Highlands Newspaper FREE Every Thursday

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

Thurs., Nov. 16, 2017



On Tuesday, Macon County EMS crew members, hospital staff and county leadership gathered for the dedication of the new state-of-the-art ambulance purchased with funds raised from donors in the Highlands/Cashiers community. The ambulance will join the fleet that services Macon County. Most noted is the head room, the power lift and the arrangement of attendant seating in the back all which help the EMS crew better serve patients. Included in the picture are MC Commission Chairman Jim Tate, EMS Director Warren Cabe, MC Manager Derek Roland, President/CNO of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Jackie Medland and President of the HCH Foundation Walter Clark.

Highlands helps make new ambulance for Macon County a reality

A successful collaboration between Mission Health and Macon County leadership, with extraordinary support from the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation, the Mission Health Department of Philanthropy and generous community donors, has resulted in the fully-funded purchase of a muchneeded, brand new ambulance for emergency patient transport in Macon County.

"When I learned about the

need to improve medical transport for Highlands and all of Macon County, I was pleased to make a significant contribution to this important cause," said community donor Mark T. Mahaffey. "My intent was to expedite the project by making a challenge gift to complete the funding by yearend 2016. It was exciting to see so many good folks in Highlands come forward to meet the goal."

A key factor in acquiring

•See AMBULANCE page 10

School bus driver arrested for sex crimes

A Macon County substitute bus driver was arrested Sunday night as part of an online undercover investigation based in Columbus, GA coordinated by the Georgia Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

William Pruitt, 48, was one

•See SEX CRIMES page 13

MC law enforcement increases bike patrols

Sheriff Dept. and Franklin PD follows Highlands PD lead

In the summer months, traffic in Highlands moves considerably slower than normal and pedestrian traffic is heavy, often causing congestion that would make it more difficult for law enforcement to get from one end of town to the other efficiently.

One way the Highlands Police Department is addressing the issue

•See BIKE page 19

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Dressing up for the holidays!



Highlands town crew has been busy dressing up the trees in downtown Highlands in preparation for the annual Town Lighting the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The festivities are in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park Saturday, November 25 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Featured is free hot chocolate and cookies and a Christmas carole sing-along as the crowds wait for Santa and his helpers to arrive to light the Christmas Tree. Once Santa officially lights the tree, he will visit with children and hear their Christmas wishes. The ice rink in the park will also be open after the tree lighting.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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LATEAU'S POSITION

Mayor on

My iob as Mayor

want to thank the people of Highlands for allowing me to serve another term as mayor. It has been an honor to serve as the Mayor of Highlands over the last four years. I believe that we have all worked together, the Town Board, staff and citizens to make Highlands a better place.

In my first campaign four vears ago, I promised to have an open door to my office. I will continue to do so in the coming vears. My daily routine is to drive around

town to observe any problems and to check on work in progress. I arrive at Town Hall usually around 9ish. The first thing I do is to meet with the Town Manager for a daily update.

If people want to come by and discuss a town issue, or make a suggestion, I am always available unless in a meeting. So, drop by. If an individual or a group wants a more formal meeting, just call me to setup an appointment time.

My official town hall office number is 526-2118. But, I prefer folks contact me on my cell phone. My cell phone number



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Email:

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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

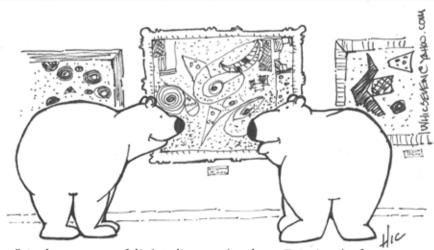
is (828) 506-3138. I usually respond immediately to cell phone calls. Some folks call the Town Hall number and leave messages. I notice a few calls are in the late afternoon which normally translates into a next morning response. The mayor job is not full-time, so I usually leave the office by noon.

Josh Ward, our responsive Town Manager, came on board last year. Now I haven't gone off duty, but when possible, I adjust my

schedule in an effort to regenerate my pottery business. Making pots demands commitment and focus at a level I haven't fully achieved in recent years.

Besides, when it comes to the daily operation of the town, Josh is our "go to guy." If you see a problem around town feel free to call Josh at Town Hall. Josh has direct supervision of town staff that can respond and correct problems. I am still happy to take these kinds of calls, but I always direct them to our Town Manager for appropriate action.

The other promise I made in the past campaign was to keep citizens informed. I have discovered three effective ways to communicate. First, I have been amazed and humbled by the tremendous feedback I receive from writing this column. I will continue to write this weekly column in order to provide updates about our local govern-



"A clever use of light, line and color. Inspired after a bad night with a pepperoni pizza with anchovies."

Small schools are better than meg-schools

Dear Editor.

As the English as a Second Language teacher at South Macon Elementary School, I would like to share my insights regarding the proposed expansion of this school. Like the Title One Reading and Math teachers (who pull students of all backgrounds), I pull small groups of students from their regular classes throughout the day for intensive lessons. I have over 60 children to pull every week.

At South Macon, we currently have five sections each of five grades, K-4th. I have so many students to pull and set blocks of time to pull from each grade. One result of our large population is that I pull some students twice a week who I should pull five days a week, and some in such short blocks as 25 minutes. This is short-changing our children

•See LETTERS page 3

•See MAYOR page 3

•Weekend Weather•

	Frida	y 11/17	Saturda	ay 11/18	Sunda	y 11/19
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
	Separate September 1				Stanon Ser	
liffin	The state of the s		Milliani	Millian	A	
Temp O	55 F	33 F	55 F	30 F	42 F	17 F
RealFeel [®] O	61 F	30 F	53 F	34 F	34 F	15 F
Winds 🔾	3 g 6	3 g 5	6 g 11	6 g 13	14 g 26	5 g 9
T-Storms O	0%	1%	3%	5%	0%	0%
Rainfall O	0	0	0.03	0.56	0	0
Snowfall O	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

• OBITUARY •

Jane Funsch

Jane W Funsch, 80, passed away peacefully, Monday, November 6, after a brief illness.

