

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., March 23, 2017

Highlands drug and alcohol abuse on front burner

At the Center for Life Enrichment's recent Drug Awareness Seminar, the panel of experts reiterated what most have come to know ... opioid/heroin drug abuse is rampant, addiction is extremely difficult to beat and

addicts must become members of "sober" communities if they want to survive.

The four-member panel threw no punches while explaining the ramifications of dealing with addicts in the community and on

the home front.

Law enforcement was represented by Highlands Police Officers K9 Handlers Thomas Parker and Kyle Kinsland; Dr. John Baumrucker explained the medical side of things and Licensed Coun-

selor Anne Koenig discussed the psychological aspect of addiction.

According to the State Department of Health & Human Services, in 2016 doctors in 16 WNC counties prescribed 64,488,991

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Art & craft shows returning to K-H park

At the March 16 Town Board meeting, commissioners unanimously approved the MountainTop Rotary Club's request to host two craft shows this coming summer in June and August in K-H Founders Park.

Ever since Cynthia Strain's Village Arts & Craft Show was banned from the park, concerned citizens have been trying to figure out a way to get it back.

The show's nonprofit sponsor, MountainTop Rotary is paying Strain to organize and run the shows. She will receive a fee for her work and whatever is made above expenses will be split between Friends of the Park and MountainTop Rotary.

"We wanted to bring the art and crafts show back to the park," said MountainTop Rotary representative Dr. John Baumrucker. "We will begin working

•See PARK page 11

Highlands School All-Conference BB winners



These awards were voted on by the Conference coaches.

Left: Madison Lloyd, Emily Crowe and Bethany Shulter, Honorable Mention.

Below: Destin Gearhart, Honorable Mention; Jose Jimenez, (also Conference Player of the Year), Brett Lamb, Coach of the Year and Jake Billingsley.



Alarms go out over USFS 'Southside Project'

Last week a call to action went out involving the USFS's Southside Project in Horse Cove, Granite City, Brushy Mountain and the Ellicott Rock Wilderness Extension – all public lands in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

At the March 14 meeting at the Satulah Brewing Company, Nicole Hayler of the Chattooga Conservancy warned citizens that the USFS planned to build logging roads, cut timber in the Chattooga East Fork, and to use herbicides all of which will jeopardize the "wilderness" designation of these areas under the new draft of the NC Forest Revision Plan, she said.

The USFS requested comments from the public by the close of business Monday, March 20. Citizens felt this left little time for the plans to be properly vetted and felt the USFS was rushing the proposal through.

However, according to USFS District Ranger Mike Wilkins, the March 20 call for comments was just the first of several that will follow before anything is implemented in The Southside Project three

to four years from now.

"This was not a rush job, process-wise – this is just phase I of a year-long public scoping period which is a big part of everything we do," said Wilkins. "Based on input, late summer or fall, we will put out an environmental analysis outlining two to four alternatives and at that time we will put it out for public comment again."

Wilkins said his department does one environmental analysis a year and this area totals 19,000 acres of which 126 acres will be affected, but nothing will be done until alternatives are determined after comment periods throughout subsequent scoping periods.

Though he said he has received numerous calls and emails claiming that the USFS will be clear-cutting in the Southside Project, Wilkins said "there will be no clear-cutting" which he said is referred to as even-age management where everything is taken down.

"People are saying we are clear-cutting in the Ellicott Rock

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Keeping up with bills that affect Highlands

Next week Josh Ward and I travel to Raleigh for the North Carolina Legislature Town Hall Day. Mayors and Town Mangers from across the state will gather at the capital to meet and confer with state representatives. The event is coordinated by the NC League of Municipalities.

Josh and I will be there along with Mayor Bob Scott and staff from Franklin. We will all share common concerns with state representatives,

Our legislators, Representative Kevin Corbin and Senator Jim Davis, will meet with our delegations. First, I will express my appreciation for the support they provide our community.

Second, I really want to thank Representative Corbin for introducing HB 23-Teachers/Isolated K-12 Schools which will increase funding for K-12 schools. Both Representative Corbin and Senator Davis have been very active advocates for education. It is my understanding Senator Davis is also a strong supporter of Corbin's bill. Macon County is in the unique situation of having two K-12 schools, Nantahala and Highlands. Additional state funds will help



Mayor Pat Taylor

carry the tax burden for operating these small, unique schools.

I want to update our legislators on Highlands broadband initiative. Following HB 129 guidelines, Highlands is searching for a private partner as we build the network. I am very appreciative of Corbin and Davis' leadership in supporting HB 68 and SB 65, aka the Bright Futures Act. This legislation will promote the development of broadband in rural areas that is critical to Western Carolina economic development.

There will be other legislative items that we will want to discuss. I want to get an update on a 1/2 cent sales tax adjustment. Last year Highlands and Macon County had strong sales tax revenues. Obviously, we want as much of that revenue as possible to stay in local budgets.

