8 pm;

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

Daily

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

First Mondays

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

Mondays

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

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour

at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

First Tuesdays

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

Tuesdays

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

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

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

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets on the at 7pm at the co-operative extension office on Thomas Heights Road in Franklin. For more information call 828-369-3916.

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. Free

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

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc., and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church 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 Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

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

Fridays

• 99ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1

p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

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

Saturdays

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

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

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

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

Sept. 22

• The Bascom Book Club meets from 3-5p. A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson.

• Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, presentation on Thursday evening at 6:30 P.M. at First Presbyterian Church in Coleman Hall. A Potluck Fellowship Meal at 6 will precede the program.

Fri., Sept. 23

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a-noon.

• At The Bascom, A Night with



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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 PM, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 24-25

• Two-day music fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau. The “Old Balderoo” and will be held on Fairfield Lake in Sapphire, 5-9PM both days. There will be fireworks display on both nights at the conclusion of the music around 9PM.

Sat. Sept. 24

• WCU's Mountain Heritage Day, a free family-oriented festival that celebrates Southern Appalachian culture through concerts, living-history demonstrations, competitions and awards programs, will be held Saturday, on the WCU campus, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Sun., Sept. 25

• Come eat, politic and enjoy the Michael Moore Movie: “Where to Invade Next” (2Hrs) 4 -8pm

(movie start @ 4:30/dinner 5:30) Meeting Room @ the Hudson Library. Bring a dish to share and wine. RSVP

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 AM – NOON, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

• The final Village Nature Series. at The Village Green Commons in Cashiers. Learn about migrating Elks. 5:30 PM, rain or shine. No reservations required, everyone welcome.

Wed., Sept. 28

• Daytime Prime Physician Forum with Dr. Patti Wheeler at noon in the Jane Woodruff Clinic, Suite 109. RSVP at 828-526-1498

• At Paoletti, A Peaceful Journey Charitable Dining Event in support of Hospice House Foundation of WNC. Honor the compassion, dignity and comfort that defines hospice care while you indulge in a

decadent 4-course menu and wine pairing. Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m. The cost is \$300 including tax and gratuity (\$200 tax deductible.) Also live music and a silent auction. For reservations, call 828-526-4906.

Thurs., Sept 29

• At CLE, Electromagnetic Pulse – 10AM – NOON, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

• Warren Carpenter will exhibit turned bowls and wooden sculptures at Art on the Hill, Chestnut Hill Clubhouse, on Thursday at 4 - 5:30 pm. There will also be a wood turning demonstration on the Clubhouse veranda at 4:30.

• At CLE, Life and Times of Herbert Creedy, Artist – 4-5PM, Bascom. 828-526-8811.

Sept. 30-Oct. 2

• Fun, creative Journaling workshop at The Conscious Connection Sept. 30-Oct. 2nd. Call Betty Holt for details: 828-526-5558.

Sat., Oct. 1

• Highlands United Methodist Church is holding Octoberfest from 9a to 3:30p at the church. It's a fun filled day-long craft fair, with all handmade items to be sold as a

fundraiser for our church expansion which features the new Faith & Fellowship Center will house the popular 9:09 Worship service & its many community-based ministries offered throughout the week. Breakfast offerings, Grandma's kitchen, Pumpkin Patch, The Grille and Lemonade Stand, Gay's Garden Art & an Artisan's Market.

• Rabies Clinic at Highlands Conference Center from 9-10:30 a.m. AND at the Scaly Mountain Post Office from 11-12:30 p.m. Cost is \$10. Pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes or in carriers.

• Community Health Fair at First Baptist from 10a to 2p. Flu vaccines (insured and non-insured), Blood pressure and Diabetes Screenings. Many other health related vendors and providers. First Baptist Church Highlands, on Main St.

• At PAC, Broadway: The Phat Pack GALA. Concert at 5 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. at Highlands Country Club. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

Sun. Oct 2

• Empty Bowl Project at First Presbyterian Church from 11:30a to 1:30p. The cost is \$20 per bowl and includes a simple lunch of bread and

soup and you get to keep the bowl. All proceeds go to the Food Pantry of Highlands.

• The annual blessing of Animals will take place on Sunday at 3 p.m. in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street.

