

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Sept. 8, 2016

Highlands 'new' gym roof replacement to cost \$217k

Since the "new" gym at Highlands School was built more than a decade ago, the roof has continuously leaked, causing damage to the gym's infrastructure.

After months of back and

forth with county commissioners, and district personnel exploring all options possible to repair the damage, the Macon County Board of Education announced last week that KL Metals would be awarded the bid to replace the roof.

KL Metals has been operating in Franklin for more than 20 years and will replace the Highlands Roof for \$217,171.54.

Damage due to excess water has begun to jeopardize the integrity of the gym with black

mold starting to show in the inside ceiling. Highlands Board member Stephanie McCall has been pleading with the board to take action on the roof for months noting that there are gaps in the

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Highlands School Varsity Soccer - 2016



Benjamin Miller, John Murphy, Tucker Johnson, Wes Hedden, Jody Thorske, Matheus Moura, Manuel Contreras, Max Renfro, Jose Jimenez, Kyle Dorsey, Jared Shearl, Carson Talbert, Destin Gearhart, Drew Chalker, Freddie Lopez, Jake Billingsley, Caden Smolarsky, Sean Fitzpatrick, Pablo Jimenez, Dillon Schmitt, Jonathan Miller. The September lineup for home games which begin at 6 p.m. are Sept. 8 against Tuscola, Sept. 12 against Andrews and Sept. 21 against Blue Ridge.

- Photo by Kim Lewicki

Wilderness alternatives could expand acreage or not

By Jack Igelman/Carolina Public Press

No topic within the National Forest plan revision process has stirred up as much passion as wilderness designation.

The National Forests of North Carolina office has begun unveiling the building blocks of its draft Pisgah-Nantahala Forest Resource Management Plan over the past several weeks.

The Forest Service has released 34 forest management objectives and 23 sections of the draft plan through July 26.

The Forest Service took a step closer to making recommendations for the National Wilderness System on Tuesday with the release of four possible wilderness alternatives and a more than 250-page narrative that explains the evaluation results of 53 land areas in the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests inventoried for wilderness and presented to the public for comment last November.

In all, the wilderness inventory included 364,000 acres in Western North Carolina's two national forests.

James Melonas, the deputy supervisor of the National Forests of North Carolina, told Carolina Public Press that the wilderness evaluation is the second of four steps in the process of identifying and potentially recommending additions to the National Wilderness System. These steps are a requirement of the federal forest's replanning process.

"This is an initial take on a possible range of alternatives, but as we move through the process there may be a better way to package them," Melonas said.

"This is an issue that's polarizing. I wouldn't expect everyone will be fully satisfied with the alternatives, but the spirit is to put it out there and to continue to be transparent."

Ultimately, Congress has authority to make final decisions on designations.

•See WILDERNESS page 6

School spending resolution is shot down

Since the beginning of the year, Franklin High School teacher and North Carolina Association of Education member John deVille has been petitioning to get Macon

leaders to pass a resolution asking state leaders to fully fund public education in North Carolina.

"The North Carolina Constitution includes an obligation

to provide a sound, basic education to all school-aged children in our state, acknowledging that talent and ingenuity can be found among

•See SPENDING page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

My open-door policy vs. 'going public'

When I took office I promised to strive for an open and forthright administration of town government. I have been gratified to work with a Town Board that embraces the same goal.

As mayor I do three things each week to keep folks informed about town business. First, I am available most mornings to meet with any citizen who wishes to talk with me. My door is open and appointments are not necessary.

Second, I tape a radio show, "Ask the Mayor" every Friday morning. It is broadcast on WHLC Sunday mornings. Believe me, Steve Day has topics and questions ready to ask.

Third, I write at the first of every week this column for our local newspapers. At this point in my tenure as mayor I have written about 125 articles. Public feedback makes me think the newspaper articles and radio broadcast are effective ways to continually communicate with the public.

There are times when board members encourage me to write about a specific topics. For instance, Commissioner Stiehler encouraged me to write a recent piece



Mayor Pat Taylor

about our police training in the context of the national preparedness issues. Commissioner Caloway has now encouraged me to respond to the issue of openness that was raised in an op-ed in the other newspaper last week. I am happy to respond.

The town has had several current issues that I and the board are unable to fully discuss because they are either personnel or legal

issues. Attorney/client privilege is in the best interest of the Town of Highlands and the people we represent when there are legal proceedings involved.

In the recent personnel concerning Bob Frye, both parties have entered a confidentiality agreement. My assessment is that the agreement is the best outcome for all concerned. In any personnel action the town is required by statute law and privacy requirements in limiting what information can be made public. We have answered all the questions we can in this personnel matter.

There are two court cases that the town is involved with at this time. It would be unwise and irresponsible to hold public discussions on these matters at this point in time. Accordingly, the board has recently held several closed sessions with our attorneys.

One matter has been the recent broadband ruling by the US Court of Appeals. The town is in discussions with various parties as how to proceed. I anticipate a public discussion soon.

The other case is Shearl vs the Town of Highlands that was recently argued in the Macon County Superior Court. The judge will release a formal ruling at any time. In the meantime, the Town Attorney is in negotiations with Mr. Shearl's attorney, as well as the judge in the case. The town will make no further statements until the judge issues his final public ruling. After that I will be willing to discuss the case and ruling with the press.

The suggestion has been made in the other newspaper last week that the board was attempting to shutout access to two recent special meetings that were closed sessions. Both meetings were in the conference room of Town Hall where the back entrance has a security door. A staff member was monitoring the door to allow any

• See MAYOR page 5

• LETTERS •

You don't like POTUS...we get it

Dear Editor,

Poor Fredster. I know first hand how difficult coherent writing can be. It's work to craft a column every week that not only offers a well thought out point of view but also something to which readers can relate. I know it's also tough to write about something over and over and over again without seeming like you're writing the same tired themes. It's difficult.

But Fredster, I think everyone who has read and possibly enjoyed your musings over the past, oh, let's say eight years as I have, knows by now that you really do despise the current POTUS. You must, because you almost never miss an opportunity to blame him for all make and manner of mayhem, even if it doesn't apply and even if it makes about as much sense as blaming South Beach for everything wrong with Miami-Dade County, and I know you know something about those places.