I also hope to discuss proposals for a portion of room tax revenues being redirected toward town and tourism infrastructure needs like road paving and sidewalks. I will encourage our representatives to support legislation for online sales tax collection. It is unfair for our downtown retailers to be required to collect the tax and not online retailers.

I will also convey my support of the League's position on municipal elections. Currently, a proposed bill would move all municipal elections to even years to coincide with county, state and federal elections. The League advocates letting each municipality decide when to hold their local elections.

I hope to discuss efforts to repeal HB 2, a law I see as discriminatory and functionally unenforceable. It continues to economically impair our state.

Also, I am concerned about the proposed SB 145-Government Immigration Compliance, a bill that would cutoff state funding to municipalities that are deemed by the attorney general to be "sanctuary cities." My concern is that the proposed legislation allows termination of funds to cities without due process. As mayor, I have taken the position that our town government will not operate as a "sanctuary city." Our police are dedicated to nondiscriminatory enforcement of state laws and town ordinances. Conversely, Highlands has no interest in being a "roundup city" for other agencies involved in deporting undocumented folks, people engaged in work and abiding by the law.

I will do an update when we get back.

• LEGISLATIVE UPDATE •

The summary below was written by the Congressional Research Service, which is a nonpartisan division of the Library of Congress, and was published on March 14, 2017.

H.J.Res. 42 disapproves and nullifies the rule issued by the Department of Labor on August 1, 2016, defining the occupations eligible for drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants.

"Occupations" listed by the Department that may regularly require drug testing are only jobs that require carrying a firearm, aviation flight crews, air traffic controllers, commercial drivers, railroad crews, pipeline crew members, and commercial maritime crew members. This list is considered too narrow and the rule generally considered too prescriptive and overly constraining of states.

Congressman Mark Meadows	Yes
Office 202-225-6401. Email/Website: meadows.house.gov	
Senior Senator Richard Burr	Yes
Office: 202-224-3154. Email/Website: burr.senate.gov	
Junior Senator Thom Tillis	Yes
Office: 202-224-6342. Email/Website: tillis.senate.gov	

• LETTERS •

Corbin is behind 'Economic Terrorist' bill

Dear Editor,

Though I haven't met him, I've heard and read that Kevin Corbin was a great County Commissioner, voting time and time again to help the people of Macon County. Unfortunately, like Jim Davis before him, he has been seduced by the dark side in Raleigh. It used to only happen when local politicians went to Washington, but now it has infected our state government as well.

Just as Jim Davis co-sponsored the current law allowing fracking of our water-supply throughout North Carolina and voting for HB 2, Kevin Corbin has been cajoled into introducing HB 249, the so-called "Economic Terrorist" bill.

This would label anyone an "Economic Terrorist" for briefly occupying a road as a part of a protest, enhancing punishment for this "terrorist activity."

How many Patriots during our American Revolution would have been labeled "Economic Terrorists" according to this bill?

When our elected officials refuse to listen to their electorate, even hiding from their constituents, what other non-violent means do we have to express our views under the 1st Amendment?

With HB 249, we have another highly divisive, extremist and unconstitutional piece of legislation looking to solve a problem that for the most part doesn't exist.

Mr. Corbin would be wise to continue to think for himself and do the right thing in Raleigh, rather than fall into groupthink.

We the People would be better served if those who control our General Assembly focused on improving our health care, child care, public education, job opportunities, and wages in rural North Carolina. If you agree, let them know.

Dan Kowal
Franklin

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Highlands Newspaper

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• WEEKEND WEATHER •



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www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

• OBITUARIES •

Connie Coche Neely

Connie Coche Neely, 68, died Monday, March 13, 2017.

Mrs. Neely was born in Weaverville, NC September 11, 1948 to the late Jamie Dee Coche and Maggie Wood Coche. Connie was a member of the Eastern Star and Highlands First Baptist Church. She loved gospel music but her greatest love was being a loving wife and mother.

Survivors include her husband Harold Neely of home; a son, Matthew Preston Neely of Birmingham, Ala; and a brother, Jimmy Dee Coche of Charleston, West Virginia.



A funeral service was held Friday, March 17, 2017 at the Highlands First Baptist Church with the Dr. Mark Ford and Rev. Andy Cloer officiating. Burial followed in the Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the Highlands First Baptist Church 220 Main St. Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Neely family. Online condolences may be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Carl Furman Prince

Surrounded by loving family, Carl Furman Prince died peacefully on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Carl was 93 years old.

Born April 11, 1923 in Graham County, NC to Hettie Mill-sap and Walter Prince in his parent's home. Carl was from a large family with ten brothers and sisters, who preceded him in death.