Jane was born in Kinston, NC, to Odie Leon and Martha Goshorn Wilson. She often joked that friends called her a "Damn Yankee" because she was born in "North" Carolina.

She moved to St. Petersburg as a child,

graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 1955 and the University of Florida with a degree in Education in 1959. She taught fourth grade at Azalea Elementary for a number of years, was a member of Delta Gamma Sorority, The St. Petersburg Debutant Club, The Junior League of St. Petersburg and The St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

For more than 30 years Jane divided time between her homes in St. Petersburg,



FL and Highlands, NC. A devotee of European soccer, she rejoiced and suffered along with the fortunes and misfortunes of her favorite team....Manchester United.

Jane was a true peopleperson, who loved to stop, meet and greet....friends and strangers alike. An avid reader, she would love nothing more than spend time listening to light classical music, a good

book on her lap and a glass of GlenLivet Single Malt close at hand.

Jane is survived by her husband of 54 years, Dick, son Mike and wife Lisa, son Kevin, and grandchildren Alec, Caleigh and Colin. Services were held at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Monday, November 13In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation to their favorite charity in Jane's name.

Anderson McQueen Funeral Home was in charge of funeral arrangements.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

and our community.

For the same reason, our children no longer have physical education classes every day. This is bad not only for children but also for regular classroom teachers. They only get 30 minutes per day, from 7:30a to 3:30p, without teaching or supervising students on some days. This does not allow teachers enough time to plan, coordinate, contact parents, enter grades, or take bathroom breaks if they have no teacher assistant. In over 25 years of teaching, I have never seen stress levels this high.

Further, expansion must include more parking, buses, time for parent pick-up and drop-off, and hall congestion, and our single counselor cannot meet the needs of 500 children, though she works non-stop during and after hours. The economy of scale has become stretched beyond the breaking point. They are young children, many with unique needs, not widgets on a factory line.

In conclusion, I believe the money proposed to expand South Macon would be better spent going toward a new elementary school. Until completion, redistricting should move children toward less-crowded schools, and pre-K classes should move to portables.

In my experience, no more than 4 sections of each grade level should be at an elementary school. Young children need a coordinated community of caring adults to serve their needs. Young children do not thrive in mega-schools.

Dan Kowal Franklin

...LETTERS continued from page 2

ment.

The same can be said about the weekly local radio program I do, "Ask the Mayor." I frequently kid Chris Dufy of WHLC that I have "breaking news" before we do the show. I will also continue to hold the monthly community coffees at the Hudson Library. I really enjoy the direct interaction with fellow citizens.

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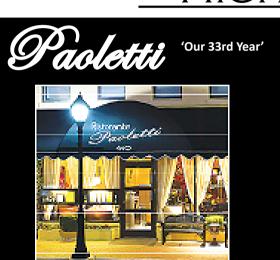
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Highlands swimmer qualifies for Junior **Olympics**

Qualifying times secures spot in 2018 Junior Olympics

On Saturday, October 21st, the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team hosted the Jackson County Swim Team (ICST) from Sylva and the North Georgia Rapids (NGR) from Gainesville, GA.

The Hurricanes outscored them both with 442 points. NGR came in second with 288 points and JCST in third with 52 points.

The team of 28 Highlands Swimmers swam a total of 119 races. They set 65 personal records (PRs), won 103 ribbons (24 Blue), set seven team records, earned five pool records, and set four Junior Olympic qualifying times.

In a team effort, every swimmer that competed for the Hurricanes contributed to the overall score.

The Hurricanes were led by Savannah Byrd, Chase Kenter, and Elias & Jelehna McKim.

Savannah Byrd, 3rd Grader at Summit Charter School, led the Hurricanes with 35 points. Byrd had five PRs, two pool records and a team record.

Junior Olympic Champion, Chase Kenter scored 33 points, had one PR, two team records, and two pool records. Kenter also had four Junior Olympic Qualifying times that secure him a spot in the 2018 Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa next summer.

Elias McKim scored 31 points, had three PRs and set three team records. Jelehna McKim scored 26 points, had three PRs and one team record.

Junior Olympian, Finneaus Garner scored 29 points and had two PRs. Vivian Kennedy scored 27 points and won the 100 freestyle. Ben Halldin scored 24 points and had two PRs. Dasha Halldin and Junior Olympian, Conner Hughes, both scored 23 points. Halldin had four PRs. Maddy Jolly scored 21 points and won the 100 backstroke and had four PRs.

Jordan Powell scored 19 points and set four PRs. Junior Olympian, Jack Sumner, scored 16 points and had one PR. Aubrie Potts and Blake Kenter both scored 14 points. Potts had three PRs and Kenter had one. Chloe Stiwinter had 13 points and three PRs, while Lauch Young, Brady Jolly and Ellie BySura each earned 11 points. Young and Jolly set four PRs with BySura setting one. Ansley Hughes scored 10 points and set three PRs. Max Jestin scored nine points and broke three PRs. New Swimmer, Henry Couch, scored eight points as did Justin Powell. Sadie By-Sura scored seven points by winning the sprint freestyle and setting a PR. Andre Halldin scored six points and set four PRs. Mia Kaylor scored five points, Asa Garner four points, Peyton Kaylor three points and Haydon BySura scored one point.

•THE INK PENN•

There aren't enough hours in the day

re you juggling so many balls that you wish there were more hours in the day? Is your todo-list on overload when suddenly you need to add a task like holiday decorating or helping your parents downsize? Well then, have I got a deal for you.

