

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., March 2, 2017

Planning Board gets first look at changes in town

Highlands' Planning Board heard four cases Monday night, three of which will affect Highlands in a positive way by bringing old buildings to life while bolstering the business climate; while one will expand a residential commu-

nity.

Last month, the Zoning Board of Adjustment issued Old Edwards Hospitality Group, (OEI) represented by John Lupoli and Richard Delany, a variance to encroach into Spring Street's 10-foot

setback so a 300-sq. ft. addition can be made to its laundry facility.

However, before the Zoning Board can issue a Special Use Permit (SUP), which is necessary when changes are made to a commercial building, the Planning

Board, acting as the Appearance Commission had to OK the exterior of the expansion – the color, materials and landscaping.

OEI is expanding the laundry facility to house a new machine de-

•See CHANGES page 5

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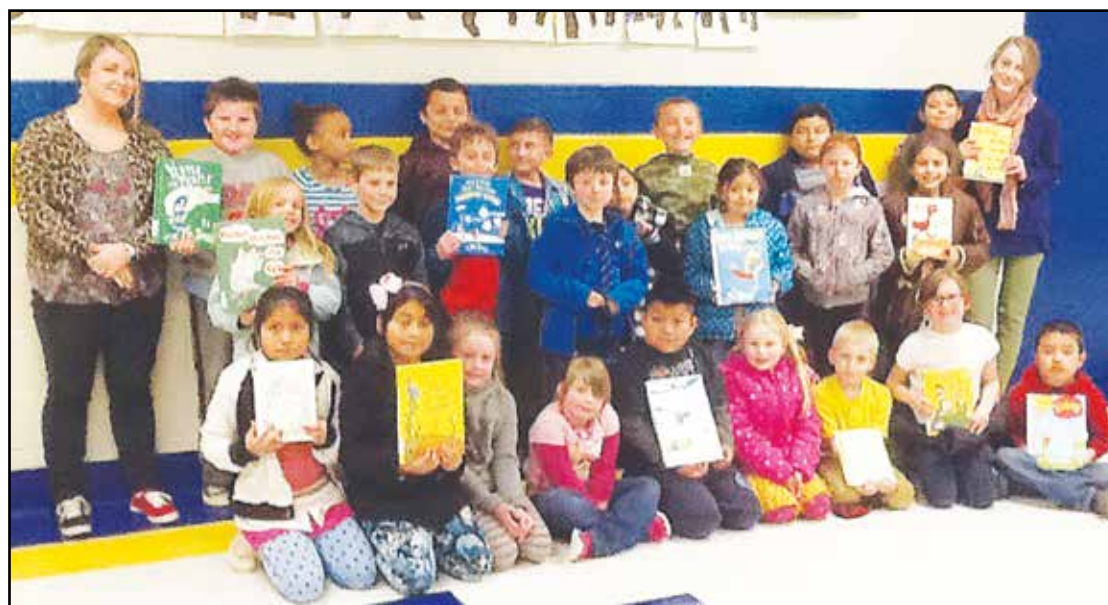
MC pushes for more broadband access

Macon County Commissioners have led the charge in Western North Carolina when it comes to improving internet connectivity. Led by members of the community, commissioners have worked to develop maps of the county that show internet access and identify significant areas in the county that are both largely rural and primarily without internet.

This week, the county continued that effort by sending home a survey with students asking about the connectivity in their home.

"These surveys will allow us to get an overall picture of the different communities in our county and see first-hand what kind of internet access they have," said Macon County Manager Derek Roland. "This isn't a map we created or are guessing

•See BROADBAND page 11



Pictured are 2nd Grade students dressed for Mix-Up Monday where children wore their clothes inside out and backwards, with teachers Margie Potts and Emilee DeForest. Several students are holding Dr. Seuss books.

Photo by Melanie Miller

Dr. Seuss's birthday March 2 kicks off week-long celebration at Highlands S.

The National Education Association's "Read Across America Day" is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on March 2 — Dr. Seuss's birthday.

But with more than 60 book titles to celebrate, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers make it a week-long event.

At Highlands School, stu-

dents were encouraged to celebrate reading and the beloved children's author's love of the ridiculous by dressing up in a silly way Monday

•See SEUSS page 3

Rep. Corbin pushes for bills with schools in mind

Legislation introduced by House Rep. Kevin Corbin is stalling in the Senate, but after meeting with Senator Jim Davis yesterday, Rep. Corbin is hopeful it will move forward.

"I explained to him the importance of House Bill 13 and giving local districts the flexibility in their classrooms," said Corbin Wednesday morning. "We agree that the legislation is good legislation, he and the Senate just want to see more accountability for funds that were sent previously to school districts across the state."