Carl came of age in the '30s, a time when Western Carolina was in the midst of the Great Depression. Under President Roosevelt's New Deal, Carl went to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

During the 1940s, as an iron worker and millwright he was employed by the TVA on the construction of Fontana Dam where, due to his compact muscular frame, Carl volunteered as a shaft inspector. With only a headlamp and flashlight, his job was to visually check for fissures prior to the concrete and steel footings being laid. Carl was manually lowered by harness and rope into the tight 30 inch diameter footing shafts to depths of 300 feet.

As an iron worker he etched the sky with high rise buildings in the southeast, just as nimbly as if he were working on a project in his backyard. The love of Carl's life was his wife of 62 years, Edna B. Prince (formerly of the Thomas family of Macon County) who died in 2005. Carl and Edna had seven children. Carl raised his family between Salisbury and Franklin, NC.

James Willard Keener

James Willard Keener, 84, of Highlands, NC, died Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late James Robert Keener and Grace Talley Keener.

He is survived by his wife Lois Marie Potts Keener; son, James Keener, Jr. (Leslie) of Brewer; daughter, Tammy Hall (Sandy) of Tuscon, AR; two sisters, Ruby Watts of Satolah, GA



Carl is survived by three daughters, Mary Ellen Bowen (Harry) and Geraldine Wackenshaw all of Franklin and Annette King (Rick) of Burnsville, three sons, Dearl Prince of Franklin, David Prince (Debbie) and Tony Prince (Lesa) all of Almond; friend, Sherry Crawford; 14 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren and 12 great great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, an infant daughter, Debbie, and son in law, Adam Wakenshaw.

A funeral service was held Saturday, March 18, 2017 at the chapel of Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory with Rev. Danny Cannon, Rev. Alan Waters, Rev. Cale Stancil and Rev. Don Moffitt officiating. Burial followed in Black Mountain Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers it is requested that donations be made to the WNC Alzheimer's Organization, 4600 Park Rd. Suite 250, Charlotte, NC 28209 or Black Mountain Baptist Church Building Fund, 1548 S. Skeenah Road, Franklin, NC 28734 or Macon Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation, 3195 Old Murphy Rd., Franklin, NC 28734 to be used to purchase chairs for the Spark Unit.

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

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...ABUSE continued from page 1

opioid pills. That breaks down to 82.5 pills for each of the 781,026 people there.

Like other WNC counties, Macon County has an epidemic of opioid drug use and overdose drug deaths. According to state statistics, Macon County's rate of opioid prescriptions is significantly higher than the state average.

In 2014, 258 opioid pills per resident were prescribed in Macon County, which tops the list of the five counties in the region that have higher-than-average rates of opioid pills prescribed per person. In 2016, 37,000 prescriptions were issued; with 32,000 residents, that's 81 pills per person.

And that's where the new STOP Act comes in.

Backed by NC Attorney General Josh Stein and sponsored by Sen. Jim Davis (R-Cherokee), Rep. Craig Horn (R-Union), and Rep. Ted Davis (R-New Hanover), the act is set up to make it harder to get opioid prescriptions and make doctors accountable.

Stopping doctor shopping – something Dr. Baumrucker said is rampant – is a big first step.

er said is rampant – is a big first step.

Through the Stop Act, like pharmacists, doctors would have to check the state prescription database before prescribing opioids and the length of a prescription would be limited to five-days or seven days after surgery.

Other aspects of the act include the reduction of fraud through e-prescribing; reduction in the diversion of veterinary drugs for human use; tighter supervision of physician assistants and nurse practitioners who must consult their supervising physicians the first time they prescribe controlled substances and every 90 days thereafter; stronger oversight by the Department of Health & Human Services that will audit doctors, dentists, and other prescribers use of CSRS and report violations to appropriate licensing boards.

The bill also includes a renewed commitment to treatment, recovery and saving lives by appropriating \$10 million for both FY 2017-'18 and FY 2018-'19 for community-based treatment and recovery services, including medication-assisted treatment. The bill encourages reversing overdoses by

• See ABUSE page 5

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...ABUSE continued from page 4

facilitating wider distribution of the overdose-reversal drug naloxone for not only individuals at risk, family members, law enforcement, and local health departments but also community health groups.

Master Officer Parker said the Good Samaritan law has been in effect since 2013 which allows anyone to dispense naloxone. Highlands Police Department officers have been trained to administer and have been carrying naloxone since 2015.

"There are a lot of mixed emotions about naloxone," said Parker. "There are those who think letting addicts overdose is a way to 'thin out the gene pool.'"

He said he knows of addicts who have been saved by naloxone but who use again and eventually overdose.

The scale of the present wave of heroin and opioid abuse is unprecedented. In 2015, 52,000 Americans died of overdoses -- four times more than those who died of gunshots and half again as many who died in car accidents.

Dr. Baumrucker said the sad fact is that 10% of the

population are addicts, 85% of addicts revert to addictive behavior even after going through rehab. The life expectancy of an IV drug user is two years.

"Addicts need a minimum of three months to a year for a chance at success and no one is going to fund that," he said. "If you can establish a sober living atmosphere, the success rate goes up."