In your latest missive, you blame POTUS for the horrific crime rate and murder rate in his hometown of Chicago, even though he's been living elsewhere for the past, oh, let's say eight years. Never mind that he has as much to do with crime in Chicago, as you have to do with crime in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. If you want to blame someone, blame his former Chief of Staff, who happens to be the current elected mayor of Chicago. But please, don't blame POTUS for something he has nothing to do with. Your disdain for him shows through whenever you put fingers to keys. We get it. Really, Fredster, we get it.

It's interesting that you cloak your disdain for the current POTUS in what you believe to be satire. Hate to break your heart, Fredster, but what you write isn't satire. It's actually something approaching sarcasm, but it's not satire. Anyone who has ever enjoyed really good satire, as Paul Rudnick often writes in The New Yorker, or as the late George Carlin did in his stand-up comedy, knows the difference between the words you put on paper and really good satire. Let me direct you to "A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift. It's probably the most well known example of brutal, scathing satire, which is what I think you're going for when you lamely attempt to write satire.

If I may make a suggestion or two, dear Fredster, because I believe you're trying, really trying here, say what you really want to write about why you detest the current POTUS. Maybe it's because you believe him to be a ... dare I say it ... a liberal. Maybe it's because he's from Chicago, a big city with lots of problems. Or, maybe it's, as you suggested in your most recent column, because he's only half-white.

Writing is difficult, Fredster, so I applaud and look forward to your columns each week during the summer while you and 'the little missus' escape the horrific south Florida heat. And I know it must be especially exhausting for you, trying to come up with good, solid content for your readers week in and week out, when the first thought that pops into your head every morning is how much you hate the current POTUS. We get it. We really do.

Bud Katz
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 8

• WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY SEP 9	SATURDAY SEP 10	SUNDAY SEP 11
79°/57° RealFeel® 89° / 58°	79°/57° RealFeel® 86° / 57°	74°/52° RealFeel® 82° / 53°
Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny

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Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

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

• OBITUARIES •

Haley Lane Chalker

Haley Lane Chalker, 25, of Highlands, NC, departed this life, too soon on Sunday, August 28, 2016 in Lakeland FL. Haley was born on June 17, 1991 and attended Highlands School kindergarten-12th grade. Haley was a vibrant and creative soul and loved all of God's creatures. Haley was a devoted friend and she brought joy to all she encountered.



Jordan McGillivray, Drew & Garrison Chalker. Haley also leaves her maternal grandmother Jody Swanson Lee and great grandmother Virginia Swanson and her paternal grandparents Selwyn & Jane Chalker. As well as several other beloved family and friends.

A celebration of Haley's life will be held on Friday, September 9th at 6 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the

Haley is survived by her parents: Kirsten McGillivray and Selwyn Chalker IV; her stepparents: Darren McGillivray and Andrea Chalker; and her brothers

Incarnation in Highlands, NC.
in lieu of flowers, the family requests donations may be made to the Cashiers-

William Fred Munger

William Fred Munger, 80, of Highlands died on Wednesday, August 31, 2016 in an Asheville hospital. Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late William Jesse and Lona Crane Munger. Mr. Munger retired from the U. S. Forest Service. He worked for the Macon County Sheriff's Department and worked as a police officer; was elected to serve on the Macon County Board of Commissioners, and retired as a volunteer fireman in Highlands. He was a member of Highlands First Baptist Church.



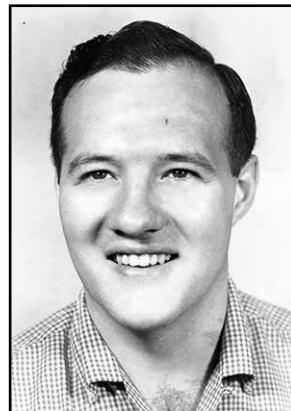
(Gail) of Seneca, SC, John Munger (Frieda) of Clayton, GA, and Jim Munger (Peggy) of Franklin, NC. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Donna Henry; a grandson, Richard Jackson Henry; two sisters, Ann Holley and Martha Owens and a brother, Gene Munger.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, September 3, 2016 at Highlands First Baptist Church with Rev. Oliver Rice and Rev. Rusty Wolfrey officiating. Burial followed in Highlands Memorial Park. Harrison Adams, Benji Barnes, Mitchell Gerrells, Casey Barnes, James Plemmons, Toby Barnes, Joe Munger and John Shearl served as pallbearers.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Munger family. Online condolences are available at bryant-grantfuneralhome.com.

Alan Lewis

Alan Lewis, 85, of Highlands, NC died on Saturday, September 3, 2016. Mr. Lewis was born on September 16, 1930, in Hickory, NC to the late Rev. M. A. Lewis and Lizette Bashford Lewis. Because he was the son of a Methodist minister, he attended schools in several locations in North Carolina and graduated from high school in Lincolnton, NC.



He joined the National Guard in 1949; he served in the Korean War from June 24, 1950, to July 27, 1953. In 1954, he married the former Jane Anderson, the prettiest girl in Highlands; they were married for 61 wonderful years. In 1953, Alan joined the North Carolina Highway Patrol, serving as an officer until 1957. When he left the

• See OBITUARIES page 18

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...MAYOR continued from page 2

person access who wanted to attend the meeting before the board went into closed session. The same procedure was followed after the board came out of closed session. I released a statement to the press after each closed session.

In conclusion, let me stress neither I nor the board, like to use the closed session statute. We all are more comfortable doing business in front of the public. On the other hand, there are times when difficult issues necessitate a closed session. Hopefully after the resolution of these current issues, we will not have to invoke the closed session statute, a procedure that usually indicates a major impending problem.

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M F G R O . C O M

...WILDERNESS continued from page 1

Based on public feedback and expert analysis, the evaluation narrows down the list of potential additions to the wilderness base laid out in the inventory last November.

Six wilderness areas currently exist in Western North Carolina along with five study areas.

The U.S. Forest Service has issued four alternative proposals for Western North Carolina national forests, two of which are identical on wilderness acreage because they embrace the status quo. This graph shows how the components in each proposal stack up in terms of total acreage. (Graphic by Frank Taylor / Carolina Public Press)

Alternatives

The evaluation includes four proposed alternatives for the future of wilderness acreage. Alternative A proposes “no action” and maintains the existing five wilderness study areas, three of which have previously been recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service.

