Volume 14, Number 18

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

Thurs., May 4, 2017

US News & World Report:

Highlands School ranked 29th in North Carolina

In its 2017 annual report, US News & World Report ranked and awarded medals to two of the five high schools in the Macon County School district – Highlands School, which

was ranked and received a silver medal and Macon Early College which received a bronze medal.

Out of North Carolina's 603 public high schools, Highlands School was ranked 29; and ranked 998 out of the nation's 28,496 public high schools.

"Students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement® course work and exams and the AP® participation rate

at Highlands School is 47 percent. The student body makeup is 50 percent male and 50 percent female, and the total minority enrollment is 19 percent," reads the •See SCHOOL page 8

Highlands' moms-to-be to feel sting of Mission decision

Angel Medical Center (AMC) in Franklin will spend the next two months developing a transition plan to eliminate labor and delivery services from the hospital. Late last week, Mission Health, who has a managing agreement with AMC, announced that due to the program's finances, the hospital will no longer deliver babies in Franklin.

"We are very sorry that we cannot keep this program open," said Dr. Ronald Paulus, President and CEO of Mission Health last week at a press conference in Asheville. "We looked at every possibility that we could conceive of ... We just couldn't find a way."

Dr. Paulus touted Mission Health's distinction of being North Carolina's sixth largest

•See MISSION page 18

Mama and cubs come for supper



Mirror Lake homeowner Sara E. Benson was greeted by three black bears at dusk Sunday evening. The bears love a batch of grubs on the lawn which fronts the shoreline along Mirror Lake. At one point the mother bear was reclining on her belly watching one of her babies dig the tasty grubs within 10 feet of her deck. Benon yelled, "Stop that! Go away!" After which the bears slowly retreated into the woods.

Photo by Sara Benson

Mama bear shot; 4 cubs orphaned but safe

It's that time of year when bear sightings, pictures and stories are rampant. Unfortunately, they don't always have a happy ending.

On the morning of Friday, April 28, a nuisance mama bear was shot and killed by a homeowner at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club leaving four, four-month old boy and girl cubs.

Evidently hungry and desperate to eat so she could nurse her

cubs, the mama bear broke into numerous homes in the club with abandon – she wasn't afraid of people and she broke in even when the residents were home.

She broke windows, doors, sliding glass doors; anything blocking her way in.

The fifth time she broke into her last home, she was shot.

"The homeowner shot the •See BEAR page 17

Mail campaign urges citizens to fight against potential sanctuary cities

Some residents in Highlands have received a a piece of mail requesting them to vote "Not Here" on "Sanctuary" status for the 28741 zip code; and to donate money to the cause.

The request allegedly comes from the Secure America Now (SAN) organization with a pream-

ble from Sean Hannity, the host of The Sean Hannity Show, asking readers to support SAN's sanctuary cause because the nonprofit "stands up for and protects Americans' rights, country and national security."

In the pre-amble allegedly
•See SANCTUARY page 22

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Mayor on Duty

State rule vs. Home rule

Thave written before about "home rule" for municipalities versus state regulation and control. North Carolina is a Dillion Rules state where almost everything a town does is authorized by enabling legislative statues. Judge Dillion issued an opinion in the 19th Century ruling that municipalities could not pass ordinances that exceeded state law. North Carolina really embraces the old judge's opinion.

The National League of Cities recently posted an article on state preemption of municipalities. The article was in part a response to NC HB 2 which was the state's preemption of Charlotte's public bathroom ordinance. The state nullified Charlotte's ordinance with HB2. Some legislators pointed out Charlotte's ordinance exceeded state law, which in fact it did.

The National League of Cities article contained a chart showing how each state regulates seven areas that directly impact municipalities. These areas are, minimum wage, paid leave, anti-discrimination, home share, ride share, tax/expenditure limits, and municipal broadband.

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Letter Policy:

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



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

Vermont and Connecticut have no state limits on these seven areas. They pretty much have "home rule." Most states have laws with limitations in two to five of these areas. But one state tops the preemption scale by regulating 6 of the 7 areas, North Carolina! The only area our state does not regulate is home share, at last for now.

House Bill 142 repealed HB 2, but imposed a moratorium on cities passing any anti- discrimina-

tion, minimum wage, and bathroom ordinances for the next three years.

But, there is impending legislation that may also preempt towns and cities.

Pending legislation could limit municipalities in the areas of building code enforcement, zoning, development and bill-board regulations. The billboard bill is supposedly an effort to standardize regulations throughout the state. Under this proposal, a town could not have billboard regulations that exceeded the new state law. For now the billboard bill is on hold, but it is illustrative of Dillion's Principle of state preemption authority over any municipal ordinance.

To be fair, a case can be made that states should be able to preempt municipalities when ordinances exceed state law. Legislature argues the state law making process has to be congruent with federal constitutional law, and cities cannot be exempt from this check and balance process. On the other hand, the National League of Cities has concerns that too much state preemption limits municipalities in responding to local problems such as providing services and spurring economic development.

A case in point is the lack of county and municipal broadband networks in the state's 85 rural counties. Major private providers are unwilling to invest the huge amounts of capital necessary to connect these small communities. Excessive state broadband regulations on counties and municipalities will hamper development of this critical economic need. HB 69 -The Bright Futures Act is designed to regulate and support the development of broadband in these rural counties. Regulations are easy to develop in Raleigh. Infusion of state funds to build

• See MAYOR page 5

•LEGISLATIVE UPDATE •

H.R. 1694: Fannie and Freddie Open Records Act of 2017

This bill would make Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, which would make their records available to the public on request.

The Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac") are government-sponsored enterprises (private corporations with federal charters that confer special privileges) that buy mortgages from lenders and either hold those mortgages in their portfolios or package the loans into mortgage-backed securities that may be sold.

To stabilize the housing market in the aftershock of the financial crisis, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) used its authority in 2008 to place Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into its conservatorship. In conservatorship, the government takes control of a failing financial institution with the goal of returning it to financial health and stockholder control. Well into their eighth year in conservatorship, they have operated under government control for longer than initially expected.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA; 5 U.S.C. §552) allows any person—individual or corporate, citizen or not—to request and obtain existing, identifiable, and unpublished agency records on any topic. Pursuant to FOIA, the public has presumptive access to agency records unless the material falls within any of FOIA's nine categories of exception. Disputes over the release of records requested pursuant to FOIA can be appealed administratively, resolved through mediation, or heard in court.

Congressman Mark Meadows Yea Office 202-225-6401 Email/Website: meadows.house.gov

•LETTERS•

A name change for 'Sip n' Stroll?'

Dear Editor,

I read in paper that tickets will be issued if wine is taken out of shops. Maybe they should change the name of the event to "Sip and THEN Stroll."

Steve Doctor Highlands

Lessons from the 'First 100 days'

Dear Editor,

After stumbling, bumbling, and otherwise faking his way through the first 100 days of his administration, President Trump declared that being president was "harder than he expected". Gee, that's quite an admission from a man who thinks he's the greatest thing since sliced bread.

The president appears to believe that signing executive orders trashing the environment, appointing fellow billionaires with little or no government experience to his cabinet,

• See LETTERS page 3

•Weekend Weather•



For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

...LETTERS continued from page 2

denigrating the media and anyone else who happens to disagree with him, and achieving the lowest approval ratings in recent history are signs that he's on the right track.

Here's a suggestion Mr. President...get over yourself and your colossal ego. Stop playing "who's the man" with a seriously demented Kim Jong Un and possibly get us into an armed conflict or even worse, a nuclear war with North Korea. In case you've forgotten Mr. President, we lost thousands of American lives in the first Korean War.

Secondly, stop those childish tweets. You're how old...70? If you must tweet, at least take some remedial grammar lessons.

Third, try acting presidential. It's probably a stretch, but if you have a point to make, how about speaking from the heart rather than reading from a prepared script. There's nothing more off-putting than losing eye contact with your audience. I'm surprised your handlers haven't coached you on this.

Fourth. I understand you haven't read any books about your predecessors, their experiences, successes and failures. It just might be a good idea. You could probably learn something rather than conducting the affairs of the country "on instinct" which obviously hasn't worked so far.

Finally, try a reality check. You are indeed the president of the most incredible and powerful country in the world. But at the same time you are just one man who must deal with the other branches of government, the media (fake and otherwise), and all the electorate, not just the minority who voted for you.

Perhaps, just perhaps, you might become the leader you so dearly want to be, not the one-term president you're likely to become.

Kurt J. Volker Otto, NC

The Five Human Senses: Are There More?