House Bill 13, which was primarily sponsored by Corbin, would cap individual K-3 class sizes at 22 to 24 students, depending on grade level. Under the current law, maximum individual K-3

•See CORBIN page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

When national issues hit home

The plan that was announced last week to expand efforts to deport undocumented people has generated concerns, rumors and fear in our community. I could be silent on this national issue, rationalizing that it doesn't impact our remote village, but it does to some extent, and I think it is my duty as mayor to address the issue.



Mayor Pat Taylor

Early last week I heard rumors ICE agents were on the plateau searching for undocumented residents. Some claimed that the Highlands Police Department was assisting. By the weekend I was getting other reports that the Highlands Police, armed with shotguns, were running a roadblock, probably for the purpose of seizing and deporting undocumented residents.

Last Friday was my first community coffee of the year at the Hudson Library. Given the feedback that I had received, I asked Chief Bill Harrell to come talk about the deportation issue and the involvement of the Highlands Police Department. He spoke and took questions concerning police policies and procedures for about 30

minutes. I appreciated his willingness to speak.

I had a follow-up meeting with Chief Harrell this past Monday. As a retired magistrate I, too, am familiar with police policies and court processes. As a mayor, I work with the chief, the Town Manager and the board in forming overall administrative policies for HPD. But I, nor the board, control how our police department enforces laws. The last

thing citizens need is for elected officials, aka politicians, telling law enforcement officers who to charge and when to make arrests. Professional law enforcement officers make decisions concerning issuing charges, and the courts determine whether a person is innocent or guilty, thank goodness.

At the coffee on Friday, as well as at our meeting on Monday, Chief Harrell stressed that his department focuses on people that violate the law, regardless of race, sex, national origin or immigration status. We both agreed that if people are law abiding and engaged in productive work here in Highlands, the police department has no interest other than to protect and serve those individuals. Complex issues related to immigration law are best left to the purview of federal agencies. At the community coffee the chief emphasized his department was concerned about major crime problems such as the opioid epidemic, larceny, domestic violence and all felonies. Traffic safety is also a part of their mission. HPD has participated in the Governor's Highway Safety Program for

well over a decade.

Chief Harrell has stated that he has not been contacted by ICE agents, and his department has no enthusiasm for receiving training to assist in deportation initiatives. Massive deportations would be very problematic requiring a tremendous amount of time and energy on the part of HPD. Even now, an arrest made by a HPD officer can

take hours to complete. The arresting officer has to transport the person in custody either to a magistrate's office and/or the Macon County Denton Center. While this is all being done, one less officer is on patrol in Highlands. Our police force simply doesn't have the resources to be involved in deportations.

•See MAYOR page 3

• LEGISLATIVE UPDATE •

The below summary was written by the Congressional Research Service, which is a nonpartisan division of the Library of Congress, and was published on Feb 2, 2017.

HJ Resolution 40

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

This joint resolution nullifies the "Implementation of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007" rule finalized by the Social Security Administration on December 19, 2016. The rule implements a plan to provide to the National Instant Criminal History Background Check System the name of an individual who meets certain criteria, including that benefit payments are made through a representative payee because the individual is determined to be mentally incapable of managing them. (Current law prohibits firearm sale or transfer to and purchase or possession by a person who has been adjudicated as a mental defective.)

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Junior Senator Thom Tillis Yea
Office: 202-224-6342
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• WEEKEND WEATHER •

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...MAYOR continued from page 2

One other note, while some federal memoranda have suggested bypassing the courts in the deportation process, I can't see that happening. Everyone residing in the US has the right to due process. While I know some folks become impatient with court procedures, it would be a huge challenge to personal liberty issues if law enforcement officers could simply bypass the courts. If that precedent were to occur, we all could be in jeopardy.

So as the mayor, I do not support using town police resources in any future blanket deportation plans. Chief Harrell agrees.

There are several caveats to my statement. If an undocumented person commits a crime, certain high level misdemeanors and all felonies, he or she will be detained and required to appear in court. During this process that person's immigration status may be examined by federal authorities and deportation procedures implemented. This practice has been in place for a number of years. For instance, anyone arrested for a felony must be taken to the detention center to be finger printed as a part of the conditions of release and bonding. Federal authorities have access to this national finger print base, so an undocumented person in the system could be identified by state and federal law enforcement officials. Domestic violence misdemeanor assaults trigger similar responses. The suspected offender, whether undocumented or not, has to be arrested and taken before a magistrate. If probable cause is determined, the person

charged can be held in the detention center for 48 hours before posting bond. Again, for an undocumented person, federal authorities could review their status while in custody.

