Volume 14, Number 27

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

Thurs., July 6, 2017

The town's broadband network plan isn't dead yet

At the June Town Board meeting, commissioners asked citizens to join them in contacting their state legislators urging them to allow municipal broadband enterprises to enter into "closed" private/public broad-band partnerships.

That's because NC House Bill 68 and NC Senate Bill 65 were still in committee – possibly become law. If so, the private/public partnership would have to be "open' to any provider who wanted to come in and rent the town's dark fiber – a fiber network the town would have to build. The private partners would provide service from the street to the house.

As Commissioner Eric Pierson explained, that scenario only works for populations of 40,000

•See BROADBAND page 3

NC House and Senate override governor's budget veto

Over the last few weeks, North Carolina legislators in the House and the Senate have debated portions of the state budget and last week released details on a \$23 billion compromise budget.

Opinions on the budget from state leaders were split along party lines, with Republican leaders praising the budget's highlights and Democratic leaders identifying the budget's shortfalls. Democratic Governor Roy Cooper called the state budget "small minded" and vowed to veto it.

"We need a budget that matches the big dreams of our people," Gov. Roy Cooper said in a press conference. "[This budget] is not the direction I envision for our state."

Cooper said he wants to see specific changes to the budget,

•See VETO page 8

What's wrong with this picture?



This 18-wheeler is on The Gorge Road, which is not allowed. Around 3 p.m. last Thursday, the driver got his back wheels stuck in the ditch while making the curve just below Turtle Pond, snagging the load on the embankment rendering it immobile. What is behind it? ANOTHER 18-wheeler, this one a flatbed carrying a load of flooring, stuck too, because unlike the regular vehicles that can snake past the stuck tractor-trailer, it can't make it., nor can it turn around and go back up the mountain.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Byrnes honored with \$250,000 donation

A recent \$250,000 donation received by Hospice House Foundation of WNC (HHFWNC) is an especially meaningful gift to the

organization and its leadership as it honors the late Evie Brynes, one of HHFWNC's founding board members. Evie was instrumental in the raising of close to \$1 million in support of the Foundation's mission to construct a regional

•See BRYNES page 6

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Lupoli and Dugan to serve again on WCU Board

The N.C. General Assembly has reappointed the first woman elected principal chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and a Highlands homebuilder to the Western Carolina University Board of Trustees.

Lupoli is owner and president of Lupoli Construction. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects and the N.C. Small Town Main Street design committee, and former chair of the N.C. Small Town Main Street economic restructuring commit-

Lupoli is an active supporter of Highlands Playhouse and The Bascom, a nonprofit center for the visual arts. He was the 2012 recipient of the N.C. Small Town Main Street Award for Design for Highlands' town square renova-

•See LUPOLI page 10



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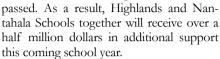
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ATEAU'S POSIT

The General Assembly and us ...

The North Carolina legislature adjourned last Friday, early in the morning. I was doing my best to track last minute votes on bills that would impact our town. Overall, the final outcome was good.

First, I want to thank Senator Davis and Representative Corbin for both introducing legislation in their respective chambers that provided more funding for North Carolina's remote K-12 schools. The legislation



Another good outcome for Highlands was the defeat of HB 581, the billboard revision bill. This proposed legislation would have overturned existing municipal ordinances regulating billboards in favor of a standardized, one size fits all, state law, Representative Corbin had indicated he was not in favor of the new bill. When the bill came

I appreciate the many citizens in the



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

up for a vote last week it failed to pass.

Highlands Newspaper Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913

Phone: (828) 200-1371 Email:

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area, as well as throughout the state, that let their representatives know they were against the bill.

Representative Corbin was very

responsive to his constituents.

The town staff and I were also tracking developments concerning municipal broadband legislation. There were two bills under consideration that could have impacted how a municipality could operate a municipal broadband network. No action was taken on both HB 68 and SB 65, so as the town moves

forward in broadband development NC GS 160A-340 will remain in place. The town has been in meetings with potential private partners in developing a fiber optic network. We will continue meeting with interested parties for several weeks before moving to the next phase.

Another piece of legislation that I was following was SB 900. This bill would have allowed municipalities to vote on a 1/4 cent increase for a local option sales tax. This revenue could relieve municipalities relying so much on property tax revenue.

A recent newspaper article revealed that the Highlands plateau generates over a half million dollars in room occupancy tax each year. The Chamber of Commerce uses it to promote tourism. That room tax revenue is equal to about 10% of what the town receives for the general fund. But the town receives none of this revenue and has no control over how it is spent. The town could use the 1/4 cent sales tax increase to meet growing infrastructure needs, much of which is related to supporting tourism. Even with a robust \$900,000 sales tax forecast for this year, that revenue can't meet all the future infrastructure needs, especially in the business district. There are street, sidewalk, water, sewer, parking and communication improvements that need to be addressed in the near and long term. A local sales tax option would be helpful, and I hope the legislature will revisit it when they go back in session.

While the legislative picture looks clear at this time, it could change by year's end. The legislature may reconvene two more times this year.



May Fred live to write another day!

Dear Editor.

How relieved I was to read Fred's letter in last week's newspaper. We have certainly missed reading his column – it's the first thing I went to after assuring myself my name was not in one of the obits.

Many of his readers surely felt he was just a neighbor with whom they could share a laugh or a good cry.

Maybe he can be encouraged into composing every now and then. And may I add, as a long-time Floridian, I appreciate his service to his community. Many tend to forget what a thankless job our policemen have.