I first heard of Done & Done (www.doneandone.us) when a reader recommended

them after I wrote in a column that I wished I could wave a magic wand and see my Christmas decorations neatly packed away after the holiday. Wondering what other services the business provided, I sat down with owners Beth Edwards and Amanda Thrasher to hear more. They are an amazing duo with an amazing team.

As her kids entered their teen years, Beth wanted to return to work and use her interior design experience. Together with her longtime friend Amanda, who was in RE, she started helping folks with decorating for parties and holidays or simply running a few errands. They considered themselves a concierge service, and what they enjoyed most about the work was helping to take some of the stress out of people's lives. It was fun to relieve people of a few of the burdens that threatened to overwhelm them

As they helped more and more folks with a variety of tasks, it was Amanda's husband who came up with the name. What do you call a business that gets stuff done? Done & Done for you is what came to mind. Initially, the bulk of their business was in holiday shopping, wrapping, and decorating as well as organizing. Who couldn't use some help cleaning out and organizing the office, bonus room, or garage?

Eventually, they connected with Lenbrook in Atlanta, a senior living community. Seniors who were downsizing and moving into Lenbrook needed help. Imagine downsizing from your 4-6 bedroom house to a two-bedroom apartment. What do you keep? What do you discard? Done & Done can assist you soup to nuts. They'll help you downsize, distribute, and



Kathy Manos Penn

design: determine what stays and what goes, determine what to gift and what to sell, and design/space plan your new home using your favorite treasures or selecting new ones.

Perhaps that's all you need, but there's more. Done & Done will handle the move by hiring movers, packing up, unpacking, organizing, even stocking the fridge, and hanging your pictures. They still offer holiday

decorating, but moving management has become the bulk of their business.

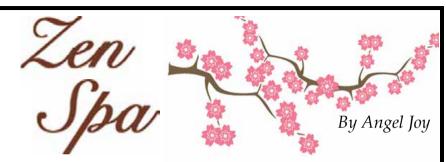
I loved their story of a family selling their home, and the parents going on a two-week European vacation while the kids went to summer camp. Amanda, Beth, and their team handled the entire move packing, unpacking, and set-up. Upon the family's return, their new home was ready, down to the toothbrushes in the toothbrush holder.

For one client moving to Pennsylvania, they packed her up, put her on an airplane, and then drove Wilma the cat to her new home, where they met the movers and worked their magic. They seem like angels to me, and therein lies the joy in what they do. They love reducing the stress in people's lives.

They are hand-holders, not just moving managers. Because of their special touch, they now have surrogate grandparents and sisters and plenty of repeat business. I don't know about you, but I'm putting them on speed dial: Amanda, 404-819-0374 and Beth, 404-966-2346 I can't see myself letting anyone else pack away my Christmas decorations, but when the time comes to downsize, I know whom to

PS. These ladies are happy to travel hither and you to help you out. They're just back from a project in Sea Island and will happily help my Carolina readers, too.

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



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•HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CONCEPTS•

Big Questions Answered: What's The Big Deal About Bone Broth? Part 2

If the latest articles about bone broth being America's newest health craze have left you bewildered as to why people are paying up to \$10 for a cup of watered down soup stock, you may have figured out that your don't have the whole story- and you are right! For starters, contrary to what you may have heard, bone broth is not the same as what we call "stock," and certainly not the same as bouillon cubes or paste!

Here is where we pick up from last week.

A gift from the wisdom of our ancestors, today's bone broth, made with only the highest quality organic ingredients and prepared properly, is incredibly rich in the building blocks of protein and healthy fats that we need to rebuild our bodies, allowing them to heal and begin to function properly. Bone broth that has cooked for 48-72 hours with a natural acid like wine or raw apple cider vinegar, allowing the marrow and bones to release their nutrients, will be chock full of numerous amino acids, fatty acids, vitamins, and minerals. Bone broth

contains calcium, magnesium and phosphorous, which are all essential for bone health, but more importantly contains large amounts of collagen that strengthens bones, tendons, joints and ligaments. Collagen is the best beauty secret, making skin strong and supple and helping to reducing wrinkles and cellulite. The high levels of glycine and proline, two very important amino acids, in bone broth are also



Medea Galligan MS Nutrition, CHHC, AADP

known to inhibit over activity of the immune system, reduce inflammation, and promote digestion healthy by healing the lining of the gut. Whether vou are trying to heal from an infection, address an auto-immune disease, or reduce inflammation, bone

broth provides a delicious way to improve those conditions.

In the words of Sally Fallon Morrell, founding president of the Weston A. Price Foundation, what America needs, written January 1, 2000:

"A "Brothal" in Every Town

Peasant societies still make broth. It is a necessity in cultures that do not use milk because only stock made from bones and dairy

products provides calcium in a form that the body can easily assimilate. It is also a necessity when meat is a luxury item, because gelatin in properly made broth helps the body use protein in an efficient way.

Thus, broth is a vital element in Asian cuisines—from the soothing long-simmered beef broth in Korean soups to the foxy fish broth with which the Japanese begin their day. Genuine Chinese food cannot exist without the stockpot that bubbles perpetually. Bones and scraps are thrown in and mineral-rich stock is removed to moisten stir-frys. Broth-based soups are snack foods from Thailand to Manchuria.

Asian restaurants in the US

are likely to take shortcuts and use a powdered base for sweet and sour soup or kung pau chicken but in Japan and China and Korea and Thailand, mom-and-pop businesses make broth in steamy back rooms and sell it as soup in store fronts and on street corners.

What America needs is healthy fast food and the only way to provide this is to put brothals in every town, independently owned brothals that provide the basic ingredient for soups and sauces and stews. And brothals will come when Americans recognize that the food industry has prostituted itself to short cuts and huge profits, shortcuts that cheat consumers of the nutrients they should

•See HEALTHY page 9

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...HEALTHY continued from page 8

get in their food and profits that skew the economy towards industrialization in farming and food processing.