Another caveat relates to the constitution and the law. The oath of office of police officers requires them to support and uphold the Constitution of the United States, as well as the North Carolina Constitution. If a federal or state legislative body, or chief executive issues an order to enforce a law deemed constitutional by the courts, law enforcement officers have to execute their sworn duty. On the other hand, if the above scenario was to take place, I can't see our police department playing a major role in such an effort. Again, our community and police department are just too small.

The last caveat centers around the road block that I referred to earlier in this article. I was notified by concerned citizens Friday evening that the police had setup a road block and were probably looking for undocumented residents that would be detained for ICE. I immediately contacted Chief Harrell about the roadblock, and he responded immediately. The chief informed me that his officers had conducted a road license checkpoint on Friday. Four tickets were issued for no operators license (NOL). No one was detained, no one was arrested, and no shotguns were carried by officers. Unless a person receiving a NOL ticket has an extensive record of traffic offenses, like other minor traffic offenses, the ticket can be paid at the Macon County Clerk of Courts office, therefore bypassing a court appearance. On the other hand, not paying the ticket and failing to appear in court will

•See MAYOR page 14

...SEUSS from page 1

through Friday of this week.

On Monday children wore their clothes inside out, backwards and more.

"Dr. Seuss and his Cat in the Hat and the Lorax are well-known characters to early age children. Bringing these stories to life for them helps to motivate young readers to read more stories from Dr. Seuss and other authors. As the Lorax would say, 'Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.' The more young people read the better readers and 'imagers' they'll be!" said Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter.

Though the NEA encourages reading with its "Read Across America" campaign all year long, Dr. Seuss's birthday brings the idea home and is a way to give author Dr. Seuss his due.

Seuss would have turned 113 today, March 2. He would surely have been proud to see that his works are still relevant as ever, resonating with children and adults of all ages.

— Kim Lewicki

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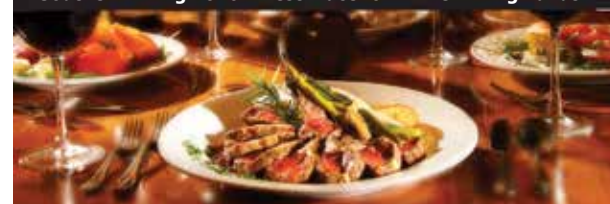
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...CHANGES continued from page 1

signed to press and fold sheet sets. One exterior wall of the existing building will be removed and a 300-sq. ft. room will be added. The exterior of the addition will match the existing building which is a creamy stucco with brown batten.

The sparse landscaping elements that existed at the location of the proposed expansion have been removed but will be replaced in whatever space is left.

The Planning Board OK'd the appearance of the addition but requested that detail be paid to the subsequent landscaping and that if possible a material other than stucco be used since the building already has too much stucco.

The Unified Development Ordinance says only 30% of any side of a building can be stucco – the laundry building is basically all stucco – but as Chairman Thomas Craig pointed out, it was built before the UDO was in place.

Rather than introducing another element to the building, President and Managing Director of OEI Delany said that the plan was to take away one stucco wall when the adjoining wall is removed and to then simply replace it.

"Once it is completed I'm guessing people won't even know it changed," he said.

Lupoli said it would look awkward if another material was added to the mix.

OEI must now go to the Zoning Board to get the required SUP. That meeting is Wednesday, March 8.

The Supper Club

JT Fields of Mountain Fresh Grocery was before the Planning Board to discuss the appearance changes to the Highlands BBQ building on US 64 west.

The building is under contract for purchase by Mountain Fresh Grocery and would serve as an staging area for food preparation for Mountain Fresh itself, an event venue, and a private Supper Club.

He was there to discuss the covered porch which will extend over the existing fenced-in area in the parking lot behind the building as well as changes to the façade of the main building – basically changing the color from red to brown and adding battens on the T1-11 siding.

"We want a calmer look to the build-

ing," he said.

The Planning Board was in favor saying "anything you can do on the street side to make it look better will be an improvement."

The parking and seating arrangement is in compliance with the county and the town.

Fields said they were considering purchasing the slice of property between the building and Raoul Road to ensure the project meets the built-upon requirements due to the watershed. The property wouldn't house anything – it would just ensure compliance with built-upon stipulations.

The Kolber family, who lives in a house above the building on Holt Knob Road, was at the meeting to express their concerns about possible noise emanating from the site during events. Pam Kolber said she and her husband, who both work, were able to move to Highlands full-time this past summer and they want to be able to enjoy their home in the evenings after work and before bedtime void of noise and odors coming from the building.

Since noise travels up valleys and up hills, she said they were concerned about "after parties" on the outside deck and comings and goings in the parking lot.

