

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 15, Number 15

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

Thurs., April 12, 2018

School fundraisers, fairs and book orders help education in a big way

Even though parents can get weary of them, for decades school fundraisers have been as much a part of the public edu-

cation curriculum as math and reading. From picture money to bake sales to book fairs, schools rely on fundraisers to supplement

the day-to-day operations of public education and to fund special trips and projects that go above

• See **FUNDRAISERS** page 5

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Child poverty an issue in WNC

NC Child, the statewide advocacy group for children says poverty and hunger remain major problems for children in Western North Carolina.

According to their report, 57.8% of Macon County children still live in poor or near-poor homes, a major risk factor for negative educational, health, and economic outcomes in the future.

Additionally, 25.8% of Macon County children live in food insecure households, putting at risk their immediate health, safety, and ability to learn.

NC Child, has called on elected officials and candidates for office to champion children's issues in the coming election and to take specific actions to address the ongoing child poverty crisis in North Carolina.

• See **POVERTY** page 8



From left: JT Fields, Don Reynolds, with new owners Jennifer and Steve Snead-Smith.

New faces at Mountain Fresh Grocery

A business changing owners isn't usually front page news, but when in less than 12 years it has become a leading business in Highlands, the news warrants it.

Last week co-owners of Mountain Fresh Grocery Don

Reynolds and JT Fields turned the reins over to new owners Jennifer and Steve Snead-Smith.

In 11 1/2 years Fields and Reynolds have transformed Mountain Fresh Grocery – the original Potts Grocery on 521 Main Street – into

a boutique grocery/caterer offering everything from pizza, to burgers, to cupcakes, gourmet coffee and much more.

Not only is it a place to purchase the makings of a meal, but

• See **MTN FRESH** page 7

Primary is May 8 for Rep and Dem races

The May Primary will be held in all precincts of Macon County May 8, 2018 with all polls open from 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

The Voter registration deadline, to register to vote, change party affiliation, make address changes, will end on Friday, April 13 at 5 p.m. If you miss this date you can go to an Early voting One-Stop site and make changes and vote on that day.

If you are not registered to vote, and you have missed the Voter Registration deadline, no worries, you can go to an Early Voting One-Stop site and register and vote all in the same day with the proper identifications.

Early voting will begin Thursday, April 19. There are two One-Stop sites for this Election.

Site #1 is the Board of

• See **PRIMARY** page 15

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Let's talk about trash in Highlands

Mark Twain allegedly mused that people were the "vermin of the earth." When one sees all the trash on the corridor highways to Highlands, it is hard to disagree with Twain. Each one of us consume and use thousands of pounds of materials each year. How these items are either disposed of or recycled is critical.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

The annual Highlands Plateau Pick-up is slated for Saturday, April 21. Volunteers will meet at the Chamber of Commerce, and the pickup will begin at 10am. Please call the Highlands Chamber of Commerce at 526-2117 to sign up to volunteer.

Last year volunteers picked up about 6,000 pounds of garbage in just a two-hour period. I suspect the effort will produce even more this year. That afternoon, after the pickup, town sanitation crews will collect the hundreds of bags of trash and take them to the transfer station at Rich Gap. From there, the Macon County Solid Waste Department will transport the garbage to their main station in Franklin for proper disposal.

Another town problem deals with how residents dispose of hard goods and appliances. The town sanitation department is in the business of removing household and similar commercial garbage. I have noticed a rash of incidences where folks place items like old televisions, lawn chairs, tires, broken electric appliances on the street next to their residential garbage containers. The town does not handle these items. The county solid

waste department does, and as county property taxpayers Highlands residents pay for that service. For instance, an old TV has to be broken down and potentially hazardous materials recycled. These and other appliances have to be taken to the Rich Gap Transfer Station for disposal. There is no charge for electrical appliances and metal.

As a part of the Plateau Clean-up, town crews will be doing a special pickup of defunct white goods the week before the Saturday Pickup. Call town hall at 526-2118 for information.

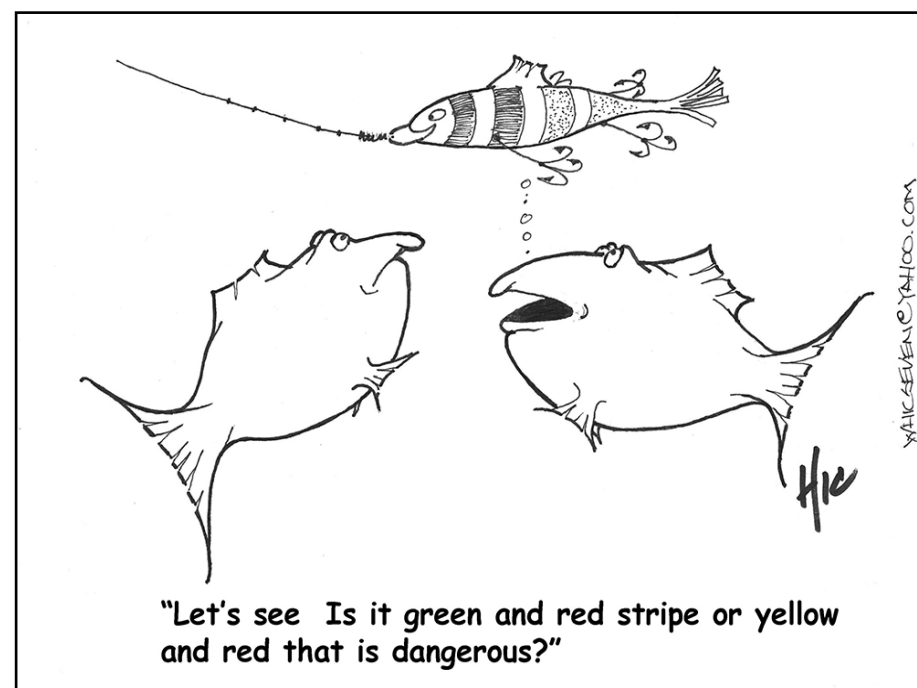
Questions concerning disposal of hazardous materials, or about recycling can be answered by the Macon County Solid Waste Department. Information is on the Macon County website. Under the County Agencies button, select Solid Waste Department. Phone numbers, recycling centers addresses and disposal procedures for items like fluorescent light bulbs are provided. Questions can be emailed to staff member June Cassada at jcassada@maconnnc.org.