Until our diners and carryouts become places that produce real food, Americans can make broth in their own kitchens. It's the easy way to produce meals that are both nutritious and delicious—and to acquire the reputation of an excellent cook."

Whether you decide to make your own bone broth or purchase it from a restaurant, be sure that you make sure that the bones used are only from animals that not been given hormones or antibiotics, are grass-fed and grass-finished, or pastured and freerange.

Remember, everything that the animal ate, how it lived, and where it lived will factor into the health benefits of your broth and directly affect your health. That attention to quality should apply to the vegetables and herbs used in your broths as well - either grow your own or be sure to purchase biodynamically grown or certified organic.

A great way to compliment the natural flavor of your bone broth and to add vitally important trace minerals is with a sprinkle or two of a high quality condiment like Celtic Sea Salt® Gourmet Seaweed Seasoning.

• Medea Galligan has been in private practice as a Certified Holistic Health Coach for close to 20 years. She earned her Master's of Science in Nutrition in 1998 and is a member of the American Association of Drugless Practitioners. She is currently accepting new clients - to contact her please visit her website at www.MedeasHealthyLifestyleConcepts. com or call her at 828-989-9144.





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...AMBULANCE continued from page 1

this new ambulance has been the proactive partnership between Mission Health System Regional Transport Services and Macon County EMS. Their collaborative work and detailed analysis of peak utilization and emergency transport response times for transfers in Macon County drove this decision. That analysis demonstrated a 29% increase in out-of-county patient transfers from Highlands-Cashiers and a 46% increase from Macon County. When an ambulance must transport a patient out of the County, local coverage suffers. This new Ouick Response Vehicle will strengthen 911 coverage in the area by offering greatly increased availability for residents.

As part of this ongoing partnership, both Mission Health Regional Transport Services and Macon County EMS have added new resources to address and improve coverage in the county. Mission Health and Macon County have worked closely to ensure that Mission Health System Regional Transport Services are available to serve the community five days per week, 24 hours a day double

the previous coverage of five days a week for 12 hours per day. Macon County EMS has provided modified staffing that includes the addition of 3 new positions, an important increase in resources to provide necessary back-up staffing. This expanded coverage is significant for those who deliver or receive emergency care.

Response time, new technology and expert EMS caregivers are the most valuable elements when it comes to providing critical, rapid response treatment to patients experiencing a health emergency or are involved in a serious accident.

"The time saving element alone that we'll see from the addition of this new emergency vehicle combined with related staffing changes will translate into significantly more accessible and enhanced care for patients in the Macon County area," said Macon County Director of Emergency Services Warren Cabe. "To be direct, the service we are able to provide to our customers will be greatly improved."

The new, state-of-the-art vehicle is outfitted with truly ad-

vanced features that essentially make it an "Intensive Care Unit on wheels", including a Zoll X series monitor defibrillator, a Newport HT 70 Ventilator, a Stryker Powered stretcher and Stair Chair, and specialized Pediatric Resuscitation System, as well as a highly sophisticated Kenwood 2-way radio system. Importantly, this new vehicle is ideally equipped to meet the MAMA landing site for patient air transport to the hospital.

Kathy Guyette, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President, Patient Care Services and President, Regional Member Hospitals, Mission Health, sees the addition of the new ambulance as not only a benefit to Macon County residents, but a valuable resource for the entire region.

"This new emergency vehicle will immediately and measurably improve the level of care we can offer patients, and those who must be transferred to Mission Hospital to receive so they continue to receive the best prehospital arrival treatment available to further unify our services region-wide," she said.



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Veterans honored at Memorial Park





Commander Ed MacCloskey, Vice Commander Bill Reese and Mayor Patrick Taylor of Highlands American Legion Post 370, veterans and members of the community ushered in Veterans Day at the Veterans Memorial Park on Oak Street in front of the police station a bit early Saturday. Though it is traditionally celebrated the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the ceremony was held at 9 a.m. instead of at 11 a.m. on Sat., Nov. 11 since the HIghlands Food & Wine Main Event kicked off on Main Street at 11. Scouts presented the American flag which was raised to salutes and the new Veterans Brick walkway – which has room for more bricks – was dedicated.

— Photos by Kim Lewicki

503476

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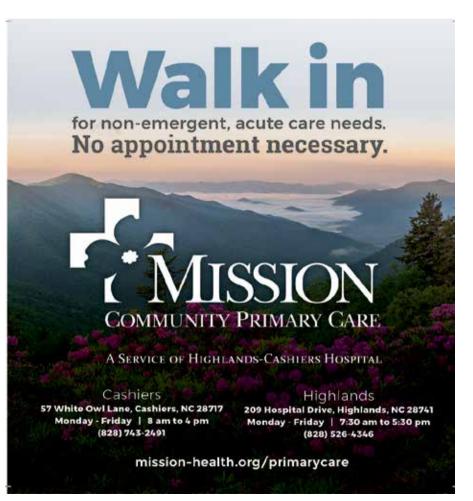
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• HS Sports •

with Kedra McCall

It's basketball season!

ighschool boys soccer lost in their third round of state playoffs 4-0 to Starmount. The boys played well and had a wonderful season. They are now onto basketball.

For the first time in years, both high school boys and girls will have JV and Varsity teams this year. They have played a few scrimmages and will have their first game on Monday, November 27th.

They will play in Hayesville.

Middle school basketball has also begun for boys and girls. They have been practicing for several weeks and played their first game at home against Blue Ridge Wednesday, November 15th.

All basketball teams have started practicing and are fast approaching full swing season. All the teams are ready for the

season to be fully underway



Jake Billingsley carry the ball up the court.



From left: Varsity Volleyball All Conference Varsity Volleyball players, Abby Olvera, Hannah Holt, Maddison Lloyd, Kedra McCall, and Jordan Carrier

...SEX CRIMES continued from page 1

of 21 people – mostly from Alabama and Georgia – arrested and charged with the sexual exploitation of a minor.