• Empty Bowl Project at The Orchard Restaurant from noon to 2 p.m. The cost is \$20 per bowl and includes a simple lunch of bread and soup and you get to keep the bowl. All proceeds go to the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry in Cashiers.

Mon., Oct. 3

• The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will meet at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Library in Cashiers, NC. Informal gathering at 6 PM with the speaker's presentation at 7 PM. After the presentation a raffle of a custom, handmade fly rod.

Thurs., Oct. 6

• Bingo benefitting Highlands Cub Scout Pack 207 on Thursday 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building.

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 7-9

• Cashiers Valley Leaf Festival on the Village Green 10a to 5p each day. Live music, arts and craft and food. Children's activities, too

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Fall Home Improvement

Make a Style Statement: Top Interior Design Trends on the Horizon

(StatePoint) You likely set goals to eat right and save money. But what goals do you set for your home?

"Now is the perfect time to experiment with décor trends," says Taniya Nayak, interior designer and DIY television personality.

Here are six home décor trends Nayak predicts will soon be filling your Pinterest feed.

Presswork Palette

Generate conversation and set the tone for your space by incorporating text -- think monograms, family names or inspirational quotes.

"Use various fonts and sizes to create different moods," says Nayak. "Letters can be sharp and defined to create a contemporary and stylish aesthetic, or soft and casual for an elegant and timeless feel."

Nature's Patterns

For clean interior spaces with lots of detail, try simple designs inspired by nature, such as honeycombs, florals and leaves.

"Pair these with neutral colors for a soothing atmosphere, or blow them up and paint them in a bright color for a bold statement," says Nayak.

You can also integrate natural patterns through accent pieces, such as light fixtures that have reflective metals to mimic sparkling water, or a textured jute rug.

Digitally Defined

"Geometric shapes and angles have become associated with technology; evoking creativity and innovative design," says Nayak.

Incorporate this trend with geometric floor tiles in different colors. Or use pixelation for a modern, clean look. Pixelated artwork made up of monochromatic cubes can be simplistic and versatile.

Fresh and Fab

Multiple bright colors mixed together elevate the mood in any space. Paint a bold accent wall for an eye-catching statement. Or brightly paint a piece of antique furniture for an unexpected combination of modern and traditional.

"When it comes to painting an accent wall or furniture, one of the most important tools you need is a premium painter's tape, like FrogTape brand painter's tape," advises Nayak.

Treated with Paint-Block Technology, FrogTape brand Multi-Surface



and Delicate Surface tapes can be used on a variety of surfaces and help deliver sharp lines, so your handiwork looks professional.

Textured Terrain

From transformed wood pallets to worn leather or tin ceilings, aged raw materials offer texture and help give a space dimension.

"Incorporate it into an application you wouldn't typically think to use the material," suggests Nayak. "For example, use concrete on a wall instead of the floor."

Home décor items can easily be made to look aged by adding paint and other finishes for a distressed look.

Global Style

Create a warm, friendly space with a parade of patterns from different cultures.

"Don't be afraid to mix multiple prints within a space," says Nayak. "Tie these patterns together by carrying a similar color throughout each element in the room."

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Fall Home Improvement

5 Things to Look for When Replacing Your Home's Windows

(StatePoint) Unlike some home improvements, window upgrades are complex, involving many moving parts. If you are in the market for an upgrade, don't rush into a decision until doing some research and evaluating what will work best on your home.

Here are five things to consider when replacing your home's windows, according to the experts at ProVia:

- An energy efficient glass package: The right windows will protect your home and keep you comfortable all year long, limiting the sun's rays from coming through and fading your carpet and upholstery, as well as preventing cold air from entering your home in the colder months.

"Test your current windows by touching them. If you feel the outside chill and air coming through, it may be time for a change," says Wanda Angel, Brand Manager for Doors and Windows at ProVia.

Seek ENERGY STAR Certified high-performance

windows, ideal for the weather extremes particular to your region. They should have multiple panes and feature technologies, such as the ComforTech Warm Edge Glazing System, which offers reduced heat loss, warmer glass temperature and reduced interior condensation.