Most families don't have the means to finance a family member's rehabilitation for drugs or alcohol. According to the panel, North Carolina's mental health system ranks far below other states and is sorely lacking in rehabilitation facilities.

Koenig, who gave up a practice in Buckhead to take on a full case load in Highlands, said four of the 25 top worst opioid cities in the nation are in North Carolina -- Wilmington, Hickory, Jacksonville and Fayetteville.

"Addiction affects the whole family. It rips families apart and for many of my clients it becomes evident that there is an underlying addiction problem."

Since getting opioids -- either for private use or to sell

on the street where one pill can net \$60 -- is getting harder, the use of heroin is on the rise and it's actually cheaper.

So what's the solution?

Prevention is foremost but it takes a village say the experts.

"I am sure there is a genetic faction to this as well as a social one," said Baumrucker.

After rehabilitation, addicts must associate with other recovering addicts by living in a sober community, and attending Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotic Anonymous," said Allison Baumrucker, herself a recovering addict. She said she was very lucky because her parents took her back and helped her live in a sober household.

There isn't a NA group in Highlands, but by all accounts there is an "awesome AA group of people who really take care of each other" in town.

Since it takes a village, Highlands School, the Highlands Police Department and the Macon County Sheriff's Office work diligently to get to students as early as 5th grade and they initiate booster programs from 6th to 12th grade.

During the fall semester of 5th grade, Student Resource Officers on campus (S.R.O.) from the Highlands Police Department Ronnie Castle and Josh Greenley teach the D.A.R.E. Program which stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It's a substance abuse prevention education program that seeks to prevent use of controlled drugs, membership in gangs, and violent behavior.

The S.R.O. officer is in the classroom an hour each week for 12 weeks during which highly interactive lessons that build on the previous week are taught. There is also a D.A.R.E. box in each classroom where students can put

• See ABUSE page 8

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

What would St. Patty think?

The Rev'd Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church

St. Patrick (c. 390—c.460), the patron saint of Ireland and the first Christian bishop at Armagh, was a towering figure of faith in Jesus Christ. We can learn much from his steadfast dedication and the intriguing change of heart that he underwent. Then too, we might wonder what he would think of today's versions of church and society, of green beer, leprechauns and shamrocks.

Born in Britain, Patrick grew up in a nominally Christian home. His family attended church, much like many folks today, but church barely made an impact on their lives. Other than his father's service as a deacon in the church, the tell-tale signs of Christian faith in the one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life were largely lacking from his family's day to day life.

At a young age, shortly after Patrick's 16th birthday, he was captured and taken by Irish pirates to present-day County Mayo, where he was enslaved as a herdsman. Due in large measure to his loneliness and enslavement, he turned passionately to the God he vaguely remembered from his youth. Jesus responded. The Lord inspired him to seek his freedom and he did so, making his way back to his family in Britain. However, he was not the same Patrick that his family had known.

Patrick, owing much to answered prayers, dedicated his life to the God who saved and saves him. Soon thereafter, he studied for ministry in the church and was ordained. Before too long he accepted a divine call to return to the land of his captors and to share his saving faith with them. He evangelized and educated some of the very brigands who had enslaved him. In his Confession he described himself as Bishop, though the date and instance of his consecration remains a mystery. Nevertheless, he ordained priests, monks, and nuns, starting churches, schools and monasteries in the process. Patrick was a man on a mission, spending the rest of his life in ministry to his one-time oppressors on the Emerald Isle.

Would that the church of our day have the same effect on the lives of young people! Saint Patrick stands as a stellar example of one whose faith in Christ and a zeal for God's kingdom inspired him to serve those who persecuted him. That first bishop at Armagh understood well God's call to a service of love—not of self, but of others. He followed in the footsteps of our Lord, who “came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.”(Mark 10:45)

What would St. Patty think of church and society, of green beer, leprechauns and shamrocks? He would be embarrassed but humbly honored. Embarrassed, because of the extant triviality of life and of the general denigration of God in society, a life that is so precious and the God who is so responsive to need and loving. Honored, because his life changed by and dedicated to Jesus Christ made a difference. Patrick would know that there is still hope.

...OBITUARIES from page 3

and Eleanor Blankenship (Harold) of Franklin; three grandchildren, Terri Keener, Chris Keener and Cory Hall; one great granddaughter, Faith Bryson; two step grandchildren, Jonathan Childers (Nikki) and Melissa McKinna (Shawn) and step great grandchildren, Mason Childers, Nathaniel Childers, Oakley Childers, Weston Childers, Gabriel McKinna and Daenerys McKinna.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday, March 23 at First Baptist Church of Highlands. Rev. Randy Reid and Rev. Scott Holland will officiate.

Proverbs 3:5

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

Choir 5 pm

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526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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Wednesdays:Choir:5:30p

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.;Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays:Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

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

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

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

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Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.;Worship: 10:45 a.m.;Worship: 6 p.m.