> Jeri Spinella Sapphire

•Weekend Weather•



For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

• OBITUARY•

Steve Valdez

Steve Valdez, 56, of Franklin passed away, Saturday, July 1, 2017. Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he was the son of the late Steve Valdez., Sr. and Mary Ann Kindle. In addition to his father he was preceded in death by a brother Alejandero (Al) Valdez. Steve was a painter by trade, he enjoyed friends, family and he loved music.

He is survived by his significant other, Celia Carpenter; mother Mary Ann Kindle and step father Earl Kindle of Cedar Springs, Michigan; a son, Anthony Yskes of Zeeland, Michigan, a sister, Valerie Brock (Sam Dills); step sister, Ida Smith and husband Ken of Owasso, Michigan; five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

The family would like to express their appreciation for the wonderful staff of Four Seasons Hospice and especially the staff at the Highlands-Cashiers hospital. All donations can be made in Steve's memory to Four Seasons Hospice, 571 S. Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Valdez family. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

...BROADBAND continued from page 1

or more citizens but not for a place like Highlands with 3,300 potential customers.

Commissioner Amy Patterson told citizens at the meeting "to call your senator"

"Tell them to not make it so hard for small municipalities with a small customer base to offer a municipal broadband network and stop worrying so much about free enterprise. Our legislators are talking to lobbyists who are paid by big companies. They should think about the citizens, their shareholders, instead of corporate shareholders," she said.

Since then things have changed a bit -- or rather are where they were before the introduction and consideration of NC

HB 68 and NC SB 65. The legislators recessed without taking action so GS 160A-340 remains in place.

What that means is municipalities in North Carolina must still enter into private/public partnerships, but it can be a closed system with one company working with a town instead of several companies.

With only 3,300 potential customers, that makes a difference. One company might be interested in partnering with the town but not several and this would ultimately lighten the load for a town's taxpayers

"Since no action was taken on both

•See BROADBAND page 6

ELECTION DAY: Tues., November 7, 2017

FILING PERIOD:

File at Begins at the Macon County Board of Elections at the courthouse on Friday, July 7, 2017 at 12 Noon - Ends Friday, July 21, 2017 at 12 Noon SEATS: TOWN OF HIGHLANDS - MAYOR & 2 COMMISSIONERS

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS MAYOR Term expires for PATRICK TAYLOR Four-year term

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS COMMISSIONER Term expires for AMY E. PATTERSON Four-year term

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS COMMISSIONER Term expires for DONNIE CALLOWAY Four-year term

•THANKS•

The Potts family would like to thank the Highlands community for its support on the passing of Jimbo Potts. We appreciate the outpouring of love and prayers during this difficult time.





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ENTREES

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Lemon Grilled

Eggplant Medallions

With creamy goat cheese polenta topped with roasted veggies Served with sauteed spinach or vegetable of the day

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Not Your Mom's Chicken Soup

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...BROADBAND continued from page 3

HB 68 and SB 65 the town is moving forward in broadband development under NC GS 160A-340 which for now remains in place," said Mayor Pat Taylor. "The town has been in meetings with potential private partners in developing a fiber optic network. We will continue meeting with interested parties for several weeks before moving to the next phase."

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July 13-July 29

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According to Town Manager Josh Ward, about eight companies have submitted packets for the Request for Information, and the town will be reviewing those for possible candidates for an exclusive partnership."

According to MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler, this means there is a potential for fixed wireless outside the town limits and hard fiber in town to residents and busi-

nesses

What happens if NC HB and NC SB 65 become law? Will the town be grandfathered in? These are questions raised by Commissioner John Dotson that are yet to be answered.

- Kim Lewicki

No Movies This Week

Our screen is dark from 7/6 - 7/15 as we build the set for and open



Movies resume on 7/16 with Sam Elliott in **Hero**. Summer Showtimes will be Sundays at 5:30 & 8 pm Mondays & Tuesdays at 2, 5, & 8 pm

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...BRYNES continued from page 1

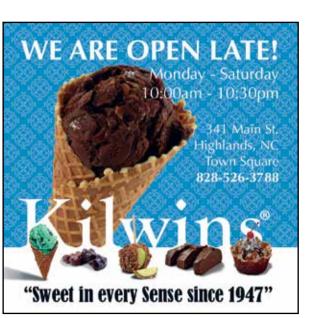
Hospice House in Franklin, NC for the terminally ill of western NC and northeast GA. Currently, the closest Hospice Houses are over an hour's drive for most people of this region.

Evie passionately believed in the need for a Hospice House in our region and worked tirelessly to raise funds for its construction. Her passion stemmed from her volunteer work with terminally ill patients and their families where she witnessed firsthand the compassion and holistic team approach of hospice end-of-life care and the positive impact it had on an individual's final journey and on their loved ones.

HHFWNC has raised over \$3 million for the construction of this much needed hospice inpatient facility. Michele Alderson, President of HHFWNC, shared that the organization needs to raise an additional \$2 million, with construction starting when \$1 million of this has been raised, tentatively next August, 2018. Construction will include the remodel of HHFWNC's Maple Street property and an 8,000 sq. foot addition for six patient suites. Based on this plan, the facility could begin serving hospice patients as early as fall, 2019. The future Hospice House will be operated by Four Seasons Compassion for Life and be open to all qualifying hospice patients, regardless of hospice provider.

To learn how you can support this important regional initiative, contact HHFWNC's President, Michele Alderson, at 828-524-6375.