Fields said though the issue before the Planning Board was appearance only, he was glad to discuss and put to rest their fears.

"I can assure you we will be good neighbors and we will comply with all town ordinances concerning noise. I am sensitive to the serenity of your home," said Fields. "We will be using it as an event facility, but it will be less noise than a restaurant."

He explained that catered events basically involve one customer with stipulations outlined in a contract beforehand versus a restaurant that has 100-150 customers.

He said as per town ordinance, the outside deck will be emptied by 11 p.m. and offered to end drink service at 10:30 to ensure people leave the deck.

Fields did say that the building has been used as a community hospitality-based structure for a long, long time and it will be stay that way, as planned.

"You knew the variables when you

• See **CHANGES** page 8

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

A meditation for Lent

"I AM the Bread of Life."

(Chapter 6 of the Gospel according to John.)

By The Rev. Dr. Maurice L. Goldsmith,
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

How would I react if, during dinner one night at Wolfgang's, a close friend leaned across the table and in all seriousness, say to me, "I am beef short ribs. Gobble me up?"

"Waiter! Check, please!"

How about you?

I suspect we all would be as mystified and as horrified as Jesus' audiences were in the scriptural accounts of his similar pronouncements.

At the beginning of this chapter, we have the account of Jesus abundantly feeding 5,000 people with five barley loaves and a couple of smoked trout - the miraculous sign that is known as The Feast of the Multiplication. We are told that the next day the crowd was hungry again and followed him to get more of the same. Or who knows? This time it might be beef short ribs.

In this section of the Gospel story, Jesus is trying once again to explain his ministry and his mission. Read it for yourself. Let me know if verses 41 through 51 answer all your questions about the divinity of Christ, and the related mystery of what we know as the Holy Eucharist, or Communion, or the Mass or The Lord's Supper.

It does not supply all the answers for me. Instead it raises more questions.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 14



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John 3:16

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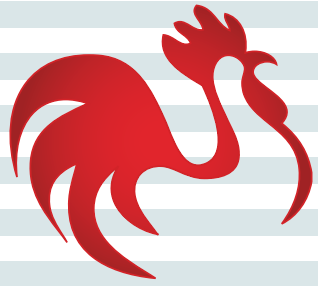
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...CHANGES continued from page 5

moved to your home – it's been a BBQ restaurant since the 1950s."

The difference is now there are ordinances which stipulate hours and degrees of noise allowed on the property.

The Planning Board OK'd the proposed appearance changes but asked that the Kolber's concerns be put in the record concerning noises and smells and that Fields be as mindful as possible of the neighbors. The board also asked that additional landscaping be considered wherever possible and that outdoor lighting be kept to a "residential scale."

Next a SUP will be sought from the Zoning Board.

Wine/Coffee Bar

The folks who got a 2-2 vote from the Planning Board last month, returned with a revised plan for their proposed wine/coffee bar with vacation rental units at 221 N. 4th Street.

Willing to put the necessary funds toward the project and with a will to make it work, they returned for an appearance OK before going to the Zoning Board

for the required SUP.

Last month problems involved the appearance of the building – an oriental and modern look with a flat roof that caused two of the four Planning Board members to shoot it down saying it was "out of character with Highlands' village character."

Monday night, a new plan was presented and unanimously approved by The Planning Board. It has the same dark colors and mullioned windows, and board and batten siding, but now includes a gabled roof with an overall "mountain look."

Though not its purview, last month the Planning Board also noted that the interior of the structure as proposed was not in compliance with the UDO, specifically involving allowed habitation and use in the basement and other two floors, as well as the roof top.

Now that the plan has changed to comply with the UDO, there is a good chance a SUP will be issued by the Zoning Board next week.

The new plan has two floors

– the bottom one for retail, the top one for two, one-bedroom vacation rental units. The bedrooms will be in the attic within the gabled roof-top structure and will be accessed by a stairway from the top floor.

As per the UDO, two habitable floors – whether used for retail or residential – are allowed and a residence is allowed in an attic space.

4 1/2 Street Inn

Now that the 4 1/2 Street property has sold, the new owners want to convert the house into a single-family home and subdivide the 1.12 acre lot. Plans for the new .52-acre lot at the bottom of the property involve another home.

The Planning Board OK'd the plan -- the first step required in making a subdivision -- on the grounds that the pervious versus impervious calculations were validated and if necessary the existing driveway would be excavated and made pervious. The property is zoned R-2.

– Kim Lewicki

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

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Location Trends

I am often asked, “Where is the best location in Highlands to purchase real estate?” That answer depends on the wants and needs of each individual buyer.