A release from the Macon County School System Tuesday morning said that the district was aware of the arrest, that Pruitt was terminated on Monday, Nov. 13, and the district is cooperating fully with the Macon County Sheriffs Department.

In addition to working in Macon County, Pruitt was employed with the Jackson County School System as a custodian and bus driver for Smokey Mountain Elementary School. Both Jackson County and Macon County said that at this point, neither district is aware of any local incidents within the respective school districts involving Pruitt and a child. Jackson County also terminated Pruitt on Monday.

Pruitt was arrested during "Operation Hidden Guardian," a five-day proactive effort centered in Columbus, GA. The operation took several months of planning and resulted in the arrest of 21 individuals





ranging in age from 22 to 55 who all traveled from areas around Columbus with the intent to meet a child for sex.

During the course of the investigation, officials in Columbus said that investigators had more than 600 exchanges on various social media and internet platforms with the individuals who were arrested

Pruitt, who resides in Franklin, was the only North Carolina resident to be arrested during the sting. The other arrests included individuals from Alabama and Georgia.

Unfortunately, the incident involving Operation Hidden Guardian is all too

• See SEX CRIMES page 21





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Wow...just Wow!

hat an incredible four days and four nights of the Highlands Food and Wine Festival! Our Chamber of Commerce and many sponsors saw this as a fantastic marketing opportunity for our area and it was a sold out event!

Event planners, Eleven Events from Greenville, SC filled us with delicious food from creative chefs, wonderful wines from great vineyards,

and bands that kept our feet stomping from dancing in the street to a gospel brunch featuring a jazz band from New Orleans that had us all on our feet waving white kerchiefs and circling the room while singing, "When the Saints go Marching In!" People came from numerous states just for the festival and it was voted one of the best festivals in the country last year and I'm sure will be again this year! Excellent wine dinners were featured on Friday and Saturday evenings and so many fun events I couldn't get to them all!

Not only did our wonderful local chefs create fantastic dishes but we also had Dickie Brennan (yes, a real Brennan) and Susan Spicer from New Orleans! Other traveling chefs included Steven Satterfield, Steven Musolf, Steve Goff, Scott Crawford, Meherwan Irani, Joe DiMaio, Jesse Roque, Gary



Pat Allen Broker-in-charge 828-200-9179

Crunkleton, Elliott Moss, and Carrie Morey.

This type of marketing by our Chamber along with the marketing done by the Old Edwards Inn and Spa, now recognized as a BEST hotel and spa in the country and with its numerous weddings annually exposes us to people who really had not heard of Highlands before.

What great news for our boutiques, restaurants, realtors

banks, galleries, performing art center and every business in our area! People fall in love with us and either want to return or wind up buying in our area; they see it as a productive area and a good place to invest in real estate and I couldn't agree more!

I was proud to sponsor two of the events that benefit our local food bank. Afte all, we should all give back to the community that contributed to our success. I hope you all will plan to attend next year's Food and Wine Festival. Get your tickets early!

• Pat Allen is owner and BIC of Pat Allen Realty Group located at 295 Dillard Road in Highlands. She has been a top broker consistently for 14 years. She may be reached a Pat@patallenrealtygroup.com or at 828-200 9179 or 828-526-8784. Visit their website a Patallenrealtygroup.com.

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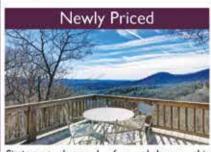
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Adorable 3bd/3ba Rondette sits on a beautifully landscaped yard with a small brook that runs through the back yard. Mother-in-law suite with kitchenette and seperate entrance. Offered fully furnished! \$174,900 MLS #86068

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Exclusive gated community just minutes from the Cashiers. 2.05 acres, nearly level, cleared building site, driveway finished. Community water system and 3bd septic permit. \$58,000 MLS #85824



Sitting at the end of a cul-de-sac, this 3bd/3ba home is located inside the gated Heatherstone Tops community. Enjoy the long range views or gaze at the stars from your expansive deck. Open floor plan, large windows, hand hewn timbers, high quality finishes throughout. Truly magical, must see. \$575,000 MLS #85309



Pristine 2bd/2ba condo in Highlands Falls CC. Many upgrades including new flooring, crown moulding and fresh paint. Vaulted ceilings and stone fireplace grace the living room. Walk out on to your deck to enjoy mountain and golf course views. Offered furnished. \$255,000 MLS #85050

LOT LISTING

Easy build .81 acre lot in prestigious Cold Springs Saddle & Lake Club. Private lake access and just minutes to downtown Highlands. \$82,500 MLS #83190



Pristine! Spacious 3bd/3ba w/ 2 half bath home. Features stone fireplace, wood floors, highend finishes, expansive screened porch and more. Open kitchen/living keeps the conversation flowing. Master on main with 2 lower level guest suites to offer privacy for visitors. \$895,000 MLS #86445



A few short miles to town, dining, shopping and arts. Close to it all but privately set in the Highgate community. Beautiful mountain views and adjacent to Forest Service land. Oversized custom front door welcomes you as you enter into vaulted wood ceilings and hardwood floors. Soaring stone fireplace is the centerpiece of the living room that opens to large covered porch & fireplace. \$899,000 MLS #85858



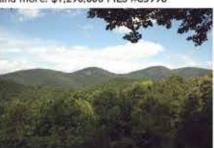
Spectacular views of the sparkling cliffs of Whiteside Mountain and Devil's Courthouse. Great 3br/5ba estate on 3.2 acres with Ibr/1ba guest home. Custom iron gates at the entrance to driveway with home set privately back on property. \$1,195,000 MLS #86756

