

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., March 29, 2018

Consequences of Mission/HCA merger

Last week, Mission Health and Highlands-Cashiers President Jackie Medland both sent press releases announcing Mission Health's plans to join HCA Healthcare, a for-profit Nashville,

Tennessee-based company founded 50 years ago by two physicians.

"Mission Health's Board of Directors has signed a letter of intent to enter into exclusive discussions to join HCA Health-

care," reads the press release. "The board's unanimous decision to execute the Letter of Intent (LOI) with HCA reflects its long-term vision and commitment to pre-

• See **MISSION** page 8

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On a recent trip to Highlands, Dad, Corey Wilson, 40, and grandson of the late Neville Wilson, and Neville's great-grandson Henry Neville Wilson, 2, hiked Sunset Rock Trail and while up there, trekked the path to Sunrise Rock. Before it was over, Henry wanted more. "More up, more up," he said.

Sunset Rock Road not closed to vehicles

The fate of Sunset Rock Road was once again on the table at last week's Town Board meeting.

It all started some months

ago, when Commissioner Amy Patterson voiced concerns about dirt and gravel on the road eroding down the mountain on to the Na-

• See **SUNSET** page 9

Tree removal at Cliffside causes alarm

Sign warnings of "Hazard Tree Removal" and "Caution, Logging Trucks," on the Gorge Road near the Cliffside Recreation Area entrance as well as Turtle Pond Road have citizens alarmed.

Long-time area resident and a self-proclaimed naturalist Tom Olson raised the alarm.

"I walked in past signage informing me that the trail was closed, due to a "Hazard Tree Re-

moval Operation Underway" and was met with the harsh reality that along the roadway to the beloved Cliffside Recreation Area, deep within the forest adjacent,

• See **REMOVAL** page 7

Get ready for Easter in Highlands!



Easter is a big deal in Highlands! On Good Friday at noon, the community gathers at the Catholic Church on 5th Street to begin the Stations of the Cross walk through town where the group stops at each church along the way. On Saturday at 11a, families gather at the Rec Park on N. 4th Street for the annual Easter egg dash for kids ages 0-9. On Easter Sunday, April 1, prior to the myriad of activities at each church in town (see ads throughout the paper), there is the Ecumenical Sunrise Service at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street at 6:45a. If it rains it will be in the Episcopal church sanctuary on 5th Street. — Photo by Kim Lewicki

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Will merger with HCA be good for us?

I try to make measured public statements, but some folks may think differently about my statements at the recent Town Board meeting, the Community Coffee, and on WLOS TV News. These statements addressed the merger and acquisition talks between Mission Healthcare and Hospital Corporation of America (HCA). The messages were intended to remind these big healthcare corporations not to forget our hospital.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

I am very aware of the challenges of keeping a small hospital like ours in operation given the national healthcare situation. Nevertheless, Highlands and Cashiers philanthropists built a wonderful hospital campus over many decades, and it has served this community in many vital ways. Changes are inevitable, but collectively we all want to insure those changes benefit these communities.

Community leadership and stakeholders should be involved in the impending decisions that will lead to a reorganization in healthcare providers.

About six years ago our local hospital board realized that continuing to function as a small, independent community hos-

pital was no longer sustainable. After an extensive review and study, the board decided to affiliate with Mission. In my estimation there have been some very advantageous benefits and positives of being a part of Mission Healthcare. The bottom line is we continued to have a hospital while many small communities have seen their hospitals close.

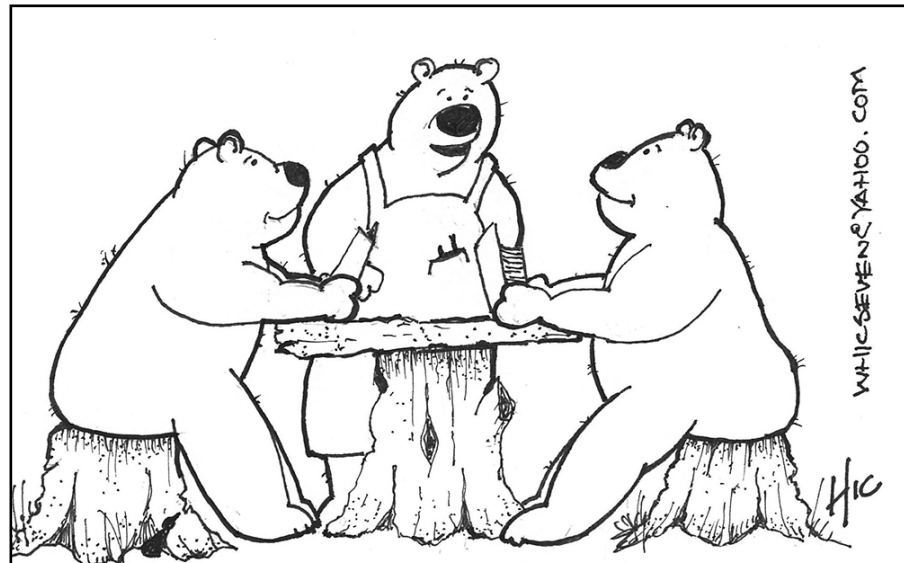
But, with this change, some folks in the community have regrets. Many services have been either eliminated or moved to other venues such as in Brevard or Asheville. On a positive note, a new emergency facility was built at the hospital from donations mainly by Cashiers and Highlands residents.