- Warranty: Windows can cost thousands of dollars. Protect your investment by opting for windows that come with a lifetime warranty that includes glass breakage and seal failure. A comprehensive warranty should also be transferrable to the next homeowner, such as those from ProVia. This feature can potentially increase your home's value when you put it on the market.

- Weather stripping: Prevent air infiltration through your windows with proper weather stripping. A bulb seal at the bottom of the window, which is a rubberized seal that compresses to the sill, combined with fin weather stripping on verticals and horizontals,



will give you triple weather stripping that acts as a true barrier against drafts, keeping you comfortable and helping reduce utility bills.

- Beauty: Your windows, like any exterior element on your home, should complement its architecture and add beauty to your house. While certain architectural styles, such as Colonial, once reigned, there's a new trend toward American Craftsman homes. Forward-thinking window manufacturers are responding to the call by offering grid patterns, stain and paint finishes suitable

for this growing need.

Interestingly, a new window program at ProVia offers three new series of windows at a range of price points. The series includes ecoLite, Aspect, as well as Endure windows which come with top level innovations in window performance. To learn more, and to find resources on identifying the right windows for your home, visit www.proviaproducts.com.

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...FORUM continued from page 6

cell phone service is the single biggest issue facing western North Carolina," said Corbin. "From quality of life to economic development in business, internet connectivity is vital to our everyday lives."

Corbin explained that locally, commissioners worked with the planning board to develop a map showing areas of the county with internet and cell service and identify areas of concern and focus. If elected, he said he wants to do the same for the entire district. Corbin also noted that while serving on the state's rural infrastructure authority, he has been a champion for rural projects in WNC and plans to continue to do that if elected to the NC House.

Hogsed:

Hogsed's vision for addressing infrastructure in WNC is to develop Team 120. A team of 120 individuals from business owners to politicians, to nurses to parents. According to Hogsed, Team 120 would then identify 120 infrastructure projects throughout the district and then work together to prioritize the projects based on feasibility, funding, and need.

2) Education

Corbin:

"North Carolina has done a lot in public education but there is still more to be done," said Corbin.

The first thing Corbin plans to do as a

member of the NC House of Representatives is to introduce a bill in the legislature that would provide small schools like Nantahala and Highlands with small-school funding. Corbin said if Senator Jim Davis is re-elected, he plans to introduce the bill with him, and if Davis' Democratic challenger Jane Hips is elected, he plans to work with her to have the legislation entered into both houses of the General Assembly to ensure small, rural schools are provided with adequate funding.

"I am a fiscal conservative on most things, but when it comes to public education, I believe that is something that we have to do corporally and completely," said Corbin.

Hogsed:

"We have to provide our students with the ability to bloom, and to grow and to prosper, said Hogsed. "The state legislature has funneled \$148 million out of public education and sent it to private schools that have little or no oversight."

Hogsed noted that another problem he wants to address if elected is how that although 80 percent of the state is considered to be rural, a lot of legislative decisions are made and controlled by the urban areas such as Mecklenburg and Wake. If elected, Hogsed plans to work to ensure

• See FORUM page 17

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Influence and the Highlands, NC Real Estate Market

"Markets change, tastes change, so the companies and the individuals who choose to compete in those markets must change."

~ An Wang

In my last column, I invited readers to reach out to me and "ask me anything about the Highlands, NC real estate market." I received dozens of excellent questions! The volume of questions, as well as the thoughtful and sophisticated nature of each impressed me. After a bit of rumination, I opted to dive into this one: "Susie, can you point to the single biggest factor that impacted our real estate market recovery in Highlands?"

In order to answer this, I got out my trusty legal pad and pen and began a Mind Map. In the center, I drew a bubble on the page with the question "What Influences the Highlands-Cashiers Market?" I then began drawing bubbles around the question and filled them with things like national/international events/politics, stock markets, demographic appeal/trends, Town of Highlands Renaissance, hot(ter) summers, Highlands as a healing sanctuary, the quest for quiet and outdoor activity, cultural activities/dining/shopping, country club living/golf, world-renowned accommodations, unique/rare flora and fauna, and the pressures/congestion/traffic of elsewhere.

Quite a list, right? And how would I select the one that impacted the market re-



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

covery the most?