Dear Editor,

Since grade school we've been taught the five basic senses... touch, hearing, sight, taste and smell. These senses give us a balance or direction in life of what can be enjoyed, or what can be harmful. The simple touch of a loved one can comfort a troubled heart, but the touch of a burning flame can be painful. Hearing screams from a child brings panic and fear into the heart of any parent, yet hearing a child's laughter brings delight and joy. Sights of magnificent beauty bring awe and wonder in what is seen, but sights of harm and death deeply trouble the heart. Taste and smell are enjoyed if sweet and fragrant, but bitterness and foul smells are repulsive.

We all relate to these senses every day, whether we realize it or not. We can be handicapped by the lack of one or more of the five senses, but even within a handicap all humanity senses a need for "love and justice," and its necessity for living life. All humanity seeks acceptance... a need for being wanted, and searches for a correction of all that's wrong in our troubled world.

Scientists are amazed of how a microscopic living cell can be so complex and have deep within itself mind-boggling information; that one cell can produce billions of cells that make up a complex human being. They state that there must be an intelligent mind behind such magnificence. As our world advances, it points more and more to a divine creator. God is not confined within the pages of a book because He speaks though what he has

• See LETTERS page 5

Proctors needed at Highlands School

End of Grade tests for Grades 3-8 begin on Tuesday, May 16th, and second semester High School exams begin Tuesday, May 23rd. The State of North Carolina requires that certain settings have proctors in addition to the administrator of the tests. Every year, we solicit volunteers to assist us with our testing schedule as proctors. Volunteers cannot proctor in their child's or a relative child's classroom. However, we have a number of test settings, so we will be able to use you somewhere.

Generally tests begin at 8AM and end about 11:45 most days. Some settings require longer sessions. If you are available to proctor regular settings or longer settings, please let us know.

Please check the dates below and contact us at 828-526-2147 or by email: Nicole Lui (nicole.lui@macon.k12.nc.us) or Frances Beck frances.beck@macon.k12.nc.us) – if you are able to assist us with our testing this year.

TESTING DATES: May 16th (Tue); May 17th (Wed); May 19th (Fri); May 23rd (Tues) May 24th (Wed); May 25th (Thurs); May 26th (Fri); May 18th (Thurs)

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...LETTERS from page 3

created. We see this through the five senses he has given us. but more so through what he has place within each of us.... the need for love, both to be given and to be received. His existence and being is "love and justice," and if his love is given for only the present, then He is very cruel, for if he is eternal, then his love is eternal, and he made this for us to be eternal with Him. In making sense of what we struggle with; pain, suffering, even joy and laughter ... at the end is it all for nothing?.. is life ending the cruelty of it all? Or are we made for something more.? God makes sense. His story makes sense. We can follow why we are what we are, and how to live life in its fullness. Our world is broken and we all sense and want something different, with love and a peace that we all can be part of. If love was totally realized and given unselfishly by all, we would have no need for justice, but in our selfishness which we are all part of, we need justice. we all have done wrong. God's love is pure, but within his Holiness, he must also be 'Just.' He has placed this "wanting" into the heart of us all.

> Deni Shepard Franklin

...MAYOR from page 2

these networks is another issue. Matching grants with communities and private partners could make a huge difference. On the other hand, preemptive regulations will only delay this critical economic need for these small, rural areas.

The staff and board will be discussing this issue, as well as other budget items, at our first budget workshop this afternoon at 3 at the conference center.



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Land preservation in Macon & Jackson counties continues



Part of the 14 acres Mainspring purchased along the Little Tennessee River in Franklin that the regional nonprofit eventually hopes will become part of a Greenway expansion.

Regional Land Trust hoping to help expand local greenway

The purchase of almost 14 acres in the town of Franklin could help expand Macon County's Little Tennessee River Greenway.

Mainspring Conservation Trust, a regional land trust based in Franklin, closed Wednesday, April 26 on 13.9 acres off Siler Road that borders Southwestern Community College, Macon Early College and the Macon County Public Library. The land includes 1,200 feet of Cartoogechaye Creek and was identified in the original Greenway plan and in the recent "Bike Walk Franklin" plan as an important tract for extending the Greenway closer to the Macon County Recreation Park.

When the property became available for sale, Mainspring was contacted by several county residents asking them to acquire the property and hold it until it could become part of the Greenway system. Sharon Taylor, Mainspring executive director, said they were glad to step up for the community. "This is one of those great projects that touches all three of our core initiatives: conserve the land, restore the water and connect people to nature." Although Mainspring will not be part of extending the County owned Greenway, Taylor feels there is much support for the extension and looks forward to working with the County leaders to help make it possible.

While Mainspring owns the property, there are plans to address the restoration needs of the land. Jordan Smith, Land Conservation Manager for Mainspring, is seeking grant money to restore the streambank and wetland portion of the property and funds to convey a conservation easement to the State of North Carolina. "Once we protect the property's natural resources and restore the steambank and wetland areas, we hope to work with partners to develop interpretive and educational signage on the extended Greenway, as an opportunity for folks to be able see the benefits of restoration work and land conservation."

Smith is excited about the possibilities. "Like all of our projects, this one is going to take a lot of partners to make it happen. But we know the backing for this is out there and I hope to see people show their support for the Greenway extension that has been talked about for some time."

Currently celebrating its 20th anniversary, Mainspring has conserved more than 25,000 acres and connected thousands of youth to nature in the six western-most counties in North Carolina and northern Rabun County, Georgia. Learn more at mainspringconserves.org.

Regional Land Trust purchases property next to Panthertown

After a successful fundraising effort by two local nonprofits, a protected view and better access to Panthertown Valley are one step closer to reality following a land transaction on Friday, April 21.

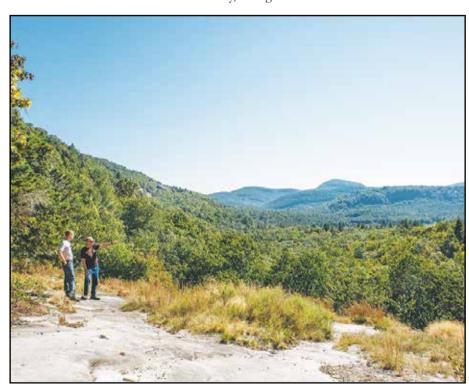
Mainspring Conservation Trust, a regional land trust based in Franklin, purchased 16 acres of private property that borders the western entrance to Panthertown Valley and Salt Rock Gap near Cashiers in Jackson County. Panthertown is part of the Nantahala National Forest and consists of more than 10,000 acres of protected land with clifftop views, at least eight major waterfalls, trout streams, rare plant species and diverse habitat for wildlife.

Partnering with the Friends of Panthertown, a non-profit group of volunteers who work with the U.S. Forest Service to enhance the visitor experience, the two organizations raised more than \$82,000 from groups and individuals of the \$195,000 needed for the purchase. The money raised by the non-profits was matched dollar-for-dollar by Fred and Alice Stanback. Earlier this month, the Jackson County Commissioners voted to cover the balance left to complete the transaction.

"This project has really confirmed how important conservation in western North Carolina is to people," said Mainspring Board Chair Chris Brouwer. "Individuals from all over the country have contributed to this initiative, proving what a special place this region is. We are so happy that, when they visit to hike, fish, and enjoy that area, the view from inside Panthertown Valley will be forever undeveloped as they look up at Salt Rock Gap."

The Friends of Panthertown will now begin preparing the property for more parking. Friends of Panthertown will cut trees and lay gravel to make more room for visitors, who had previously been forced to park on the shoulder of Breedlove Road. Mainspring will ultimately convey the 16 acres to the U.S. Forest Service, to become part of Panthertown Valley.

Currently celebrating its 20th anniversary, Mainspring has conserved more than 25,000 acres and connected thousands of youth to nature in the six western-most counties in North Carolina and northern Rabun County, Georgia.



Jordan Smith of Mainspring Conservation Trust talks about the protected view with Friends or Panthertown's Mike Purdy, looking out at Salt Rock Gap in Panthertown Valley.



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...SCHOOL continued from page 1

report.

Highlands School also has a 100% graduation rate.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter attributes Highlands School's success to three factors: teachers, students and parents.

"We have really good teachers who focus on increasing student academic achievement. To do that they must know what the state's standards are; know how to help students learn those standards and know how to motivate students to learn those standards. All of that takes intelligence, knowledge, and darn hard work on our teachers' part," he said. "Walk through our halls on any day, at any time, and you

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will see teachers doing the hard work of teaching. They won't be sitting at their computer, they will be engaged with the students who are in their classrooms. That continual engagement is very hard work."

letter said Highlands School teachers know that a connection with their students leads to increasing student achievement, "and they do everything in their power not to break that connection in the classroom," he said.

letter also said the students at Highlands School want to learn and grow academically.

"These students take pride in their achievement and work hard to gain it," he

And of course, parents' involvement is paramount.