Access to quality healthcare has been a major driver for economic and community development in this mountain area. Quality healthcare is essential for sustaining quality community life. I had a recent conversation with Bob Kieleyka, the Director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, about the impending merger. He, too, shares the concern that hospital access is essential to area economic sustainability.

I hope a community coalition of stakeholders can be formed as these talks unfold between Mission and HCA. There are a number of questions that will inevitably have to be addressed.

For instance, will this new merger re-
• See MAYOR page 11

• HIC'S VIEW •



"The chef recommends the catch of the day,
fresh off the trail, Charley in a spicy cream sauce."

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Hic

• LETTERS •

Recycling at the Post Office – NOT!

I'm writing this letter to let everyone know about a problem that has bothered me for some time now and it has occurred to me that perhaps the community at large could help solve it. I'm sure many of you are aware that there are several blue recycling bins in the Highlands Post Office and

probably many of you dutifully place your paper trash in them just as I used to do. That was until I learned a couple of years ago that there is no mechanism in place for their contents to actually be recycled. In fact they are dumped in the garbage just

• See LETTER page 15

Highlands Newspaper

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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 3/30		Saturday 3/31		Sunday 4/1	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	59 F	28 F	58 F	32 F	58 F	38 F
RealFeel	67 F	46 F	64 F	34 F	64 F	42 F
Winds	6 g 9	5 g 8	5 g 7	3 g 5	5 g 8	3 g 6
T-Storms	0%	0%	0%	4%	5%	5%
Rainfall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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• OBITUARY •

John Hammond Griffith

John Hammond Griffith, 82, of Glenville passed away Sunday, March 18, 2018. He was born in Washington, DC, the son of the late John Hammond and Hazel Jaynes Griffith.

Mr. Griffith was a veteran of the U. S. Army. He was an engineer and was a member of Grace Community Church in Cashiers.

Survivors include his wife, Christine O'Neil Griffith; his daughter, Anne O'Neil Griffith Gaddini; his son, John Hammond Griffith V.; grandchildren, Hannah Gaddini, Mary Courtney Gaddini, Elizabeth Gaddini, Isabella Gaddini, Jojo Gaddini, Emma Griffith, Noah Griffith and Daniel Griffith and sisters, Anne Page (Anna) Griffith Bernhard, Courtenay Griffith Yenni and Susan Griffith Donaldson.

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m., Saturday, April 7, 2018 at Grace Community Church in Cashiers, NC.

Online condolences are available at bryant-grantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Griffith family.



• THANKS •

We would like to express our most heartfelt thanks for the many acts of kindness on our behalf during Charlie's brief illness and since his sudden passing on December 5th. The compassion and concern you have shown to us has been overwhelming. Thank you to all who have sent gifts, cards, e-mails or in any way have had a part in sharing our grief and bringing comfort to us in a very difficult time in our lives. A special thank you to the people who worked so tirelessly to plan, organize and do the work on the day of the benefit March 17th! To all of the merchants and individuals who donated prizes for the raffles, cakes and so much of the food, we would like to express our greatest gratitude. To those who provided the music, sold raffle tickets, prepared and served the food, and to the auctioneer, we appreciate you and the work you did more than words can say. Finally, to all who came and bought meals, cakes, auction items and showed your support for our family, thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Please keep us in your prayers and may God richly bless all of you.

— The family of Charlie Hicks



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• HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CONCEPTS •

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But what makes greens so healthful? The health benefits of eating leafy greens can't be overemphasized. Salad greens are loaded with vitamins A and C, as well as several of the B vitamins. Just one cup of these greens provides 70 percent of the daily recommended intake for vitamin A and 20 percent of the DRI for vitamin C. Salad greens are also a rich source of iron and calcium and numerous trace minerals including magnesium, phosphorus and potassium. Dark leafy greens such as spinach and kale also are



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good sources of vitamins K and E.

Plants also produce phytonutrients, compounds that help plants stay healthy as they grow. Plants grown on an organic farms produce even more of these phytonutrients. And what keeps the plant healthy, keeps us healthy as well.

Detoxify for Better Health

Best of all, spring greens are full of fiber and nutrients but low in carbohydrates and calories. You can eat as much greens as you want without gaining weight

... and you'll gain a tremendous amount of energy. Spring greens are nature's way of helping us do some serious spring-cleaning of our bodies by removing the toxins and sludge that's built up over the winter from the heavy, calorie-dense foods.

Recipe Ideas for Delicious Greens

Steam. Dress lightly steamed greens with a healthy dressing mix of first cold pressed extra virgin olive oil, fresh-squeezed lemon juice or balsamic vinegar, and sea salt or tamari.