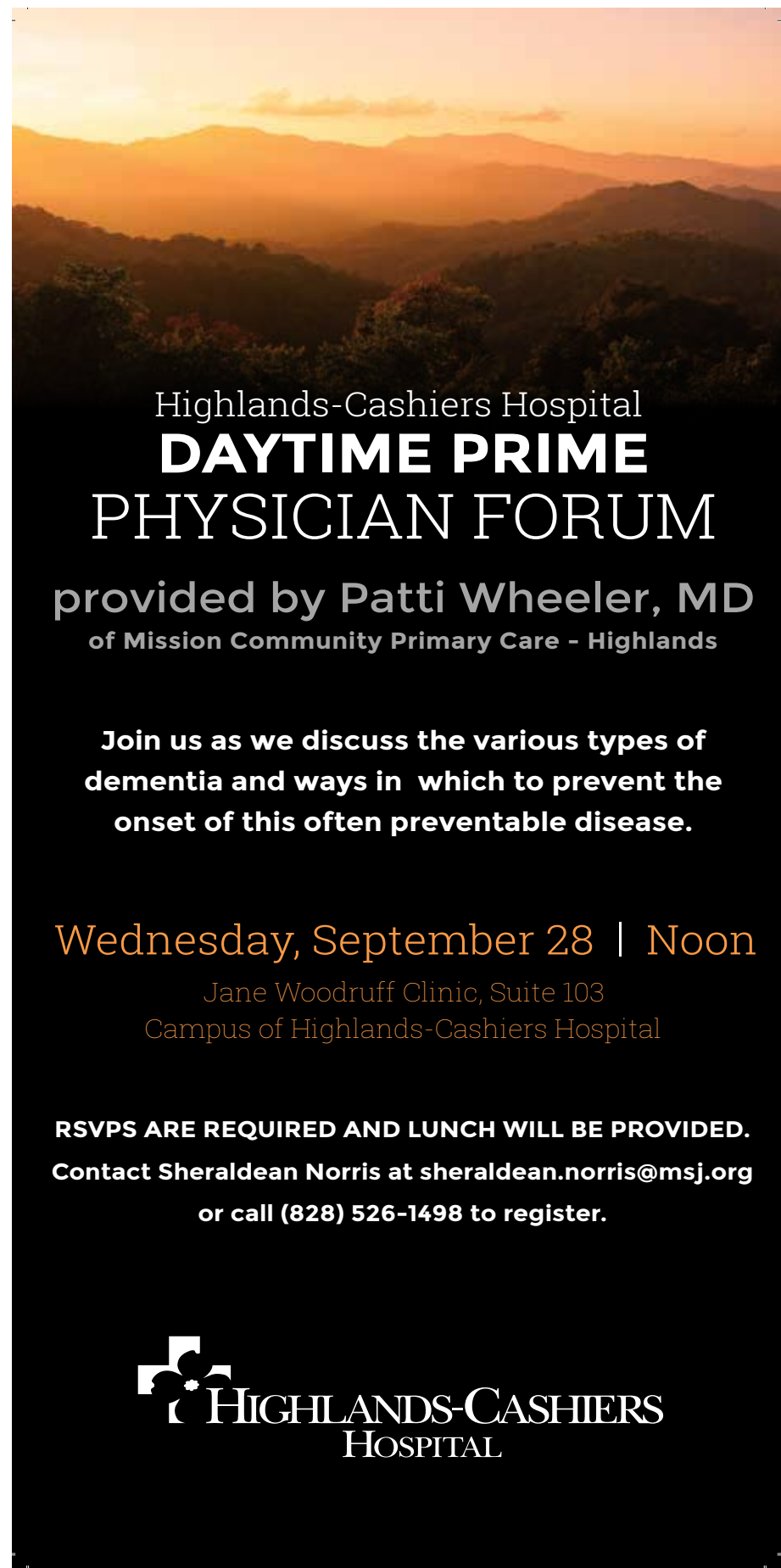
It then occurred to me that my Mind Map was incomplete. I had forgotten the singularly most impactful influence of all: investor psychology.