Michelle Aldridge, a planning staff officer with the Forest Service, told CPP that Alternative A would make no changes to any aspect of the overall management plan.

“We included Alternative A in our analysis since we have the choice to continue our current management plan,” she said. While the option is unlikely to be selected, Aldridge said, it allows the public to compare other alternatives to the status quo, which includes 66,337 acres of designated wilderness, 22,097 acres in wilderness study areas and 15,321 acres that have previously been recommended for wilderness designation, but zero additional acres under analysis for wilderness.

Alternative B would not add any wilderness area recommendations, but would increase the acreage of wilderness by expanding four currently designated wilderness areas and recommending four Wilderness Study Areas for wilderness. The plan would expand the wilderness study areas recommended for wilderness to 23,773 acres and analyze an additional 14,457 acres for wilderness.

Alternative C includes the same additions to existing wilderness as Alternative B, but also proposes four new areas for analysis as possible recommendations for wilderness, expanding that acreage to 63,285.

While Alternative D, like A, mirrors the current plan on the topic of wilderness recommendations, Aldridge said it is was designed to be responsive to members of the public who expressed a desire for no new recommendations, regardless of other innovations to the overall plan for the national forests. Each plan, other than the status quo represented by A, will have elements added to address issues besides just acreage, which is why a separate Alternative D exists.

“Alternative D will eventually look different from the current plan expressed in Alternative A,” Aldridge said. Ultimately, Alternative D will differ from the current plan once it incorporates public views and the best available science on a range of different forest uses and issues.

Reaction

Members of the Stakeholders Forum for the Pisgah

and Nantahala Plan Revision, as well as representatives of county governments, had an opportunity to preview portions of the potential alternatives before these were released to the public. However, the stakeholders and representatives were not able to examine the information included in the evaluation narrative.

David Whitmire, a member of the Stakeholders Forum and chair of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Council, an assembly of sportsmen from Western North Carolina, told CPP that he is satisfied with what the Forest Service has presented in the evaluation so far.

Hunters across the region are advocating for more habitat diversity in the National Forests in order to reverse declining populations of game, according to Whitmire. Hunters have expressed concern that special designations, such as wilderness, could restrict the agency’s ability to manage forests to accommodate a range of wildlife habitats.

“(The Forest Service) has tried to stay away from active wildlife management areas,” Whitmire said.

“I’m not opposed to additions to the wilderness base as long as there is local buy in and there’s ample time for discussions in local communities.”

But not everyone is satisfied with the potential alternatives presented in the evaluation.

“I think it is unbalanced right now,” said David Reid who is a member of the Stakeholders Forum and represents the North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club.

“Given the history of wilderness in Western North Carolina, I think the Forest Service is taking a very cautious approach at the expense of a strong wilderness alternative.”

Reid told CPP that wilderness advocates were hoping for a ballpark figure of roughly 100,000 acres of recommended wilderness.

In his opinion alternative C is the strongest wilderness choice, adding an additional 63,000 acres of new land recommended for wilderness. Even so, Reid said this plan still omitted several important areas.

Hugh Irwin, a landscape conservation planner for The Wilderness Society, expressed even more dissatisfaction with the range of proposals, calling them “inadequate and premature.”

“The public has not had a chance to comment on the evaluations that were just released,” Irwin said. “Only after the evaluation and public participation is complete can the (Forest Service) properly determine which areas to move forward into analysis.

“The alternatives proposed are not well-formed around any meaningful themes other than some alternatives have more wilderness and some have less. Alternatives should integrate all plan issues and themes including wilderness into alternatives that provide a reasonable range for all relevant issues.”

Asked whether conservation advocates had been seeking a much greater increase in acreage, Irwin did not

• THE FREDSTER •

Jumping with the T 10

I've done a lot of crazy and insane stuff in my life but I think parachuting from a Blackhawk helicopter with only four hours of training tops them all. And for those doubters out there who are never really sure about me, telling you this is a true story won't help a bit.

My SWAT team leader, a police officer named Bob Fitzpatrick, (now deceased) approached me at a SWAT training session and informed me he could get his hands on eight T 10 combat military parachutes from his friends at the Homestead Air Force base in South Florida. Bob was a retired 82nd. Airborne sergeant who had seen lots of combat action in Vietnam. He was a scary, competent guy.

After hesitating, I said, "You get the chutes and I'll call NOAA." (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) At this point in my career, I had befriended several Blackhawk chopper pilots from NOAA. We were doing practice rappels onto the roof tops of buildings on Miami Beach.

Sooooo after four hours of parachute training in the side yard of Miami Police Dept. we were deemed ready to jump by our retired airborne instructors. (could I make this up?)

The plan: Several officers from the Miami PD who were also ex-airborne soldiers wanted to do the jump with us. We met at the blimp base on the MacArthur Causeway and loaded everything we needed onto our NOAA Blackhawk. Two Miami EMT trauma units had already driven to the jump site in the Everglades.

At the jump site, Fitzpatrick told us about the T 10 parachute. He said, "This is the safest chute ever used by the military. Unless you tie a double knot in the silk, it will open every time. You cannot make this chute not open, regardless of how bad it's packed. Now the bad news. It is slow to open because of the safety netting on the edge of the chute.... but it will open every time so keep your hands off the reserve cord.... I repeat, keep your friggin' hands off the reserve cord. You won't need it. Also, this chute is not steerable. It will take you where the wind sends you. And, are you ready for this? Prepare for a hard landing. This chute is not friendly.... just safe. Any questions?"

"Yeah, I got one," I said. "How did I ever allow you to talk me into this?"



Fred Wooldridge

Bob looked at me with his typical smirk, "Hey, captain, you can't weenie out on me now."

Bob was right. I was going to board that chopper and do the ten-thousand-foot jump. We helped each other put on our chutes. When Bob got to me, he laughed and said, "The chute seems tight and uncomfortable now but when you hear those rotor blades spool up, you'll wish it was tighter."