Sauté. On low heat, saute a loose leaf lettuce such as a mache or curly endive in olive oil. Add a squeeze of fresh lemon and salt and pepper to flavor. This is a perfect bed for salmon or another grilled fish.

Grill. Sturdy heads of lettuce like romaine or endive can be sliced right down the middle. Give each half a quick brush of olive oil then grill until browned and slightly wilted on grilled side. Top with balsamic vinegar, extra virgin olive oil, salt and pepper and toasted walnuts.

Wraps. Sauté chicken breast with scallions, water chestnuts, mushrooms, garlic and ginger. Add a drizzle of sesame oil and soy sauce. Spoon into large Boston or Bibb lettuce leaves. Roll and enjoy.

Salads. What lettuce should be used for which salad? You really can't go wrong, so be creative and experiment with different varieties or blends.

I hope this information helps you on your way to a healthier lifestyle – for good! Be sure to visit www.MedeasHealthyLifestyleConcepts.com to schedule your Free Consultation.



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EASTER SUNDAY, April 1st - 11am Mass

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... REMOVAL continued from page 1

and within the area itself, there appears to be a full-scale industrial logging operation underway," he said.

Olson said while he saw a few wind-damaged trees, and some very minor fire scarring in evidence, there are hundreds of healthy trees that have already been felled and many, many more slated for felling, as is evidenced by their blue spray-painted insignias.

According to USFS District Ranger Mike Wilkins, the fires the fall of 2016 in the Cliffside Recreation area are the reason for the tree felling and removal along the half-mile entrance road to Cliffside Lake.

"This area burned in the fall of 2016. In places there was 8-18 inches of duff, which is organic matter, that had built up over the years. Due to the drought in 2016 and subsequent fires, a significant amount of this burned deep into the soil. Consequently, a few trees and rhododendron began falling

over last spring," he said. "In addition, there were lots of trees that were killed or damaged to the point they would die within 3-10 years."

Wilkins said with the potential of damaged trees dying over the next decade, there would be a constant dribble of hazard trees and limbs raining down onto the entrance road.

"We made the decision to harvest the trees along the entrance road and deal with the issue all at one time. It is far cheaper to sell the trees than cut them and haul them off ourselves. So, this is what we are doing," he said. "It is also much safer to cut a tree before the fibers rot which limits the sawyer's ability to directionally fall the tree and do it before the possibility of dead limbs coming down on the sawyer's head."

But according to Olson, the work is being conducted in a ruthless and careless manner, "and under pretenses clearly false."

"Many healthy oaks, sourwoods, hickories and white pines

are being taken down, far from any roadway, free from disease or damage. I ventured far upslope from any possible hazardous rationalization, and found wonderful trees, those long-beloved along this magnificent old forest trail, slated for removal, or already gone," he said. "As I have traversed these trails for decades, I have marveled at this cove of hardwood forest, resplendent with old growth diversity, and the chorus of warbler and vireo, dependent upon such forests. It seems that these ancients, (I counted over 150 rings on one felled white oak), are being extracted under rather dubious pretenses."

However, Wilkins said the USFS is keeping an eye on the job and the tree removal contractors are doing what they were told to do -- removing trees for a distance of about a tree-length above the road. That distance is usually about 100-150 feet.

"We have a timber-sale in-

• See REMOVAL page 19



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... MISSION continued from page 1

serve and expand Mission Health's world-class quality of care for the residents of western North Carolina for generations to come."

Though Mission and H-C Hospital officials are excited, the news has left the community wondering what this exactly means for healthcare services, specifically for citizens of Highlands and Cashiers at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital complex.

Though Duke Lifepoint's Harris Regional Hospital has announced its plans to soon offer incremental services in the Highlands-Cashiers area, Medland wants the community to know "Mission Health is not going away."

"Rather, this is an important and proactive step intended to ensure that Mission Health remains well-positioned to continue to meet the unique needs of western North Carolina in a rapidly changing healthcare environment. For us here in Highlands-Cashiers, this means continued access – for the long-term – to high-quality, local healthcare. Given the external forces affecting healthcare today, this is truly significant. But beyond that,

if this transaction goes forward as anticipated, HCA Healthcare will make another commitment to our community that could be truly transformational."

Mission Health Board Chair Dr. John R. Ball said HCA Healthcare is a leading healthcare operator that offers advantages on a scale that would be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve otherwise.

Specifics weren't forthcoming in neither Mission Health's press release or Medland's concerning specific services.

At last week's Town Board meeting and in an interview with WLOS-TV Asheville, Mayor Patrick Taylor said he understands the costs involved with health care, but he wants to make sure citizens in Highlands get the services they need and want and he wants more community involvement in the decisions being made for their local hospital.

"The people of Highlands and Cashiers have invested \$22 million over the years and it's important that this community – its stakeholders – are involved in the ensuing discussions," he said. "We need healthcare that is accessible to all citizens."