HIGHLANDS AREA DINING





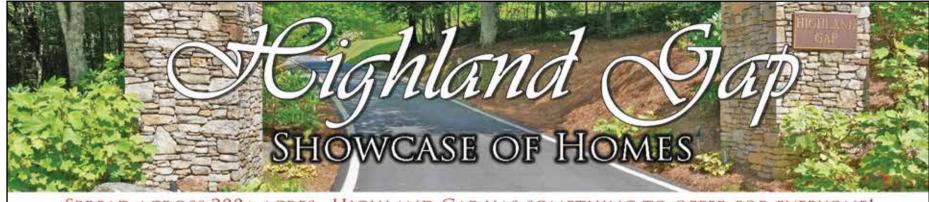
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2349 HIGHLAND GAP RD \$495,000



378 HURRAH RIDGE \$649.000

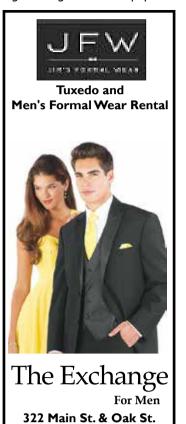


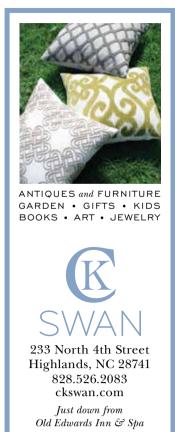
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...VETO continued from page 1

such as more education funding and revisions to tax policy, before he will sign it.

Cooper said early last week that he would consider signing the two-year budget in another form if GOP lawmakers delete a corporate income tax cut and limit the personal income tax cut to those making less than \$150,000. His proposed education changes would include improving new and veteran teacher pay and phasing out what critics label private-school "vouchers."

Republican leaders in both the House and Senate were quick to state they would override the Governor's veto. With majority parties in both chambers, they were successful in the final days of June, just shy of the July 1 deadline.

Both the House and the Senate voted to override Gov. Cooper's veto, passing the bill into law.

Education was a significant portion of the state budget that was negotiated between the Chambers, and the point that the Governor differs the most on with the General Assembly.

The budget increases teacher salaries by 9.6 percent on average, but limits permanent raises to the most veteran teachers to \$300, not including \$385 annual bonuses. And while across-the-board tax rate cuts for all North Carolina residents would provide relief to low- and middle-income teachers, they would enable the highest wage earners and corporations to also keep the most cash.

According to legislative leaders, the budget agreement spends nearly \$700 million more on public education than the current budget and funds more than 3,500 slots for the state pre-kindergarten program, reducing the state's waiting list by 75 percent.

The budget also earmarks more than \$100 million in lottery profits over two years to help economically struggling counties build schools through a matching program, something Representative Kevin Corbin championed with Macon County in mind.

Another piece of legislation headed up by Rep. Corbin and supported by Senator Jim Davis



NC Representative Republican Kevin Corbin shows the official override bill for the Governor's veto on the budget.

that made it into the final budget was funding for isolated schools. More than \$1 million was included in the state budget for isolated schools such as Nantahala and Highlands over the next two years, something Macon County leaders were hopeful for and thankful for after it was included.

The county budget was finalized ahead of the state's, and was approved by Macon County Commissioners in a split 3-2 vote. Macon County's spending will increase in the coming year, with Commissioners approving a \$49,587,927 budget earlier this month. Like the state, locally much of the budget debate was centered around public education.

While the county budget increases spending, the budget doesn't raise taxes. Much of the additional expenditures in the county budget are one-time expenditures for capital projects or new programs such as \$230,000 for a new fire task force to standardize fire stations across the county. The final budget includes two increases for specific fire tax districts, Franklin and Burningtown-Iotla. Commissioner Paul Higdon voted against the budget because he didn't sup-

port the increases to the fire taxes in both of those districts.

The budget also contains \$50,000 for a consultant to help the county move forward with broadband connections. Commissioner Karl Gillespie argued that \$50,000 wasn't enough; and said he would like to see more funds earmarked for infrastructure programs in an attempt to increase connectivity. Commissioner Gillespie ultimately voted against the final county budget, citing the budget not lining up with the principles he ran on while campaigning as commissioner.

Macon County Schools requested \$7.3 million in operating expenses from the county, but for the second year in a row, the county's final budget kept the school system's allocation flat at \$7.1 million.

While school system leaders said without the additional \$200,000 from the county, up to six teaching positions would go unfilled, county leaders noted that if additional funding is needed by the school system, they can request more from the county once a state budget is finalized and they

• See VETO page 10



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...VETO continued from page 8

have a more accurate picture of what their needs are.

With the isolated school funding secure in the state budget, Macon County Schools will have more dollars to operate those schools, which are costly for the county.

Locally, Macon County has budgeted additional dollars to the Macon County Sheriff's Office to address an increase in operating costs to handle calls and cases involving drug overdoses, opioid treatments and the drug epidemic in the county. In the last two weeks, MCSO has prevented methamphetamine trafficking and conducted a major heroin bust. Macon County leaders also passed a resolution to ask the state to

increase funding for opioid addiction on the state level.

The final state budget includes a little more than \$10 million in state funds to combat opioid addiction and overdoses across the state over the next two years, which is about half the amount pledged earlier this year.

The STOP Act (Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention Act), a bill heavily backed by bipartisan state leadership, focuses on decreasing the number of narcotics in the state and adding substance abuse treatment services. The bill initially came with attached funding of \$20 million for community treatment, but the money was removed from the bill, causing concern in the addiction community.