The late comedian, George Carlin, once pointed out that many folks hold the arrogant attitude that human beings are going to save the earth! In a hilarious moment Carlin stresses that the earth has been around a lot longer than humans. He states folks should stop deluding themselves about saving the earth, but rather focus on saving people by preserving this fragile environ-

ment. The earth will keep on going even if human beings destroy themselves with mounds of garbage and pollution. Earth and nature have long-term records of handling vermin and calamity.

Let's not just worry about roadside trash but show stewardship in disposing all consumer goods. Are we vermin or caretakers?

• HIC'S VIEW •



Highlands Newspaper

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Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Digital Media - Jim Lewicki
Locally owned and operated by
Kim & Jim Lewicki
Adobe PDF version at
www.HighlandsInfo.com
265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703,
Highlands, N.C., 28741

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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.

• WEATHER •

	Friday 4/13		Saturday 4/14		Sunday 4/15	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	68 F	49 F	62 F	39 F	58 F	31 F
RealFeel	72 F	46 F	68 F	48 F	59 F	40 F
Winds	7 g 12	6 g 9	5 g 9	3 g 6	5 g 21	10 g 25
T-Storms	1%	7%	13%	11%	91%	24%
Rainfall	0	0	0	0.24	0.15	0
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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... FUNDRAISERS continued from page 1

and beyond the basics of education.

For Highlands, a book fair earlier this month, meant the media center will now be able to buy supplies that might have otherwise had to wait an entire school year for funding.

"The book fair is extremely important for the library," said Terry Stamey, Media Coordinator. "I feel very fortunate to continue to receive a budget from our county. However, the book fair supplements the county budget. I am able to use all the money from the county budget for new books, while money made from the book fair is used for library supplies, teacher requests, guest authors and story-teller visits, reading awards, and other things that come up throughout the year."

Stamey said that she typically has two Scholastic Book

Fairs a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. With Scholastic, if sales are \$2,500 or higher she can elect to take 50% of gross sales in "Scholastic Dollars." These dollars are redeemable for books, or she can elect to take a combination of cash and Scholastic Dollars. However, cash cannot exceed 25% of sales. This is the option Stamey most often uses – getting some books and some cash from the book fair.

"This cash is used for library supplies such as book covering material, spine and cataloging labels, AR Reading Awards, certificates, prizes, and basic office supplies," said Stamey. "If sales fall below \$2,500, there is no cash option, and the Scholastic Dollar value also decreases. Happily, the majority of the time we meet our sales goal thanks to the support of our school and community."

Programs such as the media centers in schools across the district are funded based on a school's enrollment numbers.

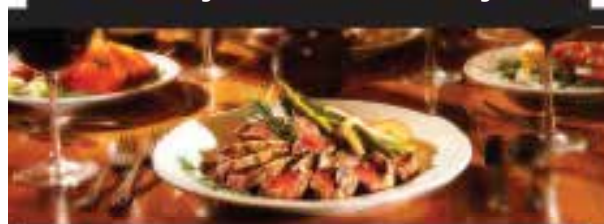
"Each school receives state instructional supply money based on the number of students they have on the 10th day of school and the amount that the State allots to us," said Macon County Schools Finance Director Angie Cook. "This year it was a little over \$30 per student. Each school also receives local instructional supply money as well as local library money based on the 10th day student count and a formula determined by administration after the State budget has been passed. Then it can be determined how much local funding can be allotted after salaries and benefits and other expenses are covered."

• See FUNDRAISERS page 8



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Arugula Salad with Goat Cheese Medallions & Strawberry Balsamic Dressing

This is a wonderful brunch or luncheon recipe, perfect to serve with a scoop of chicken salad and mimosas! The soft, warm herbed goat cheese medallions offer a delicious contrast to the chilled arugula and strawberry slices, and the flavors are all enhanced by the sweet and tangy Strawberry Balsamic Dressing.

Makes 4 servings

Ingredients

1 (8-ounce) log fresh herbed goat cheese

2 organic eggs

1 tablespoon organic milk or cream

1 1/2 cups gluten-free panko crumbs

2 tablespoons organic grass-fed butter

4 cups organic arugula

6 large organic strawberries, hulled and sliced

1/4 cup pine nuts, crushed pistachios or sliced almonds, lightly toasted

Sea salt and fresh ground black pepper

Strawberry Balsamic Dress-



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1/2 cup balsamic vinegar

2 organic strawberries, hulled and minced

1/2 tsp sea salt

1/4 tsp ground black pepper

Put ingredients in blender, slowly add 1 cup organic extra virgin olive oil while blending on low to emulsify. Taste and adjust accordingly. If dressing is too tart, add a little raw honey or stevia.

Directions

1. Prep strawberries and place in refrigerator.

2. Make Strawberry Balsamic Dressing, put in clean salad dressing shaker and refrigerate.

3. Lightly toast nuts on low in a dry skillet, put aside.

4. Pre-heat stainless steel skillet on med-low, add butter and let melt.

5. Scramble 2 eggs and milk or cream in a shallow bowl, put gluten-free panko crumbs in another shallow bowl, and slice herbed goat cheese into 1 inch rounds.

6. Dip all the goat cheese rounds into the egg, then coat on both sides with panko crumbs.

7. Gently place breaded goat cheese rounds in the skillet, allowing them to brown in the melted butter. Using a spatula, gently turn each one so both sides are browned. As each batch is browned, put on parchment paper on cookie sheet in warm oven.

8. Assemble arugula, strawberries, and toasted nuts on serving plates or bowls.

9. Top each serving with 2 warm goat cheese medallions, drizzle with Strawberry Balsamic Dressing, serve and enjoy!



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... MTN. FRESH continued from page 1

meals to go, meals to eat-in and what's more, it's become a gathering place for breakfast, lunch and dinner year-round.

Field said his plan for Mountain Fresh was nothing compared to what it has become.

Originally, the plan was to restore the store he remembered from the early- to mid-'90s but he quickly discovered the town didn't need a second traditional grocery store — Bryson's Food Store in Highlands Plaza fits that bill. What was sorely lacking in town was "good quality, everyday food," he said.

"You have fine dining, and then a chasm between fine dining and a reheated sandwich ... both have their place and both are important in the food model. But, what we tried to do was offer something in between the two. A year into it I was thinking of something along the lines of Alons in Atlanta — pulled leg of lamb on ciabatta bread... and

that would have pulled in about five people a day!"

March 2009 Don Reynolds came on board to initially consult for about six weeks. Before long he bought in and joined Fields as a fixture at the store.

Reynolds suggested a good hamburger and chicken tenders, a real grilled chicken sandwich "without sprayed on grill marks."