As it turns out, all of those items in the bubbles on my Mind Map are certainly important elements when deciphering our real estate market and Highlands' exceptional appeal. But when you boil it all down and reduce everything to the underlying essence of what truly influences our real estate market, it is, in fact, all about how our investors think, feel, believe, and, therefore, act.

I remember when I learned this powerful lesson of market influence in January of 2012. It was snowy and cold, and only a handful of investors were out and about actively shopping for real estate. We would welcome folks into our office and sit down with them to determine exactly what was most important to them, and how we could be of service. One after another in that wintry month, I heard stories from investors who were not only interested in buying real estate, but were borderline rabid about doing so.

What was going on? We were in what was classically considered "off season," and our real estate market was still stinging from the Great Recession. Why were there so many people eager to invest now?

• See **INVESTING** page 19



Highlands-Cashiers Hospital DAYTIME PRIME PHYSICIAN FORUM


provided by **Patti Wheeler, MD**
of Mission Community Primary Care - Highlands

Join us as we discuss the various types of dementia and ways in which to prevent the onset of this often preventable disease.

Wednesday, September 28 | Noon

Jane Woodruff Clinic, Suite 103
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RSVPS ARE REQUIRED AND LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.
Contact Sheraldean Norris at sheraldean.norris@msj.org
or call (828) 526-1498 to register.



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HOSPITAL**



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'Chautauqua Week' at the Center for Life Enrichment

At CLE from October 3 – 7, five members of the Special Studies faculty of the Chautauqua Institution in western New York State will be giving eight lectures and will also participate in an innovative panel discussion.

Kicking off the week at 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 3, will be Robert Hopper, former U.S. State Dept. official who served as a Foreign Service Officer in Rome, London and elsewhere. He will speak about "America – A Country Shaped by War."

At 2 p.m., it's former intelligence officer Ira Cooperman who will give a talk entitled "History of Espionage."

Cooperman has taught national security and film courses at Chautauqua since 2005. He will discuss the art of spying and how espionage has contributed to terrorist attacks.

Tuesday, Oct. 4, will feature husband and wife Robert and Carol Hopper. At 10 a.m. Robert will speak about "Science, Technology and Social Tipping Points."

At 2 p.m., Carol Hopper, who has taught faux finishing and worked on preservation projects in Old Town Alexandria, VA, will speak on "The History of Faux Finishes."

Another husband and wife team will speak on Wednesday, Oct. 5.

Chaz Kerschner, who served as a senior executive with the National Security Agency (NSA) for 35 years, will speak on "Codes – From Caesar to the 21st Century," at 10 a.m. He will discuss how secret codes in ancient times were the exclusive province of the rich and powerful, and will compare the use of cryptography today. Among his responsibilities at NSA, Chaz was involved in the design and development of code breaking machines.

Jane Kerschner, an educator and certified professional life coach, will lead a discussion entitled "Moving to More Joyful Expression – Discover the Wisdom of Your Body to Express Yourself More Freely," Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Ira Cooperman, who worked with the CIA during the Vietnam War, will return to speak at 10 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, about "Surprise Attacks – Pearl Harbor, 9/11, and the Unexpected."

To understand the challenges of surprise attacks, Cooperman will examine several that have taken place since World War II.

At 2 p.m., on Thursday, Oct. 6, all five Chautauqua presenters will participate in a panel discussion entitled "What is Chautauqua?"

Its four "pillars" – Education, Recreation, Art/Music, and Religion – will be explained and the discussion will be augmented by visual highlights of past summer seasons of this life-long learning institution. There also will be an opportunity to compare Chautauqua's offerings with those of the Center for Life Enrichment.

The week's final presentation will be on "Hollywood and Washington – Politics in Films," at 10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 7, with Ira Cooperman, who has taught film classes for over 10 years.

As clips from such classic films as "All the Kings Men," "All the President's Men," "Advise and Consent," and "Seven Days in May" are shown, how Hollywood's movies reflect or change America's politics will be examined. A lively discussion will be encouraged from all in attendance!

For more information or to register for these events please call 526-8811 or visit clehighlands.com.

Proverbs 3:5

PLACES TO WORSHIP

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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

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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

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Sun. 10:45am, S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting 3rd Wednesday at 5 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

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

10:45am: Worship Service

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

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Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II.

