

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018

2018 ELECTION SERIES

Six reasons the NC constitutional amendments should be rejected

By Mark Nance
Assoc. Prof. of political science,
NC State University

Boardmember of Common Cause North Carolina
This election season, North

Carolinians will vote on six constitutional amendments. Civic groups
• See **AMENDMENTS** page 18



The winning high school and middle school cheerleading teams.

— Photo by Margie Potts

Both Highlands School cheerleading teams medal in first-ever competition

By Brian O'Shea

Highlands High School cheerleading team took home the gold medal and Middle School brought home the silver at the Cheer LTD Regional Prestate – Mountain competition at Enka High School in Candler, NC on Oct. 27. This is the first time Highlands has participated in a cheer competition.

Teams were separated by the

number of cheerleaders per squad and both high and middle schools were up against two other teams. Head Coach Kristin Huneycutt said both teams did amazing despite cheerleaders and coaches feeling the pressure before the competition.

"We had a warmup, then they have to run out and perform the routine," said Huneycutt. "That's

• See **MEDAL** page 23

Security at main entry upgraded at Highlands School

By Brian O'Shea

There is a new feature at Highlands School where visitors must be buzzed into the building via an intercom and video system. There are two other doors with code card doors, cameras throughout the school and the rest of the doors are locked.

"We did this in response to emergencies all over the country," said Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter. "We have an old school that was built before security cameras. Now we have many, but we wanted to increase the safety for the kids with this new system."

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said having a system in place using an intercom and a vid-

• See **SECURITY** page 23

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County-wide lunch choice was created by Highlands School cafeteria staff



Lynn Vinson, Highlands School Cafeteria Manager (left) and Debbie Moss, Highlands School Assistant Cafeteria Manager, recently participated in a food contest among the other 10 schools in our district that would allow the winner to add their creation to the Macon County School's lunch menu. Lynn and Debbie created a new entree which was a chicken and dressing casserole. Their yummy casserole won and will be added to the lunch menu in the coming weeks.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Mission/HCA merger still in mayor's sights

Last week was a busy time. I attended two out-of-town meetings concerning the hospital.

I have been working with the Town Board and a small group of residents who are concerned about the impending hospital sale. We have networked with other groups in the region, SEARCH from Spruce Pine and COAH from Asheville. These groups are public advocates in regard to the sale of Mission to HCA which is under review by the NC Attorney General. We are the "other voice," so to speak.

These folks, myself included, met with former Missouri Governor Jay Nixon last week in Asheville. Nixon has extensive experience in working with HCA and Blue Cross as the former governor and also as a two-term attorney general. He had a public listening session in Asheville before meeting with the AG in Raleigh.

Governor Nixon told us that if done right this sale to HCA, as well as the creation of the Dogwood Health Trust, could



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

have tremendous benefits for the people of Western Carolina. We all agreed, but critical parts of the process need to have an open and thorough review.

This coalition identified several concerns we wanted Governor Nixon to present to the AG. Let me summarize the key points.

Instead of Mission/HCA's commitment to keep the small hospitals open for five years and emergency rooms open for 10, our position is to keep both the hospitals and emergency rooms open for 10 years.

Also, our group wants the AG to support the position that no local hospital operating board can vote to suspend service or close facilities prior to that 10-year period. We also want a buy back provision if HCA were to close a local hospital. The coalition also believes the 15 million dollar donations to the local hospital foundations should be free of any undue conditions or timeframes by Mission.

In regard to the creation of the Dogwood Health Trust, several concerns were identified.