•POLICE & FIRE REPORTS•

The Highlands Police log entries from June 15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

June 21

• At 12:49 p.m., officers rsponded to a call





Evelash Extensions • Walk-ins Welcome!

of a dog barking and disturbing neighbors at a residence on Cullsasia Drive.

lune, 23

• At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106.

June 25

- At 2:28 p.m., officers performed a welfare check at a residence on NC 106.
- At 7:55 p.m., officers responded to a call of a verbal argument outside a residence on Perguin Road.

June 26

 At 5 p.m., officers responded to a twovehicle accident on Main Street.

lune 29

• At 10:22 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from June 26.

lune 26

• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

lune 28

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.
- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cobb Road.
- The dept, was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

June 29

- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Orchard Road.
- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.
- The dept. offered public assistance at a location on US 64 west.
- The dept. was first-responders during a rescue on Ring Road.

July 2

- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.
- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at Cullasaja Club Drive.
- The dept. responded to a rescue call at Secret Falls.

•THE INK PENN•

A Surprise Trip to France

is the season for vacations, but my husband and I had decided we wouldn't take a summer trip this year, opting instead for a Christmas trip to somewhere snowy and a September trip to Colorado. I've been working on both those trips, and I've also vowed to make it to England in 2018, a trip I've always dreamed of.

One of my yoga friends had asked me several times which Viking river cruise we were taking

this year because she'd been inspired to take the Danube cruise after reading about our 2017 trip. So inspired, in fact, that she and her husband worked with Travelfaire to stay in the same Prague hotel we did and take some of the same tours. I kept assuring her that we had no plans to take a cruise this year—until my husband took me by surprise one day.

I walked in the door, and he called me to the porch where he was perusing his Chromebook. His words? "I think we need to take a river cruise this summer." This approach was a new experience for me. In the not too distant past, a spur of the moment two-week trip would have been out of the question. I was still working, and I carefully planned out my four weeks of vacation each year to be sure I could squeeze in everything I wanted to do.

But now? I'm retired. We have no time constraints and no summer plans. The only thing I needed to know was that he was still committed to an England trip next year. I already knew which river cruise I'd choose as we'd previously considered taking a bike and barge trip in Provence, but some health issues had made us realize that cycling 30-40 miles daily for a week was no longer in the cards. With that in mind, we instantly opted for Viking's Lyon & Provence cruise and



Kathy Manos Penn

contacted our travel agent to book it.

Meanwhile, I emailed Lynn, a high school friend who lives in the South of France. We'd corresponded about a visit when my husband and I were looking at the cycling trip, and it had only been a month or so since I'd written her that we wouldn't make it. She encouraged me to choose a different season as she says it's very hot in France in the summer months. I had to laugh

because she grew up in the Atlanta heat and humidity as I did but lived in coastal California before moving to France. I think she's forgotten what hot is. Yes, the temps will be in the 80's and 90's, but the humidity is supposedly much lower. And to see Provence's lavender fields in bloom, summer is the time to go.

We'll travel to Mirmande and spend three nights in a quaint local hotel and get to visit with Lynn and her husband. When I googled Mirmande, I discovered it's billed as one of France's most beautiful villages. After our two cycling trips in France, we'd entertained thoughts of renting a cottage in a small village and spending a week or two, so I can't wait to experience this slice of life.

Since my readers know me only too well, I'm sure you are anticipating several more columns about this trip, and I won't disappoint you. Next up will be which books to read ahead of time and which to take along. Stay tuned.

• Look for Kathy's new book "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" due out in late August and find her collection of columns, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," locally at The Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com.

...LUPOLI continued from page 1

tion project and a 2011 recipient of a grant from the N.C. Main Street Solutions Fund awarded by the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Dugan retired from the Cherokee Central School System in 2011 after a lengthy career that included stints as a teacher's assistant, teacher, director of federal programs and superintendent. In 1995, she became the first woman elected principal chief, an office she held for four years. After leaving public office, Dugan began working at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort, becoming the ca-

sino's director of public, government and community relations.

The reappointed trustees and four newly selected board members will be sworn in at the board's quarterly meeting Friday, Sept. 15. The WCU Board of Trustees is composed of 13 members, including eight elected by the UNC Board of Governors, four appointed by the General Assembly, and the university's Student Government Association president, who serves in an ex-officio capacity.

502532

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Highlands Area Events

Syria update at CLE

On Friday, July 14 the Center for Life Enrichment will present SYRIA: AN UPDATE. The history of Syria, its current condition, and possible solutions will be explored by Hrair Balian, the Director of the Conflict Resolution Program at the Carter Center. Also an adjunct professor at Emory University Law School, Balian oversees the Resolution Program's efforts to monitor conflicts around the world and coordinates the Center's cross-program efforts in the Middle East.

A regular topic of nightly news reports, Syria, under the brutal regime of President Bashar Hafez al-Assad is being kept in power by support from Russian and Iran. In the six years of war trying to oust al-Assad costs have been staggering with an estimated half million Syrians killed and the country basically reduced to piles of rubble.

With his support from Russia al-Assad has unleashed a ruthless campaign on the Syrian people, bombing hospitals and using chemical weapons. This civil strife has led to more than half of the Syrian population, over eleven million people becoming refugees, causing heart-rending consequences for those most vulnerable fleeing to nearby countries.