Initially, Fields wasn't for the idea. "I didn't get to middle-age to flip hamburgers and sell French fries," he said. "But Don was talking about hand-cut fries, grinding our own meat for burgers, baking our own bread, all those little subtle things that could make us just a little better than what anyone else was doing in town. And that's kind of where we found our niche," he said. "We don't pretend to be a fine dining bistro but we are very proud of the fact that the product that comes to your table or that you take home, didn't come off the back of a delivery truck

ready-made."

Fields said Mountain Fresh Grocery isn't an organic market or a health food store. But it isn't a fast-food joint, either.

"We hit that middle ground doing quiet subtle things. Our pizza flour comes from Italy. The flour we use for our bread comes from an organic mill powered by wind using grinding stones, for instance."

Fields and Reynolds were both hoping Mountain Fresh would become a gathering place but that's the kind of thing the community decides, they said, not them.

"We laid the groundwork, built the foundation and set the stage, and we hoped they would come ... and they have."

Little by little, Mountain Fresh has become much more than a boutique grocery store and it's that proven model that enticed the Snead-Smiths to purchase the company.

• See MTN. FRESH page 14



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... POVERTY continued from page 1

"Big problems demand big solutions," said Michelle Hughes, executive director of NC Child. "Each year, our elected representatives have an extraordinary opportunity to use public policy to improve the lives of children and families."

Hughes said NC Child hopes 2018 candidates and subsequent elected officials will take bold steps to support families by making affordable, high-quality health insurance available in North Carolina.

"This can be done by investing in our public schools and expanding access to quality early learning programs for young children," she said.

The data snapshot shows how children and families are faring in 15 key areas of well-being. Aside from family financial security, North Carolina and Macon County are making some progress toward improving children's health and education, but a stronger investment in evidence-based policy solutions is needed to assure children's current well-being

and long-term success.

According to their data, 79.3% of women in Macon County received early prenatal care in 2016 vs. 79.2% in 2015. Statewide, 69% of women received early prenatal care.

Relatedly, 8.7% of babies were born at a low-birthweight in 2016 vs 8.8% in 2015. Statewide, 9% of babies were born at a low-birthweight.

In 2017, 91.7% of high school students graduated on time compared to 92.6% in 2016. Statewide, 86.5% graduated on time.

"This information is obviously very troubling upon first glance, so I do plan on looking into the topic thoroughly to see where we can help," said MC Commission Chairman Jim Tate. "First, please keep in mind that the NCIOM is an advocacy group – not that I have any reason to dispute their data, but as a commissioner, I always have to keep an open mind and review all information from all sources before I can make an informed decision."

Hughes said marginal progress is better than no progress, but the fact remains that the state's children face far too many barriers to success. Research Director at NC Child, said treading water isn't good enough.

"North Carolina's children

demand our best efforts to improve their circumstances now so they can thrive in the future," he said.

Tate said according to their data, it appears that all WNC counties are tracking the same with respect to their child figures.

"With that being said, it could be considered a regional issue rather than a Macon County specific problem. Thus, we should make it a topic of discussion for the next Southwestern Commission meeting and see what our neighbor counties have to say about it," he said. "If all counties are in agreement, then we should make our state legislature aware of the issue through an NCACC goal submission in the next fiscal year."

NCACC goals are submitted by North Carolina County Commissioners to federal representatives each fiscal year.

The Macon County Data Card also includes sample questions that constituents can ask candidates for office about their plans to accelerate North Carolina's progress on key issues facing children, such as early education, family financial security, and access to health insurance for parents.

NC Child wants constituents, candidates, and current elected officials to make children their top priority in 2018.

To compare Macon County

child well-being indicators with other counties or statewide data, go to www.ncchild.org.

About NC Child

NC Child is a statewide non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that builds a strong North Carolina by advancing public policies to ensure all children – regardless of race, ethnicity, or place of birth – have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Learn more at www.nc-child.org.

... FUNDRAISERS continued from page 5

For the current year – 2017-'18 – the local instructional supply amount was \$15 per student and the local library amount was \$7 per student.

"We try to keep the amounts allocated to each school each year around the same, but obviously it depends on the amount of funding we receive and our level of fund balance at the beginning of each year," said Cook.

According to Highlands Principal Brian Jetter, individual classrooms almost never have to do fundraising unless it's for a special project or trip, such as the Charleston Trip 5th graders go on each year.

"Grade level classes raise money for a specific purpose: the 9th grade, 10th grade and 11th grade classes raise money for their Prom and some graduation expenses; the elementary classes do a Mixed Bags fundraiser for some classroom items or the money goes into the Elementary Account to be accessed by any elementary teacher with the approval of the elementary teachers as a whole," said Jetter. "School groups or an organization within the school also fundraise: Athletic Boosters, Library, PTO, etc."

Jetter said, school fundraising is a valuable and viable part

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• WORD MATTER •

Where is Your Olive Garden?

My wife and I decided to retire to Highlands in 2006. We actually moved here and became full-time residents in 2011. We enjoy living here immensely. Highlands is a warm, welcoming community.

Some of the attributes we often cite when pressed by friends and family as to why we chose Highlands include the quiet associated with living in a small town carved out of a magnificent forest (summers notwithstanding), the beauty of the natural environment which surrounds us, the slowed-down pace of life (a biggie for me) and the inherent civility of the people we've come to know.

Even when Highlanders argue they, we, invariably do so politely.

A very good, real-life, long-term friend visited us not too long ago and, because it was a brief visit, couldn't quite connect with what she saw as our lack of places to go and things to do. This condition, let's call it MDE, or mountain disconnection effect, crystalized for us when she asked a seemingly benign question with genuine curiosity.

"OK, so, where is your Olive Garden?"

We explained how we can visit 'our' Olive Garden in Asheville, or Greenville, where we regularly go to visit family, to shop at a mall, or when, for whatever reason imaginable, we need the brief experience associated with a busy Interstate Highway. In the event we are afflicted with a dire case of soup, salad and breadstick withdrawal, we could dash away to Anderson, SC or Arden, NC, a drive of approximately an hour and 45 minutes from home.

She was mortified.

"Two hours?" she shrieked. She couldn't understand not having an Olive Garden, or a Red Lobster, or an Outback Steakhouse within walking distance, or, if the weather was uncooperative, no more than a 15-minute drive.

Now, I wouldn't think of mentioning Paoletti's in the same sentence as Olive Garden. Someone might make the mistake of believing there was any comparison at all between a spectacular, Italian fine dining experience and ... well ... soup, salad and breadsticks.