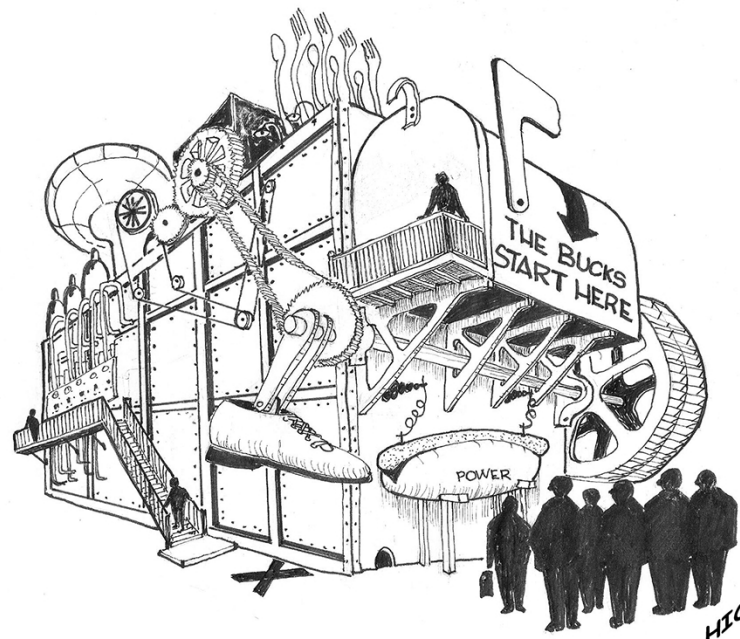
First, the board of directors needs to be a broad and diverse representation of the population covering the foundations' 18-county service area. The current 9-member Dogwood board has a disproportionate number of former Mission representatives from mainly in the Buncombe County area. Under NC general statutes, Mission has to transfer profits from the sale to other non-profit entities that are not connected whatsoever to forthcoming for-profit HCA/Mission system.

We also want the AG to require an oversight system that would monitor the conversion process and the creation of the health foundation for five years. In addition, we believe the new Dogwood Health Trust should be required to operate under public meetings and open records requirements that government entities follow. An open policy will build public trust in Dogwood's yearly grant awarding process to other nonprofit organizations.

I also had the opportunity to meet on Thursday with Chuck Hall, the CEO of HCA's National Group. The Chair of the

•See MAYOR page 12

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Senators, the good news is parts and assembly came from all 435 congressional districts and all the \$456 billion borrowed from China."

• LETTERS •

Ambulance response time is unacceptable

Dear Editor,

I just read your open letter to the community in the Oct. 25 edition. I am so sorry you and anyone else has had to go through that. I was totally unaware that an ambulance would not be immediately available if needed. Like you said ... this is not acceptable. I hope you have recovered from your "little" surgery (which I don't consider little anytime you are put under.)

Mary Adair Trumbly
Highlands

•See LETTERS page 8

• WEATHER •

	Friday 11/2		Saturday 11/3		Sunday 11/4	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	58 F	37 F	52 F	32 F	53 F	38 F
RealFeel	59 F	50 F	55 F	34 F	58 F	34 F
Winds	4 g 6	5 g 9	5 g 8	3 g 5	4 g 6	3 g 4
T-Storms	40%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Rainfall	0.39	0	0	0	0	0.05
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB New construction with panoramic views of the 9th fairway & green surrounding both sides of the cottage and just steps away from the croquet court. Vaulted ceilings, a soaring stone fireplace, and reclaimed wood beams & railings. The kitchen features quartz counters, a dual fuel Wolf range, Sub Zero refrigerator, Bosch dishwasher, and a large island. Wrap around porch with open & covered areas and two fireplaces. Two private guest suites each with its own bath with quartz counters, tiled showers & heated floors. Large master with "his & her" baths with heated floors & quartz counters. His bath has a large steam shower while hers provides a wonderful soaking tub. Too much to list here!

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HIGHGATE This development has maintained a low impact on the environment with low density, and wildlife such as deer, turkey, and rabbits abound. There is no shortage of beautiful spaces to enjoy, including large screened outdoor porches with a wood-burning fireplace. The large master with vaulted ceiling boasts a private screened porch, great bath, and walk-in closet. Two guest suites are nothing short of perfect, including a bunk area in one. There is a large office as well as a fenced dog yard and beautiful landscaping.