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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

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526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Bible Study: 6 pm

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm

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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

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

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

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at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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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 a.m.

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Rob Wood

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

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

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Sunday Worship - 11 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 Sept. 8. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Sept. 8

• At 2:06 p.m., officers received a report about a missing person from a residence on N. 5th Street.

Sept. 11

• At 9:49 p.m., officers received a report about someone trespassing at a home on Cul-saja Drive.

Sept. 12

• A little past midnight officers received a report about someone communicating threats at El Azteca Restaurant in Highlands Plaza.

• At 6 p.m., a breaking and entering at a

residence on US 64 west that occurred Sept. 1 at noon, was reported. Two window screens valued at \$90 were damaged.

Sept. 14

• At 12:58 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 west near N. 4th Street.

Sept. 15

A little past midnight, officers received a call for service from a resident on Paul Walden Road where someone was knocking on the door.

Sept. 16

• At 1:10 p.m., officers received a report of someone panhandling at the corner of NC 106 and Highlands Plaza.

• At 3 p.m., officers received a report of someone soliciting money by selling food items

door to door at a store on Main Street.

• At 8:15 p.m., officers received a report about someone trespassing at a residence on Bowery Road.

Sept. 17

• At 11 a.m., there was a report of a breaking and entering with larceny at a home on

Cook Road where two televisions valued at \$850 were taken.

Sept. 18

• At 1:30 p.m., a breaking and entering with larceny that occurred July 2, 2016 was reported at a residence on Horse Cove Road. Money was taken.

...FORUM continued from page 14

Raleigh knows that WNC doesn't end in Asheville.

3) Gun Control:

Corbin:

"I am very much a 2nd Amendment guy, I have a concealed carry permit and I believe that we should all have the right to conceal carry," said Corbin.

Corbin noted that after going through the concealed carry course, he believes that the criteria required to pass the class and be able to carry a concealed handgun could be stricter to ensure the safety of all citizens.

Hogsed:

Hogsed noted that he, too, supports the Second Amendment, but wants to see stricter background checks and ensure that individuals facing mental health issues are

not granted access to weapons. Hogsed said in general, mental health is a huge issue in North Carolina and is something that needs greater attention.

About LWV:

The League of Women Voters is a citizens' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. We operate at national, state and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well in DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong.

Formed from the movement that secured the right to vote for women, the centerpiece of the League's efforts remains to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans.

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...CHESTNUT continued from page 1

The back story

Via the June 1987 Town Board minutes, there is proof that commissioners agreed to provide sewer to hospital property – which included Chestnut Hill at the time – but not water.

On June 17, 1987, before the hospital was built at its current location, the Town Board unanimously agreed to provide sewer service to the H-C Hospital property, at the proposed location on Shortoff Road, in consideration of its withdrawal of an application for a discharge permit for 55,000 gallons per day into Big Creek. All facilities were to be installed and maintained at the hospital's expense – and still are – and no one else was to be permitted access to the sewer line which would begin at the town's Sherwood Forest lift station on US 64 east, where the town line ended.

The hospital's request for water service from the town was denied in 1987, since many requests for water service outside the town limits had been denied and because the extent of the hospital's development wasn't known at that time. Also, the hospital property had several productive well sites which ended up being used for years.

However, a formal sewer agreement can't be found and verbiage to such isn't included in the 2001 water agreement the town entered into with the hospital when the hospital had concerns about the future of its well system.

The hospital got a grant to build the water line across the road from the existing sewer line – the sewer line runs along one side of US 64 east and the water line runs along the other. Meters were installed – one for Chestnut Hill and one for the hospital. Once the hospital and Chestnut Hill became separate entities, the town agreed

to uphold the original agreement but only for what buildings were currently existing at Chestnut Hill at that time. The hospital and Chestnut Hill combined are allowed 70,000 gallons a day.

Part of the problem is that these agreements – the 1987 sewer agreement and the 2001 water agreement – were made with Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. At this point, though the hospital no longer owns Chestnut Hill and though the agreements now stand for what is currently existing and no more, proof of such is needed for potential buyers of Chestnut Hill homes.