"We have parents who make school important to their children by staying involved in school activities, and monitoring their children's progress," said letter.

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said Highlands School and Macon Early College's rankings speak well of the school system.

"This recognition is an honor for both our community and our school system. Achievement of this kind is due to a high-quality faculty and staff along with tremendous community support. The fact that Highlands School is a K-12 school is an additional benefit. In this setting, students, teachers and parents are able to build constructive relationships from an early age that help get the most from a child's education," he said.

To that point, last week Principal Jetter announced that all 3rd grade students have met the state's Read to Achieve (RTA) requirements for the 2016-2017 school year.

"Third-grade students must meet the RTA requirements to be allowed to advance to 4th grade."

He said that is a required milestone that will help ensure successful school years. As the saying goes, "students learn to read and then read to learn."

In the 2017 U.S. News Best High Schools in North Carolina rankings, 16 schools earned gold medals,36 schools earned silver medals and 90 earned bronze

medals.

According to the report, there are four steps to being ranked:

STEP 1: Students perform better than expected in their state.

"We looked at reading and math results for students on each state's proficiency tests and then factored in the percentage of economically disadvantaged students, who tend to score lower."

STEP 2: Disadvantaged students perform better than state average.

"We compared each school's math and reading proficiency rates for disadvantaged students - black, Hispanic and low-income - with the statewide results for these student groups and then selected schools that were performing better than their state averages."

STEP 3: Student graduation rates meet or exceed a national standard.

"We excluded schools from consideration if their graduation rates were lower than 75 percent - a threshold that is higher than a federal law that requires states to give extra resources to schools below 67 percent."

STEP 4: Students are prepared for college-level coursework.

"We calculated a College Readiness Index, which is based on the school's AP participation rate and how well the students did on those tests. Tie-breakers were used to determine ranks of schools that achieved the same College Readiness In-

- Kim Lewicki

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HS Varsity Track Team



Montana McElroy, Jesus Damian, John Murphy, David Rogers, Caden Smolarsky, Carson Talbert, Pablo Jimenez, Jose Jimenez. Not pictured is Riely Rivers and Freddi Lopez.

- Photo by Kim Lewicki

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

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

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

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

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

Tuesday - Oven Off Night
Two natural chicken breasts grilled with
our Tuscan herb infused olive oil, served
on a bed of greens with stuffed brie,
spiced pecans, our extra virgin olive oil
and balsamic vinegar on the side with
two cups of homemade gazpacho and a
baguette from our bakery.
\$26.95 serves two

Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked Potatoes & Salad - Premium Angus standing rib roast, cooked medium rare w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes & a large Caesar salad. \$35.95 serves two

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

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

\$28.95 serves two

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

WINE MARKET & CRAFT BEER

An excellent, comprehensive selection of wine with the best prices in town, and run by a friendly knowledgeable staff. Craft beer and wine available by the glass while you shop and dine.

BAKERY

Full service scratch bakery making rolls, baguettes, sandwich breads, pastries, birthday and wedding cakes, cookies and seasonal specialties.

BUTCHER SHOP

We sell only 100% Premium Angus beef, hand-cut and ground in house. Seasonal seafood, all natural chicken, made-in-house sausage and more.

SPECIALTY CHEESES

Dozens of cheeses, tapenades, olives and specialty items including our made in-house crackers.

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Whether buying or selling a home there are reasons you should always use a Realtor

There are many situations in life where you seek out professional advice. Why would you not seek a professional when making one of the biggest and possibly most expensive decisions you will undertake. A professional, experienced Realtor will have many hours of education and experience to help guide you through the home buying or selling experience.

One of the main things a real estate professional will do is educate you rather than simply sell. They will explain each step thoroughly to help you understand the hows and whys of the many decisions you will need to make in a transaction. While getting this education, it's important to still value and listen to the advice of the 'teacher'. An individual will be involved in an average of 3 - 5 real estate transactions in their lifetime. A professional agent can be involved in that many transactions in a month. Go with the expertise.

Realtors are marketing experts when it comes to having a home in peak condition to put on the market. If the Realtor doesn't have the 'eye' to tell you how to stage your home, they will have experts they can call upon to assist. A professional Realtor will work with the best supporting



HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Events and Volunteer Coordinator

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce, located in North Carolina, is seeking a creative, self-starter to serve as the Coordinator of Events & Festivals for our progressive 300 member business organization. The successful candidate must demonstrate the following skills and qualities:

- Prior successful experience
- Organizational skills
- Communications skills
- Marketing experience
- Team Player
- Volunteer recruiting skills
- Initiative
- Project management
- Creative / Visionary
- Skilled at mobilizing resources
- Energy and enthusiasm for the community and job
- Service oriented attitude
- Thinks Big

A bachelor's degree or higher is preferable, along with a minimum of three years of progressively responsible experience in developing and managing the efforts of a successful events and festivals plan / program. Salary and benefits are competitive. Please visit our website at www.highlandschamber.org for information on our organization and beautiful community.

Send a cover letter expressing your interest along with resume, references, work samples, and salary history electronically in a Word document format by Saturday, June 3, 2017 to: president@highlandschamber.org



Wanda Klodosky BIC, Landmark Realty Group's Highlands office.

cast available to ready and market your home. More and more, first impressions are made before a buyer walks into a home. The talented and professional photographer is one of the Realtor's biggest assets. The individual or company website is key to this marketing performance as well.

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HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Director of Marketing & Communications

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce, located in North Carolina, is seeking a creative, self-starter to serve as the Director of Marketing & Communications for our progressive 300 member business organization. The successful candidate must demonstrate the following skills and qualities:

- Ability to manage multiple resources
- Graphic Art experience
- Communication / writing skills
- Production and Print experience
- Social Media Marketing skills
- Public Relations experience
- Customer Service / Interpersonal Skills
- Well spoken
- Photo / Asset management
- Collection and creation of collateral

A bachelor's degree or higher in marketing, communications, or a related field is preferable, along with a minimum of three years of progressively responsible experience in developing and managing the efforts of a successful, marketing and communications plan / program. Salary and benefits are competitive. Please visit our website at www.highlandschamber.org for information on our organization and beautiful community.

Send a cover letter expressing your interest along with resume, references, work samples, and salary history electronically in a Word document format by Saturday, June 3, 2017 to: president@highlandschamber.org Market and area knowledge are key factors in the Realtor's arsenal of talents. These factors are important in all markets, but are crucial in the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau market. Professionals who have worked and taught in other markets and areas are constantly amazed at the uniqueness and 'quirks' of our local market. This portion of the Realtor's importance can't be stressed enough in our market as not only is the market unique, usually neither the sellers or buyers are 'full-time' residents.

Negotiation ability. While not really a stand alone sentence, it is one of the other key talents you get and should expect from your Realtor. Your experience in negotiations normally take place in other fields. If you are a good negotiator in your chosen field, then you, more than others should realize that the overall knowledge of a product, situation and market are keys to a successful negotiation. A true professional Realtor knows that each step in the process involves negotiation. Coming to an agreement on price, who takes care of what portion of the repairs, when will you close, what about the furniture, there are multiple areas of negotiation in a real estate transaction. You need an expert negotiator on your side.

A key reason for using a professional Realtor is their ability to handle stressful situations and encounters. It would be outstanding if each and every real estate deal was sunshine, roses and hugs throughout the entire process. However, this is not always the case. With the larger rewards and dollar amounts involved, the potential for disagreement between parties accelerates. Having that professional who can maintain their perspective and keep the parties 'on course' is crucial to a successful transaction.

There are several other key factors for choosing and using a professional Realtor, one being the long hours and overall efforts they work on your behalf. How many of you have called your Realtor after normal working hours and had them take care of your individual needs or situation. One of the outstanding results from these hours of searching, marketing, negotiating and calming is that you will often maintain a relationship with a strong professional Realtor for years. They don't close the file and flip the switch when the deal is done.