My jump partner, a retired airborne ranger and Miami Beach police officer on my SWAT team, sat next to me as the huge Blackhawk began to slowly lift from the ground. We were sitting on the belly's edge with our feet dangling. "He shouted, "Remember, when the jumpmaster taps your shoulder, roll out and keep your feet tight together. I'm out first. I'll see you on the ground." I nodded.

Finally, the moment came and I felt the jumpmaster's hand on my shoulder. I rolled forward out of the chopper and felt the one hundred mile winds on my body. I had closed my eyes out of fear but decided to open them before the chute popped open. I was upside down. I quickly closed them.

It seemed like an eternity before my chute opened. The sharp painful jerk around my groin was OK as it meant my chute had opened. The ride to earth was awesome. I started looking around for the jump site but I couldn't see it. Looking left, right and behind me, the EMT trucks were nowhere to be found. A mild panic set in as I realized people are lost in the Everglades all the time.

When I was less than a thousand feet up, I called to a fellow jumper. He called back, "Look between your legs." Directly below were the two EMT trucks. My landing, as predicted, was hard. The joy and exuberance I was experiencing was beyond my explanation.

When I got home later that afternoon, my li'l missus asked how my training day went. I responded, "Oh, no big deal. I parachuted from a Blackhawk with only four hours of training." She was stunned. Once our three kids were down for the night, she asked, "How wise was it for you to take such a risk, possibly leaving your children fatherless? Your job is dangerous enough. I want you to promise me you will not parachute again."

It was a promise I could easily keep. I was so terrified when I rolled out of the of that Blackhawk, promising I would never do it again was easy.

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MC Planning Board hears about Altitude Broadband and the importance of connecting communities

Internet connectivity has become status quo in today's society and having access to the Internet is crucial economically for communities across the United States. In hopes of making it easier to bring connectivity to Macon County, the Macon County planning board has spent the last few months revising their telecommunication ordinance to not only comply with state regulations, but to ensure the ordinance doesn't hinder businesses from coming to the area to connect residents in the area.

Highlands IT Director Matt Shuler recently spoke to the Macon County Planning Board about how Highlands took connectivity to the Internet into their own hands and developed the town's network Altitude Community Broadband.

Shuler explained to the planning board that because larger Internet providers have failed to offer service to the town's 1,000 residents and the residents who are able to get some form of Internet, are often fighting with the companies over connectivity problems. In order to effectively meet the needs of Highlands's residents, as well as the more than 20,000 people who vacation in the mountain town throughout the year, last January, the town board voted to borrow \$40,000 from the town's General

Fund and \$210,000 from its Electric Enterprise Fund to deploy and launch the new service. The loan will be repaid with revenue from the new service.

The planning board's telecommunications ordinance is still waiting approval from the Macon County Board of Commissioners but once in place, will replace the county's existing ordinance which exceeded 20 pages. The new ordinance is more condensed at 12 pages. Both the towns of Highlands and Franklin are exempt from the county's ordinance as the ordinance exist to property outside of the city limits, but is intended to hopefully make Macon County more attractive for Internet companies to do business.

At the August meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners county residents pleaded with commissioners to not only improve the county's telecommunications ordinance, but to also look at what Highlands is doing and what other rural communities across the state are doing to bring Internet to unserved areas.

Macon County Commissioner Kevin Corbin noted that the new ordinance ensures the county is aligned with state requirements and that the planning board is also reviewing the county's unserved areas and dead zones to present to Internet companies to show how much of the county is

actually not served by any company and lacks connectivity.

Commissioner Ronnie Beale noted that they county currently has a telecommunications pole near Standing Indian that was approved by the county for construction but then no providers such as AT&T or Verizon have requested to be added to the tower, essentially rendering it useless. While towers are available for providers, they continue to choose not to service the area.

According to Macon County Planner Jack Morgan, the possibility of Franklin developing a town Internet provider like Highlands would be strictly up to Franklin officials as the county has no control of connectivity within municipalities. As it stands, county residents who live outside of the city limits can received Internet from the town as long as the signal reaches, which is does in several cases. The first customers to be connected to the town's system in Highlands were outside of the city limits. If Franklin were to consider a similar option for their town residents, additional county residents living outside of the city limits could also be served by Franklin's Internet.

The Macon County Board of Commissioners are expected to vote on the new telecommunications ordinance during their September board meeting next month.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

Let's band together to protect our wilderness

Dear Editor,

Please help our mountains, trees and animals. We know the "Forest Service" along with "others" want to develop/change Clear Creek (which leads into 3 forks) and Terrapin Mountain which is North of the iron bridge. Once this happens it will NEVER be a wilderness area again. With the growth of tourist and residents we need these mountains to be pristine. We must keep the creek clear and free flowing as it is part of the headwaters of our Chatooga River.

Write from you hearts and minds but now is the time for action:

This past week our County Commissioner (James

Tate) did not appear at the meeting and since his appearance was necessary for a quorum the people were not heard.

We must voice our opinions to N.C. Congressman, Mark Meadows so he can hear from the people. His e-mail is: Mark.Meadows@mail.house.gov. Also email to MC Commissioner Jim Tate at jamesptate@aol.com

The next time the USFS plans for the county's wilderness areas will be discussed and our concerns heard is at a meeting at the Nantahala District Office, Sept. 15 3-6p.m. at 90 Sloan Rd., Franklin, N.C

If you have any questions or want more facts please feel free to contact me at diane.tlevine@gmail.com.

...ROOF continued from page 1

roof in the gymnasium's weight room through which you can see to the outside.

Engineers who have examined the roof informed board members that the entire building has serous drainage problems from an improperly installed gutter system often posing a safety hazard for the school. Water collects on the sidewalks and in the entrance of the gymnasium which often freezes causing slippery, dangerous conditions in the winter.

According to the contract bid details, the existing metal roof will be replaced by a new metal roof after removal of all the old metal roofing, gutter and downspout materials. Plywood decking will be inspected and an ice and water shield will be installed over the existing decking. New gutters and downspouts will also be installed as part of the project requirements.

Last week a timeline for the roof replacement finalized.

"The contract states that the project will be completed in two months and two weeks," said Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. "KL Metals will begin once the metal and extruder are available from the supplier. This should happen in the next 3-4 weeks. We expect the roof to be completed by Thanksgiving."