Sign up and learn the political issues, ethnic and religious sects, countries and events that have led to the near utter destruction of the county which prior to 2011 prided itself on its multiethnic and multi-sectarian character. To register call 526-8811.Walk-ins are welcome. Cost \$25 members/\$35 nonmembers.

Coro Vocati Chorale Ensemble to perform July 9 at First Presbyterian



Coro Vocati Choral Ensemble will perform in concert at 5:30pm on Saturday, July 8th at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The concert is free to the community. This 24-member professional chamber choir was founded in 2009 by Dr. John Dickson, now Director of Choral Studies at LSU School of Music. The ensemble was formed to showcase the rich talent and choral legacy of the Atlanta area. In 2014, Coro Vocati completed its first recording project, *Sweetheart of the Sun*. The group will also sing during the July 9, 11am worship service at First Presbyterian Church. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets.

2nd week of HCCMF to delight

The second week of The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival opens July 7 with Roman Kim on violin and Elizabeth Pridgen on piano.

Friday, July 7 and Saturday, July 8 Kim and Pridgen will be performing works by Bach, Stravinsky, and Paganini. On Sunday, July 9 and Monday, July 10 they will be joined for "The Rites of Spring" by Julie Coucheron and William Ransom on piano.

Roman Kim, known for his outstanding virtuosity and unrestrained energy, counts as one of his influences the legendary rock guitarist, Jimi Hendrix. He delights audiences with his unique arrangements and compositions.

Pianist Elizabeth Pridgen enjoys a distinguished career as both a soloist and chamber musician. In 2014 she was appointed Artistic Director of the 40-year-old Atlanta Chamber Players, one of the leading chamber ensembles

in the United States.

Julie Coucheron started playing the piano at the age of four, then later earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees with honors from the Royal Academy of Music in London. Recent collaborations include performances with the Steve Miller Band and Sir Elton John

William Ransom, a familiar name to festival goers, is the Anna and Hays Mershon Artistic Director of HCCMF. He is the Mary L. Emerson Professor of Piano and head of the piano faculty at Emory University in Atlanta and founder and Artistic Director of the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta.

Concerts are held in Highlands at the PAC on Chestnut Street and in Cashiers at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library. Tickets may be purchased by visiting h-cmusicfestival. org or by calling (828) 526-9060.

Ongoing

- Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Summer Movies: Sun.,, 5:30 and 8p; Mon.,, 2, 5, 8p, Tues., 2, 5, 8p.
- Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.
- The Nature Center will be open Tuesday-Saturdays from 10am-5pm and from 12pm-5pm on Sundays. The Nature Center is closed on Mondays.
- The Glenville Area Historical Society Museum is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11 AM to 3 PM until October 14. The Museum that traces the history of Glenville from it's founding to present day though wall displays and items of historical value, is located at 4735 Highway 107 in Glenville. For information call 828 743-1658, email historicalsociety-glenville area or go to www.glenvillecommunity.com

Mondays, July 3, and Aug. 7

 Botanical Garden Tour. 10:30 am - 11:30 am
 Free. All ages. At the Highlands Botanical Garden. Learn to identify and remove non-native invasive species from your garden and the surrounding forest.

Mon., June 5, 12, 19, 26 (4 sessions)

• Thinking Bridge: Play of the Hand (intermediate), 9:30-11:30 Cost \$80/\$90 Instructor: Duane Meeter. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

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. & 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 info. call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information.
 - Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a. **Mon.-Fri.**
 - Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6

lanes and Monday –Thursday 5pm-6pm I or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.

• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon

Tuesdays

- FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg, at 6p.
- •The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library

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.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7PM in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd.,Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. 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.
- Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.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.
- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of

SUMMER POOL SCHEDULE

Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7-10am - 6 lanes and Monday –Thursday 5-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics at 5:15 p.m.

Public Swim Monday-Thursday 11am-5pm & Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 6-7:30pm, Friday and Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-5pm.

6-7:30pm, Friday and Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-5pm. Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15-6pm

(sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15am-Noon. Group Bookings available Wednesday 6-8pm.

Pool available for pool parties Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings 6pm-8pm. Call the pool at 828-526-1595 if you have any questions concerning the pool.

the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

- Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more information call 770-823-0601
- NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness 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

Thurs.. & Sat.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from 11a to noon. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

• Live music in Town Square from 6-8 p.m.

Fridays & Saturdays

• Art's at the Lodge. Live Music 4-8 p.m.. Cocktails in Art's or on the lawn at the Lodge. On Spring Street.

Saturdays

- * Farmers Marketplace in K-H Founders Park from 8a-
- At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.
- Scrabble at Hudson Library from I-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome.
 - The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from

Learn why & how to fight nonnative invasive plants

The Coalition for Nonnative Invasive Plant Management, CNIPM, is offering a free seminar, "Birds, Bees, and Botany: Planting Natives and Combating Invasives" on July 28th from 9a to 12:30p at the Community Building, next to the ball fields in Highlands.

The faculty includes Karen Brand, Bird-Friendly Community Coordinator for Audubon North Carolina, Sonya Carpenter, Director of Highlands Biological Foundation, and James Costa, Executive Director of the Highlands Biological Foundation. The program will include talks on the essential needs of birds and pollinators for native plants rather than nonnative invasive plants; a presentation of Highlands Plateau's "Most Unwanted" invasives with methods for eradication or control, and suggestions for native alternatives for the landscape. There will be time for questions and discussion.

Bring a lunch and stay for afternoon field trips to outstanding private native gardens from 1:00 to 2:30. Also see living examples of our "Most Unwanted" plants.