MLS# 88466 | Offered for \$1,325,000



HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN From the covered porch with its wood-burning fireplace, you can admire the beautiful views of Whiteside Mountain and the cascading falls at Highlands Falls Country Club. The spacious, light-filled great room boasts a beamed cathedral ceiling and the living room has a large stone fireplace. A formal dining area and outdoor living space makes this the perfect home for entertaining. The kitchen features beautiful English cabinetry and granite counters with a large pantry. A spacious master suite on the main has his/her walk-in closets, dual cedar closets, as well as an area for a nursery or office.

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...LETTERS continued from page 2

Nix all six amendments

Dear Editor,

Early voting is on in NC. Please vote now or on November 6 and when you do I urge you to vote against all the proposed constitutional amendments. Here is my assessment of the amendments.

Amendments:

1. Protecting the right to hunt and fish - not needed, there are no threats to these rights.
2. Better protections for victims of crime - not needed, as there are statutes in place that already protect and favor crime victims.
3. Lowering the cap on the state income tax from 10% to 7%.

The current state income tax rate is below this, so it would not lower the rate now, and it would restrict the legislature from raising taxes if in the future there were a budget shortfall. Since 2012 the legislature has shifted taxes from businesses and upper income residents towards middle and lower income residents. This would be a further move in this direction.

4. Requiring photo id for voting - there is no demonstrated need (no evidence of voter fraud to be prevented) and in the past the legislature has sought to require forms of id that have made it difficult for minorities, poor people and the elderly to comply. Like all

voter suppression tactics, this one seems reasonable on its face, but the problem comes in the implementation which restricts voters.

5. Changing the way judicial vacancies are filled - this would increase the control of the legislature in judicial appointments vs the historical practice of the governor controlling interim judicial appointments.

6. Changing the composition of the Board of Ethics and Elections - this would make this board ineffective, again shifting power to the legislature relative to judicial appointments.

**Al Brady
Highlands**

Something must be done about ambulance service

Dear Editor,

First, I must say how I've enjoyed keeping up with Highlands through your publication on-line. I read it faithfully each week. Which brings me to your Open Letter in the Oct. 25 edition.

I sure hope you are recovering smoothly from surgery. It is totally unacceptable that you had to wait

so long for transport to Franklin ... you should have been allowed to have Jim drive you down ... apparently it didn't help that you finally rode down in an ambulance since your appendicitis ruptured anyway. This does give one pause with regard to safety and reaction time for healthcare.

Last March I had to call an

ambulance for Leon at 2 a.m. because he couldn't breathe suddenly...pneumonia and congestive heart failure...I sure could not have waited for an ambulance if I'd been in Highlands. Scary. You are right...something must be done soon.

**Susan & Leon Hananel
Georgetown, TX**

Why we are voting against all six amendments

Dear Editor,

We would like to share why we will be voting against all of the six amendments. We quote the State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement for the titles to each proposed amendment.

1. "Right to hunt and fish:" The people currently have the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife. But if this amendment passes, it could deny private property owners' rights to forbid hunting on their land, among other unintended consequences.

2. "Changes to current victims' rights:" This is a California billionaire's campaign that would delay justice and cost tens of millions of our tax dollars per year to implement. If there are changes needed in current legal protections, a more appropriate way is to enact laws, not constitutional

amendments.

3. "Cap maximum state income tax at 7%:" This is a gift to the rich. If this passes, in some future emergency the only way to raise revenue to meet the emergency will be to tax working men and women through increased property and sales taxes.

4. "Require photographic identification to vote:" A thinly veiled bypass to allow the legislature to enact whatever voting eligibility laws it desires. Our legislature has an ongoing, proven track record of passing unconstitutional voter suppression laws -- this amendment could not only deny many students, disabled, veteran, and elderly voters the right to continue voting but also cost all taxpayers tens of millions of dollars.