LOT LISTING

Views of Whiteside Mountain from .77 acre lot in Highlands Falls Country Club. \$250.000 MLS #86479



Mountain, lake and fairway views from custom home in Cullasaja Club. 4bd/4ba/2 half bath, large stone fireplace, chef's kitchen, master suite, 2 guest suites, bunkroom, family room w/ breakfast bar, billiards area and more. \$1,290,000 MLS #85998



A total of 3.46 acres on 2 lots with amazing views and a meticulously kept 3br/2ba home. Enjoy your afternoons on the deck, relax in the gardens or go for a hike to ease your worries away. Perfect as a mountain getaway or year round home. \$490,000 MLS #86766



Great home at a great price! Recently updated 3br/2ba one-level home. Vaulted ceilings, wood floor and fireplace. Screened in back porch and mountain views. This is a must see. Maintenance free living is waiting for you. \$315,000 MLS #86979



Meticulously maintained 3bd/3.5ba home with seperate guest quarters, private pond, grand workshop and beatutifully kept yard. \$495.000 MLS #85284

LOT LISTING

Exclusive 2.31 acre Highlands Falls Country Club homesite with streem. Build your dream home with views of Whiteside Mtn. and Cashiers Valley. \$199,000 MLS #86974



Recently updated 2br/2ba home in a great community. Vaulted ceilings, hardwoods, fireplace and custom built-ins grace the open living room. Master suite with large walk-in closet, dual vanities in bath and access to screened porch. Large sunroom off the back of the home with another screened porch off the front. Maintenance free living includes landscape care, outer home mainenance, road and water/sewer maintenance. \$298,000 MLS #86978



Wonderful craftsmanship and finishing throughout. Hardwood flooring, rich wood beams running the length of the vaulted ceiling in the great room with a stacked stone fireplace and wet bar which is great for entertaining guests. Access to two separate open decks. Granite, breakfast bar and stainless-steel appliances in the large kitchen/dining room. Spa style master bath with soaking tub. Must see home in Wildcat Cliffs County Club. \$695,000 MLS #87183



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·SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING.

Spirituality of Measurement

By Rev. Dr. Francis Xavier Arockiasamy, B.Th., M.Ed., Ph.D.(Physics).

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, Highlands
easurement is one of the important aspects of our human life. In our world we measure virtually all things. Measurement helps maintain accuracy in business dealings. It helps us get clothes that fit, and without it we could not know how long it will take to get to any destination. Medical treatment depends on measurements obtained through physical instruments, and medicines could not be safe and effective without measurement. There are countless other ways we depend on the concept of measurement; it plays a vital role in our lives.

In Physics, Measurement is the assignment of a number to a characteristic of an object or event, which can be reliably compared with those of other objects or events. It is a cornerstone of trade, science and technology. In Physics, we use what is called the "International System of Units". Without this system, or another like it, science and technology could not operate.

In the Bible, there are references to measurements. Ancient weights in the Old Testament, for example, are given in the following units.

Unit	Biblical Equivalent	Metric System	US System
		(Approximate	(Approximate
		Equivalence)	Equivalence)
talent	3,000 shekels	30 kg	66 lbs
mina	50 shekels	500 g (or 0.5kg)	1 lb
shekel		10 g	1/3 oz
pim	2/3 shekel	7 g	1/4 oz
beka	1/2 shekel	5 g	1/6 oz
gerah	1/20 shekel	0.5 g	1/60 oz

In the New Testament, we also have references to weights

Unit	Biblical Equivalent	Metric System (Approximate	US System (Approximate
		Equivalence)	Equivalence)
talent	125 libra (Latin)	41 kg	90 lbs
pound litra (Greek)	1 libra (Latin)	327 g	12 oz

The basic unit of weight in the ancient Holy Land was the "shekel". It was also used in the Babylonian and Canaanite systems. As we see above, the shekel was equivalent to about one third of an ounce. It's precise weight also varied from place to place and sometimes changed according to the type of the goods. The Hebrew root for "shekel" means "to weigh", which also means in English "to pay". In the Book of Genesis, 23:16, we have the evidence on the shekel: "Abraham accepted Ephron's terms; he weighed out to him the silver that Ephron had stipulated in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver at the current market value".

The Bible is very specific in many places concerning measurements. For length (cubit - ca. 18 inches) see, for example, the specifications for the ark (Genesis 6:14) and

Proverbs 3:5

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BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965 Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 1 I Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7 Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999 Sundays: 10 a.m.:Worship Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011 464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers 9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper at homes

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470 Sun.10:45am, S.S 9:30am.Wed. 6pm supper and teaching. Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11a.m. 1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7.p.m. Wednesdays —Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685 3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

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

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION 526-2968

Sundays: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30, nursery available Mondays: Centering Prayer at 3 pm in the library Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II.

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828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor 220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

Sun.:Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm; Ch. 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors 526-3175 • fpchighlands.org Sun.:Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30 Mondays: 8 a.m.:Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast Wednesdays:Choir:6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School:10 am, Worship Service:11 am

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship 242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814 Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Pr. Nathan Johnson Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

John 3:16

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 LutheranChurchoftheHolyFamily.yolasite.com Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion:10:30

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m. Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church Sun:10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107) Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 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.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKYVALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706.746.3144• 696 Sky Valley Way #447 Pastor Gary Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & I Ia Nursery available for Rite II services

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

UNITARÍAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • uufranklin.org Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers Sunday School:10 am, Worship Service:11 am

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 16

those for the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:10-17).

Measurement alone, however, does not ensure truth. We must depend on human honesty, that is morality, for that.

In the book of Deuteronomy, 25:13, there is the passage on measurements which speaks about honesty of the person using them. In the book of Leviticus. 19:35-36. God commands the Israelites: "Do not act dishonestly in using measures of length or weight or capacity. You shall have a true scale and true weights, an honest ephah (ca. 3/5 bushel) and an honest hin (ca. 5.5 qts). I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land Egypt." God speaks about using common measurement as universal, and the necessity of honesty that the measurement may be useful. In the Book of Amos, 8:4-6, the prophet Amos speaks about honesty in measuring things. In the book of Proverbs, 20:10 and 11:1, we have the passages on honesty of measuring things which belong to God.