Since the roof will cost about \$17,000 more than what the MC commissioners allocated for the project, funds will be taken out of Macoun County Schools capital outlay fund or the county may be asked to pay the difference. Baldwin said the particulars will be worked out at the next capital outlay meeting.

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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.
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Saturday - In-House Smoked BBQ -

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over night and hand pulled to order.
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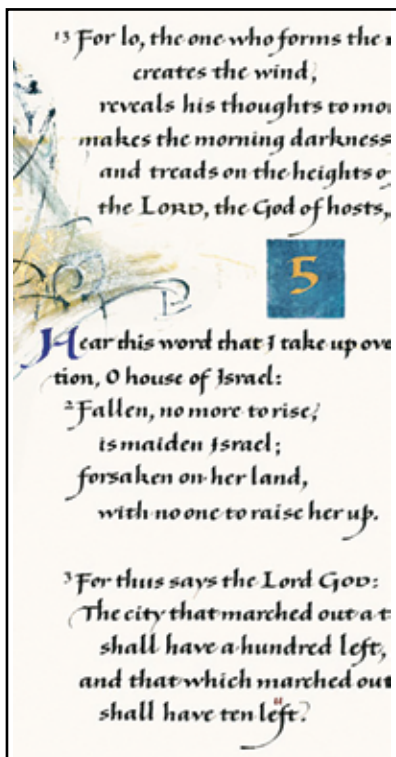
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ONGOING

• 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.occupywncc.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. Free

• Weight Watchers support

• See EVENTS page 11



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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.

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

• See EVENTS page 14



Dazzling Dahlia Festival is Sept. 8-10

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 p.m. - 5 p.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 in the Show, bring them either Friday, September 9th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. OR Saturday, September 10th from 8 a.m. to 10 a.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, Jodie Zahner will give a presentation at 2 p.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 p.m. to 4 p.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.

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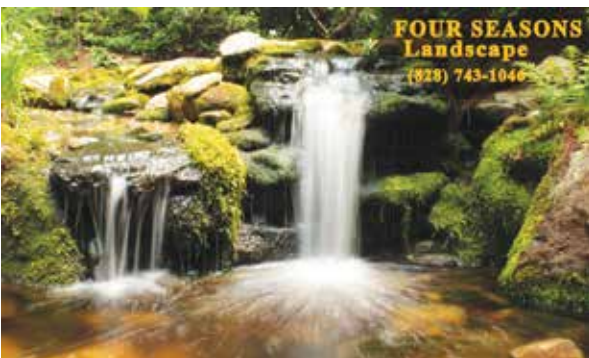
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Fall Home Improvement

Is Your Home Ready for Winter?

(StatePoint) It's time to start preparing your home to make sure it can efficiently handle colder weather.

"There are many small, low-hassle items you can complete to 'winterize' your home," says David Andreozzi, principal of Andreozzi Architects and the American Institute of Architect's (AIA) National Chair of CRAN, the AIA's Custom Residential Architects Network. "Prepping your home for the season ensures you aren't dealing with major issues when they are harder to tackle, and can prevent costly repairs come springtime."

To help homeowners prepare, Andreozzi offers the following advice.

Check Chimneys and Gutters

Regular checks of your chimneys and gutters are both safety-smart and wallet-friendly. Fireplace dampers should be closed and functioning properly to protect against drafts and keep heating costs down. Leaving a damper open or using a broken one is the equivalent to leaving a window open when the air conditioner is running.

While sometimes not



as noticeable as a chimney draft, ice is another danger. It can build up in gutters quickly if there is debris there from previous seasons. In order for ice to melt and drain properly, drains must be clear. Clean your gutters when it's warm to prevent clogs and costly replacements.

Remember Watering Systems

This is especially important for new home buyers who may not think to look for this. Water trapped in an outdoor faucet, spigot or irrigation system can cause a pipe to burst if ice settles inside. Make it part of your winterizing routine to ensure

that outdoor plumbing and pipes are clear before temperatures drop.

Designing for Weather

In the design process of your home, it is important that your home is sealed correctly to account for local weather. An architect can advise on how to prevent unwanted drafts. If you have an older home or apartment, use self-adhesive weather stripping to seal cracks in windows and doors, too.

Create a Timetable

The change of seasons means maintenance. Create a checklist of tasks with a timetable so you are never scrambling at the last minute. Small items that often

slip between the cracks can be taken care of in a timely fashion -- like changing batteries in smoke detectors or cleaning the pilots of the heating system.


Andreozzi recommends using a professional twice a year to help tick off some of the trickier items, such as sealing windows. To ensure that you're hitting all of the pain points, an architect can help you formulate a full checklist to make the most out of your prep work.

To find an architect in your area, visit <http://architectfinder.aia.org/>.

By preparing now, you can save time and money later.

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Fall Home Improvement

What to Know When Redoing Your Home's Flooring

(StatePoint) Whether you're purchasing a home or remodeling your current one, floors are perhaps the biggest piece of your home investment puzzle. They're also the literal base from which all other design choices are made.

You may think you know exactly what you're looking for, but innovations in home flooring have expanded and improved options.

Before making a major home improvement decision, do your research.

Carpeting

Carpets are cozy, but can be difficult to maintain if used in areas subject to stains and moisture. If you have pets or children, consider avoiding carpet entirely.

If you do carpet your home, use dark colors to create a cozier feel and lighter colors to make spaces feel larger. Planning ahead? Strong, bold colors may limit your future options when repainting walls or changing furniture.

Engineered Flooring

Wood-based engineered flooring has come

a long way from its mid-1990s introduction to the United States. As recently as five years ago, faux wood flooring looked just that -- fake. Now they've actually become a preferred look for many homeowners, thanks to design improvements.

"Today's engineered floors have the beauty and durability of solid wood, and are available in every color and style you can walk upon," says Tom Wood, president of Atlanta-based franchisor Floor Coverings International. "For the budget-conscious, they can provide a solid long-term investment and resale value."

Engineered flooring is comprised of wood layers stacked cross-grain and bonded together under heat and pressure. This process makes them stain resistant and more durable where pets' claws and children's toys are concerned. Additionally, they're built to resist humidity and can be installed on any level of your home -- even a basement.