• Wanda Klodosky is the Broker in Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands office. Landmark also has offices in Cashiers and Burlingame providing the Highlands Cashiers Plateau with professional and friendly service. Visit their website at www. Landmarkrg.com

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Every space in this 3/3 home was updated. Two-tiered deck with views of the mountains the lake and the 5th fairway at Highlands Falls Country Club. The floorplan is perfect for entertaining. In addition, there is a one bedroom guesthouse with a new kitchen. \$699.000 MLS #82523



Luxury mountain spec home. Superb finishes and design throughout this 3bd, 3.5ba home in Riverwalk. Gourmet kitchen and main level master second to none. \$950,000 MLS #82612



Meticulously maintained home with tremendous mountain views! 3.46 acres for plenty of privacy. Kitchen features granite counter tops, new appliances, cabinets and flooring. \$500,000 MLS #80134



Create lasting family memories at this 4bd, 4ba Trillium Links & Lake Club home. Breathtaking year round lake & mtn views from over 1,200 sq ft of outdoor living spaces. \$895,000 MLS #85779



Located at the end of a cul de sac with National Forest on two sides. Lovely open floorplan. 3/3 with beautiful, easy care landscaping. \$695,000 MLS#67817



Newly renovated 3bd/3ba home. Granite breakfast bar and stainless steel appliances. On more than an acre with long range mountain views. \$280,000 MLS #85787



This timeless home is on the National Registry of Historic Places. Enjoy the 3+ acres of lush native plantings combined with colorful annuals and perennials in several gardens. 5/3 & sleeping porch. \$1,070,000 MLS #82122



3bd, 3.5ba in Holly Forest. NO NEIGHBORS, buffer/adjoining lot for FREE as part of this amazing deal! Perfect for family entertaining. \$395,000 MLS #85604

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In exclusive HIGHGATE, only 4 minutes to downtown Highlands. 5br/6.5ba home with open floor plan with high ceilings and a "walkout" terrace level w/ separate entrance. 'His' and 'hers' baths and closets. \$1,195,000. MLS #83155



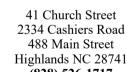
Beautiful log cabin located between Highlands and Franklin. This meticulously kept 2bd, 2ba would make a great vacation or rental property. \$347.000 MLS #85731



Highlands Falls Country Club. Very attractive private 3br/3 1/2ba with raised ceilings in the upstairs living areas, a 3 car garage plus golf cart storage and the possibility of a great golf course view. \$777,000. MLS #81880



Wonderful home in prestigious Wildcat Cliffs CC. Just a two-minute golf cart ride to the club house. Fantastic views from the back porch of Whiteside Mountain and Cullasaja Club golf course. \$350,000 MLS#82872



(828) 526-1717 (828) 526-4101

www.MeadowsMountainRealty.com



Private location and mountain view in prestigious Cullasaja Club.This 4 br/4.5 ba Lupoli built home is decked out in beautiful stone and exudes quality. Spacious screened porch with a second fireplace and a lavish master suite. MLS \$1.695.000 #83822



Walk to town, popular Mirror Lake area with gentle building site on .89 acre directly across the street from Mirror Lake with appx. 250' on Cullasaja Drive. Lake and view access. City water and sewer. \$147,000 MLS #84287



Cullasaja Club with fairway, mountain and lake views from this 5br/4ba/2hb home. This large family home offers a sunroom, home office plus an upper level loft with 2nd office/hobby area and sweet kid's room. Lower level family room has wine room & billards room. \$1,290,000. MLS #8373 I



Best priced home the prestigious Highlands Country Club. Totally renovated, expanded and redesigned in 2002. This 4br/4ba home features wrap around decks and mountain views. \$895,000. MLS #84686

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

NOTICE:

 Highlands School: Due to the loss of instructional time from inclement weather delays. May 5, 2017 will now be a regular day of school instead of a teacher work day

Ongoing

- Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Friday Tuesday: 2. 5, and 8 pm.
- Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121

Mondays, May 29, July 3, and Aug. 7

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

First Mondays



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

Mondays

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

Mon. & Wed.

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

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact lanet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information. • Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon.-Fri.

- Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday -Thursday 5pm-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.
- Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

Tuesdays

- FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg.
- The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story

Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus Concert at First Presbyterian this **Sunday**



At 4pm on Sunday, May 7, the Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus will present a free concert at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The Chamber Chorus is conducted by Dr. Michael Lancaster who also serves as Conductor of the Asheville Symphony Chorus and Director of Worship/Music at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The Chamber Chorus, a 24-voice advanced choral ensemble, was founded by Lancaster in the fall of 2016. The group will also sing during the 11:00am worship service at First Presbyterian Church on May 7. The public is cordially invited to attend. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

discussed.

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

First Tuesdays

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

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

 OccupyWNC meets at the lackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets in Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public of all ages. The meetings are held at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights rd. For information call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

- Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.
- Pickle ball from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.
- Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.m. This will be a combination class with many different styles of exercise.

Wednesdays

- 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 8:45 a.m. Be seated
 - Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m. 1st Wednesdays
- Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

 Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

- Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.
- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.
- · Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more information call 770-823-0601
- NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc., and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

 Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

- Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474
- · Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, Da-Vita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Fridays

- 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.
 - Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.
 - Friday Night Live, 6-8pm in Town Square. Live music.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

Free

Third Fridays

• Senior Dinners are held on the third Friday of each month from November through April at noon in the Rec Park.

Fridays & Saturdays

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

Saturdays

- At Mountain Top Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.
 - At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.
- The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon. In event of cold/rain, meet downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Thurs., May 4

• Leadership & Literature Event:At 6 p.m., a Tasting Buffet with Special Guests Mountain Faith enjoy an evening filled with fellowship, good food and great music! Attendees are encouraged to bid on some exciting silent auction items to raise funds for Iotla Valley Elementary School Tickets are purchased in advance at \$25 per person. Please see an IVE staff member for ticket information or call the school at 524-2938.

Fri. & Sat., May 5 & 6

• At the Nature Center, Wildflower Whimsy - Friday, May 5.5 – 8pm. Cost: \$75 members: 828-526-2623

Sat., May 6

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to strenuous six-mile hike, elevation change 700 ft., up and down on the NC Bartram Trail from Harrison Gap to Locust Tree Gap, with views of Burningtown area and Wayah Valley, perhaps seeing wildflowers along the way. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 a.m., drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman. 524-5298. for reservations.
- At the Highlands Biological Station, 10am 2pm. \$100 non–members Join us for Wildflower Whimsy to learn more about plants' diminutive world. All proceeds support the Highlands Biological Foundation. Speaker: Gary Kauffman, NC Fish and Wildlife Service.
- At The Bascom. Reception for new exhibits at The Bascom 3-5pm. George Beasley, curator of The Second Outdoor Sculpture Invitational will share his inspiration in the selection of the seven artists represented in this year's invitational, Journeys in Iron at 4pm. Enjoy site-specific installations on the Margaret and Horst Winkler Sculpture Trail by current sculpture fellow, Eric Araujo, New Paintings of the South by Englishborn artist, Julyan Davis in the Joel Gallery and Photography Members Exhibit in the Education Gallery.
- Pulling for a Cure. Firetruck pull in the Big Lots parking lot at 11 a.m. Hamburger and hotdog lunch. Sponsered by MC Emergency Personnel Relay for Life Team. For more information call 828-421-7822.
- Leadership & Literature Event:At 6 p.m., a Tasting Buffet with Special Guests Mountain Faith enjoy an evening filled with fellowship, good food and great music! Attendees are encouraged to bid on some exciting silent auction items to raise funds for Iotla Valley Elementary School Tickets are purchased in advance at \$25 per person. Please see an IVE staff member for ticket information or call the school at 524-2938.
- The 2nd annual Craft Fair, sponsored by the Cartoogechaye Cristian Fellowship will be held on Saturday, at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, from 10a to 2p. There will be approx. 30 artists and crafters selling their hand crafted items, along with a bake sale and food sales. The Cartoogechaye Christian Fellowship (CCF) is a non-profit organization of seven participating churches in western

Macon County. The proceeds of the Craft Fair will be used to benefit Cartoogechaye Elementary School, their students, PTO and other programs.

Sun., May 7

 At First Presbyterian Church, a free Ashevilee Symphony Chamber Chorus Concert at 4 p.m.
 Mon., May 8

Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild will welcome "Martha Washington," our country's first First Lady, Monday, May 8, at Tartan Hall, 26 Church Street, Franklin. Storyteller, Muriel Pfaff,

Kitchen Tour tickets now available



The Laurel Garden Club presents its biennial Kitchen Tour on Saturday, August 19th in beautiful Highlands, North Carolina. Timed tickets are \$75 beginning May 1 at The Dry Sink, 450 Main Street, Highlands and online at www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com.

Six spectacular kitchens will be on view from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. You will be whisked by private car to begin your tour of this year's fabulous collection of kitchens - from charming and cozy to sleek and elegant. While touring the kitchens, you'll meet cookbook authors Sheri Castle and Johnathon Barrett, each with new books and tasty offerings. We also welcome noted architect Norman Askins, J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works, and Mary Palmer Dargan, a renowned and engaging landscape architect who digs our plateau.

Stroll through the Laurel Boutique where you'll find exquisite hand tied floral bouquets as a treat for a friend or yourself. Our homemade dishes from appetizers to comforting casseroles to delectable desserts await you. Find the decorative piece for that special place in your home and savor a sip of bubbly with The Saucy Sisters.

The Kitchen Tour serves as the main fundraiser for the Laurel Garden Club, which has donated more than \$100,000 to the Highlands community in the form of grants for community projects.