According to Mission's press release, a key component of the proposed agreement is the establishment of a new foundation "that would provide substantial annual investments dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the citizens of western

North Carolina. In addition, since HCA Healthcare is a for-profit system, Mission Health's real estate holdings are expected to generate millions of dollars in tax revenues for the area.

Since the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has its own foundation – a "honey pot" of a foundation that has raised millions for the hospital – the mayor wondered if the H-C Hospital Foundation would be gobbled up by the "new" foundation or continue to stand on its own.

Questions requesting specific details posed to Medland here in Highlands were referred to Rowena Buffett Timms, SVP, Government and Community Relations at Mission Health.

"Mission has no ownership of the Highlands-Cashiers Foundation and has never had any ownership of that foundation. Rather, it is an independent, tax-exempt foundation supporting Highlands-Cashiers Hospital," replied Timms via email. "As such, it is distinct from and not part of the HCA Healthcare and Mission Health relationship currently in due diligence. That money has always been and will always remain in that foundation supporting that foundation's purposes."

Harris Regional is considering moving into the area, like it has in Franklin, to fill what it and many citizens feel is a void at the H-C Hospital concerning local services.

Currently, the feeling in town

– both Highlands and Cashiers – is that since Mission took over, services have been taken away and have not been replaced locally. Specialists are few and far between and people often have to make the trek to Asheville for services that used to be available on the H-C Hospital campus.

When asked if the association with HCA will bring those services back, the answer was vague.

"While we understand that everyone has their own perceptions, we do not agree with the characterization of "prior to Mission taking over" and subsequent to Mission enabling the hospital to remain viable and dramatically improving both clinical and operating performance.

"Service offerings are driven by what can be done safely and effectively in any given community.

"In view of the fact that the community isn't changing with this contemplated transaction, it would be unlikely that services would change significantly.

• See MISSION page 11

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.
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... SUNSET continued from page 1

ture Center property and into creeks across the street below.

Also of concern, were deep ruts across the travel-way which were hazardous to low-clearance vehicles.

For years, the town has scraped and covered parts of the road with gravel to ensure it was accessible to vehicles.

In 1987 the Town Board voted to officially open the road to vehicular traffic; in 1993 the board voted 4-1 to keep it open. Commissioner Amy Patterson, who has long advocated for the road to be closed to traffic, voted no in 1993.

This time it was erosion that caused her concern.

Since the gravel and dirt laid down by the town in its effort to maintain the road caused the erosion problem – because gravel on granite doesn't stick -- commissioners felt it was the town's responsibility to address the problem.

Changing the character of the road by paving was nixed because it was too expensive and would instigate another list of problems – namely speeding and safety for pedestrians who often walk the road.

So, at the annual retreat, commissioners decided not to pave the road, to put up

a gate at the bottom shutting it down to vehicular traffic and to revert it back to a dirt hiking trail/road.

However, Public Works Director Lamar Nix was instructed to investigate the history of the road – that is, who owns it, when did the town start maintaining it, and other ways to access the power lines by utility crews and the rocks at the top by emergency vehicles.

At the March 22 Town Board meeting, Nix returned with answers in hand.

The overhead powerlines that serve the Ravenel Ridge Subdivision and the Playmore estate have to be maintained and accessed by the town.

"Leaving the upper portion of the road open to the electric department and accessed through the Ravenel Ridge subdivision is an option, and is being discussed with the Home Owners Association," he said.

He learned that access to the Playmore estate electric service can only be had from its back entrance which is off Sunset Roc Road near the bottom.

The park at the top is owned by The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and there are easements on the road for utilities which is not of record but are visibly in use and

• See SUNSET page 15



Release the Rosé

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Join us this Easter
celebrating the resurrection of Jesus
at Highlands United Methodist Church

315 Main Street with
Pastor Randy Lucas and Asst. Pastor Jennifer Forrester

March 29

Maundy Thursday Service - 7pm

March 30

Stations of the Cross ~ 12p.m.

Good Friday Service ~ 7 pm

April 1

Ecumenical Sunrise Service ~ 6:45am

Join us and other churches
at K-H Founders Park

Easter Services

The Living Cross ~ 9:09, & 10:50am

Bring a flower to place on the outside living cross
before each service.

Easter Coffee Break ` 9:45 a.m.

Children's Egg Hunt ~ 10am

For more information, please call 526-3376

This week soccer played Tallulah Falls, Swain, and Tri County EC. They finished with a win in every game.

They beat Tallulah Falls 3-2, Swain 7-4 in overtime, and Tri County EC 7-0. Their next home game will be on Friday, April 20th. They will start at 6 pm and and play Stephens County.

High-school track competed this week. In the shot put and discus, Jesus Damian finished in 4th place. Anne Marie Moore finished 2nd in the 800, 3rd in the 200, and 3rd in the triple jump. Maddie Drummonds finished 2nd in the high jump.

Middle school track also competed and did very well. Their official results will be coming in later this week.

Come out and support your Highlanders!