"There is also a big



eco-friendly aspect to newly engineered floors. Wood veneer uses far less wood than solid hardwood floors," says Sandy Stratton, the franchisee for Floor Coverings International servicing the northwest suburbs of Minneapolis. Stratton has a background in architectural engineering and interior design.

Eco-friendly options on the market include laminate made from recycled wood fiber, bamboo, cork, natural linoleum, sisal fiber area rugs, seagrass and coir mats (made from coconut husks) -- along with stones, tiles, carpeting and natural wood.

Hardwood

Regular sweeping is generally all that's needed to keep hardwood flooring looking great in the short-term. However, periodic refinishing and repairing may be required. Additionally, footsteps and ambient echoes can cause rooms with hardwood flooring to be noisy. In general, wood flooring is not recommended for rooms subject to moisture exposure.

Floors are a foundation and a focal point in every room. From hardwood and tile to durable engineered wood floors to luxury vinyl planks, there is a beautiful and sturdy floor out there for every home.



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...EVENTS continued from page 11

Bobcat Drive, Cashers NC. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop.

- The final Zahner Conservation Lecture of the 2016 Series is on Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Nature Center of the Highlands Biological Station. The subject: "Watershed Moments: Exploring Science and Math in Cullowhee Creek."

- The Macon County Cancer Support Group meets Thursday, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Riverview Street, Franklin. In recognition of September being National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Rebecca Branson, a 14-year Ovarian Cancer Survivor will be our guest speaker.

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" 10AM - Noon.

Mon., Sept. 12

- Rehearsals for the Highlands Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert will begin on Monday at Highlands First Presbyterian Church, the host church for this year's concerts. All area singers are cordially invited to the 5:30-7pm rehearsals which will take place in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary. Each singer is asked to contribute \$20 to help offset the cost of music scores.

- The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the NC Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For more information, call 828-524-2673.

Tues., Sept. 13

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

Thurs., Sept. 15

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

Octoberfest at Highlands United Methodist Church Main St. Highlands is Sat., Oct. 1

Offerings include food, crafts and pumpkins!

With Ann Rose in the kitchen Sat., Oct. 1 at HUMC's Octoberfest, you know the goodies served up at the J.W. Cafe from 8-10:30 a.m. will be just right for breakfast.

Ann has been cooking for others all her life – in Clayton where as an

Anatomy and Physiology teacher she ran the school's fund-raising banquets, at First Baptist and Central Baptist churches here in Highlands and of course at the Highlands United Methodist Church where she has been in charge of all "food" things for three years.

On the menu Saturday morning are sausage or country ham biscuits or sweet rolls for \$2 and coffee, milk and OJ for \$1-\$2.

In conjunction, is Grandma's Kitchen featuring all the yummy eats you get from Grandma – cakes, pies, cookies and breads served up from 9a to 3p.

For lunch it's hot dogs and brats with all the trimmings at the festival's Grille, open from 11:30-1:30 p.m.

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



...SPENDING continued from page 1

all our children and whereas public education is the cornerstone for our democracy and economic future," read the resolution.

This Spring, the Macon County Board of Education unanimously approved the resolution which identified that according to the NEA report, N.C. ranks 46th in the country for per pupil spending at \$8,632 per student in 2014-15.

"The school board calls upon the General Assembly to reinstate K-12 enrollment growth as part of the continuation budget and the school board calls upon the legislators of both parties to reject the trend toward shifting education spending to local counties and the school board calls upon the General Assembly to raise additional state revenue in an equitable fashion in order to avoid regressive tax shifts to counties," read the resolution.

DeVile first spoke to commissioners prior to getting school board approval, at which time commissioners said it was something first that needed to be considered by the Board of Education. After the Board of Education unanimously approved the resolution, DeVile once again went before commissioners asking for their approval, hoping to approve the resolution ahead of

the state budget being passed since the intent of the resolution was to ask state official to restore public education funding to 2008 levels.

Commissioners argued with the resolution's wording, such as the 46th in the country ranking, arguing that other sources site different numbers. In June, commissioners asked DeVile to address those concerns and bring the resolution back before the board.

Last month, DeVile was once again placed on the agenda at his request to present the updated resolution to commissioners. The updated resolution included minor changes and citations for facts presented in the resolution.

Commissioner Kevin Corbin, who is currently running on the Republican ticket for the North Carolina House of Representatives 120th district said that because of his position as a candidate for office, he didn't want to pass a resolution that criticized what his potential colleagues have been doing.

While DeVile was on the agenda this month to present the resolution,

• See SPENDING page 17

Highlands HCCC Rehearsals to Begin



Rehearsals for the Highlands Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert will begin on Monday, September 12 at Highlands First Presbyterian Church, the host church for this year's concerts. The 5pm concerts will take place on Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11. Dr. Michael Lancaster, Conductor of the Asheville Symphony Chorus, will serve as Artistic Director for the concerts this year. Dr. Lancaster also serves as Director of Worship/Music at First Presbyterian Church and was formerly Director of Choral Music at Western Carolina University. The concerts will be accompanied by a 16-piece professional orchestra, with Bryan Heller serving as pianist.

All area singers are cordially invited to join us for the 5:30-7pm rehearsals which will take place in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary. Each singer is asked to contribute \$20 to help offset the cost of music scores. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Fifth and Main Streets. Please use the Church Street entrances for the rehearsals.

...WILDERNESS continued from page 6

discuss quantities of land but confirmed that some desired additions to wilderness were not covered by the proposals.

"We are focused on the areas we think deserve wilderness recommendation — or at least adequate consideration for wilderness recommendation — through the planning process," he said. "We feel that deserving areas and portions of areas are not included in any of the proposed alternatives."

Melonas said the Forest Service is open to feedback.

"We want to give the public time to digest this information and to keep improving on this," he said.

Lang Hornthal, a member of the Stakeholders Forum and the founder of Root Cause — a regional initiative to raise awareness of the local forest-products industry — applauded the Forest Service's transparent approach to such a complex process. Hornthal wants to ensure that rural counties have access to timber and forest resources

to support their local economies.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the process. ... The Forest Service has allowed the different groups to share their values and to continue to involve us in the process has served the public well," he said.