Packets of educational materials will be provided for those who preregister. For information or preregistration: 828-787-1230 or dlandwehr7@aol.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

Sponsoring organizations include the Highlands Biological Station, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Highlands Historical Society, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, Highlands Plateau Greenway, Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau, and the Town of Highlands.

10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

• Music in K-H Founders Park 6-8 p.m. Bring a picnic!

Thur., luly 6

 Learning to Live in Space: How. When and Why?. 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Charles Richard Chappell, To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

 iOS Applications, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.

Fri., July 7

- Vegetable Gardening at Old Edwards Inn, 9:30-11:30 Cost \$30/\$40 Presenter: Ezra Gardiner. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
- The Supreme Court's Struggle with Religious Freedoms, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Todd Collins. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
- The High Mountain Squares will host their "Beach Party Dance" Friday night, at the Memorial United Methodist Church. 4668 Old Murphy Rd. Franklin NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Mr. Ace McGee from Anderson, SC will be returning and calling for us. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. You are in luck, new dancer lessons will begin August 14 2017, join us. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001.

Sat., July 8

• H-C Chamber Music: The Rites of Spring, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/35 Presenter: Marie Sumner Loft. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• The 20th annual Sweet Corn Festival at 3 p.m. at St. Cyprian's Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd., Franklin. Free admission. Silent auction with items and gift certificates Food, live entertainment Proceeds benefit All Saints Episcopal outreach, Wesley's Playground, and CareNet.

Coro Vocati Choral Ensemble will perform in concert

at 5:30pm on Saturday at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The concert is free to the community.

Sun. luly 9

 Coro Vocati Choral Ensemble will perform in concert at IIa on Sunday at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The concert is free to the community.

Mon., July 10

 Aery Chiropractic & Acupuncture. Free Health Lecture Series from 6-7 p.m. Upstairs - 2655 Dillard Road. This week: Dr. Sue. Plant Nutrition.

July 10-14

· First Baptist Church Highlands Vacation Bible School, Operation Arctic! 9am to 12:15 pm. Grades K - 5th. 526-4153.

Mondays, July 10, 17, 24, 31 (4 Sessions)

 Bridge Defense: The Ugly Duckling (Intermediate), 9:30-11:30 Cost \$80/\$100 (plus optional \$16 text) Instructor: Duane Meeter. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.

Tues., July 11

• The H-C Chamber Music Festival to present a free Family/Children's Concert and performance entitled "Musical Animals." The concert will take place at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The concert will be followed by an Ice Cream Social in Coleman Hall, hosted by Kilwin's of Highlands. The event is sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach.

 At Hudson Library meet author Michele Moore 2016 Gold winner for Foreword INDIES Book Awards for Historical fiction and 2016 winner of the Langum Prise for Best Historical Fiction introducint "The Cigar Factory.

Tue.&Thur. July 11-13

• iOS for Beginners, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmsith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehigh-

Tue.-Fri., July 11-14

• At The Bascom, Summer Camp: Session 4 - Mixed Media. 9a-noon and I-4p. Explore a variety of materials, and found objects to create collages, sculptures, and more. To register call 526-4949.

• See EVENTS page 14

Free Family/Children's **Concert July 11 at First Presbyterian Church**







Julie Coucheron

Will Ransom

At 3pm on Tuesday, July 11, the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival will present a free Family/Children's Concert and performance entitled "Musical Animals" featuring Ferdinand the Bull and Carnival of Animals with Julie Coucheron, pianist; Roman Kim, violinist; Will Ransom, pianist; with narration by Lois Reitzes, the legendary voice of classical radio in Atlanta.

The concert will take place at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The concert will be followed by an Ice Cream Social in Coleman Hall, hosted by Kilwin's of Highlands. The event is sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach. Everyone is welcome to attend.



lease Note: Times are subject to change without notice, but we

o try to get word of changes out as quickly as possible

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Highlands Events

• Aquatic Adventures. Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 7 - 8 • 9 am - 1 pm daily • Cost \$110 per child. Being mainly terrestrial animals, humans have long been interested in those organisms that make their home in the water. Join us as we investigate different aquatic habitats and compare those critters to the ones that live on land.

Wed., July 12

• At 2pm on Wednesday, July 12, the Interlude Concert Series sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will feature Bradley Howard, Tenor, accompanied by Will Ransom, Pianist. The concert is sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach and Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, and will take place at First Presbyterian Church.

• Georgia's Pioneer Aviators, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Dan Aldridge. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Thur., July 13

 Nuclear Weapons on the Korean Peninsula, 2:00-4:00 Cost

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\$25/\$35 Presenter: Bill Stueck. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Top harpists from around the country will perform in a one-night-only concert July 13, 7 p.m., at the Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The musicians are part of the prestigious Young Artist's Harp Seminar (YAHS) program, which has become an annual tradition just down the mountain in Rabun Gap, Ga. For more information visit harpseminar.

Fri., July 14

• Syria: An Update, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Hrair Balian. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Sat., July 15

 Chamber Music: The Social Worlds of 19th Century Chamber Music, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Marie Sumner Lott. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

July 16-21

 Revival at Blue Valley Baptist Church on NC 28 south. 7 p.m. Special singers nightly with Rev. Allen Aiken preaching. Everyone is invited. For more information call Rev. Oliver Rice at 706-782-3965.