• MILESTONE •



Mayor Pat Taylor presented Highlands School second-grader, Annabell Ramos with an award for her artwork featured in the Newspaper in Education contest. The theme was the Town of Highlands and she depicted the town's Christmas Tree. As an ex-elementary school art teacher, Taylor said the Newspaper in Education program is dear to his heart.



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... MISSION continued from page 8

Mission is very proud of the work it has done in collaboration with the Highlands-Cashiers Board and the community.

"With regard to potential future changes on the Highlands-Cashiers campus, what we can say today is that HCA has a long, proven history of investing in the communities it serves – from expanding access to urgent and primary care to enhancing specialty services," replied Timms.

Highlander Griffin Bell was interviewed by WLOS when reporters stopped in at the Community Coffee at Hudson Library Friday, whose subject quickly segued to the HCA/Mission announcement.

Bell thinks a change could be an improvement.

"Mission has done several things that I think have hurt the use of the Highlands hospital. It's mainly now an emergency room," he said.

Mission spent more than \$6 million on the new emergency facility at the hospital.

"They'll never get that back, so I'd like to see somebody else that could afford to sort of bring the hospital back," Griffin said.

Timms said HCA is committed to investing and helping move healthcare for-

ward in each of Mission's local communities by helping improve access and maintain quality and clinical outcomes.

"We've only just entered the LOI and will begin having these more specific conversations about how HCA would move forward with respect to current or planned future projects within each local community. We'll know more as our initial conversations continue over the next several months," she said.

Mission expects to join HCA later this year, but any deal still needs approval from the NC Attorney General.

Meanwhile, Mayor Taylor said all options should be considered.

"I think, as stakeholders, we ought to be able to have many different options. Maybe a merger with HCA and Mission wouldn't be the best thing for our hospital and maybe we need to look at other affiliations," he said. "Could we affiliate with possibly another provider, like Duke Lifepoint, in this discussion and realignment?" he asked.

Harris Regional CEO Stephen Heatherly will be speaking at the next Community Coffee at noon, Friday, April 20 at the Hudson Library.

— Kim Lewicki

... MAYOR continued from page 2

sult in better healthcare access for Highlands and Cashiers residents? Will more services now located at the hospital be moved to other facilities? Will the community see more physicians coming to the area? Will there be a change of insurance plans considered to be in network? What will be the future of the hospital foundation in a for-profit model?

Forgive me if I'm being paranoid, but I could see a situation where a for-profit organization might review the numbers from Nashville headquarters and decide to shut our hospital down as a cost sav-

ings measure.

So, maybe as these negotiations get underway, all realignment options should be considered. I recently read where Duke LifePoint in Sylva is considering moving services into the area. Could LifePoint become a part of the conversation and a player in realignment? Soon, time will tell.

Shop w/a Cop Benefit is April 6

To raise money for the Shop with a Cop program, the MC Sheriff's Office Auxiliary and the Rotary Club of Franklin, will presnet a benefit concert April 6 at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts.

The concert, which begins at 7 p.m. will feature local musicians performing legendary country, bluegrass, and rock classics.

Tickets will be available for purchase beginning April 2 at the MC Sheriff's Office Annex building and at the MC Detention Center. Tickets will also be sold at the door beginning at 6 p.m. on April 6. Tickets are \$15 or adults; \$10 for children 10 years and under. Children 5 and under are free.



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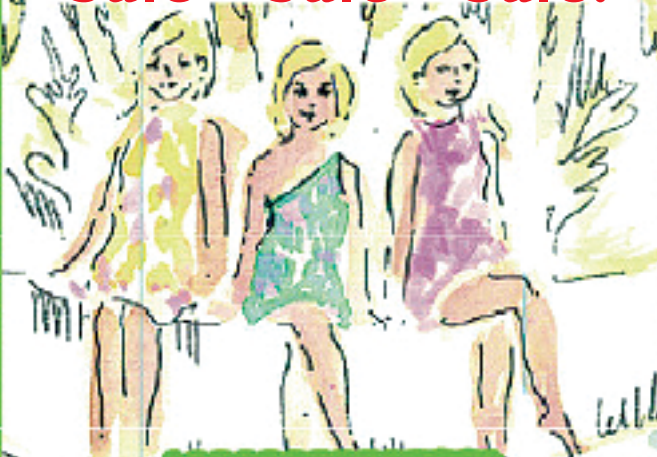
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Private serene piece of property. Home is 3BR/2BA on 2.84 +/- acre (two lots). Sub-diving possible. Living room with wood burning stone fireplace. Newly sealed large cathedral covered deck. View from deck is a cooling real and native solid rock-ledge wall with falling stream with USFS land beyond. Lower level has its own wood burning stone fireplace with office, exercise, and bar. One owner. Probate Estate says SELL it! Move in ready and bring your updating ideas. Offered for \$288,000 MLS# 86355



This great 3BR/2BA family home on over 1/2 acre is walk to town with Mill Creek in the backyard. There are only 4 houses in the small tucked away Brookside Park. Living room with large stone fireplace and high ceilings. This home offers a 2-car garage and workshop. Offered at \$495,000. mls #87404.