At last Thursday's meeting, owner of Chestnut Hill Retirement Community Christopher Brogdon said he has lost seven sales due to the cloud on the deeds but has two others that can be salvaged with proof of water and sewer.

Commissioners agreed to amend its 2001 water agreement to include the sewer arrangement with Chestnut Hill but only for what is currently existing on its property – 36 homes, 20 apartments, 26 assisted living apartments, clubhouse and activity building.

While Finance Director/Town Clerk Rebecca Shuler and acting Town Manager Lamar Nix hunt for a 1987 sewer agreement similar to the 2001 water agreement, Town Attorney J.K. Coward was instructed to amend the agreement to include sewer service.

Brogdon hopes this will give him a better shot of conveying clear title to houses he is trying to sell within the complex.

Attorney Coward said he didn't know if a new document reaffirming the water agreement and adding the sewer agreement will solve the problem, but he said it's true that an owner can't sell a house and a buyer can't get a loan without proof of water and sewer access.

Meanwhile, should anyone want to build new homes in the Chestnut Hill complex, they will have to drill wells for water and construct septic fields.

– Kim Lewicki

.CLARIFICATION.

In last week's article on "elk sightings at Highlands Falls Country Club, a paragraph was misleading.

It read: Big Cataloochee also known as Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is home to elk where an experimental release of elk began in February 2001 with the importation of 25 elk."

The elk were released in Cataloochee Valley, but the park website reads: "Before the arrival of the Park in 1934, Cataloochee consisted of farmland maintained by an agrarian community of approximately 1,000 people. Big Cataloochee, the largest of several coves in the area, is considered to be North Carolina's "Cades Cove" where elk have also been seen.

COREY JAMES GALLERY

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...INVESTING continued from page 15

During one conversation, I heard from a gorgeous, articulate woman say what I would later refer to as the anthem of our investors: "Life is too short. There are a million reasons why we want to have a home here, but the biggest of all is that we want to enjoy our lives – NOW. We aren't waiting any longer for conditions to be perfect. We aren't willing to put our lives on hold ever again."

I knew immediately to what she was referring.

When the bottom fell out of the world in the fall of 2008, investors sat on the sidelines, stunned. Deals that were under contract were cancelled. Those with appointments to buy changed their minds. Activity in the market came to a screeching halt. For three years, the majority

of investors looked around for indications that it was a good time to buy real estate again. Some nominal signs were there (short sales and foreclosures were decreasing, and inventory was moving a bit again, for example), but there were no indications along the lines of a grand, "we are now officially out of the woods" sort.

Those people who walked into my office that winter simply had made a decision as to how they were going to live their lives. And in doing so, helped to create one of the most dramatic market recoveries I have ever witnessed. By choosing to live their best lives – now – they not only reaped the rewards of a higher quality life, but they scooped up tremendous deals and properties. They began renovating, reinvigorating the market

in ever-increasing numbers.

While that first group was on the leading edge four years ago, their mindset and actions prove that any number of things can impact our real estate market, but nothing is more powerful than the moment of human decision and conviction. Desirous of choosing and creating lives they love, our investors shaped and continue to shape and impact how our market evolves.

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

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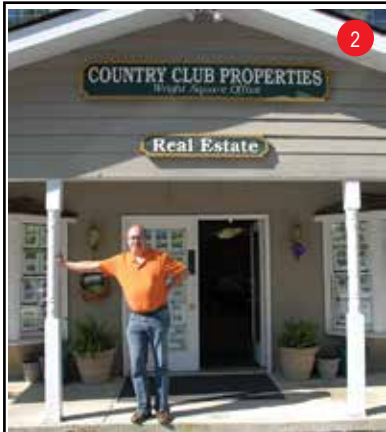
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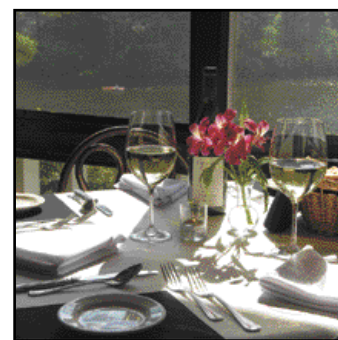
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