Sun., July 16

• The Highlands Biological Foundation will celebrate its 90th year with a soiree at the home of Tricia and Inman Allen on July 16 at 6pm. This year's soiree will be at the beautiful home of Tricia and Inman Allen featuring an awe-inspiring view from Brushy Face Mountain. Catering will be provided by Jerry Dilts of Atlanta. To register, please call HBF at 828-526-2221.

Mon., July 17

• Experiencing A Flavorful Taste of Portugal, 4:00-6:00 Cost \$90/\$100 Presenter and Chef: Melissa Pekly-Hass. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Aery Chiropractic & Acupuncture Free Health Lecture Series from 6-7 p.m. Upstairs – 2655 Dillard Road. This week: Thomas Taulbee, Teas, Making the Magic Brew.

Tue., July 18

• 4-Minute Fitness, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/35 Instructor: Penney Marshall-Parker. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com



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salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade
potato chips, daily soup specials.

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

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11am – 3pm
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A different full dinner for two every night, Monday-Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out. Call ahead to reserve...

Monday - Low Country Lobster / Shrimp Boil - Maine lobster tails, wild caught large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer corn, house made sausage, all steeped in our seasoning. Served with drawn butter and cocktail sauce. \$36.95 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.

\$26.95 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. \$35.95 serves two

Thursday - Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs - cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender. Served with house made bacon/apple baked beans and potato salad. \$27.95 serves two

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

\$28.95 serves two

Saturday - In-House Smoked BBQ - Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked over night and hand pulled to order. Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls \$25.95 serves two

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To Buy or Build a Home

uild or buy is a question many buyers of Highlands real estate ask themselves. Buyers with a price limit often see many changes they would like to see made in a home. In these instances, building may seem more appealing. On the other hand, building can be stressful and many buyers are not up to the challenge. When getting started with the buying process sit down with your local Realtor® and discuss the pros and cons of buying a pre-existing

home versus building a home.

Make a list of the features that are most important to you, then compare costs. Know what you are willing to give up and what you must have in your next home. Then, look for homes in your price range that meet your criteria. Your home is usually your biggest investment so it's perfectly acceptable to be picky and take your time to find the perfect home.

When building new a home, you will

have most of what you want with few maintenance or repairs, but it's still likely that not everything will be perfect. Whether you run into issues with permits or other delays, building your own home can come with a lot of unexpected costs. It is rare to see a new home come in on budget. It's best to ask the architect/builder for what you want, yet be ready and willing to trim on certain items.

Buying a house is an attractive option for many people because in most cases



Lynn Kimball Berkshire Hathaway Meadows Mountain Realty

you can move into the home soon after closing. Oftentimes, homebuvers might fret over the purchase of a home that has some lessthan-stellar features. But the home you buy doesn't have to be perfect down to the wall paint. You can update the unattractive features of a home over time, and vou might even profit from a few upgrades. You can see the floor plan and the layout of a pre-existing home.

• See INVESTING page 22



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The Atlanta Boy Choir 'Wows' Nova Scotia

The 35 boys, 20 men and instrumental ensemble under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe has just returned from a monumental concert tour of Nova Scotia.

Starting their tour in Halifax at the magnificent St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica the choir charmed the overflowing crowd with their beautiful singing and deportment. At the end listeners jumped to their feet yelling "Bravo, Bravo" for 7 curtain

The choir, recently heard at Highlands First Presbyterian Church the week before, featured the famous American Opera Singer, Indra Thomas, who accompanied the choir on this tour. Also, along with the boys and men performing an all classical repertoire accomplished pianist and accompanist, Dr. Robert Henry who played the Revolutionary Etude and Indra Thomas who sang "Ride on King Jesus"

both brought the audience to its feet. Nest the ensemble traveled to the town of Lunenburg.

In Lunenburg, they performed at the historic St. John's Anglican Church.

Once again, the church was filled to capacity and the audience raised the roof with its outstanding applause.

Lastly, on this concert tour, was the performance given in Yarmouth at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Once again, a thrilled audience jumped to their feet and said there had never been such an amazing concert given at their church.

One of the ladies on this tour commented, "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."

Surely, this was true with this Atlanta's Grammy Award winning choir while performing in Nova Scotia, Canada.



No expense was spared in the quality of materials and craftsmanship, from the beautiful landscaping to the stone porches and terrace to exquisite finishes at every turn, 6bd/5,5ba Scottish Style Manor at the top of Highlands Country Club is sure to impress. Views of Satulah, Whiteside and Shortoff Mountains, 2 story stone fireplace adorns the greatroom. Stone terrace with outdoor kitchen, hidden waterfall and another stone fireplace is perfect for entertaining guests. Gourmet kitchen with walk-in pantry, 2 gracious master suites with spa style baths and home theater are just a few more favorites in this luxury manor, \$5,595,000 MLS #85997



If a luxury mountain retreat is what you seek, look no further than this magnificent custom built home located in the private, gated community of HeatherStone Tops. 5bd/6ba/2 half bath estate on over 4 acres with sweeping mountain and golf course views. \$2,395,000 MLS #85624



3bd/3ba less than 5 minutes to town. Master on main, upper level loft and lower level complete with 2 large recreation rooms, kitchenette, 2 bonus rooms and bath. Enjoy a walk to Apple Lake for fishing or conoeing, deede lake access. Perfect large family retreat or rental opportunity. \$495,000 MLS #85617



3bd/2.5ba move-in ready home in Scaly Mtn. Beautifully landscaped on I acre, enjoy this quiet and peaceful neighborhood. Open concept kitchen/dining/living is perfect for entertaining. Reduced! \$199,000 MLS #86003