In Scaly Mountain, this great starter home sits on over 3 acres, and has residential or commercial possibilities. Sub-dividable with multiple wells. Offered at \$125,000. mls #87562



Main level has an open great room, with fireplace, custom kitchen, and large garage with a room above. Exquisite master suite with fireplace and fantastic screened Carolina room with fireplace. Lower level has family room with fireplace, morning kitchen, wine cellar, and 3 more bedrooms with 2 baths. Additional lot available for purchase. Offered at \$1,099,000. mls #86945



This 3BR/2BA home located on Buck Creek Road is a great rental house with good rental history or could be a nice year-round family home with some updating. Offered at \$189,000. mls #87260



This beautiful log cabin on the Atlanta side of Highlands on Buck Knob Road in Scaly Mountain is the perfect hideaway with almost 10 acres of land and a great view to the west. Covered porch across the back of the log cabin. Completely furnished with exceptions. Offered at \$585,000. mls #87736

Great value close in town! Wooded double lot in a small subdivision on the outskirts of town. Private. Deeded lake access. Gentle building site with a possible view. Community water system. The buyer obtains septic permit. Short walk to Apple Lake and beautiful Old Edwards Inn at Half Mile Farm. Offered at \$58,000. mls #87348



This charming home has been completely remodeled. Great location close to the Highlands Country Club. One level with screened covered porch and fenced yard. Two-car garage. Lower level has a small apartment with private entrance. Offered at \$645,000. mls #86318



2BD/2BA sits on 1.11 +/- acres with tremendous mountain views. There is also a brand new 1BD/1BA guest house with 2-car garage and workshop. Offered at \$498,000. mls #83267



Under Construction! Custom cabinets with granite counter tops and farm sink. Open living room/dining room/kitchen with tongue and groove ceilings and hardwood floors, solid masonry fireplace with Tennessee stone. Tile shower and floors in master bath. Electric heat pump, dual fuel range, metal roof. Basement with garage door. Offered at \$595,000. mls #87628



This 2BR/2 BA and 2 half bath home sits on over 10 acres with great panoramic views to the west. One owner. All glass contemporary home with 3 fireplaces, 2 levels of decks, walls of glass. Convenient to the hospital, country clubs and both Highlands and Cashiers. Offered at \$1,600,000. mls #87715



Just renovated and move-in condition with this 3BD/2BA located on a flat landscaped lot in Flat Mountain estates. Old Highlands charm with the pine paneling and native stone fireplace. Offered at \$465,000. mls #86913



Views galore from this spacious home located on Moorewood Circle in Highlands Country Club. Main level has an open floorplan living room. Master bedroom has a sweeping view and ensuite bath. Second guest bedroom with renovated bath is excellent for one level guests. Lower level has a spacious family room, 2 bedrooms, each with baths and a huge porch. Offered at \$1,300,00. mls #87463



Walk to town and Old Highlands Charm from this 6-bedroom, 7-bath home with wonderful gardens, pond, and trails that access over 50 acres of the Highlands Biological station lands. Spacious and updated kitchen and baths. Carolina room with fireplace that overlooks the formal gardens and grounds. Loads of wood, stone and European Cremona bolt windows. Offered at \$1,995,000. mls #87658



Easy living for this basic starter or get away cottage with a good location off State maintained Hicks Road. Living space all on one level 2BR/1BA with a large deck on the front with some ridgeline view and a covered porch off the back with fire pit area. Offered at \$159,000. mls #87308



Buckberry Falls Subdivision. This light and bright, 3BR/3BA features one level living, newly updated dream kitchen, vaulted ceilings, wood burning fireplace and deck facing Shortoff Mountain. Separate family room w/fireplace, full house generator, paved circular drive, beautiful landscaping and more! Near Highlands-Cashiers hospital. Offered at \$570,000. mls #87474

... LETTER continued from page 2

as the other trash cans are. I have made multiple inquiries about this problem to the post office staff and have always received the same answer. The US Post Office takes no responsibility for recycling beyond providing the bins and our Post Office has no means of getting the contents to the recycling centers. They estimate that it would probably necessitate at least two trips a week to keep them empty. Does anyone have any ideas? This is a lot of paper waste!

Vivian Brewer
Highlands

... SUNSET continued from page 9

existence, he said.

Owners of the road are Beth H. Hiers, Trustee; Playmore Highlands Ten, LLC; and the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

Nix said the Town of Highlands has performed maintenance on the road since 1987 when the Town Board voted to open the road to vehicular traffic and to place it on the Powell Map.

The Powell Bill Program is state street-aid allocated to incorporated municipalities each year to help maintain roads owned by the municipality.

Powell Bill funds are to be used primarily to resurface streets within the corporate limits of the municipality but may also be used to maintain, repair, construct, reconstruct or widen of any street or public thoroughfare within the municipal limits or for planning, construction, and maintenance of bikeways, greenways or sidewalks.

Thursday night, commissioner acknowledged several things.