In the New Testament, Jesus speaks about measurement. For example, in the Gospel of Luke, 6:37,38, Jesus speaks about judging others with an example of measurement. Jesus says, "Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." In the Gospel of Mark, 5:24, Jesus adds, "... and still more will be given to you." He speaks in the context of the Kingdom of God.

We know that in the realm of our relationship with Almighty God, a great deal is not measurable: God's power, his glory, and how much he loves us are only a few of the immeasurables. We see, though, that there is a spiritual aspect of Measurement: it is God's requirement of a life of honesty, having a common measurement, and creating justice for the welfare of the people in selling and buying.

• Biblical references for the units of weight:

Talent - Mt. 25:14-30; Mina - 1Kings 10:17; Shekel - Gen. 24:22; Pim - 1 Sam. 13:21:

Beka - Gen. 24:22; Gerah - Ex. 30:13; Pound/Litra Jn.12:3,19:39.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS

Ongoing

• The pool is now open for public swim 3-6p Mon-Thurs.

Mon-Fri

- After School Program for Kids at The Healing Garden, 470 Dillard Road, Highlands. The school bus drops off at Dusty's. Ages Kindergarten through 8. Activities, wholesome snacks, homework time, outdoor and indoor play. Discount for monthly enrollments Pick up time 6 pm. Call Michelle at 828-526-9698.
- Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Movies: Fri-Tues, 2, 5 8 p.m.

First Mondays

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

Ice Rink Schedule 2016-2017 Open

Through March 4, 2018
Thursday's 1-8PM
Friday's and Saturday's 1-10PM
Sunday's 1-5PM
Mondays 6-8PM
(Group Booking & Parties)

Christmas Holiday Schedule:

In addition to above schedule we will be open

Mon., November 20-Wed., November 22 Tues. December 26-Wed., December 27 Mon., January 1-Wed., January 3 1-8PM

Closed

November 23, Thanksgiving Day December 24, Christmas Eve December 25, Christmas Day Schedule subject to change depending on

Mondays

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

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Mon..Wed..Fri.

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

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday -Thursday 5pm-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @

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

Tuesdays

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

First Tuesdays

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

weather info call 369-7385.

The Exterminating Angel at PAC Saturday



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the MET Opera's (Live via Satellite) American premiere of Thomas Adès's The Exterminating Angel, on Saturday, November 18 at 12:55pm. Inspired by the classic Luis Buñuel film of the same name. Hailed by the New York Times at its 2016 Salzburg Festival premiere as "inventive and audacious ... a major event," The Exterminating Angel is a surreal fantasy about a dinner party from which the guests can't escape. Tom Cairns, who wrote the libretto, directs the new production, and Adès conducts his own adventurous new opera. The pre-opera discussion, led by Beverly Wichman, begins at 12:30pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

- Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.
- Pickle ball from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.
- Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.m.

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.

Wednesday-Saturday

• The Highlands Historic Village is open June-October. It's free. Visit the Highlands Historical Museum, the Prince Houe, Bug Hill Cottage, Furman Vinson's Boat, The Old Jail while taking a break in the peaceful setting that commemorates Highlands' past.

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.
- NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

 Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

2nd and 4th Thursdays

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more info call 770-823-0601

Thurs., & Sat.

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

First Friday of Every Month

Dive-in Movie Night at the Rec Park.
 PG and PG-13 movies. 6-9 p.m., \$7 adult; \$5 children under 12. \$20 family of 4 (\$4 for each additional person)Free popcorn per admission.
 Bring your own float. Food allowed in designation.

nated areas. For movie title call 828-526-1595 or 828-526-3556.

Fridays & Saturdays

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

Saturdays

- Farmers Marketplace in K-H Founders Park from 8a-12:30p.
- At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.
- Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome. 727-871-8298.
- The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Nov. 13-20

• The First Baptist Church in Highlands is the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child drop off place. It is hoped that Highlands residents will transform empty shoeboxes into gifts of hope filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items. After being dropped off, Operation Christmas Child will deliver these shoebox gifts to children living in poverty overseas.

Thurs., Nov. 16

 The Molly Grace will have Melanie Couch from HouseDressing Interior Design on Thursday from noon to 4pm giving us Christmas Decorating tips for our homes. Drop by for lunch hosted by The Molly Grace and Black Friday deals a week early.

Fri. Nov. 17

• Medea Galligan, MS Nutrition, CHHC, AADP is teaching a Bone Broth Workshop at the Library in Cashiers from 2-4pm.

Sat., Nov. 18

• At PAC, Met Opera live via satellite "The Exterminating Angel" at 12:55 p.m.The pre-opera discussion, led by Beverly Wichman, begins at 12:30pm.Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047.

Tues., Nov. 21

 Highlands Community Thanksgiving dinner will be at 6pm at the Highlands Rec. Park. This meal is free and all in the community are welcome!

Fri., Nov. 24 or Sat, Nov. 25

- At The Bascom. Gingerbread House class. 10 a.m. until Noon or 1-3 p.m. Everything needed to decorate the gingerbread house of your dreams! Participants may enter their house in a contest to be judged by popular vote. The winner will receive a Bascom gift certificate. \$50 per person All Ages. Register online at www.thebascom.org. For more information call us at 828.526.4949
- At TJ Bailey, Highlands, Town Square. Peter Millar Trunk Show.

Sat., Nov. 25

 Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols in K-H Founders Park beginning at 6

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...BIKE continued from page 1

is by establishing a bicycle patrol unit specifically trained in maneuvering a bicycle while carrying out their duties as law enforcement officers.