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Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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Rev. Rob Wood

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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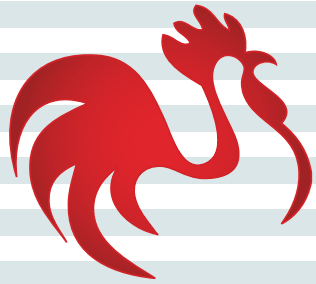
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...ABUSE continued from page 5

questions about drugs.

Lessons include: Introduction to the DARE Keeping it Real Program; Drug Information for Responsible Decision Making; Risk and Consequences; Peer Pressure; Dealing with Stressful Situations; Basics of Communication; Nonverbal Communication and Listening; Bullying; Helping Others; Getting Help from Others; and Understanding Drug Abuse of over the counter and prescribed medication.

When invited to do so, Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland said deputies in his office regularly visit schools in Macon County.

"We have an excellent relationship with Macon County Schools and are happy to address the students whenever invited to do so," he said.

His programs include bringing inmates to the schools dressed in their orange jumpsuits to tell their story which usually includes some drug and/or alcohol abuse in correlation with their criminal history.

Highlands School Princi-

pal Brian Jetter said once Sheriff Holland brought a young man in a wheel chair who told his story concerning alcohol and drugs.

He said the school's anti-drug/alcohol program begins with the D.A.R.E. program and students also learn about the effects of alcohol and drugs on the body in health class.

"We always have the state troopers here before prom to talk to the juniors and seniors about drinking and driving, and the legal consequences. We also incorporate the DUI experience with 'goggles' during our Field Day every year that show students what driving under the influence is like," said Jetter.

Principal Jetter agrees that informing students when they are young is most important.

"After the 5th-grade D.A.R.E. program, we continue the conversation every year in 6th through 12th grade with the Health curriculum. Middle School is the time and the place when a lot of 'experimenting' and questions begin with kids, so it is important for

us to give them the facts about the effects and the consequences of drugs and alcohol throughout those eight years (grades 5 - 12)," said Jetter. "The consistency of the message is key, as is answering their questions truthfully as those questions change as they grow older. Highlands School supplies its students with an ongoing, consistent, truthful, and constant stream of facts concerning drugs and alcohol to help them make the right choices as they grow into adulthood."

There are those who believe

"faith-based" programs are the answer to overcoming addiction.

"For some it's a 'Come to Jesus' moment, for others it's a near death experience," said Baumrucker.

Everyone agreed that it's important that the problem and the addicts it spawns aren't swept under the rug.

"This is a beautiful place but we tend to sweep all this under thick, plush carpets," said Valerie Long.

— Kim Lewicki

• POLICE REPORT •

The Highlands Police log entries from March 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

March 13

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to two-vehicle accident at the Farmers Market.

March 16

• At 10:41 a.m., officers received a call about a car crashing into

a door in a parking garage at 205 Main Street.

March 17

• At 4:11 p.m., officers were called about a person asking a bank teller at Regions Bank for information on an account owned by another.

• At 5:49 p.m., officers were called about items missing from the back of her vehicle at a residence on Upper Lake Road.



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See our website for more info.

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See our website for more info.

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Weekday Lunch Special

Monday - Friday 11am to 2pm
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SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

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

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

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Four chicken and four cheese enchiladas, refried beans, monterey rice, homemade tortilla chips, salsa, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream.

Or...

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

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

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

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

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

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

Weeknight Pizza Special:

Available Monday - Thursday 4:30 to close
16" NY style pizza with up to 5 toppings. Comes with garlic bread & salad \$21.95

or

Baked Linguini: Meatballs, tomato sauce & cheese. Comes with garlic bread and salad \$21.95

or

Baked Penne Pasta: Italian sausage, onion, bacon and mushrooms in white sauce. Comes with garlic bread & salad \$21.95

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

What About the Furniture?

Having sold real estate for many years in the in-town Atlanta area, I thought I was in the 'been there seen that' school of Realtors. However, the issue of dealing with households full of furniture and furnishings is an experience that seems to be unique to the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau. In this article, I will attempt to give some basic guidelines to consider as a Seller or a Buyer in our beautiful area.



Wanda Klodosky
Landmark Realty BIC

The Seller:

Before listing your home for sale determine which furniture items you can't live without and then Remove them. I can hear the protests saying, 'but those items make the house look better; it will help us sell the home; we don't want to move things but one time'. To those protests I'd like to point out that whatever you go through to get those items out of the house initially will be minor compared to the negotiations and headaches that can (and usually do) occur when the Buyer seems to want the furniture as much as they want the home. Even if you state that the home is not sold furnished, it will be difficult to convince some Buyers that everything is not negotiable. If you absolutely can't move the items out, prepare a detailed list that is included with the listing agreement of the items that will not be available in any way at any price.