When volunteering at The Bookworm, folks visiting the plateau for the



Bud Katz

first time often petition me for directions or suggestions. I'm sure this happens to natives and other full-time locals all the time. I'm often able to steer a Walgreen's request to Highlands Pharmacy at Wright Square. I'm surprised when a visitor doesn't know we have a darned good Bryson's supermarket right here in town. But then ...

"Where's your Starbucks?" they ask, fully expecting me to quickly identify

at least two or maybe 11 nearby locations.

I do often experience a look of puzzlement at the notion of a 15-minute drive, on a two-lane road, in order for them to spend five bucks for a Starbucks at Ingles in Cashiers. Typically I'm able to stave off an attack of 'lack of latte syndrome' by recommending Buck's, or Mountain Fresh, or some other local caffeine provider to help them amp up for the rest of the day.

The truth is, there really is very little one ever has to leave the Highlands-Cashiers plateau for.

In the spirit of full disclosure, when we first visited and before we decided to move here full-time we were worried we'd miss some of the conveniences associated with living in a large, urban area. Once we got to know the lay of the land, so to speak, we quickly adjusted. For some time we have been able to refer weekend and summer visitors to pretty much anything they want, need or expect, often right here in town, within a 15-minute drive to Cashiers, or, in rare instances, down the mountain to Clayton, Franklin, Sylva or Brevard, none of which require dealing with an Interstate Highway. You're welcome.

Some folks genuinely do have difficulty with two-lane roads, switchbacks, distractions associated with stumbling onto waterfalls, breathtaking mountain vistas popping up without warning, or other wonderful aspects of life up here.

It's OK.

We love you coming to visit. We love you buying property and spending extended periods of time. We love you pumping energy and vitality into the local economy. We love you bragging to friends and family about having "discovered" such a wonderful place many of us are absolutely thrilled to call home.

But I must be honest. Do all of these things knowing and understanding that there probably will never, ever, be, up here on the plateau, for you or us to claim an Olive Garden as "ours."

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• THE INK PEN •

Our Wacky Winter Weather

Here in the Royal City of Atlanta, we endured a winter heat wave in early March. We broke a record when temps headed into the 70s and 80s. For some reason, the humans were happy about the weather and could be found frolicking in shorts and tank tops. Since I can't unzip my fuzzy suit, warm weather is not my thing.

A brief rise into the low 80s may not seem all that hot, and at least it wasn't humid, but consider this weather headline: "Warm Winter Bad News for Allergy Sufferers." Why? Because the pollen count has reached the danger zone. Lord Banjo is allergic to quite a few things, and one of them is pollen.

The Royal Mum knew right away the pollen count was high, because she saw me rubbing my nose on my dog beds. I get itchy all over, not just on my nose, but

all the way up and down my

body. Unless I start my daily dose of allergy meds, I'll soon be rubbing my royal body all along the side of Mum and Dad's bed and chewing and scratching. I hate those little pink pills, but I guess it beats the hot spots I get without them.

I wonder whether my royal ancestors suffered the indignity of having pills shoved down their throats. I liked it much better when Mum packed my pills in peanut butter — that is, until she discovered I'm allergic to that, too. Yup, I'm allergic



Lord Banjo

to peanut butter, tuna, and potatoes. Have you any idea how many dog chews contain potato starch?

When it got a bit cooler, I briefly enjoyed lying in the sun while Mum and Dad worked in the yard, but I was ready to go back in long before they were. Dad made some uncomplimentary remarks about my manhood when I barked to go inside, but he doesn't get it. I know my limits, and my shiny black coat was fast becoming dusty, a sure sign the itches would follow. And itches can lead to the dreaded hot spots.

I understand that humans don't get the itches. Instead, they sneeze, get watery eyes and even get sick. The Royal Dad starts with sneezing and then proceeds to get a sinus infection, though the Royal Mum seems immune to that affliction. Given the Royal Dad's tendency to get sick, wouldn't you think he'd have more sympathy for me with my skin allergies?

Perhaps this Royal Dog can banish pollen? If not, I think I'll decree that all pills be buried in hamburgers or perhaps foie gras. Pills tucked in foie gras — now that's fit for a king.

Lord Banjo is a Georgia resident. Find similar stories in his book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," available locally at the Molly Grace in Highland, Books Unlimited in Franklin, and on Amazon. Contact him at inkpenn119@gmail.com.

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Considerations for Retirement and Second Home Buyers



Lynn Kimball
Lynn@BHHSMMR.com

As a potential second home or pre-retirement buyer today, these are some questions you may want to ask yourself:

Do I need to look at purchasing a high-end home now that I will enjoy for years to come? Or would it be better to start with something smaller and less expensive that I may rent out or enjoy until the time for retirement comes nearer? Is it best to pay cash or obtain financing

at rates still exceptionally reasonable? Qualified second home buyers can borrow at around 4½% with as little as a 10% down payment. There are also sellers that may be willing to hold owner financing. Could your 401K, IRA or other retirement holdings be better served by investing in Highlands for future retirement?

One thing's for sure, the reason people choose Highlands for a second home remains the same in any economy. There is truly no place like Highlands....

• Lynn Kimball has over 44 years of real estate experience, with 33 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and previously served as Director and Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. If you want a good overall introduction of our area and to search available properties, you are invited to visit her user-friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, at 488 Main Street or visit Lynn at her 2334 Cashiers Road location across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@BHHSMMR.com

Highlands has long been known as a haven for second home residents as an escape from the summer heat of the south and a place to enjoy these beautiful mountains and our quaint mountain town. Our community has been blessed with many amenities that we could only have because of the charitable contributions of many of these summer residents.

When I moved to Highlands in 1985, the majority of second homes were conservatively priced, modestly appointed and were selling. For many years it appeared that there was no end to high appreciation rates. Many second home buyers started with small condos, then moved on to medium priced homes and ultimately moved up to high-end, luxury homes which became extremely popular starting in the late 90's. Homes priced over \$1,000,000 couldn't be built fast enough for the demand.

We all know that things changed from selling like hotcakes to a slowdown in 2010 when the recession hit Highlands. It seems that no one, including the wealthy, went unscathed by the economy. The inventory of available homes in all price ranges increased. Since the beginning of this year we have seen record sales, so inventory is coming down.

Real estate prices are coming up and with the large number of sales, those who have been waiting to purchase do not want to wait. There will always be those who are comfortable with purchasing high-end homes, but some are going back to more conservative choices. Stepping stones with prices still reasonable will serve to get into a second home in Highlands and allow you to get your foot in the door.