Tickets are limited in number so don't wait!

dressed in authentic period costume, will present Martha Washington's story and interesting insights about Martha's everyday life. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m; meeting at 10 a.m. Anyone interested in the art of quilt making may attend SMQG meetings. For more information about the guild and future events visit www.smokymtnquilters.org

Mon. May 8

• The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 on Monday in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome.

Tues., May 9

• Occupy WNC's General Assembly meets next on Tuesday at 7 pm, in The Sneak E. Squirrel's Community Room, 1315 Main Street, Sylva NC. "We are a non-partisan group working for social and economic equality since October, 2011." We welcome visitors and newcomers.

Wed., May 10

• A Charity Dining Out Event to benefit the WNC Hospice House Foundation at Canyon Kitchn in Cashiers. Cocktails at 6:30p; dinner at 7:30p. \$175 per person which includes taxand gratuty. \$75 is tax deductible. For reservations, call 828-524-8261.

Thurs., May 11

- "Blue Valley Overflow Trek" Join us as we partner with Chattooga River Conservancy on this easy walk through the Overflow Creek Wilderness Area. Co-hosted by H-C Land Trust and The Village Green. Reservations required. \$35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, \$10 for HCLT members. To reserve: info.hitrust@earthlink.
 - Lakeside Restaurant will donate 20% of their gross pro-

• See EVENTS page 14

sponsoring a Bake Sale in

front of Fat Buddies.



20% of all Sales will go to Relay For Life of Franklin

Fat Buddies

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nds Area Events•

ceeds to the Highlands Methodist Church for the completion of its Family & Fellowship Hall.

Fri., May 12

- Spring Wildflower Garden Tour, 12:30-3. Cost \$30/\$40 Tour the spring garden of Dick and Judy Allison To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
- The Highlands Writers Group has published it's very first Anthology. Please join us for a short dedication, a few readings and complimentary wine and cheese at The ugly Dog Pub, Friday, from 3-5p.

Sat... May 13

• The May 2017 meeting of the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club. Inc. will be on Saturday at 9 AM at the Bascom in Highlands, N.C. The school is located on 28 / 64 South Just north of Downtown Highlands, NC. Just before Highlands as you are going South on 28/64 south. The Bascom is on the left. Cross over the covered bridge and into

the parking area. Signs will be posted to direct you to the meeting area. Visitors are always welcome. The club typically meets in Sylva the first Tuesday and In Cashiers the second Thursday of every month.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., to Long Creek Falls in SC at the confluence of Long Creek and the Chattooga River, Meet at Ingles in Clayton GA at 10 a.m., drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Charlee Tisdale, 864-784-2124, for reservations.
- · An American Girl Tea Party to benefit R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County, 2-4 p.m. at the Cowee Baptist Church. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Hot teas, light finger food and sweet treats. Raffle of American Girl Doll of the Year "Gabriela McBride." Door prizes for both children and adults Silent auction too Tickts are \$10 for children and \$25 for adults. Table of 8 is \$150.

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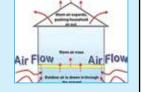
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After

Mon., May 15

· Smoky Mountain Ouilters Guild's Evening Group will hold a Cutting Party for a group opportunity quilt project titled "A New Age," Monday at Tartan Hall, 26 Church Street, Franklin. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. This is a new project for the evening group. Other 2017 activities will also include special "hands-on" programs for busy guilters unable to attend the Guild's day meetings. Anyone interested in the art of quilt making is welcome to attend. For more information about the guild and future events visit www.smokymtnauilters.org

Tue., May 16

- iOS for Beginners: The Basics for the iPad and iPhone, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com.
- Relay for LIfe Fundraiser at Fat Buddies Ribs and BBO in Franklin, I I a to 9p. Bake Sale. too. 20% of all proceeds will go to Relay for Life of Franklin.

Wed., May 17

• Kilwlns in Town Square will donate 50% of its proceeds to support the HUMC Family & Fellowship Hall.

Thurs.-Sun., May 18-21

· Highlands Cashiers Players will present the fourth play of their 2016-2017 season, "Don't Cry for Me Margaret Mitchell" directed by Donna Cochran. This hilarious historical comedy about the writing of the screen play for Gone with the Wind will be performed at PAC Thursday-Sunday and. Evening performances are at 7:30 and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 Tickets are available by calling the box office at 828 526 8084 or on line at highlandscashiersplayers.org.

Fri., May 19

· At Hudson Library, a book signing and sale of "Small Adventures over Half a Century" by Ellie Harrison at 3 p.m.

Sat., May 20

•The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile moderate loop hike in Panthertown Valley, elevation change 400 ft., from Salt Rock into the valley, returning via Frolictown falls in a search for lady slipper flowers. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10 a.m., drive 20 miles round trip. Call leaders, Mike and Susan Kettles, 828-743-1079, for reservations.

Sun., May 21

• The Atlanta Boy Choir will perform under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 5:30 p.m. It's free but some front row seating will be reserved for those who contribue to help some of the choir's needy boys. Call 404-378-0064 or email info@atlantaboychoir.org

Tue., May 23

- · Vladimir Putin: New Czar or Last of a Dying Breed? 10a-noon. Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Niall Michelsen. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
 - · iOS for Intermediate Users: Learning

more about the iPad and iPhone, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.

• Mission Sports Medicine will be conducting pre-participation physical exams (PPEs) in the Franklin High School Gym between 2-4:30 pm. Any rising 6th-12th grade student who will be, or is considering participating in NCHSAA sanctioned sports, must undergo a state-mandated PPE. Cost will be \$10 per physical and all money collected will be donated back into Panther Sports. Athletes must have the forms, signed and completed. with them to get their physical. The Mission Sports Medicine pre-participation physical packet can be found on our FHS Red Online site at http://fhsred.com/stories/2017/04/27/ printable-physical-forms/, or you may call Franklin High School (828-524-6467), Macon Middle School (828-524-3766) or Mountain View Intermediate School (828-349-1325) to obtain the information.

Thurs.-Sun., May 24-28

· Highlands Cashiers Players will present the fourth play of their 2016-2017 season, "Don't Cry for Me Margaret Mitchell" directed by Donna Cochran. This hilarious historical comedy about the writing of the screen play for Gone with the Wind will be performed at PAC Thursday-Sunday and. Evening performances are at 7:30 and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 Tickets are available by calling the box office at 828 526 8084 or on line at highlandscashiersplayers.org.

Thur., May 25

• iOS Delving Deeper: More about the iPad & iPhone, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Fri., May 26

• At the Nature Center, Salamander Meander - Ages 6-Adult • 9 pm - 10 pm • \$5. Join herpetologists on a night search to observe some of the area's salamanders in the wild. Reg-istration is required. Don't forget to bring your flashlight! For info, call 526-2221.

Sat., May 27

- · Mountain Garden Club's plant sale 9-Noon Saturday at the town ballfield on N. 4th St.
- · Highlands Mountain Top Rotary. Run For the Park 5K. Race and Walk at 8 a.m. Proceeds will benefit Kelsey-Hutchison Park and other projects of Mountain Top Rotary. To register, call 828-421-8224...
- · I. McLaughlin's on Main Street will donate 15% of their proceeds from 1pm - 4pm HUMC Family & Fellowship Hall.
- Work hike with Bill Van Horn, Call 369-1983.

Sun., May 28

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a one-mile walk on a level path around a lake near Clayton GA, then drive up to the lookout in Black Rock Mtn. state park (car fee \$5.00)

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

and visit a small museum and gift shop. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto NC at 2:00 p.m., drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820 for reservations.

Tues.-Fri, May 30 - June 2

• Plants-a-Plenty Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 4 - 6 • 9 am - 11 am daily • Cost \$75 per child. Highlands is a perfect place to investigate plant biodiversity. Campers will be exposed to plant and tree basics while exploring in the Highlands Botanical Garden. From flowers to ferns, the fun is never-ending!

Tues., May 30

• Village Nature Series: Hungry Like the Wolf - Learning About Endangered Red Wolves with Ben Prater. Co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green. 5:30 PM, rain or shine. For more information contact the land trust at 526-1111 or info.hitrust@earthlink.net.

Wed., May 31

• 100 Day Review of President Trump's Foreign Policy 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Niall Michelsen. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Sat., June 3

- Reviving and Reshaping North Carolina after the Civil War, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Stephen Nash.To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
- Manna Food Bank's 2017 Blue Jean Ball. Travel by motor coach to Asheville. Depart from CLE at 4:45 Cost \$110 per person (age 21 and older). To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
- "Brushy Face Grand Opening Celebration" Come celebrate the brand new public trail on National Trails Day/Land Trust Day at one of our newly conserved properties. Bring

the kids and visit environmental education stations along the way. For the more adventurous, join us for a challenging hike from our newest public property, Brushy Face, to the summit of our first property that was protected in 1909, Satulah Preserve. To learn more about this free community event visit www.hicashlt.org.