The problem with the list scenario is that the pieces can't be 'unseen' and a firm, this is not available will not necessarily deter a Buyer from requesting the items in negotiations. The best procedure is Removal.

For the items you are willing to let go, there are decisions to be made. Are you willing to just include them for sale with the

home, no matter what price you agree upon? Is there a breakeven price that would get you to leave the furniture at no charge? And the more problematic decision: are there items that you are willing to sell to the Buyer at a certain price outside of closing? A Seller's best course of action to avoid the furniture struggle is to make comprehensive lists of the furniture (and furnishings - kitchen equipment, paintings, decorative items) before you put the home

on the market. Divide that list into the appropriate categories and then take the list to a local attorney to have it written up in a manner that is precise and can be included in a NC Real Estate transaction. Your Realtor can help you figure out which attorney to use and how to present the information, but NC real estate requires an attorney to officially write any additional addendum or exhibits to insure the additions conform to N C Real Estate law.

The Buyer:

Remember you are shopping for a house, not the furnishings inside the house. If you find a home that has the perfect furniture for the home and for your tastes, first find out if the Seller is offering the home furnished and whether there are exceptions. Many Sellers put Negotiable under whether the furniture is available rather than yes or no - find out early on what is meant by that term in this transaction.

If the lists mentioned above are not provided, ask that they be produced and made available for your consideration if you are in fact considering the home and the furnishings a package deal in your mind.

• See **INVESTING** page 11

Live via Satellite Series

The Metropolitan Opera

HD LIVE

Idomeneo
by Mozart

Saturday
March 25
12:55pm

Pre-Opera Discussion
led by Beverly Wichman
12:30pm

Adults: \$26 PAC Members \$22



A Contemporary Evening

Sunday
April 2
12:55 pm



Adults: \$22 PAC Members: \$19 Students: \$12

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...SOUTHSIDE continued from page 1

Wilderness area but that is not the case; they are saying we are clear cutting in the Chattooga wild and scenic area but that is not the case, and they are saying we are clear cutting in old growth areas. Again, not the case," he said. "And we aren't doing anything in Granite City which he is not involved with."

He said it's OK for people to be concerned and to ask questions but the purpose of the project is to enhance wildlife management and to make sure the oak and other trees that produce mast for wildlife like turkey, deer and bear are growing and healthy.

Basically the plan encompasses 2-age management of 226 acres out of the 19,000 in the project scope but in the end it

...PARK continued from page 1

with Cynthia who will be a paid employee and eventually learn how to do it ourselves."

The shows are set for two weekends – June 24-25 and Aug. 26-27.

Verizon: The board asked Town Attorney J.K. Coward to further amend the proposed lease with Verizon. Commissioner Amy Patterson suggested it match the lease the town has with US Cellular which is 15 years rather than 50 and there be a 15% lease increase after five years instead of 25 years.

Wreaths: Scout leader Phil Potts, representing Pack and Troop 207, got permission to honor Highlands Veterans by putting wreaths on 240 graves at Highlands Memorial Park. This is part of the nationwide "Wreaths Across America" campaign Dec. 16-Jan. 28. Wreaths cost \$15 and \$5 per wreath goes to the scouts.

Coal Ash: On Thursday, March 23 at 7 p.m., Kevin O'Donnell, the town's Duke

...INVESTING continued from page 10

The safest scenario here is to consider all homes unfurnished and negotiate any items that you want to be included in the sale. If the Seller has not provided a list, have your Realtor work with you and a local attorney to draft a document stating the items to be included in the transaction and at what, if any, price.

Keep in mind that paintings, artwork, kitchen utensils, etc., are not furniture. Your list should be for furniture and furnishings. Those together are considered Personal Property, but there should be complete lists for both. These lists need to be comprehensive, i.e. if you say you'd like the bed in Bedroom C, make sure that you also list the mattress, box springs, bedding, quilt, shams --if that is what you really want. Nothing should be left to the other party's interpretation.

will involve a group select of 126 acres. Depending on the age of the trees, 10-30 trees will be left per acre so that sunlight can reach the forest floor and enable new growth particularly of oak.

"This will create a 'park-like' setting," said Wilkins. Once trees reach the age of 40-, 70-, 80-years old, they begin to decline and don't produce any mast."

He said he understands a big concern is the 28 acres west of the Ellicott Wilderness and comments will be taken into account throughout the various stages concerning that and other areas.

To harvest the trees in the three proposed sections, a logging company will make temporary roads and once the trees are removed the roadways will be seeded

liaison, will discuss whether to go along with Duke's terms where the town pays extra so Duke can recoup money it lost cleaning up its coal ash spills or to go to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to fight Duke's demands.

Broadband: In closed session commissioners continued discussing the creation of a broadband utility network partnership. House Bill 129 says municipalities can offer a broadband utility but they must engage in a private/public partnership.