5. "Legislature to control

judicial appointments:" Why would we turn over one branch of the government (the judicial) to another (the legislature)? That is what this amendment would do, while bringing us one step closer to ending voters' rights to elect judges.

6. "Party leaders in legislature to control ethics and elections board appointments; eliminate nonpartisan representation on board:" North Carolina already has a nine-member, bi-partisan state elections board. This amendment would reduce it to eight members (four from each party) and thereby create gridlock, while allowing legislators to change the constitution with impunity. A prior version of this law was declared unconstitutional by North Carolina's

•See LETTERS page 9



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...LETTERS continued from page 8

Supreme Court.

In summary, these are the reasons why we are voting AGAINST all six amendments: either "it's not broke, so don't fix it" (the hunting/fishing amendment), "it'll make things worse while not fixing what's wrong" (the victim's rights amendment), or "it's destroying our balanced government" (3rd ammendment.)

We'd rather see government work more efficiently and not waste our tax dollars.

Lynn and Carol Hogue
Bryson City

Sounds like a surgical unit is needed at H-C Hospital

Dear Editor,

After reading your Open Letter in the Oct. 25 edition, I am glad you are OK; it was a harrowing ordeal, I am sure.

I don't understand why the doctors didn't take it out right there? You were in danger, those operations are done on subs and in MASH battlefield theaters all the time. I am sure those local doctors know how to do it, and they can take a quick refresher on their iPad if need be.

I suspect it has to do with politics too.

Sounds like you all need a helicopter fleet to service all of western NC. Thought they used one lately when the person got a snake bite hiking.

Our rural hospitals are partnered with bigger hospitals in St. Louis, the choppers folks in 24/7 to the roof tops of the big complex we have. I don't understand why that is not done in NC.

Disappointing that donations don't make it where they are donated for. But once again politics comes to play.

Bob Heider

Planters on Main Street

Dear Editor,

Spending \$40,000 on aesthetics versus fixing a problem should be an easy decision to make. Aesthetics will not improve anything except maybe what is appealing to someone's eyes. To my eyes Main Street looks just fine. I am proud to show off Main Street to visitors just the way it is. I wonder who the people are who have suggested to Commissioner Pierson that something needs to be done to improve the overall look of Main Street. Do they have some expertise or experience in designing a downtown area or are

they just somebody with an idea of how to waste taxpayers money? Just how many comments have been received and have those commenters offered funding? Why do we need to breakup the line-of-sight? I like a view of the whole

• See LETTERS page 10

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...LETTERS continued from page 9

downtown area.

The last time we put planters on Main Street we were told that no parking spaces would be lost, but nobody mentioned the problem caused when extended cab pickups or long SUV's park in the shortened parking spaces where the planters were placed. Now these types of vehicles stick

out into the travel lane and make passing hazardous. They also block the view of drivers backing out of the next parking space up the street. I do not understand how we could put planters in the middle of the street and not shorten the adjacent parking spaces.

It was said that the trees would be slightly mature trees. What happens when

these slightly mature trees grow and mature? What will keep tree sap/droppings or limbs from falling and damaging cars?

Mr. Mills pointed out at the Board Meeting that people are going to hit any planters that are put in the middle of the street. That is not a maybe event, it is a guaranteed event. That means more money down the drain. Funding for repairs to cracked granite or concrete would necessitate an ongoing budget item.

If the town budget has \$40,000 available to spend, wouldn't it be better to spend that money on a remedy to the bear problem or funding infrastructure repairs or preventive maintenance.

I agree with the comment of Commissioner Calloway, "Planting these trees is a mistake." Mr. Mills called it ludicrous. I agree with that too.

**Morris Williams
Highlands**

A reliable ambulance service is needed

Dear Editor,

So sorry for your difficulties and anxieties after reading your Open Letter in the Oct. 25 edition.

I have spent many anxious moments, days and weeks at hospitals both with Gwynne and now Kaye. Grateful however that Kaye's health is for the most part stable.