There is high demand for homes in the town limits where you can walk to town. This has been a major trend for several years and that trend will always be desirable.

Newly trending are buyers looking for a home outside the town limits on two or more acres with space for a nice fire pit area, for growing organic foods and fruit trees or sitting on the porch looking out over a garden oasis, a big yard for children/grandchildren, a place for a pond or waterfall feature, outdoor sports and privacy. Other benefits are lower prices and lower taxes.

One thing’s for sure, the reason people choose Highlands remains the same. There is truly no place like Highlands.

If you have been thinking about making Highlands a second or permanent home... why not now? Time is ever changing and



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easily gets away from us and today is all we really have. Although our real estate market is trending upward, take a look and you will still find some of the best real estate values we have seen in several years. Why?...because you love it!

• Lynn Kimball has over 43 years of real estate experience, with 32 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and previously served as Director and Vice

President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty has three locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex, at 488 Main Street or visit Lynn at her 2334 Cashiers Road location across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com

...CORBIN continued from page 1

class sizes will drop from 24 students to between 19 and 21 students, depending on grade level, and the maximum average class sizes for a school district would be even lower.

School districts across the state were bracing for significant budget shortfalls based on mandated class-size requirements approved last year. In Macon County, the local school board was expecting a \$350,000-\$400,000 shortfall.

Since last year, districts across the state have pleaded with the General Assembly to reconsider its previously approved class-size cap, because without additional funding, classes such as PE and the arts were in jeopardy.

North Carolina doesn’t separately fund specialists such as arts and PE teachers so school districts pay for them out of state dollars for regular classroom teachers. The reduction in maximum class sizes limits the flexibility that districts have to spread money around for special classes.

House Bill 13 isn’t new legislation that raises the cap on class sizes, but rather is a measure to undo legislation that was initiated in the Senate last year, and set to go into effect for the 2017-’18 school year.

Because the legislation originated in the Senate last year, despite House Bill 13

unanimously passing the North Carolina House of Representatives, the Senate has yet to take up the issue. Last week, Senator Davis was unsure if the Senate would take up the legislation at all.

“Since 2011, we have invested \$200 million to LEAs (Local Education Agencies) to reduce class sizes, specifically in K-3 classrooms,” said Senator Davis. “The issue we have is that we haven’t seen a good accountability of those dollars. Research shows irrefutable evidence that lower class sizes enhances student performance, which is why it’s been a priority in the past.”

A survey was sent to local districts asking for accountability of dollars given to reduce class sizes. Rep. Corbin said that results are expected to be given to the General Assembly by the Department of Instruction soon, and with a better idea of how that money was spent, he believes the Senate will pass the legislation.

Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin called House Bill 13 the most important legislation currently in the General Assembly.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter noted that without the legislation, Highlands is looking at having to hire additional teachers, which would increase the budget.

• See CORBIN page 11

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...BROADBAND continued from page 1

at, this is actual information about homes and families in our county and how they access the internet.”

The survey went home with all students in Macon County and are due back to school this Friday. The surveys will be collected and evaluated by the county to better address the lack of connectivity throughout the county.

On the state level, Macon County’s representatives are working with county commissioners to introduce legislation that will help secure funding for broadband in rural areas of the state.

House Bill 68, also known as North Carolina’s BRIGHT Futures Act, is intended to clarify rules governing the ability of municipalities and counties to enlist into public/private partnerships for communications services such as broadband and wireless internet.

BRIGHT stands for Broadband enabled services; Retail online services; Internet of things; GridPower; Health care, and; Training and education. The acronym, BRIGHT, is intended to represent the fast-growing markets lawmakers say the act will stimulate especially in rural areas.

“There are rural infrastructure monies in North Carolina that can be used for infrastructure, which has been defined as buildings and roads in the past. However, this bill would help define broadband and connectivity as infrastructure so counties and towns can apply for these funds to improve their broadband infrastructure,” said House District 120 Representative Kevin Corbin who serves as a co-sponsor on the bill. “While we absolutely need money for roads and to rebuild buildings for new industry to flourish, we need to start treat-

ing internet like we used to define highways in the 1960s. People travel for their job by using the internet. The majority of my district is without access to high speed internet and it is something we desperately need in our state.”

If signed into law, the BRIGHT Futures Act would allow cities that offer broadband to extend fiber networks beyond their service boundaries without running afoul of a 2011 law meant to limit competition between government and private providers.

The Town of Highlands currently provides Broadband within the city limits, and the new legislation would help expand that program to reach more customers who may have access to the service, but fall outside the city limits.