Since the town doesn't own the road,

and since it is the access road to the back of Playmore Estate and the platted Sunset Hills subdivision which has so far not been developed, the town can't install a gate to keep vehicles off the road and technically, it shouldn't be on the Powell Map.

The conclusion?

The town will no longer maintain the road. It will be taken off the Powell map. It will be open to vehicular traffic but signs will be erected at the bottom instructing drivers to proceed at their own risk.

Chamber of Commerce President Bob Kielyka said the chamber will inform everyone that those who wish to drive and not walk the Sunset Rock Road should proceed with caution and at their own risk.

In addition, owners of the road will be notified to make sure they are OK with people walking or driving up the road and that the town will no longer be maintaining the road.

— Kim Lewicki

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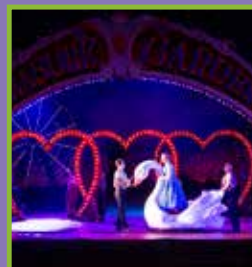
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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Mov-

ies: Fri-Tues, 2, 5 8 p.m.

First Mondays



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• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denomina-
tional 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 Depart-
ment 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 Li-
brary.

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
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 locat-
ed 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.



First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2018

Thursday, March 29, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

Come for a light dinner
followed by a communion
service
in Coleman Hall.

Friday, March 30, 2018

12:00 noon

Stations of the Cross

Sponsored by the
churches of Highlands.
Meet at Our Lady of the
Mountains Catholic Church.

Sunday, April 1, 2018

6:45 a.m.

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise

Service Sponsored by the
churches of Highlands. Service
held at the
Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park.
Rain—Church of the Incarnation

11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday

Communion Service

With guest musician
Mario Gaetano, *timpani* and
a Brass Quintet

Call 828-526-3175 for more information.

471 Main Street

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Rev. Curtis Fussell & Rev. Emily Wilmarth, Pastors

• EVENTS •

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., March 30

- Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday at 11am at the Highlands Recreation Department for ages 0-9 years old. For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

• Free Wellness Workshop - The Importance of Digestive Health presented by Medea Galligan, MS Nutrition, CHHC AADP from 2-4pm at Aery Chiropractic & Acupuncture 2655 Dillard Road, Highlands. Please call 828-526-1022 to register.

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Hip Hop to Golden Oldies Dance," Friday at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:15-8:45 p.m. Ace Mc Gee from

Anderson, SC will be the caller. Rounds & lines by Mike McDonald & Debbie McClain from Clayton GA. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome.

Sat., March 31

- At PAC, Live via Satellite, the Met Opera's production of Mozart's Cosi fan tutte at 12:55 p.m. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Fri. April 6

- At the Highlands Biological Station, a Mushroom Workshop. Cost is \$50. For more information, call 828-526-2221.
- At the Rec Park Pool - Dive In Movie. 7:30-11 p.m. For more info, call 526-1595.

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.

Wed., April 25

- At Community Bible Church, The African Children's Choir will sing at 7 p.m. The performance is free but donations accepted.

Thurs., April 26

- Principals, students, teachers, clergy, parents, neighbors, law enforcement, health workers, government officials, veterans, senior citizens, and community partners, you are invited to "From Bully-to-Buddy" a community forum for Macon County on Wed., 6-8 pm. at Tartan Hall, Franklin, NC. For the bully, the bullied and those in between – all ages – all genders. Enter our contests for prizes: \$75, \$50, \$25. (256) 398-0039 www.carolynlhiggins.com/bully-to-buddy.

• Active Shooter Training at HUMC in Highlands from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Two-hour training will include strategies & guidance, how to plan for an active shooter situation and plans for survival. Presented by the Highlands Police Dept and the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. For more information, call 828-526-9431.



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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING.

The Good News About Bad News?



Pastor Dr. Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

Your cell phone, like mine, constantly informs you of breaking news. Said another way, we likely remain aware of the latest corruption, calamity, conspiracy or crisis taking place somewhere in the world. We know when the latest bomb has been delivered. We know when the most recent police officer has been shot? Within minutes we become aware of the latest school shooting or celebrity overdose. News organizations work tirelessly to immediately inform us of the latest indictments, implications of infidelity, inappropriateness and harassment. We know what is going on anywhere in the world within minutes and we have video in the palm of our hand to substantiate it. We swim in a reservoir of human depravity and it affects us whether we realize it or not. Eventually the fish has no idea he's in water.

Maybe we need a phone app with only good news. The good news about bad news is that in light of the ongoing horrible calamities around us, good news sounds more like great news. The bad news intensifies our desperation for good news. Maybe we need to dwell on the following breaking news taking place all around us every single day that we rarely hear enough about.