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Benefits of Engineered Hardwood Flooring

Construction

Engineered wood is real wood flooring that's built in layers and bonded together. The top hardwood layer shows all the natural characteristics and beauty of the selected wood species, just as you would see with any genuine wood floor. Below the surface layer are multiple layers of high density fiberboard (HDF) that create a board with greater strength and stability than a solid wood board.

Superior stability makes engineered hardwood floors resistant to changes in temperatures and humidity. The benefit for homeowners is that this type of floor can be installed anywhere, including moisture-prone areas like finished basements, where you'd never expect to see a hardwood floor.

Genuine hardwood

Although engineered hardwood flooring is not made of solid hardwood, that doesn't change the fact that it's still a genuine hardwood floor with all the warmth, beauty, and lifetime value it brings to a home. A quality engi-



Hardwood floors bring natural warmth and classic styling to any home, but not every room is suitable for traditional solid wood floors. That's where the beauty of engineered hardwood enters the scene. The performance features of these floors make it possible to install them in every area in your home, including bathrooms and basements.

neered floor will last as long and perform as well as a solid wood floor, and can even be refinished – just not as many times.

When shopping for

an engineered wood floor, you'll find a wide and impressive range of range of colors, textures, wood species, and finishes. And once installed, engineered wood planks look the same as solid wood planks.

Installation

Engineered hardwood flooring can be stapled, glued, or floated, depending on the product you choose. Floating floors are the easiest to install and can go directly over an existing floor.

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Spring Home Improvement

Appeal to House Hunters With Smart Home Upgrades

(StatePoint) From smart thermostats to remotely controlled showers, connected homes are all the rage for today's homeowners and those looking to make a purchase, providing easy opportunities to boost your profit when you sell.

Over half of Millennials (57 percent) believe that smart home technology is a good investment in their home, according to a recent survey by "Better Homes and Gardens." Upgrading to include connected items can make your home more appealing to this "next generation" of homebuyers in particular.

If you're looking to sell, here are some of the latest and greatest smart home upgrades to have on your radar.

Climate Control

Your thermostat is responsible for half your energy bill -- more than appliances and electronics -- so make sure to choose one wisely. Consider installing a smart thermo-

stat, which learns your temperature preferences, and can save energy by turning heating and cooling on and off, based on the weather outside, your home's energy profile and more. Potential homebuyers will love the energy savings, as well as the ability to control the thermostat from anywhere with their devices.

A Hands-Free Faucet

Imagine the convenience of having a kitchen faucet turn water on or off,



without a touch. Faucets with hands-free technology, such as Moen's Motion-Sense Wave single-sensor models, allow users to easily activate the faucet with the wave of a hand. Great for when your hands are too full or messy to turn on

the faucet, the technology also minimizes the spread of dirt and germs, since there's no need to touch the faucet to start the flow of water. It's just the type of smart upgrade to attract house hunters of all ages --

• See **UPGRADES** page 15





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510434



2018 Town of Highlands Scholarship Information (Highlands, NC)

1. Reminder: The Town of Highlands Scholarship Application Deadline is April 15th. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted.
2. Highlands Annual Three River Fly Fishing Tournament April 26 – 28, 2018.
3. Highlands Own Craft Show Friday & Saturday, October 12 – 13, 2018.

All funds raised benefit the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. Applications can be accessed at www.highlandscnc.org or picked up at Town Hall. For more information, feel free to contact Rebecca Shuler, Town Clerk at 828.526.2118.



Annual White Goods Pickup (Highlands, NC)

The Town of Highlands has set a White Goods Pick-Up Week annually since February 1987.

This year the Annual White Goods Pickup will be the week of April 16th through the 20th.

**Please, contact Town Hall at
(828) 526-2118
to be placed on the pickup list.**

510454

... MTN. FRESH continued from page 7

The couple moved from Richmond, VA to come out of mini-retirement to start anew in Highlands joining the bevy of locally owned and operated “Mom & Pop” businesses.

Jennifer was in Human Resources management for several businesses and Steve worked the North American side of German chemical companies.

About a year ago, Jennifer quit her job and in the fall Steve did the same with a goal of “doing something together...that perfect thing ... all the while refueling their engines so they would be ready to go full steam when they found the thing that was the right fit.

They had never been to Highlands, but North Carolina was home to each at different times in their lives – Asheville, Gaston County, Charlotte. They knew they wanted small-town living in the mountains and if they could find that perfect place and a business to boot that would be great.

Through a mutual friend they learned of Mountain Fresh Grocery and Highlands.

“We came down for the first time in mid-February and sat down with Don. It happened fast after that,” they said. “We were so impressed. We loved the town and the food was excellent, obviously, and it’s a good business. We fell in love with the town and during the week, everything we hoped for from a small town came to fruition. The people were so nice; so welcoming, and helpful. It’s been a real joy just getting here.”

In five weeks time, they owned the place. Fields and Reynolds both believe the Snead-Smiths are the perfect fit for Mountain Fresh.

“Sometimes a new owner will come in to a business and be very enthusiastic ... they haven’t expended all this energy getting it to this point. So, they can come in with a fresh set of eyes and a new attitude which can be good for the management team, the employees, and the company. I really expect it to jump up another notch,” said

Reynolds.

Reynolds said at this point Mountain Fresh is bigger than any owner.

“As an owner you have custody of it for a while and that’s the level it is at now. There is a time to own something and take it to a certain point and sometimes there is someone else who can be a better owner,” he said. “We have a management team that has really made Mountain Fresh what it is now. We have put an awful amount of energy into developing this, developing a management team and getting it to this point.”

Reynolds said he and Fields weren’t really looking to sell but sometimes that’s the best time to sell a business – when you can, not when you want to or have to.

He said in the last four months they were approached by representatives of four companies from Birmingham, Atlanta, even a Charlotte restaurateur, but they didn’t think it was the right fit.

“Mountain Fresh has become such a part of the fabric of town we wanted to be very careful who we sold to. JT and I aren’t going anywhere. We want to be able to walk back in and be happy as a customer and happy about how it’s going,” he said.

According to Reynolds the employees took the news well.

“I believe, because of the size of the company and the proven model, the employees took it extremely well. If it were a struggling company, employees might be concerned because they would know the company wasn’t working. When something is working very well they don’t have a reason to not be happy because there is nothing to worry about.”

Reynolds said with a company like Mountain Fresh, the owners own it and shepherd it but it’s not like working in a three-employee shop where a new owner would potentially change everything.

“It takes all of our employees to run it and they are running it,” he said.

The Snead-Smiths concur, and they saw it immediately.

“The team in place is great.