Highlands offers both Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) and fixed wireless service to residents and businesses in the downtown area. Prices vary based on the location requesting the services, but the lowest cost package begins at \$34.99 for a basic, four megabit download speed to an extreme package that connects an entire home and comes with a free Roku and 50 MBPS (megabits per second) download speeds for \$119.98 a month.

Highlands was only recently allowed to provide internet after the FCC overturned the 2011 broadband ruling that prohibited municipalities from offering the service. North Carolina’s population of residents living in rural areas is the second largest of any state in the country, with more than 3.3 million people living in the 85 counties considered to be rural. Corbin serves as a co-sponsor on the bi-partisan bill, which was introduced in the Senate as Senate Bill 65. Senator Jim Davis was also

a co-sponsor on the bill in the Senate.

“Especially for the rural part of the state, connectivity and internet access is basically nonexistent,” said Sen. Davis. “This bill is another way to look at a way to fix that and to get that last mile of connectivity to our residents. We don’t have enough money to make that last mile, but this is just another way at looking at every possibility we have to get fast internet to residents in North Carolina.”

The bill includes plans to create a new grant program at the Department of Commerce to assist the growth of businesses in the BRIGHT market segment.

While the bill does direct the N.C. Department of Commerce to explore relevant grant programs that could aid municipalities in establishing such partnerships, there

is no appropriation of funds attached to the legislation.

“Our state will already be the first in the nation to have every classroom connected to high-speed broadband,” said North Carolina Lt. Governor Dan Forest, who supports the legislation. “The BRIGHT Futures Act builds on the hard work and forward thinking that the General Assembly has dedicated to connecting our schools. This would finish the last mile that has separated our rural communities from our urban corridors. North Carolina has some

of the greatest infrastructure for innovation and economic development, from Research Triangle Park to a statewide fiber network, to our universities, healthcare facilities, and private sector engines of innovation, but we can no longer allow vast portions of our state to fall behind because that infrastructure does not reach them. This bill sets a vision and a roadmap that can organize the great forces of innovation in a way to connect everyone in the state.”

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...CORBIN continued from page 10

“This bill would give the system and our school much needed flexibility in scheduling classes, grades, and teachers,” said Jetter. “The cap might mean we would have to hire additional teachers to stay within the cap.”

House Bill 13 isn’t the only legislation that could impact Highlands School. House Bill 52 was another piece of legislation

introduced by Rep. Corbin and is geared toward giving school systems more control over designing their annual calendars.

According to Jetter, House Bill 52 would give local schools needed flexibility.

“Flexibility in our calendar would allow us to have balanced semesters and still have semester

• See CORBIN page 13

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Wolfe honored on his 85th year

Seventy-five prominent guests honored Maestro Fletcher Wolfe in Atlanta, GA on his 85th birthday last Saturday evening at the home of The Atlanta Boy Choir in beautiful Druid Hills.

Attending this event were many of Atlanta's leading citizens as well as educators from across the county. Some of these guests who came to this auspicious occasion and enjoyed a seated formal dinner catered by Bada Bing Catering were Ben Weinberg, Atlanta's leading Attorney and former president of the Bar Association. He was joined by other attorneys which included Russell Waldon, head of his firm, his attorney wife, Nicolette, who teaches law at Emory university and Lesli Seta, attorney who is married to famous Italian soccer star, Marco Seta.

Also attending were Atlanta businessman, Charles Brown and his wife Brenda. Mr. Brown is perhaps best known as Atlanta's major developer being responsible for construction of The Atlantic Station, Lenox Park and Technology Park among others. His wife, Brenda Brown is an accomplished organist and was Maestro Wolfe's accompanist for some time years ago. The Browns gave the pipe organ which graces the choir's auditorium.

Renowned educators included Dr. James Mellichamp, President of Piedmont College, Dr. Lawrence Weaver and his distinguished cousin, Dr. Joyce Pope, who was head of music at University of Texas in Austin. Also, Dr. William Garner, head of music at Atlanta's unique, Drew Charter School. Accompanying Dr. Garner was world famous Soprano, Indra Thomas. Ms. Thomas flew down from New York for this event where the previous evening she was featured soloist at Carnegie Hall in Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*.

Master of Ceremonies for this event was Rev. Brian Sullivan, former Rector of Highlands Incarnation Episcopal Church. He and his wife, Mindy, sat the speakers table with choir board chairman, Anne Ahnberg, her husband Don and Maestro Wolfe. It was with great regret that Mrs. Wolfe could not attend the dinner due to a serious accident earlier in the week but she was able to come for the film narration. She was attended by Highlander, Molly Mckim. Also another Highlander attending was Mrs. John Maddox a longtime friend and supporter of The Atlanta Boy Choir.