Someone in your community just attended their first of many AA meetings. A recently frustrated couple just found out they were pregnant. Someone's adoption was just finalized after many months of waiting. A couple finally made up with one another. A widow and a widower just got married. Someone just received Christ. A mom was just declared "cancer free." A teacher finally connected with an apathetic student. A little boy made his first basket in competition. A scared, abortion-minded girl just decided to keep her baby. Two estranged family members just reconciled after many years. A prayer meeting just started as another one just ended. Someone just laughed hard enough to cry. A teenager just cleaned their bedroom, voluntarily. A bully just entered counseling. A young couple just got funded to minister to refugees. An insecure middle school boy just summoned the courage to ask that girl to the school dance. Another person just "got saved". A terror attack was just averted. Someone just unknowingly shared the gospel with a would be killer. Someone just stepped on the scales, 40 pounds lighter. Someone just turned off their cell phone and started reading the Bible for the first time. Someone just turned off their cell phone. An unknown, seasoned prayer warrior just knelt down again—petitioning her Best Friend for help for this fractured and frantic nation.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

PLACES TO WORSHIP

John 3:16

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

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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 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.
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Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II.

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

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814
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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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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.

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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.

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743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
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Rev. Marty Kilby
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

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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 continued from 18

lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things (Phil. 4:8). If you look closely, you will see the acrostic,

P.R.E-P.L.A.N.T. What are you planting in your heart and mind each day to meet the challenges of living in this fallen world?

Christ never promised us heaven on earth. Christ actually accentuated the op-

posite at times. Here is some good news to think about: If you trust in Him to have died as payment for your sin and you accept that demonstration of love and grace by faith then there is a heaven in your future. I encourage you to talk with Him about that in-between news alerts for He did die, and He did rise again and He remains deeply interested in you each and every day.

... REMOVAL continued from page 7

spector there almost every day. While we wished weather and equipment had not slowed the purchaser down, we are well pleased with his performance to date,” he said. “I am sure the tops and limbs in the road and forest that will be cleaned up later look pretty bad to someone not used to seeing this type of activity. The contractor has to slash the tops of the trees down near the road edge.”

Wilkins said the area will look different -- rough for a while.

But the USFS will clean it up to the best of their ability and “more importantly, it will be much safer for the public,” he said.

Due to weather and equipment delays in completing the hazard tree removal on the entrance road to Cliffside Lake, the lake will not reopen until April 7.

After April 7, visitors can expect road closure delays for short durations and parking only in the first parking area near the lake till mid-May.

– Kim Lewicki



The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Holy Week Schedule

Labyrinth Through Friday March 30

Maundy Thursday, March 29

7pm in the Chapel

Good Friday, March 30

12 noon Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Procession
1pm Good Friday Liturgy in the Chapel (*Following the Procession*)

Saturday, March 31

7pm The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday, April 1

6:45am Sunrise Service
K-H Founders Park
9am Holy Eucharist Rite I
11am Holy Eucharist Rite II
Both in the Nave
*No Sunday School
*Nursery available during both services

Easter Egg Hunt after the 9am service

CHRIST

THE VICTOR

a good friday service
friday, march 30
6 pm, sanctuary

Easter Service

SUN, APRIL 1 · 10:45 AM · SANCTUARY

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LOST DOG

Emma. Yellow lab. About 80 pounds. Rainbow collar with info. She is chipped. Last seen on 370 Sassafras Gap Road/Clear Creek area. 28 south. Contact Dori Moschouris 828-421-7403



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• POLICE & FIRE •

The Highlands Police log entries from March 17. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

March 17

• At 8:50 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Upper Lake Road about a verbal argument. March 21

March 19

• A little past midnight, a woman called police because she was locked out of her home on Williamsburg Court.

March 21

• At 8:36 a.m., officers received a report of a burglary with forcible entry on N. 4th Street where a person entered the building without permissions and stayed inside. Taken were clothing, blanket, backpack, electronic device, batteries, headphones, charging cables, food,

• At 8:50 a.m., Byron Russell Gordon, 23, of Highlands, was arrested on an outstanding warrant from Iredell County for traffic misdemeanors that occurred on March 9. He was being held at the Macon County Detention Center on a \$1,500 secured bond.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from March 21

March 21

• At 5:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a power line fire on S. 4th St.

March 22

• At 6:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Dr.

• At 8:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Ravenel Ridge.

• At 10:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

March 23

• At 4:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a gas spill on Main Street.

• At 8:20 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

March 24

• A little past midnight, the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

• At 2:23 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Chestnut Hill Drive.

• At 5:13 a.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke on US 64 east.

March 25

• At 3:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Songbird Lane.

• At 7:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

March 26

• At 12:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

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HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLANDS

is seeking an Administrator Assistant. It will be for 30 hours a week and salary will be based on experience. Strong computer experience is required. Please call 828-526-4153 to set up an appointment for an interview. (3/29)

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)

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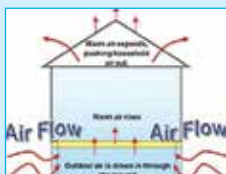
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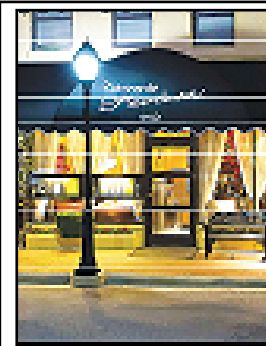


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