This is a must see 4bd/4ba meticulously maintained home located on a cul-de-sac with nice views in Highlands Falls CC. Possibility of 2 separate living areas including 2 decks. Wood floors, tile baths, cathedral ceilings, and jacuzzi tubs add to the desirability of this great property. \$525,000 MLS #85453

LOT LISTING

This gently sloping .7 acre wooded property has several building locations. Safe and quiet Ideals Acres community. Great investment lot. \$20,000 MLS #84820



One level living in a quiet, well maintained neighborhood. Move-in ready 3bd/2.5ba. This home would be a great year round home or rental property. Located between Highlands and Cashiers. \$279,000 MLS #85477

LOT LISTING

12.46 acre lot with direct views of pastures, a pond and vineyards. Located in the Scaly Mrn. area. \$279.900 MLS #82604



Located in Sky Valley, GA inside the gated community of Heatherstone Tops. Elegant custom home offers 3bd/4.5 ba with large office, two living rooms and a huge bonus room. Sits on 1.13 acre lot with breathtaking views. New Price \$650.000 MLS #85362



3bd/3ba farmhouse on 4.74 acres is a must see property. Enjoy country living in privacy. Additional "Pond House" set on Golden Pond made from old barn wood is perfect for entertaining guests. \$349,900 MLS #84081



Prestigious Old Brushy Face neighborhood. 3bd/3.5ba with large timbers that accent the living areas. Kitchen, living room and master suite open to oversized screen porch where you can take in the long range mountain views. Master on main level with ensuite. \$1.500,945 MLS #83836



Walk to town 3bd/3.5ba and potential 4th bdrm with private access on lower level. Great rental investment or year round residence. \$299.000 MLS #86431



Overlooking tee boxes on the 4th fairway at Highlands Falls CC. Lovely 3bd/3ba with wood flooring and stone fireplace in living room. Terrace level with large family room and I car garage. Offered fully furnished and move in ready. \$439,000 MLS #85542



Cozy rustic mountain home with 3bd/2ba. Light and bright with wrap around deck to take in the sounds of nature. Low maintenance landscaping and level area to add garage. \$335,000 MLS #85539



Newly Priced! Bright, light, open floorplan makes this home live large. 3bd/3ba one level home with soaring ceilings and stone fireplace in greatroom that opens to large screened porch. Open kitchen plan, master suite with soaking tub and 2 guest suites complete this great home in gated community. \$500,000 MLS #86438



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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING .

God's **Providence Romans 8:28**





od is the sovereign Lord Almighty, he controls this world and the lives of its creatures. Paul says in Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose" (NIV).

God made a rather startling confession about King David in Acts 13:22 "I have found David, Son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do."

God having said this about David should give you the desire to know more about David's life.

David was a shepherd boy tending his father's sheep and he became king of Israel. What were the chances of that? Not very good since shepherds were the lowest rung on the social ladder. They were considered so unworthy as to not even be allowed to testify in the courts of Israel. But this lad David became king and the author of some of the most beautiful psalms ever written. The lesson in this is that when you place your hope and trust in God, all the old things in your life are wiped away and you become a new creature with an unlimited future.

But David, even though he was loved by God did not always do what was right. He committed adultery and murder. He also suffered the consequences of his actions. He lost four sons because of his sin. What we learn in this is that God will never stop working on you, once you are his. He will take all of the circumstances of your life, no matter how bad they seem to be and he will make good come from them to help you grow in your love of Him.

Paul says he takes all things and works them for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose. It doesn't matter how sinful you have been. It doesn't matter how bad things have gone in your life. It doesn't matter how hopeless things might seem right now. That is all part of your old life. If you come to Jesus Christ and believe and trust who he says he is, the Son of God, your Savior, then he is ready, willing and able to change everything such that through his providential watch care, he will turn all that was dark in your life and make light come forth from it, so that you, too, can be a person after God's

Hear God's call to place your hope and trust in Jesus Christ and in him alone.

John 3:16 **Proverbs 3:5**

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Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

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...INVESTING continued from page 16

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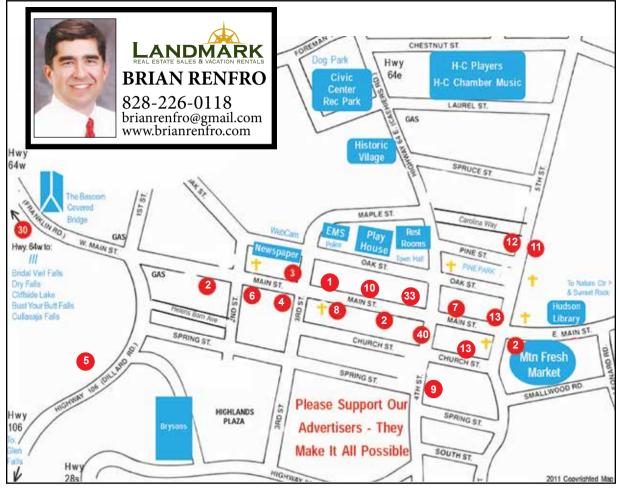


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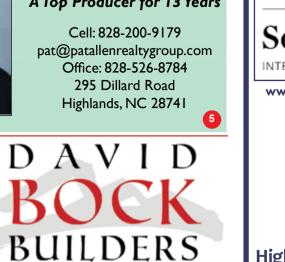
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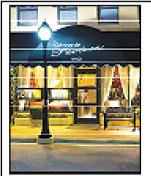
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