After a delicious seated dinner, Rev. Sullivan gave the listeners a delightful and amusing description of the Maestro when they worked together at The Incarnation Church. The guests were then shown a film narrated by Flautist, Candace Keach which outlined Maestro Wolfe's long and fascinating musical life.

First showing his plantation bred mother, Grace. Then his Asheville Mountain raised father, Thomas. The guests then learned how they met at Mr. Wolfe's cousin's home, the writer Thomas Wolfe, in Asheville, and raised three musician sons.

The presentation continued with the Maestro making his way from a football player to President of his college Student Body. Then, his outstanding concert career as a singer featuring his recitals at New York's Town and Carnegie Halls. Also, it pictured him as the favorite singer of the twentieth-century's world renowned music teacher Mlle. Nadia Boulanger of France.

Although the film did show Maestro Wolfe in his many musical adventures down through the years. He was seen, however, with then President Jimmy Carter at the White House, the President of Italy, Pertini at the Palazzo Giustiniani



President Jimmy Carter and Fletcher Wolfe.

where he was commissioned Commendatore and Knight of Malta and Martti Ahtisaari, President of Finland and later President of the United Nations. Then on to many of the great concert stages virtually everywhere in the world. It also featured his seven visits with St. John Paul II at St. Peters in Rome.

This event ended with a birthday cake presentation and Maestro Wolfe addressing the crowd giving all credit to his Heavenly Father whom he said had always loved him and taken care of him. He also gave recognition, thanks and love to some of those who made his 85 years seem so wonderful. These included his devoted Administrator, Rev. Neil Cardwell and his long time confidant, Dr. Lawrence Weaver. He also recognized pianist, Dr. Robert Henry who thrilled the audience by his rendering of Chopin's *Revolutionary Etude*. Dr. Henry, organist and music director at Highlands Episcopal Church has had a close association with Maestro Wolfe throughout his career and Mr. Wolfe says he loves him like a son.

After receiving a congratulatory letter from Georgia's Governor Deal, Rev. Sullivan finished with the Benediction and the crowd left greeting Mrs. Wolfe in her wheelchair on the way out.

...CORBIN continued from page 11

exams prior to Christmas break," said Jetter.

There are several provisions in the law – one being making the first day of school August 10 at the earliest, rather than the Monday closest to August 26, which is the current law.

The two biggest players in this debate have been the travel and tourism industry, which argues a school year that starts in early August would take away high school students as seasonal worker.

However, schools say an earlier start would help prevent knowledge loss in students over the summer and allow the first semester to end before winter break. Rep. Corbin said that since introducing the legislation, they have started to see opposition from the travel and tourism industry.

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ing plan, general office work. Basic computer skills required. Send inquiries to zaneurcell@skyvalleycountryclub.com or call 706 746 5304 (3/2-3/16)

HIGHLANDS INN & HIGHLANDS INN LODGE now accepting applications and interviewing for all positions. Front Desk, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Night Audit, Breakfast Host & cook. Full time and part time available. Call 526-5899 for appointment or stop by 96 log cabin lane for application. Resumes or questions may be emailed to sales@highlandsinnlodge.com. (st. 2/16)

OPENING FOR C.N.A. AND LPN for Assisted Living. Apply at Chestnut Hill, 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC (828)526-5251. (3/2)

PART TIME CLEANERS needed after hours cleaning banks. Please call Cathy @ 828 772 9831 (st. 12/22).

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY is hiring a full-time, experienced line cook. Also hiring a breakfast cook and Deli positions Please come in person to 521 east Main Street in Highlands to apply or call 828-526-2400

EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIANS NEEDED. Call 828-526-5147. (st. 11/22)

ITEMS FOR SALE 2010 UTILITY, LAWN, STOCK TRAILER - 4'x8' open floor w/4' fold down ramp, 2"x2" expanded metal rails, 4.5' feedlot panel sides, new tires and trailer jack. Asking \$800. Call 526-4959 for information. (st. 2/2)

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SMALL OFFICE SPACE for rent, near the Bascom. Year lease, \$435/mo. 828-526-5558. (st. 1/26)

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CUSTOM FASHIONS FOR YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS with The Slipcover Chic and The Designing Diva at Kay's Place in Whistle Stop Mall on River Road off the Highlands Road. Call Kay at 828-421-3879 or Holly at 828-342-1987. (st. 2/9)

GENTLE YOGA WITH JILLIAN JOHNSON Tuesdays 10.30 am, The Wellness Place 468 Dillard Road 828-526-9698. (st. 1/12)

ALL AROUND OFFICE SOLUTIONS - Bookkeeping Services, Payroll Prep, Payroll Tax Prep, Billing Services, Virtual Assistant, Data Base Management, Administrative Services, Research Assistance, Quickbooks Set-up and Training. Call Mary James at 828-421-0002 or email mjames@allaroundofficesolutions.com (st. 1/15)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 11/17)

MOLD AND MUSTY SMELL IN YOUR HOME? Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.