"We have seven very well trained officers on our bike unit for the Highlands Police Department that has been formally established since 2007," said Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell. "They go to nationally recognized training workshops with hundreds, if not thousands of agencies every year to learn cutting edge tactics and community services that can be executed from their bikes."

Harrell said that the unit, which has been active for the last decade provides numerous benefits to Highlands residents.

"Improved communities relations. cost savings, faster officer response times and environmental benefits are just some of the reasons we put officers on bikes." said Chief Harrell.

While Highlands has an established bicycle unit, the Macon County Sheriff's Office is working to grow its bicycle presence. MCSO deputy and School Resource Officer Scott Nelson has utilized his personal bike to patrol the Little Tennessee Greenway in Franklin as well as during pedestrian heavy events such as Halloween in the Park, PumpkinFest, and this year's Solar Eclipse.

it, especially on the Greenway and special events," said Nelson. "It is a great way to get out and talk with the community and get to know about what is going on. Patrolling by bike on the Greenway or special events, you are more approachable to the public, Kids love seeing a cop on a bike, munity College in Winterville, NC for an International Police Mountain Bike Associa-

"IPMBA is the leading agency that certifies Police Cyclist around the world," said Nelson. "The class was a very intense 40+ hours and was the physically most demanding class I have taken."

The Franklin Police Department also has two officers who utilize bicycles for patrol downtown and along the Greenway in Franklin.

Chief Harrell said the decision to grow his department's bike unit was based on various proven benefits like "bikes are less threatening than patrol vehicles."

"The novelty of a police officer on a bike is often enough to start overcoming the negative perceptions that some members of a culturally diverse population have about law enforcement," said Harrell, "Unlike patrol vehicles, which often reinforce these perceptions, bicycle patrols give an opportunity for a new impression. Most of the negative attributes associated with vehicle patrol community and the department.

In addition, bike patrols can go where traditional patrol vehicles can't, and with the geography of Macon County and unique demographic of the tourists heavy months in Highlands, bike units are ideal.

"One of the biggest advantages to bicycle patrol is its ability to navigate swiftly around a traffic jams, avoiding obstacles and hazards that would stop a patrol vehicle in its tracks," said Harrell. "The influx of our seasonal population with limited vehicle access and parking, events of all kinds, even texting pedestrians. Responding to business district calls in a motor vehicle can take a great deal of time, and often the car can't access a remote location or is blocked by pe-

destrians or other barriers. As for events, whether the situation, concerts, bicycle police have the unmatched ability to be in the center of crowds with the means to get to other areas quickly."

In Highlands, the bike units often double as experts on bike safety, often teaching the kids the ins and outs of bicycling.

Deputy Nelson also plans to start a similar program for the county.

"The Sheriff has given me this opportunity, to start a Bike Patrol Program and I would like to see it grow," said Nelson. "I receive a lot of compliments while riding the Greenway, the community has been so supportive."

Facebook



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•Police & Fire Reports•

The Highlands Police log entries from Oct. 16 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Oct. 16

• At 11 p.m., officers were called about vandalism to a vehicle parked near The Molly Grace.

Oct. 29

• At 3 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east near Riverwalk.

Oct.31

• At 9:20 p.m., officers were called about a simple non physical assault on a male in the Highlands Plaza parking lot.

Nov. 5

• At 3 p.m., officers were called about someone

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communicating threat concerning forgery and a credit card at a residence on Wyanoak Road.

Nov. 6

 At 2:48 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on South Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Nov. 8

Nov. 8

- At 4:15, the dept. assisted with a search in the Morewood Circle area of Highlands Country Club.
- At 7:35 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.
- At 8:29 p.m.,the dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Cashiers Road.

Nov. 9

• At 7:38 a.m., the dept. assisted with a search at Highlands Country Club.

Nov. 10

• At 5:04 p.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

At 7:56 p.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

Nov. II

• At 6:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane.

Nov. 13

At 6:33 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on NC 28 south.

...SEX CRIMES from page 13

prevalent. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau report Child Maltreatment 2010 found that 9.2% of victimized children were sexually assaulted. Studies by David Finkelhor, Director of the Crimes Against Children Research Center, show that:

One in five girls and one in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse:

Self-report studies show that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident;

During a one-year period in the U.S., 16% of youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized;

Over the course of their lifetime, 28% of U.S. youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized;



William Pruitt

Children are most vulnerable to CSA between the ages of 7 and 13.

If anyone has information regarding Mr. Pruitt they are asked to please contact the Macon County Sheriff's Office at 828-349-2104.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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a valid driver's license, references, a clean driving record, and be at least 21 years old. Call 828.526.4532 for more information or e-mail resumes to harrison@ lupoliinc.com (st. 7/20)

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(st. 9/21)

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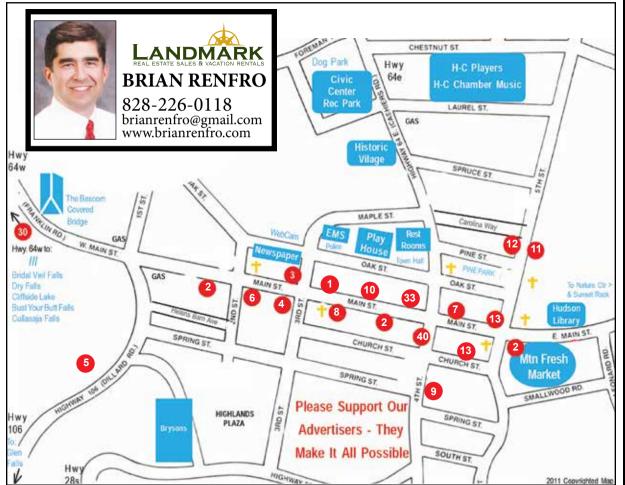
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