It was a very positive experience every time we came in here,” they said. “The staff is what sold us on the place because they are the ones doing the cooking that makes the food taste so good; they’re the ones who are making it a happy, upbeat experience and making you feel welcome. JT and Don are the minds behind it, but it’s all about the staff and everyone from the cashiers to the people who make and run the food are exceptional.”

Fields said the couple understands small towns and that sense of personal responsibility that comes with a small town. In addition, they have robust business degrees and the energy to take Mountain Fresh to the next level.

Admittedly, Fields says over the years he has become the mascot of the store but says his stepping aside won’t put a cog in the wheel.

“We can’t replicate exactly what JT and Don have as a team but we aren’t going to be hiding in the back,” said Jennifer and Steve. “We want to be part of the community. We want to know the people coming in. We won’t be JT, but we will be the Snead-Smiths,” they said.

As a team they believe they are perfect. Jennifer said her weaknesses are Steve’s strengths and vice versa.

“He is all about numbers and I am all about feelings,” she said.

As to changes, they said fundamentally what they bought is a very good business model with great brand recognition which is well supported by community.

“We will try to do everything a little bit better,” they said.

Every year Fields and Reynolds have brought something new to the mix. In the pipeline, which will debut in about a month, is a full-service ice cream area which will be where the coffee roaster and beans are now. The coffee roaster will be moved out of the main part of the store but will still be producing.

The Snead-Smiths said they will likely continue the tradition

• See MTN. FRESH page 17

... FUNDRAISERS continued from page 8

of all schools that wish to augment classroom instruction, student achievement, and child development with activities inside and outside the classroom.

“For instance a rug for kindergarten students to sit on in front of the teacher; grade level “readers” that are used to help develop student comprehension; or a trip to Charleston,” he said.

Highlands School first-grade teacher Stephanie Mason said that fundraisers are important to fill in gaps that don’t get addressed through other funding areas.

“In the classroom, I do the Scholastic book orders,” said Mason. “This is not a fundraiser, but a way for students to purchase books. Teachers do receive bonus points according to the dollar

amount sold. I use these bonus points to purchase books that relate to topics we cover in my classroom.”

As Jetter said, the schoolwide fundraiser mixed bags, pools dollars and benefits Highlands elementary classes as a whole.

“We use these proceeds to fund field trips or whatever may be needed to benefit our elementary students,” said Mason. “Without this fundraiser, students would have to pay out-of-pocket to go on a field trip; which can be a burden to some families. Our field trips are not taken just to have somewhere to go. We choose places that correlate with the NC standards and help bring real-world’ experiences to our students. If fundraisers, like the Mixed Bag sales, were to cease, we

... PRIMARY continued from page 1

Election Office located in the basement of the Macon County Courthouse, Room 127B which is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Site #2 is the Highlands Civic Center located 600 N. 4th Street in Highlands which is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

One-Stop Early voting will end at both locations Saturday, May 5 at 1 p.m.

Absentee by mail will end on May 1st to apply for an Absentee ballot to be mailed to you, a State Absentee ballot request form must be filled out and mailed to the Board of Elections office or presented in person and your ballot and instructions will be mailed to you.

If you miss the Early voting or Absentee voting, you will need to go to your Polling Location on Election Day to cast your vote.

There will be NO VOTING at the Macon County Courthouse on Monday or on Election day, early voting always ends the Saturday before the Election so that we may properly prepare for Election day.

After the polls close at 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, the election results will be updated on State

Board of Elections Website under Election results. Choose the Election, choose Macon County and results will be displayed as they are updated throughout the night. Results will also be made public in the Board of Elections office as they are updated.

Canvass will be held on May 18 at 11 a.m. in the Board of Elections office Room 127B. Provisional ballots will be counted at this time. Canvass is the process of determining the votes have been counted and tabulated correctly, resulting in the authentication of the official election results. The canvass meeting is open to the public.

The following will be on the May Primary ballots:

Democrat ballot Federal Offices

US House of Representatives District 11: Phillip G. Price, Steve Woodsmall, Dr. Scott Donaldson

Republican ballot Federal Offices

US House of Representatives District 11: Mark Meadows, Chuck Archard

County Offices

Board of Commissioners:
John A. Shearl, Jim Tate

would be limited in what experiences and resources we could give to our students.”

Just recently, the Macon County Public School Academic Foundation (MCAF) fundraiser took place in Franklin.

According to MCAF High-

... UPGRADES continued from page 13

and easy on the wallet, with options available for under \$300.

Bright Lighting

Smart lighting dimmer and sensor systems allow you to turn lights on and off remotely with a smartphone, and can be customized to perform certain actions, such as slowly growing brighter as you wake up or turning off automatically when you leave your home – providing added convenience and customization for prospective buyers. These systems are especially useful when you’re traveling– allowing you to turn your lights on and off remotely, so your home doesn’t look empty while you’re away. Picture showing potential buyers how they can control all of the lights in the home with one device, or turn off the lights after they’re snuggled up in bed – and get ready for the offers to roll in.

A Digital Shower

An updated bathroom is a

huge selling point for potential buyers. If you’re planning a renovation, enhancing your space with a digital shower can make a big difference for your family now and for future homebuyers.

To provide the ultimate in personalization, select a system such as U by Moen, the first Wi-Fi/cloud-based digital shower on the market, which allows users to precisely set shower temperature and flow with an in-shower digital controller, or from the smartphone app. Plus, it can be voice activated with products like Amazon Alexa, for a connected home experience.

By swapping just one or two items -- like your thermostat or a builder-grade kitchen faucet – you can achieve a sleeker, smarter home. And while the return on investment varies for each product, they’re all sure to appeal to tech-loving homebuyers whenever you choose to sell.

\$8,500 for teachers to use for classroom project materials and field trip experiences,” he said. Public school teachers in Highlands and in the county as a whole are grateful for local businesses continued support.”



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Spirituality of Force



Rev. Fr. Francis
Xavier Arockiasamy, M.Ed.,
Ph.D.(Physics), B.Th.,
Our Lady of the
Mountains Catholic
Church

Force is one of the important aspects of our physical and spiritual life. In general, force means, "strength or energy as an attribute of physical action or movement." In science, a force is a push or pull upon an object resulting from the object's interaction with another object. Force exists only as a result of interaction. There are different types of force: Frictional, Tension, Normal, Applied, Spring, Gravitational, Electrical, Magnetic, Nuclear and Atomic. Situations can cause force to occur independently, and it can be caused by deliberate choices. Force always depends on energy.