Sun., lune 4

• At the Nature Center, Birds of the World - All Ages • 7 pm • Free. In collaboration with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Come for a presentation by the Carolina Raptor Center (CRC) featuring live raptors from across the globe. Contributions to CRC are appreciated. For in-fo, call 526-2221.

Mondays, June 5, 12, 19, 26 (4 sessions)

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

Mon., lune 5

• Covert Actions of the CIA, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.

Tues.-Fri., June 6 – 9

• Cycling Through Nature. Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 6 - 9 • 9 am - 11 am daily • Cost \$110 per child. The natural world is very cyclical. From life cycles of plants and ani-mals to the water cycle and even the seasons, things tend to happen in circular patterns. We will explore the richness of these cycles throughout the week.

Tue., June 6

• The Movies of Burt Lancaster: An American Hero, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Boy Choir to honor Stell Huie

The Grammy Award Winning Atlanta Boy Choir under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe will present a concert on Sunday, May 21 at 5:30 pm at the Highland's Presbyterian Church to honor W. Stell Huie founding attorney of the choir some 60 years ago. Huie, because of his musical abilities as a



Choir Officers observing Stell Huie as he incorporates the Atlanta Boy Choir"

this concert which will feature the 65 men and boys in this world acclaimed choir.

Also appearing on this concert, which will have instrumental accompaniment, is the famous opera star, Indra Thomas. Ms. Thomas has sung leading roles in all the famous opera houses including The Metropolitan and Covent Garden. Last season Ms. Thomas was heard at the Spoleto Festival in the role of Serena in "Porgy and Bess."

A very special feature of the program this year will include the piece entitled "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." This work was written through poems by young Jewish children who perished during World War II under the Nazis at Theresienstadt, a concentration camp in Poland. The Atlanta Boy Choir has visited this camp several times performing in Poland and a narration

depicting this tragic story has been told by many famous people including Composer Gian Carlo Menotti.

For the Highlands performance, the narration will be given by the famous and beautiful Jewish Actress. Mira Hirsch.

The choir, still under the direction of Founder Fletcher Wolfe, has had many

connections to Highlands. He directed the music at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation for many years. Now their music director is Dr. Robert Henry, Maestro Wolfe's Assistant Director and accompanist.

Dr. Henry, one of America's most prize winning pianists, has just been made head of the prestigious Piano Department at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta.

Admission to this concert is free and open to the public. Some front row seating will be reserved for those wishing to contribute to help some of the choir's needy boys. You may get these by calling the choir at 404-378-0064 or email at info@atlantaboychoir.org.

The choir leaves later this month for Nova Scotia, Canada, where they will perform at three major concert venues.

Multiple exhibits to open at The Bascom May 6

The Bascom is pleased to have several new exhibitions on view beginning May 6. You are invited to celebrate the Bascom's Second Outdoor Sculpture Invitational! Come stroll the beautiful setting of our campus enhanced by cast iron sculptures. At 4pm, Curator George Beasley will share his inspiration in the selection of the seven artists represented in this year's invitational, Journeys in Iron. Continue along the Margaret and Horst Winkler Sculpture Trail to interact with site-specific installations by current sculpture fellow, Eric Araujo. In the Joel Gallery, we will exhibit New Paintings of the South by English-born artist, Julyan Davis. Davis lives and works in Asheville, NC and will be sharing local scenes he has frequented over the years to paint. Finally, the Bascom Photography Club member's exhibit will be in the Education Gallery. Join us in welcoming the artists of all the exhibitions! There is a reception on Saturday May 6, 3:-5pm for all these exhibits. The reception is free and open to the public.

While you are at The Bascom, please visit the Bunzel Gallery to see, North Carolina, A Sense of Home which feature extraordinary photographs from The Do Good Fund as well as Intertwined by Guerra de la Paz in the Loft Gallery.

The Bascom offers free admission to all exhibitions Monday-Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 12-5. For more information about the Bascom's exhibitions and educational programs can be found at www.thebascom.org.



CHHS Participates in Largest Rescue in 30-Year History

As an official Emergency Placement Partner with the Humane Society of the United States - one of less than 300 nationwide and one of only four in North Carolina with large scale transport capability - the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society (CHHS) has been called upon to provide assistance in puppy mill raids, cruelty and hoarding cases, and disaster response in five different states. But the rescue that CHHS has been working on since April 13th is by far the largest in scale - in terms of the number of animals at the scene, and the number of animals CHHS is rescuing to bring back to its no-kill shelter in Cashiers - in its 30-year

After an initial search and

seizure warrant was served, the CHHS Animal Rescue Team was among the first responders on the morning of April 13, 2017 at the scene of a large-scale, multi-species animal neglect case in Clarkesville. GA. More than 350 animals were found living in deplorable living conditions, with many of them living in filth and inches of feces. The animals included 283 dogs and puppies, along with cats, donkeys, pigs, chickens, ducks, doves, bunnies, a horse and an alpaca. The animals were living in unsafe and unsanitary conditions and in need of urgent veterinary care. Charges are pending for the owners of the property.

"I first heard of the case from my personal veterinarian," said David Stroud, Executive Director of the CHHS. "Dr. Emily Allison has a practice in Alto, GA and she called me around 6 the evening of April 12th as she was assisting in the evaluation of the animals after the warrant was served. I contacted the emergency rescue folks at the Humane Society of the United States and they had also just heard about the case. Around 11pm that night I received a call from Sára Varsa, Senior Director for the HSUS Animal Rescue Team in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and we discussed final plans for deployment. By the next morning, our rescue team from Cashiers was on the road to Clarkesville."

Members of the CHHS Animal Rescue Team were assigned to the task of helping to extract the 283 dogs from appalling conditions, working with the veterinarians on scene to identify any critical medical needs, and safely transporting the dogs to a temporary shelter a few miles away. It took two full days to help rescue all the dogs. Other teams on the scene were there to simultaneously rescue and relocate the other animal species.

"Not only were the conditions filthy and unacceptable by any humane standards," said Stroud, "It was by far the worst conditions of matted fur I have ever seen in my career, and I have seen some horrible cases. There were dogs that you could not tell the animal's head from its tail, and fur so matted that legs couldn't even move. There were wire pens set up for as far as the eye could see, with no gate to enter each pen. Therefore, these dogs never had any kind of daily touching, petting, let alone muchneeded bathing and brushing. We had to use wire cutters to get into the pens to save the dogs."

One bright moment in otherwise dismal and depressing conditions was that members of the CHHS Animal Rescue Team were reunited with a dear friend of the CHHS, world-renowned animal behavior expert Victoria Stilwell and recipient of the 2014 CHHS Humane Hero of the Year Award. Victoria was there to assist in the rescue and evaluation of the dogs,

most of whom were obviously traumatized, confused and afraid.

This is the seventh rescue that CHHS has participated in as an HSUS Emergency Placement partner, and the first rescue for CHHS in the State of Georgia. Previous CHHS rescues have taken place in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and all across the State of North Carolina, Kim Alboum, National Shelter Outreach & Policy Engagement Director for the Humane Society of the United States, commented on the partnership between the two animal welfare organizations: "Our shelter and rescue partners are a vital component of our nationwide rescue efforts. CHHS stands ready to respond in the field or take in victims of cruelty and neglect. Our life saving work depends on their ability to continue the healing journey for many of these animals and we were incredibly grateful to have the Cashiers team at our side during this multi species neglect

Not only was this rescue the largest in CHHS' history in terms of animals at the scene, it is also the largest in the number of animals CHHS is bringing back for safe refuge at its no-kill shelter. A total of 50 dogs came to CHHS and are available Adoptions will take place a week or two afterwards, depending on the medical conditions of each animal. All dogs rescued by CHHS

will receive any and all necessary veterinary care and will be spayed/neutered prior to adoption.

The rescued dogs will be housed in the new CHHS Canine Adoption Center, western North Carolina's most modern animal welfare facility. The 50 dogs are not purebred, but are a variety of mixes of Maltese, Poodle, Yorkie, Chihuahua, Lhasa Apso, Shih Tzu, Terrier and Pomeranian. For adoption information, please call the CHHS shelter at (828)743-5752 between the hours of 10am and 4pm.

• Founded in 1987, the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society has rescued, cared for, and found forever homes for tens of thousands of abandoned and neglected animals. CHHS is a 501(c)3 non-profit no-kill shelter that receives no federal, state or county tax dollars, and no funding from any national animal welfare organization. One hundred percent of CHHS' revenue comes from donations, grants, bequests and special events to support the mission of rescue, adoption, spay/neuter and humane education.