...MAYOR continued from page 3

result in the district court judge issuing an arrest order.

As a side note, the Highlands Police Department conducts routine road checks as required by the Governors Highway Safety Program. By participating in this program the department qualifies for thousands of dollars in state grants to purchase equipment. Also, this program has rated the roads and streets in Highlands as some of the safest in the state, something that benefits all of us.

On a personal note, let me share my perspective on immigration.

Over the last several decades the U.S. economy, especially our service, construction and agricultural sectors, have come to depend on the labor of the undocumented community. I caution our business and community leaders not to take a stance that undocumented workers are no longer needed and should be deported. There are human factors and moral values at stake that should give everyone pause for concern. Yes, border security and deportation of major criminals are necessary. But, removing all the law abiding and productive undocumented residents, people who have helped expand many of our businesses, is

counter productive. Such a stalwart position has a ring of hypocrisy. A guest worker and/or a pathway to citizenship is a viable alternative.

Some may point out that many of our forbearers immigrated legally through Ellis Island in the late 19th century.

Actually, I see similar parallels to the current issue of immigration on our southern border.

Like now, in the late 19th century the nation needed a full and expanding labor force. The European masses simply got on boats that took them to Ellis Island where about 15 million people passed through the gates. After a medical screening, immigrants would wait long periods, even days, before they were interviewed by an immigration official. If they could answer all the questions of a two to five minute interview without problems, they were admitted to the country. The tragedy of our current immigration problem is that the country did not setup a fluid and legal process to allow people to come to this country to live and work. The draconian roundup and deportation procedures now on the table are not a feasible solution. A new direction needs to be found.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 6

What does Jesus mean when he says that no one can come to him unless drawn by his Father? And just what is Eternal Life exactly? Of course the children of Israel, sustained by manna in the wilderness, eventually died, so what is Jesus' point? He promises to raise his faithful ones up on the last day, but from what to what? The last day? What does that mean? Think about it. Are you sure?

Believe me when I tell you that this is not the first time I have read this, or had the opportunity to write or preach about it. I have attended lectures on the subject at Oxford by the famous New Testament scholar N.T. Wright, and have read innumerable books and articles on the subject. So I get it that Jesus is telling his followers that he himself is the new Passover lamb whose blood saves them from the Angel of Death, and whose flesh not only sustains their spiritual life,

but calls those who eat it to rejoice in their freedom from bondage; in this case, freedom from their bondage to sin.

Today I may be a bit closer to understanding what Jesus is telling me than I was forty years ago, but the wrestling continues and no doubt always will. That is not only permissible for us Christians; I believe it is intentional and necessary.

As I was wrestling and praying for some celestial assistance with the writing of this little article, Paul the Apostle came to my aid, and not for the first time. In his first letter to the infant Christian church in Corinth, believers who also were wrestling with these kinds of questions and more, trying to use their intellect, their knowledge, their wisdom, to understand this new Christian faith that was giving them new life and new freedom, Paul writes this:

"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. ... For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." (I Cor. 1:18-24)

I hope you know the song, "I Am the Bread of Life," Suzanne Toolan's inspired paraphrase of John 6. In it we ask God to satisfy our hunger and our thirst with the Bread and the Cup of Jesus Christ, as strange as that may still seem; and to raise us up to be with our Lord, whenever and wherever that may be. Sing it. Pray it. Believe it. Pray for those who seek for signs and for wisdom, but let us know and "proclaim Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God."

Whether we fully understand it or not.

And be blessed by God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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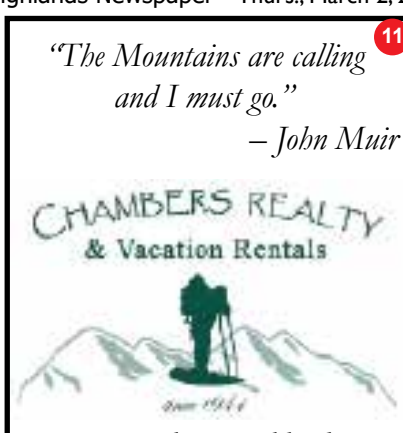
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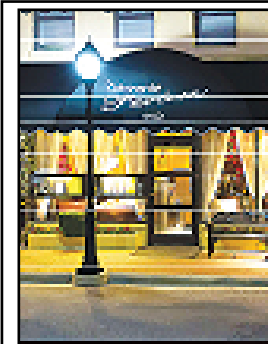
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