Sir Isaac Newton is familiar to most of us for his work regarding the physical laws of force. His laws of physics are valid even today. Newton's third law of motion is well known: for every action, there is equal and opposite reaction. Force exists in both the action and in the reaction. Let us reflect on Newton's third law of motion in science as it relates to the Creator of the universe and its physical laws. In the book of Genesis, we have the account of creation: "God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Here we see the use of the force of attraction, that of male and female for each other. Eve is attracted by Adam and Adam is attracted by Eve. We see the force of love in the human relationship. An external force comes from God who blessed them, saying, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it".

God also says that he found his creation very good. In the physical laws of Newton, if there is action, then there should be an opposite reaction. God's goodness contrasts with the evil force, which comes in the form of a serpent, pressuring the human beings to turn against God by eating the forbidden fruit. The world was created as good by God's action. The apparent reaction is Satan's evil. There is always a fight between good and evil within and among human beings. We need a strength, an external force from God, to overcome evil in this world and in ourselves. The power of God, which is a spiritual force, is necessary to defeat the enemy. Satan cannot be defeated by human effort alone. However, unlike in the laws of the physical world, when we permit God to act in us to defeat evil there is no opposite evil reaction. God transcends the

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY 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.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

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Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

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CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service

Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper at homes

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 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: 11 a.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

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Sundays: 8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School;

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at

10:30 service.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

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

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

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

LutheranChurchoftheHolyFamily.yolasite.com

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 Zane Talley

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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Parish office (Rev. Dr. Francis): 526-2418

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

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 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.

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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.

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

physical laws that are of his making.

In the book of the Gospel according to Matthew, we see the temptation of Jesus. Temptation is one of the challenges in both our physical and our spiritual life. Temptation is an evil force. We are tempted by materialism, pride, self-centeredness, lusts, envy, gluttony, lying, laziness, etc. We can best fight these evil forces by accessing God in the spiritual realm.

Jesus allowed himself to be tempted both to experience what all humans experience and in order to defeat the devil.

First, Jesus was tempted by hunger. He had fasted for forty days and forty nights in the desert and He was hungry. Satan tempted Jesus saying, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." Jesus conquered the devil by quoting "One does not live on bread alone but every word comes from the mouth of God." Thus, Jesus conquered the temptation of lust of the flesh. Secondly, Jesus was tempted to display His power. The devil asked Jesus to jump from the top of the Temple of Jerusalem to prove He was the Son of God. Jesus defeated Satan by saying not to test the Lord your God. Jesus conquered the temptation of pride. Finally, Jesus was

tempted by lust of the eyes to acquire all earthly kingdoms and power in exchange for worshipping the devil. Our Lord overcame this temptation ordering Satan to depart and quoting, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only." Through prayer and fasting, Christ was able to resist Satan and all his temptation. We learn that God's spiritual force is needed to overcome the force of evil. We have to be strengthened by him if we are not to succumb to evil.

Jesus' teaching on how to serve God is an action. For example, on loving our enemies (Mt. 5:43-48), on retaliation (Mt. 5:38-42) and on judgment (Jn.8:1-11) He tells us how to behave. Our reaction to the force of His teaching is to do good things in our physical and spiritual lives. So, in the life of the Spirit, the Spirit is God, our strength and source of life. Our actions and reactions should always imitate God and His commandments and teachings. We should engage in, but are not limited to, spiritual practices like prayer, liturgy, worship and meditation. Our actions, or force, in the world should reflect a life shaped by a sense of meaning and values, with the intended reaction of a world transformed to more closely resemble the Kingdom of God.

... MTN. FRESH continued from page 14

of adding to the mix each year but right now they have to get through the rest of the year.

As for Fields and Reynolds?

Fields said he's definitely going to miss it, but he believes he's taken Mountain Fresh as far as he can.

"I am not disappearing off the plateau. I will be here to help them through May and after that will accept a call anytime. I am going to go quiet for a couple of months and just chill."

When a friend said he'll get bored he said, "I welcome that sensation!"

"But I've enjoyed it; it's energizing. We serve great people. If we served a bunch of miserable unhappy people, this would be a miserable place to work. But we serve happy nice folks."

As for Reynolds he's got beer and

BBQ in his sights.

Fields and he finally own The Smokehouse property on US 64 west. It's been under contract since June of 2016 but was encumbered by liens. That's all cleared up now.

Reynolds said they considered a supper club at that location but are seriously considering a real brewery and BBQ – or they might just lease it.

"Making beer is very artisan, like roasting coffee. But for now, we will step back a bit and then make a decision. But cooking real Appalachian style BBQ while sourcing the hogs, locally, that interests me. I think it would do real well," he said.

As to Mountain Fresh, under the guidance of the Snead-Smiths, Fields and Reynolds expect Mountain Fresh to climb to new heights.

– Kim Lewicki

Order bricks veteran bricks at by May 1

On Saturday May 26 another 40 memorial bricks will be added to the 67 at the Veterans Memorial Park in front of the Highlands Police Station on Oak Street.

The deadline for signing up for a brick for installment on Sat., May 26 is May 1st.

For applications and information, contact Bill Edwards, 404-915-1344.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

March 24

- At 2 a.m., Eric Bendig, 33, of Charleston, SC, was arrested for DWI when he was stopped for traffic violations on Carolina Way. He was issued at \$650 unsecured bond. His trial date is April 18.

- At 8:45 a.m., officers were called about an 2-vehicle accident on Paul Walden Road at Upper Lake Road.

March 26

- At 9:15 a.m., officers were called about vandalism at the Highlands Biological Station where the roadway was spray painted.

- At 3 p.m., officers were called about a 2-vehicle accident on Oak Street at 3rd Street.

March 27

- At 12:20 p.m. officers were called about an unruly customer in Celebrity Collections

March 29

- At 5:45 p.m., a resident on Picklesimer Road called about items on her front porch being broken.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from March 29

March 29

- At 7:48 p.m., the dept. responded to an unattended brush fire on the Cashiers Road.

March 30

- At 9:44 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cobb Road.
- At 12:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

- At 6:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Norton Lane.

March 31

- At 4:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on W. Church Street.

April 2

- At 1:27 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on W. Church Street.
- At 9:03 a.m. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at VZ Top.

April 3

- At 3:05 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brooks Road.
- At 5:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Spring Street.
- At 5:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Spring Street.

April 4

- At 2:26 p.m., the dept. assisted EMS with a rescue on Blue Valley Road.
- At 5:58 p.m., the dept. investigated smoke near a house on the Cashiers Road.