CHHS is located on Highway 64 in Sapphire, North Carolina, two miles east of the Cashiers Crossroads. The shelter is open 10am-4pm Monday through Saturday. For more information, please call the shelter at 828-743-5752 or email info@chhumanesociety.org.



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•THE INK PEN•

Car Memories

column inspired was by a high school friend who's been taking a trip down memory lane by posting pics on Facebook of the cars he's owned. Following his story has made me think that I'm a bit of an oddball in that I've only owned three cars.



Kathy Manos Penn

First was the '66 Mustang my Dad bought me when I was in college. It was black with a red interior. I was constantly having the transmission rebuilt, but it was still more economical than buying a new car. I finally had air conditioning installed in the 80's when I quit teaching. When you teach school and have summers off, you can get away without AC. When I got my first office job and had to wear pantyhose to work in the summer, AC was a must. My Dad paid \$600 for that car, and that's what I got for it when I finally gave it up.

Next up was my red Honda Prelude, and there's quite a story about that car. I had a friend who took plenty of business trips and always parked at the airport. She came home from a trip and couldn't find her car in the parking lot. The lot had no record that the car had ever been there, but finally, after much back and forth, the car was declared stolen, and she settled with the insurance company. A year or two later, she got a call that her car had been found, in an airport parking lot. Just as there are today, there were several parking lots at the airport, and I can only think that they didn't compare records and she was confused as to where she had parked. She never, ever admitted she might have been confused.

The insurance company didn't want anything from her; they just wanted her to know her car had been found. She knew my Mustang was on its last legs

and worked out a deal for me to buy the lost car. I also drove that car until it dropped. I think what did it in was my driving it too far when it overheated one time. After that, it was never the same.

That prompted me to buy my first and, so far, only new car, I purchased my 1998 red Acura Integra and still

own it. As I worked at home for 17 years before I retired, this car's odometer has just topped 100,000 miles. I see no reason I can't make it at least to 2018 and hit a 20-year anniversary with this car. It gets 25 mpg around town and runs just fine. Do I occasionally wish I had a more modern radio or even a car with a bit less road noise? Sure. Do I want to spend \$30 or \$40K to get these little luxuries? Not hardly.

These days when I take a road trip, I drive our 2007 Toyota Highlander Hybrid because a bigger car makes me feel a bit safer. My husband keeps saying that the next new car will be his as if a 2007 car is old. I think he's only joking, but you never know. Even that car only has around 70K miles on it. The hybrid battery is due to go out soon, and I keep hearing that mentioned as a reason to buy a new car. Again, I ask, "Do we spend \$3-\$5K on a new battery or \$30-40K on a new car?" Do we go on several nice vacations or buy another car? That's a no-brainer to me. I'll go for vacation memories over car memories anytime.

• Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident now happily retired from a corporate career in communications. Find her book, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," locally at The Molly Grace or on Kathy's website at www.theinkpenn.com. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com. Join her at the Molly Grace on the corner of Oak and N. 4th St. in Highlands June 17th, 11 am - 2 pm for a book signing.

...BEAR continued from page 1

bear but on his behalf, she came through the window three times while they were there," said Mike Carraway, wildlife biologist with the NC Wildlife Resource Commission. "She had developed bad habits: breaking into homes while people were there."

Carraway said relocating a bear like that is not an option.

"We don't relocate nuisance bears. Even if we had relocated her she would have continued the behavior somewhere else," he said.

Carraway was called to the scene Friday afternoon but the cubs were nowhere to be found. He left with instructions to call him if they turned up.

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club manager George Shook said traps were set with donuts and even blueberry pie to lure the cubs into the open but nothing worked.

Finally, Sunday afternoon, April 30, they were treed on the golf course by dogs and Carraway

"Billy Hawkins was good enough to answer his phone on a Sunday afternoon and got a hold of a tree climber who came and got the cubs down with a lasso" said Shook.

According to Carraway, the cubs are only a month old - two weighing nine pounds, one weighing six pounds and one weighing five pounds – so had only been out of the den about a month.

Carraway took the cubs to his home in Canton, NC, for a couple of days until they could be accepted at a bear sanctuary in the central part of the state. They will be bottle-fed until they are weaned and can eat solid food at which point they will then be penned with eight other orphaned bears with whom they will den through the winter.

Next summer, when they are 1 ½ years old and weigh 100-150 lbs they will be released into the

wild.

"We release them in the summer when natural food sources are abundant - berries, grapes, wild cherries and then acorns and nuts in the fall - so they will be able to forage for food on their own. One benefit of not being with their mother is that mother bears teach their cubs where to find food and she would have taught them how to break into houses. Hopefully, they will have forgotten that by next summer," said Carraway.

Shook said that it's a really bad situation all the way around - what happened to the homeowners; what happened to the

"But she was hungry because she had four cubs to nurse and there's not enough food right now; so you can't blame her. At least the cubs are safe and will be taken care of," said Shook.

- Kim Lewicki



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...MISSION continued from page 1

hospital, which had a profit of more than \$60 million last year and in an effort to maintain that distinction programs like AMC's labor and deliver unit are being cut.

According to Dr. Paulus. AMC as a whole, operates with a deficit each year at around \$1 million on average, but some years has lost as much as \$4 million in one

Dr. Paulus said based on demographics of Macon County, an older community, the hospital is going to focus on older residents and the care they need. That group is growing while labor and delivery numbers remain flat.

Several factors contributed to AMC's financial loss. Dr. Paulus. said proposed changes to the Affordable Care Act currently being debated by Congress, a charge lead by Macon County's Congressman, Mark Meadows, paired with cuts to Medicare and Medicaid has hurt North Carolina Legislature's refusal to expand government subsidized health care for the poor

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has put extraordinary pressure on the health care system, leaving it \$37 million behind its original projections with little hope for an upswing. Mission Health started 2017 with a \$37 million deficit for overall operations. In 2016, Dr. Paulus said that as a complete system, employees were given raises that totaled \$37 million.

Dr. Paulus said that as a critical access hospital in a community that primarily serves low income residents, neither AMC or the Labor and Delivery unit will ever be profitable. Seventy-seven percent of the patients at Angel Medical Center are either uninsured or insured by Medicaid and Medicare. Government subsidies pay far below the cost of delivering care, with Labor and Delivery being a substantial cost.

While AMC will no longer be delivering babies, forcing mothers in the vicinity - including Highlands - to travel to Asheville, or to Jackson County, they do plan to continue to provide pre-and postnatal services, gynecological services, surgical procedures as well as preventive, routine and complex care for women of all ages. While Mission Health hopes to still offer these services for Macon County, they also said that they have no contract or agreement with the current doctors providing the services to continue working in Macon County now that they can no longer deliver at the hospital. The current doctors providing the services in Macon County were part of a recruitment effort a few years ago to expand the Women's Unit at AMC based on a growing demographic. AMC's philanthropy raised \$36,000 from the community to expand the unit and recruited doctors as part of that initiative.

While as early as last year Mission Health was invested in an expansion of the unit at a cost of \$4 million to meet the increase in births in the region. Last Friday Dr. Paulus said the information given to the community over the last few years from Mission health that birth rates were increasing was false and actually there hasn't been an increase. If the doctors recruited just a few years ago choose to leave the area, women's health services won't be offered by Mission

Health in Macon County until they recruit new doctors, assuming that's even possible.

It's not clear vet where women receiving prenatal services through Angel Medical will deliver their babies. Mission says it will have a final plan in place by June. While the final date for babies to be delivered at AMC is set for July 14, Mission Health said a transition plan hasn't been made. As of right now, they just know they won't be delivering after that date.

Mission Health said this year they started \$37 million in the red based on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and that AMC loses \$1 million a year. However, North Carolina opting out of the Medicaid reimbursement part of ACA played heavily into that.

Karen Gorby, president and CNO of Angel Medical Center, along with Dr. Paulus, also announced Friday that Mission "is contemplating significant, new investments totaling as much as \$46M for a newly built hospital and upgrades to existing facilities based upon a detailed analysis of our population, broad health care delivery trends and pending health policy changes."

According to Gorby, the timeline for the new hospital is in the next 2-3 years, although a location or masterplan for the project isn't established at this

The Macon County community has been vocal in its opposition to AMC's decision.

Last Sunday, the community gathered at the Franklin Town Square. More than a dozen peple spoke at ta rally pleading with the Franklin Town Board to do something, anything to stop it from happening.

Franklin Mayor Bob Scott plans to write a letter to Mission Health and AMC opposing the measure. County leaders are also shocked by the move and have been vocal in encouraging the hospital to reconsider its deci-

Mission Health operates or manages six hospitals in WNC including the Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Only three facilities in the Mission Health System provide labor and delivery services.