Aldridge of the Forest Service added that while wilderness designation has drawn considerable interest in the plan revision process, she said her agency is "striving to propose a plan that addresses a wide range of uses and incorporate the different values of how public forest" management is viewed.

Going forward

The third step of the wilder-

ness process will be analysis of the management alternatives that will be included in the release of the draft environmental impact statement scheduled to be released —

along with the draft management plan — in spring 2017.

The Forest Supervisor makes a final decision on which areas to recommend for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System in the final draft of the forest plan scheduled to be completed later next year.

Whether the recommendations are implemented is up to forest stakeholders and the Congressional delegation, Melonas said. Still, the Forest Service's attempt to capture public input during the

planning process may make a difference after the management plan is implemented.

"From my experience, successful land designations have happened when there is a broad coalition of various interest groups that are supportive of it," he said. "I think we've established a solid foundation."

Accepting comment

From the U.S. Forest Service: "While there is no formal NEPA or legal comment period, we are accepting input on the objectives via comments to NCplanrevision@fs.fed.us with the subject line "Wilderness Evaluations" or by mail at this address: Attn: Plan Revision Team Leader; National Forests in NC; 160 Zilicoa St. Suite A; Asheville, NC 28801. You will also have an opportunity to review and comment on our analysis when the draft EIS is released."

• To discuss this face-to-face, attend the meeting at the Nantahala Ranger District Office at 90 Sloan Road in Franklin Sept. 15 from 3-6p.m.

Wilderness Areas Under Consideration

In 1984, Congress designated five Wilderness Study Areas on the Forest

- Craggy Wilderness Study Area
- Harper's Creek Wilderness Study Area
- Lost Cove Wilderness Study Area
- Overflow Creek Wilderness Study Area
- Snowbird Wilderness Study Area



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The Capitol Steps**
Saturday, September 24 8pm
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Saturday, October 1
5pm Concert 7pm GALA Dinner

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

We're not in Kansas anymore...but that's OK!



Pastor Randy Lucas
Highlands United
Methodist Church

Henri Nouwen once described hospitality as simply one person making room for another. I've thought of that definition often in my practice of ministry over the years. I know what authentic hospitality feels like. I also know the awkward ache of its absence.

I guess I really should take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Randy Lucas. I'm the newly appointed Senior Pastor of Highlands United Methodist Church. My wife Kathy and I, along with our son Casey, moved from Salisbury NC, where we had lived for the past 10 years, to Highlands on June 28th. Prior to that day, we had lived our entire lives in the Central and Southern Piedmont areas of North Carolina. This was the first time that my vocation in the church necessitated a move several hours away from our families. I will confess to you that as we drove the long and winding road up the mountain on moving day, we felt like we were a long, long way from home.

Please let me say that I'm delighted to take my place in the rotation of area clergy, offering some occasional reflections on faith and life for the Spiritually Speaking column of the Highlands Newspaper. Though I'm still quite new to the area, I have been impressed and encouraged by the ecumenical spirit that easily characterizes the Highlands area congregations.

Already I've had the opportunity to visit with, and worship alongside, area clergy while also having the opportunity to meet a number of folks from area churches. As one who possesses a really fresh perspective on the area, please let me affirm something you already know - you have something really quite special here in Highlands!

Though just barely a couple of months into the Highlands' Chapter of my itinerant life, I've been moved by many things - like the beauty of the Tuesday night Community Table fellowship, the robust music of the Summer Choir Sing at The First Baptist Church and The Little Church in the Wildwood in Horse Cove, the rich ecumenical back-to-school blessing at Highlands UMC and the meaningful

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 18

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim 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.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

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.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Dr. Maurice L. Goldsmith, Interim Rector

526-2968

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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: 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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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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John 3:16

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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

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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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

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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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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from Aug. 31. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 31

- At 12:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Wright Square.
- At 11:15 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on S. 3rd Street.
- At 9:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Main Street.

Sept. 1

- At 2:52 p.m., officers responded to a call of someone trespassing at a residence on Spruce Street where a person was found sleeping on the front porch.

Sept. 2

- At 12:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on N. 5th Street.
- At 2:35 p.m., officers responded to a

two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Sept. 3

- At 11:50 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Sept. 2

Sept. 2

- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shelby Circle.
- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

Sept. 3

- The dept. was first-responders to a business on Oak Street.
- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Harbison Orchard Road.
- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hickory Street.

Sept. 4

- The dept. stood by at the hospital for

the MAMA helicopter.

- The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Sept. 5

- The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Little Yellow Mountain.

- The dept. responded to a first alarm at a business on Main Street.

Sept. 6

- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

...SPENDING continued from page 14

Commissioner Paul Higdon invited Senator Jim Davis to speak after deVile, and provide a different opinion than what was presented by deVile. Davis argued the facts presented in the resolution and offered talking points as to how Republicans have boosted teacher pay and that this year, state legislators have allocated more money for education than in years past.

According to the National Education Association, the average salary of public school teachers in 2014-15 in the US was \$57,420 and NC ranked 42nd – it's average was \$47,819. Davis noted that the legislature has worked to increase starting teacher pay over the last few years and has helped to

bring that average up. He also noted that it could be debated if the legislature has done enough, but it's undeniable that they have done some improving.

Commissioner Ronnie Beale said that while different sources present different numbers in terms of how public education is funded, the one issue he thinks should take precedent and can't be denied is how inflation and student enrollment have not been taken into account when looking at state funding.

Despite making the changes requested by commissioners, the board decided to not adopt the resolution citing they should focus on local issues and not be involved in the state's role of funding public education.

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...OBITUARIES continued from page 3

Patrol, he bought the Highlands Variety Store from Jane's father; he later operated a Sears Catalog agency and a Radio Shack in addition to the variety store, which he owned and operated for 27 years. After retirement, he had more time for his hobbies, driving his antique cars and watching races, especially NASCAR. From 1964 to 1967, he worked for the Daytona Speedway during speed weeks.

Alan joined the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands in 1955 and was elected Ruling Elder in 1958; he served as the Treasurer for 20 years. He went on several mission trips, including Mexico; James Island, South Carolina after Hurricane Hugo; and Homestead, Florida after Hurricane Andrew. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Elections in Highlands for a number of years.