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

Highlands Rec Park Pool Schedule

- Lap Swim: Monday-Friday, 6am-10am 6 lanes.
- Lap Swim: Monday-Thursday, 6-7pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 6:15.
- Public Swim: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm, Saturday, 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-6pm.
- Water Aerobics: Monday-Friday, 10:15-11:15am and Monday-Thursday, 6:15-7pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 10:15am-Noon.
- Pool available for pool parties Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings 6-8pm.

Ongoing

- 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

Mondays

- At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fit-

ness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:15 p.m.

- Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30-6:30 at the Rec Park.

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 8:30am-9:30am with Susan Nastasic.

- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

- Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am -1pm

Tuesdays

- FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

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

First Tuesdays

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

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

- OccupyWNC meets at the 7PM in the

Met Opera's Luisa Miller on Sat., April 14



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present, Live via Satellite, the MET Opera's production of Verdi's Luisa Miller on Saturday, April 14 at 12:30pm. There will be a pre-opera discussion led by guest lecturer, Joseph Collins beginning at 12noon. Starring Sonya Yoncheva as a peasant girl Luisa opposite Piotr Beczala as Rodolfo in Verdi's tragedy about a young woman who sacrifices her own happiness in an attempt to save her father's life. The cast also stars Plácido Domingo as Luisa's father Miller, with Olesya Petrova as Federica, and Alexander Vinogradov in his Met debut and Dmitry Belosselskiy as Walter and Wurm respectively, the ruthless men determined to tear Luisa and Rodolfo apart. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywn.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 By appt. Call 813-625-6785.
• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:15. A combination class with many different styles of exercise.

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.

Wed. & Fri.

Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm

Thursdays

• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

• 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 in Franklin Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 6:30-7:30 at the Rec Park.

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

1st and 3rd Thursdays

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

Saturdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 10-11am. By appointment. Call 813-625-6785.

• 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.

Sat., April 14

• The April meeting of the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club Inc. is at 10 a.m. at the Bascom in Highlands, NC. The Bascom is located at 323 Franklin Rd, Highlands, NC, just north of Downtown Highlands, NC (heading toward Franklin).

Drive across the covered bridge into the parking lot, and come into the main entrance near the covered patio. There will be directions on how to get to the wood turning studio. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets in Highlands the second Saturday of every month

• At PAC, Met Opera's production of Verdi's Luisa Miller on Saturday, April 14 at 12:30pm.

There will be a pre-opera discussion led by guest lecturer, Joseph Collins beginning at 12noon. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

Tues. April 17

• The Rathskeller Coffee Haus & Pub will

Rabun Gap singers coming to Highlands



The Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School Gap Singers will be singing during the 11 a.m. worship service at Highlands First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 15. The group is conducted by Allegra Boggess. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the service. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped-accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

Festival of the Stars comes to Cashiers on April 21st

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Cashiers' Library, and The Village Green are teaming up to present the Festival of the Stars, an NC Science Festival event. The Festival of the Stars will take place on Saturday, April 21 from 5-11 p.m. at The Village Green in Cashiers. Everyone is welcome at this free family-friendly event!

From 5-8 p.m., come explore a journey through the "dark" and learn about the stars and the creatures that are awake at night while you are sleeping. You can meet and greet with an owl or learn about bats. A passport can record your adventure and be turned in for a prize. During your journey, you can walk among the galaxies and check out the stars in the mobile planetarium. Be prepared to look safely at the sun through solar glasses and a solar scope. At 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. enjoy Cherokee legends and myths as told by Cherokee storyteller, Freeman Owle. From 9-11 PM, come stargaze with local astronomers. Roast marshmallows, make s'mores and enjoy hotdogs with the family.

In the event of heavy rain the event will be moved to Cashiers' Recreation Center.

The Festival of the Stars is sponsored by Cashiers' Recreation Center, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Board of Directors, Ingles Market, Will and Becky McKee and United Community Bank.

If you would like to learn more about the Festival of the Stars please contact Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust at info.hitrust@earthlink.net, 526-1111 or visit them online at www.hicashlt.org.

host a poetry night for adults on Tuesday at 6 p.m. To celebrate National Poetry Month and National Sexual Abuse Awareness Month, this event will focus on poetry that expresses the pain that abuse survivors suffer, the empowerment that emboldens our communities, and the healing that can happen in the aftermath. Words of inspiration and strength are encouraged! All area poets and lovers of poetry are invited to read or recite their original works, as well as share their favorite works by other poets, in the Rathskeller's relaxed atmosphere. There is no admission charge. The Rathskeller is at 58 Stewart Street, a half block south of Main Street behind Books Unlimited in Franklin. It sells specialty beers, coffees, teas, soft drinks, healthful baked sandwiches, pretzels, and cookies.

Thurs., April 19

• HS Spring Chorale Concert at 6 p.m. in the old gym.

Fri., April 20

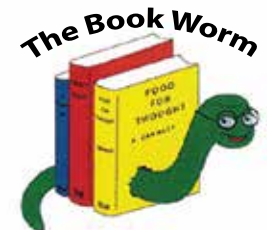
• Senior Dinner Friday, at 12 noon at the Highlands Civic Center in the Meeting Room. The lunch menu will be: Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Salad, roll and desert. For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

Sat., April 21

• The Highlands Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual Plateau Pickup on Saturday – cleaning litter on the Gorge Road between Highlands and Franklin. If you're interested in volunteering, call the Highlands Chamber of Commerce at 828-526-2112. Volunteers will meet at the Highlands Visitor Center at 10 a.m.

• Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, The Village Green and the Albert Carlton-Cashiers' Community Library are teaming up to present to you the Festival of the Stars, a North Carolina Science Festival event. The Festival of the Stars will take place on from 5-11 PM at the Village Green in Cashiers, NC.

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record is a plus. If Intersted please call owner at 828-342-1974 to set up an interview. (4/5)

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HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB is seeking a few energetic individuals to join the housekeeping department. Early hours, competitive pay, one daily meal and iforms are provided. If you are interested, please stop by the main office and fill out an application. (3/22-4/4/5)

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INTERVIEWING FOR PART-TIME, YEAR AROUND, AUDIO/VISUAL TECHNICIAN for Highlands United Methodist Church. Sundays and special events. Call 828-526-3376 or stop by church for an Application. (st. 3/1)

HIGHLANDS INN & HIGHLANDS INN LODGE now accepting applications and interviewing for all positions. Front Desk, Housekeeping, Night Audit, Breakfast Host & cook. Full time

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SKYLINE LODGE - house-keeping staff ,front desk clerks, and maintenance workers wanted for 2018 Season. We offer training. Call 828-526-2121 for an application . Background checks done .(st. 2/22)

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