• Spiritually Speaking •

The joy of `snapshot' memories



Pastor Randy Lucas Highlands United Methodist Church

Te're doing a pictorial directory at our church, Highlands United Methodist. Though having one's picture taken can induce a certain amount of stress - "Is my hair in place?" "Is there anything in my teeth?" - I'm delighted that we're engaging in this season of picture-taking, ministry-celebration and memorymaking.

There is a historic quality to church directories. If you belong to a church that has engaged in this time-honored tradition periodically through the years, I invite you to dust off a few and take a walk down memory lane one day soon. Flipping back through old church directories can bring back a flood of memories, and can even cause a chuckle or two. Revisiting old hair styles and past popular clothing can quickly remind us of how things have changed across the years. It can also serve as a reminder not to take ourselves too seriously.

The directory we're currently creating at HUMC will be up to date for awhile. But we won't have to break the seal on too many more new calendars to peruse through our 2017 church directory with some degree of nostalgia.

Many years ago, I was visiting with a dear old friend of mine in a nursing home. Clifford was a parishioner of mine. On the night stand by his bed was a framed, black and white photograph taken decades prior. There was Clifford a young boy, standing beside his teenage sister. At the time of my visit, Clifford was in his 90s. His sister had been deceased for a number of years. But in framed memory by his bed, they were full of youthful life and vitality.

We talked about that photograph for awhile, about his sister and his childhood. I listened carefully and appreciatively to Clifford's voice. I was grateful for that quiet time of sharing, honored that my friend allowed me to accompany him back to that special place of memory.

As I left Clifford's room at the nursing home that day, I found myself reflecting on the snapshots of our lives, those moments captured and frozen in time, whether framed on a nightstand or encased in that special place in our souls where we keep our most treasured memories.

I simply write to you today in celebration of the holy moments and sacred memories of our lives. And I invite you to dust off the family scrapbook or those old church directories. Or better yet, why not meet up with an old friend for coffee and talk about old times.

I'll just bet you have some really special snapshots you could share!

Proverbs 3:5 ACES TO John 3:16

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965 Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11 Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7 Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

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828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

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Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am, Wed, 6pm supper and teaching. Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CRÉEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor lim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 1 la.m. Ist & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7.p.m.

Wednesdays -Supper at 6 p.m.

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

10: 45am: Worship Service Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

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Choir 5 pm FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wednesdays:Choir:5:30p

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729 Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street Sundays: Worship: II

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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SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7 Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.:7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212 Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m. Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study:6 p.m.

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Rev. Rob Wood

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Sept 6-Oct 25-Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m. Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

Beginning Memorial Day weekend Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009 Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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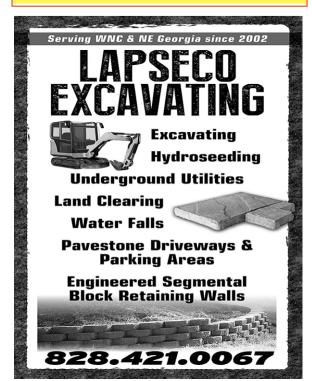
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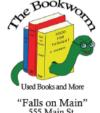


Ron Griffith (828) 482-9309

Police & Fire Reports

The Highlands Police log entries from April 24. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

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April 24

• At 4:11 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on South Street.

April 28

• At 11:30 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

April 29

- At 10:24 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in front of Park on Main on Main Street.
- At 1:58 a.m., John Andrew Wheeler, 48, of Decatur, GA, was arrested for DWI and resisting arrest in Highlands Plaza. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is May 24

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from April 21.

April 21

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Half Mile Drive.

April 23

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

April 24

• The dept. was first-responders in response to a medical alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

April 26

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Pine Point. There was no problem.

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THE MOUNTAIN FRESH PIZZA DEPARTMENT has two positions available for the 2017 summer season. Candidates must be energetic and team oriented. Positions require a range of skills including customer service, food prep, utility assistance and line cook. Evening coverage needed. Please contact Mountain Fresh Grocery at 526-2400 and speak with Missy or stop by in person at the corner of 5th and Main.

WEARE LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED BARTENDERS & WAIT STAFF. Must be a responsible team player with a positive attitude. Full time and part time positions available. Apply in person at Wild Thyme Gourmet 343-D Main Street, Highlands N.C. Please no phone calls. (st. 4/6)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

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

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...SANCTUARY continued from page 1

from Hannity, he claims SAN co-founder David Goder asked him to include his endorsement in the six-page letter that asks citizens to fight anti-American, pro-illegal mayor or county politicians who will try to make their city or a city close to "your home" a sanctuary city — "mayors, city councils and even a few governors who are defying the will of not only President Trump but you, me, and every American who cast a vote for safe borders!" it reads.

"This is a battle that will be won or lost in the next couple of months," continues the letter. "We need strong borders, not open borders! Please sign the "NOT HERE" referendum included in the letter and send it back with a one-time \$35, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 or more contribution to Secure America Now. We must stop this. We cannot lose our country to the twisted concept of "sanctuary cities."

As of press time, the Secure America Now website didn't have anything on it about Sanctuary Cities or the campaign that SAN is allegedly orchestrating right now. Attempts to contact the organization or the co-founder were not possible, either. There is no contact information on the website. So whether this is a genuine request from SAN or a scam is unknown at this time.

Sean Hannity didn't return emails by press time, so it's unknown if he is truly involved with the campaign to thwart the sprouting of sanctuary cities in North Carolina, specifically the 28741 zip code; or if it is a scam he is unknowingly involved with. So readers should beware.

The facts?

Governor McCrory signed a bill in 2015 outlawing sanctuary cities in NC and according to the NC League of Municipalities, "as local, state and national news outlets continue to report, there are no known sanctuary cities in North Carolina and the League is not aware of any city out of compliance with the 2015 law."

Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor reiterated the fact that Highlands is not a sanctuary city.

"We welcome all law-abiding people of good will and industry. Our police do not profile and stop people to determine their legal status," he said. "On the other hand, if a person commits a serious crime they will be charged, and their legal status could be an issue as that person moves through the justice system."

On Friday, April 28, the NC League

of Municipalities reported that two immigration-related bills advanced last week, including the Senate's version of legislation to crack down on local governments that have so-called "sanctuary" policies, though none appears to exist in North Carolina.

SB 145 Government Immigration Compliance from Sen. Norman Sanderson passed the chamber on Wednesday, April 26, floor vote and is currently in the House Rules Committee awaiting action.

"It seeks to penalize cities that aren't compliant with a 2015 state law related to local enforcement of federal immigration laws by stripping them of certain important revenues, including Powell Bill funds for streets. Under the bill's structure, dubious allegations could consume investigatory time at the attorney general's office and threaten local revenues (completely unrelated to the issue the bill seeks to address) that drive important public services," says the League.

A separate but topically similar proposal, HB 113 Pvt Action Local Compliance/Immigration Law from Rep. George Cleveland, passed the House and went to the Senate for consideration on Thursday, April 27.

"It would create a new cause of action for any local government resident against their unit of local government when that person believes the local government did not comply with state laws related to acceptance of identity documents or enforcement of federal immigration laws. It would also authorize an action for declaratory and injunctive relief; award attorney's fees and court costs payments to the prevailing party in these actions; and allow a court to impose a penalty against a local governmental unit that fails to comply with a court's order in these actions, up to \$10,000 per day," the League concluded.

Mayor Taylor said he shares the concerns of the NC League of Municipalities concerning the two proposed sanctuary cities bills.

"When a person, or institution, is charged with a legal violation, constitutional due process must be afforded the defendant. I am concerned that a city accused of being a sanctuary city would be summarily deemed guilty by the state and have to prove its innocence, instead of being viewed as innocent until proven guilty," he said.

- Kim Lewicki

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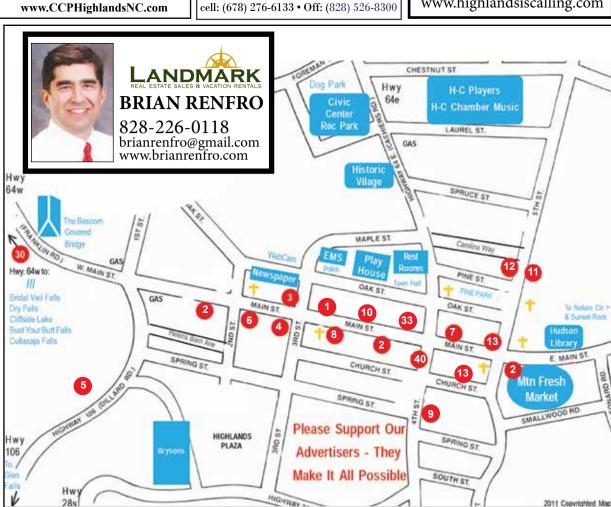


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