The discussion dealt with the type of network, financial matters, and legal compliance issues. A request for proposal is being drafted and will be sent to potential private business partners for the town business initiative. Discussions and review of the RFP will continue at the next town board meeting.

– Kim Lewicki

and grass put back down.

"The optic is regeneration, and we are not road-building at taxpayers' expense. The timber company pays for everything," he said.

Wilkins said people are also worried about the use of herbicides. A thin-line spray of Garlon will be used only after the trees are harvested a year or two later and only on stumps with three to 10 sprouts. Garlon has a half-life of one day and it will not be used near any water source, he said.

"You don't want future trees to spread out of the stumps. So, a year or two after the trees are cut, just the stem of the sprout will

Opera Live from the Met at the PAC

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present Live via Satellite the MET Opera's production of Mozart's Idomeneo on Saturday, March 25 at 12:55pm with a pre-opera discussion beginning at 12:30pm led by Beverly Wichman.

James Levine conducts a rare Met revival of Mozart's Idomeneo, set in the aftermath of the Trojan War. Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's classic production, which has its first Met revival in over a decade this season, stars Matthew Polenzani in the title role. The cast also includes Elza van den Heever as Elettra, Nadine Sierra as Ilia, Alice Coote as



Idamante, and Alan Opie as Arbace.

The MET's Nabucco originally Live via Satellite on January 7 was snowed out in Highlands. We have been granted permission to show it again on Saturday, April 8 at 12:55pm. Beverly Wichman will lead the pre-opera discussion beginning at 12:30.

Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

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— Michelle Bears
The Toy Store



Ron Griffith (828) 482-9309

...LETTERS from page 2

I am a conservative. I conserve.

Dear Editor,

A conservative WISELY preserves, conserves and saves. A conservative secures and manages that which is available, to maintain or increase as possible or necessary, across all resources.

As a child of the depression and the World War that followed, I learned to conserve. Everyone did.

As a young wife and mother in later years, putting into practice the lessons of my youth, I sometimes made wrong choices by selecting what I thought was the wise, less expensive product or action. In the long run I would sometimes find that my conservative selection was more costly, and was not an effective choice to meet my goals. And so I learned.

Learning is something that our present day self-described 'Conservatives' apparently either cannot or refuse to do. Giving lip-service to the word 'conserve' as an interchangeable for 'savings' does not result in actual long-term savings on any level – local, state, or national.

Cutting programs simply due to their expense does not relieve the often threatened future burdens to our children. Without real thought, or perhaps necessary judicious trimming, you are ultimately increasing the problems these 'cut programs' help solve. "People" – the result is an 'expense'!

Numerous published reports by verifiably non-partisan research agencies are willfully ignored and discounted by bluster and public ballyhoo. Certified fiscal records (past and projected) that disprove the numerous willfully false claims and clearly misapplied "conservation", are blithely dismissed as "Fake."

Facts and figures, statistics and graphics are perhaps boring and not as appealing as bombastically delivered slogans, or the wishful thinking of the easily persuaded. In the long run, it is foolish to discount accurate, verifiable information, in favor of simply reading false narratives that justify your own purposefully misguided opinions. Because someone touts something as savings in some professionally staged political arena or TV sound-bite, does not mean it actually saves either current or, even more important, long-term savings.

Perhaps it's time to rethink these inappropriate labels.

So, even though you mislabel me and those who share more humane positions which actually result in both human and fiscal savings, we so-called Liberals ultimately are, by more accurately applied definition, the truly "Conservative".

Shirley Ches
Franklin

USFS proposing clearcuts to derail 'Wilderness Designation'

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday at Satulah Brewing a group of 70 concerned citizens braved the unusual cold to discuss the National Forest Service's recently proposed timber sales on public lands near Highlands and Cashiers. Nicole Hayler of the Chattooga Conservancy brought us up to speed on what is happening.

The name of the new proposal is South Side and it proposes harvesting timber in a number of biologically sensitive places. Old growth forest near Granite City, a recognized natural heritage site, has been proposed for clearcutting, or nearly clear-cutting with 2-age management, another even-

age management prescription. Also slated for cutting is migratory songbird habitat in the near-old growth on top of Brushy Mountain. The steep slopes of Jack's Creek, up-hill from some of the last streams where native brook trout still live and the Wallhalla Fish Hatchery, are also slated for cutting. Trout require pure cold streams for survival. Removal of tree canopies over creeks and rivers raises the temperature of the water. The water then provides clean water to the people of South Carolina. The pristine wild forests of Ellicott Rock Extension Area would also be subject to roadbuilding and nearly clear-cutting in areas that should be off-limits for timber harvests.

The USFS is supposed to balance the needs of recreation, wildlife and watershed protection with timber production and we need to demand that they do so!