Survivors include his wife, Jane Anderson Lewis, of the home; four children, Martha Betz (Richard), Angie L. Jenkins, Bill Lewis, and Scott Lewis; four grandchildren, Sam Jenkins (Jessie), Jimmy Jenkins (Jessica), Amy J. Ramey (Brandon), and Katy Betz; seven great-grandchildren, Analyse Crook, Ella Crook, Aiden Crook-Jenkins, Briana Jenkins, Karmen Jenkins, Kadence Ramey,

and Cambran Ramey, all of Highlands; a sister, Lizette Pryor of Raleigh, NC; sisters-in-law, Angela Hardin of Asheville, Anne Sellers of Highlands, and Mary Shearouse of Asheville; and many nieces and nephews. Mr. Lewis was preceded in death by an infant great-grandson, James Taylor Ramey.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands with the Rev. Curtis Fussell and Rev. Emily Wilmarth officiating. Burial followed in the Highlands Memorial Park. Pallbearers were Sam Jenkins, Jimmy Jenkins, Brandon Ramey, Paul Kinsland, Terry Potts, and Steve Mehder; honorary pallbearers were Richard Betz, Harris Elmore, Don Fisher, Jeff Cox, Richard Melvin, Jimmy Lowe, Dr. John Baumrucker, and Dr. Randolph Shaffner.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences may be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Lewis family

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

expressions of hope and memory at our local Relay for Life. And my wife and I recently laughed loud and often while enjoying the Highlands Cashiers Players' Production of "Don't Dress for Dinner!"

Though we've only been here a couple of months, there are so many things we've discovered and experienced, so many things I could say about this community and its people. But perhaps the most important thing we've discovered and experienced, the

most valuable thing I can say about Highlands, having been the recipient of so many expressions of welcome, warmth, kindness and generosity from my congregation, from area churches and from the people of this community, is that it doesn't feel like we're a long, long way from home anymore.

Authentic hospitality has a way of doing that! Thank you for making room for me and my family.



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The Time is Now



Mal Phillips
Twigs Realty Group

morning of kicking around, I found myself doing something I had no plan or prior intension of doing... looking at cabins as a potential getaway! Memorably, Dan Chapman of Country Club Properties asked me what I could afford (not much!) and proceeded to show me three potential proper-

ties. To my shock, I had one of them under contract by the next Tuesday and the rest is history. That weekend first changed my life and really saved it, too. Like many others before me, I was rescued by this magical paradise

kissed by God and here I am now fulltime and happily so. I highly recommend anyone do the same!

In the past, real estate shoppers in our area could take their time. Properties were still available months sometimes years later. It was, and maybe still is, a buyers' market. However, that will not continue. In the last quarter of last year, we had a number of bidding wars on properties - multiple buyers going after the same property at the same time, which often resulted in the property selling for more than the list price. That has continued to happen in 2016. If it's a buyers' market, we may be looking at the tail-end. My bet is that post-election, the 4th quarter of this year and

first quarter of 2017 will be "sales heavy," characterized by pent-up need and momentary delay in pulling the trigger. My point: if you are considering property in our neck of the woods, don't hesitate any longer. Jump in the water.... now. I will be forever grateful that I did just that

way back when!

• Mal Phillips is the owner and broker in charge of Twigs Realty Group, the offices of which are located at 66 Highlands Plaza, Highlands NC. Visit the office or the web site at twigsrealtygroup.com or call Mal at 828-200-2642.

In years past, holiday weekends usually meant a slower weekend for real estate business. Restaurants, hotels and inns, retail businesses were slammed more than usual, but real estate had a breather. Don't get me wrong. For the most part, no one closed down or took off. You were just in an "on call" mode. Similarly, Presidential election years have generally meant slower real estate business in the months leading up to the election. None of that has been true, however, for 2016!

Real estate has been busier this year than ever and it doesn't seem to matter that there's a looming election or that it's a holiday weekend. Buyers seem driven by a seemingly unconscious, herd-like realization that now is the time to act; now is the time to get into the real estate market! By the droves, buyers are choosing to focus on our plateau to a degree that is unprecedented in recent years. Happily, the Brokers in the Highlands-Cashiers area are burning the proverbial midnight oil to cover the bases and further the interests and desires of the buyers and sellers that contact them! So, buyers are coming out of the woodwork; even first-timers to our mountains are surprising themselves by looking at properties with a fervent need/desire to find the right place for them....right now. We, once again, have folks who were "just visiting" the area who end up locking in on a home in our bit of heaven. I was just that buyer myself.

In the fall of 2001, I was on my way to an Episcopal retreat near Hendersonville and scheduled a night and a day in Highlands just to catch up with myself. I needed to step out of life, paused a moment, if you will, and find those roses to smell. And as you might guess, Highlands was perfect. After a delightful dinner, a night's sleep at the "old" Old Edwards Inn and a

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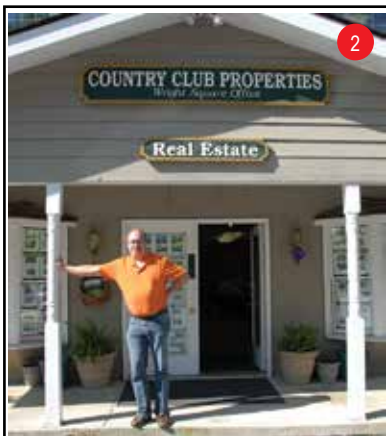
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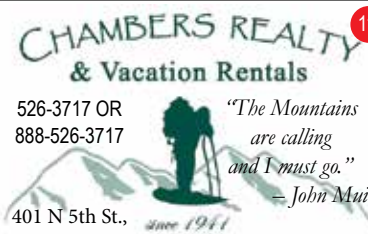
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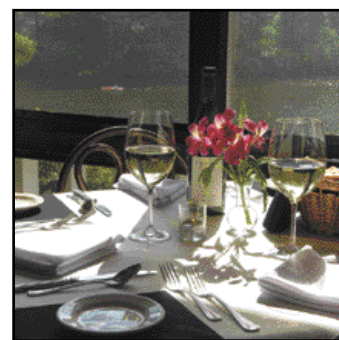
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