Here's the real kicker – these sales of our resources are subsidized by you and me, the American taxpayer. We build the roads at \$60,000 per mile, then sell the timber cheap, often at a loss. Hmmm. Follow the money. The road-building and timber industry makes profits only because we allow our tax money to subsidize this practice. This is not fiscally responsible management.

If these timber sales move forward the extraction roads built in these important watersheds are required to be sprayed with herbicides on a regular basis to maintain them. Herbicides are known endocrine system disrupters implicated in multiple diseases and genetic replication abnormalities. We don't want them in our pristine watersheds!

Our local economy is no longer timber based. We are now a tourism based economy with relatively few jobs in the timber industry. Tourism in 2014 provided \$148.8 million in income for Macon county, with \$25 million in wages. Additionally, real estate values rise where forests are protected. Tourists and second home owners do not want to see stumps. They like trees. They like clean water. Most of us do.

The Forest Service is in the long process of writing their strategic plan for the next 10-15 years. Environmentalists are nervous for good reason. The political tide has turned towards a philosophy of extracting as many of our resources as possible as fast as possible. This will create a short-term increase in unsustainable jobs – which will briefly improve the jobs numbers.

During the comment period on the Forest Service strategic plan there was much discussion on the topic of "Wilderness". Wilderness Areas are biologically rich forests permanently designated to be left alone – no timbering, no road building no motor vehicles or equipment. Recreational activities like hiking and hunting are not restricted. Some include old growth forests – which are very rare. Only a tiny fraction of the acreage that once was old growth forest remain. These places are important for many reasons – preserving rare ecosystems, clean water management, and having places in the world where one can still experience quiet and undisturbed nature. These areas are the last large road-less undeveloped areas in the East.

In order for an area to be considered for wilderness designation there are certain criteria that must be met. Size, presence of roads, biological importance, watershed. Several areas have been identified for consideration for wilderness designation. They include Terrapin Mountain, the Overflow Creek Wilderness Study area and the Elli-

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...LETTERS continued from page 13

cott Rock Extension. Should timber sales go forward in these areas it would make these areas less likely to receive this designation.

Wilderness designation takes this acreage permanently out of the timber base. This is the LAST thing the timber interests want. Without this designation it will be a constant fight to keep these areas from being cut. We have been here before.

This is not a wholesale condemnation of timber harvesting on our National Forests. This timber sale is alarming because of the apparent lack of due process and the rushed time frame. With this lack of process and discovery period it can be surmised they have planned timber sales specifically in sensitive areas in an effort to undermine the eligibility for wilderness protection in the future. If this is not the case, then the competency of the management team must be questioned. What is so urgent, so imperative that this sale be rushed through at this time with limited public input and disregard for protocol? There are thousands of acres of forest available for meeting harvest quotas in much less sensitive areas and they have chosen to impact the very areas that are designated natural heritage area, old growth preservation area and wilderness study areas. They know the impacts of road-building and clear cutting so we must demand an explanation for this irresponsible management.

Our Congressman Mark Meadows strongly opposes the concept of wilderness. During an earlier comment period, the Macon County Commissioners also passed an anti-wilderness resolution.

You must voice your concerns and tell the USFS that you would like them to protect our forests, not cut our trees.

By E-Mail: comments-southern-north-carolina-nantahala-nantahala@fs.fed.us or nantahalard@fs.fed.us. Subject Line: Southside Project Comments

Jodie Zahner
Highlands

• FIRE REPORT •

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept.
log from March 5.**

March 5

• The dept. responded to a brush fire
on Bob Zahner Road.

March 6

• The dept. responded to a motor
vehicle accident on Morewood Lane.

• The dept. stoodby for the MAMA
helicopter at Zachary Field.

March 7

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

• The dept. responded to a miscel-
laneous fire on Wilson Road.

March 8

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

March 9

• The dept. provided mutual aid to
the Scaly F&R Dept.

March 11

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm
at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

March 12

• The dept. stoodby for the MAMA
helicopter at Zachary Field.

March 13

• The dept. responded to a miscel-
laneous fire at a residence on Horse
Cove Road.

March 14

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

• The dept. responded to a motor
vehicle accident on NC 106.

March 15

• The dept. responded to a fire
alarm at a residence on VZ-Top.

March 17

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

• The dept. was first-responders to
a residence on Oak Street.

March 20

• The dept. stoodby for the MAMA
helicopter at Zachary Field.

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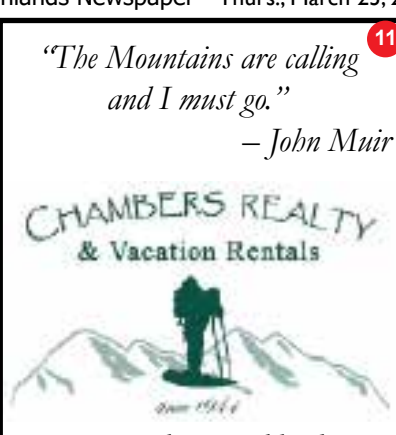
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