I do identify with what you wrote, and you wrote it well. I think your point is well taken. I hope others agree and that we can have a reliable and dependable ambulance service.

**Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands**



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Co-existing with bears is possible but it will take work

Dear Editor,

I want to thank Mayor Taylor for organizing a forum on bears for his Oct. 26th Coffee With the Mayor at the library. It came at a good time, as numerous people have complained about bears walking around downtown upending trashcans, bears breaking into homes and cars, and bears wandering around neighborhoods, creating fear in people.

In conversations with people one thing repeatedly comes up—the problem is really bad and the town has got to do something about it. Many of us were encouraged to hear Mayor Taylor voice not just concerns, but possible solutions.

Most people understand where the problem lies—it is in people. Bears can only do what bears do, but humans have the capacity to change their behavior and turn this situation around.

We do not need to reinvent the wheel here. Many communities have dealt with the very same issues. We can study their successes and their failures and devise a plan that works for our town. But we cannot do it half way, for that is bound to fail.

It is important that the community be a part of the process. So if you care, get informed. There is abundant information at www.bearsmart.com.

Then voice your concerns to council members or at town board meetings.

One thing is certain, and that is whatever the town decides to do, some people will be unhappy about it. But I urge all of you to get outside your little bubble and think about what is best for the larger community. You may not have a problem at your house, but your neighbor might. You may not want to spend money for it, but it may be necessary for the plan to succeed. It is important that the entire community is on board, because just part of the community doing the right thing means the whole community suffers.

We CAN co-exist with bears. Eliminating human-bear conflicts will take work and commitment, but it is worth it, for us and for the bears.

**Cynthia Strain, Chairwoman
B.E.A.R. Task Force**

• See LETTERS page 11



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...LETTERS continued from page 10

Plauche is retiring; closing practice

Dear Editor,

On Dec. 13, after more than 50 years in the practice of orthopedics, I will retire from the medical staff of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Living and working in the communities of Cashiers and Highlands these past 20 years have truly been gifts to me, my wife Virginia and my family.

My association with such dedicated support staff, volunteers, technicians, therapists, nurses and physicians at our hospital prompts me to feel that every physician in the twilight of his or her career, should be so fortunate as to have such an opportunity.

It is my firm conviction that Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is the most vital and important entity on our plateau, not

only for our health care, but also for property values and the economy in general.

Consequently, it is not only imperative, but also incumbent upon each of us, that we remain vigilant and actively involved on the vital issues of supporting and keeping our hospital alive and well and HERE.

During the past 20 years, it has been my distinct privilege to participate in the health care of each of you, my patients, and I humbly thank you for your trust and confidence and the opportunity to practice the honored profession of medicine. For I believe that, in the service of God, the highest calling of man is the relief of suffering of his fellow man.

Herbert K. Plauche, M.D.
F.A.A.O.S.
Cashiers



trash can on Main Street in front of The Falls on Main.

Photo by Cynthia Strain







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- **Thai Red Curry Spice Blend**

Warm and savory seasonings Thai Red Curry Spice Blend and Tandoori Roasting Rub accent this creamy slow-cooker dish to create a convenient and easy family favorite!

Ingredients from The Spice & Tea Exchange®

- 2 tsp Vik's Garlic Fix! Spice Blend**
- 2 TBS Thai Red Curry Spice Blend**
- 1 TBS Tandoori Roasting Rub**
- 15 Green Cardamom Pods**

Ingredients from the Grocer

- 1 medium onion, diced**
- 1 ½ - 2 lbs chicken breast, cubed**
- 1 can Coconut Milk**
- 13.5 oz Plain Greek Yogurt**
- 8 oz Tomato Paste**
- Cilantro for garnishing**

Preparation

ADD diced onion, chicken, and olive oil to a medium pan. Sprinkle with Vik's Garlic Fix! Spice Blend, Thai Red Curry Spice Blend, and Tandoori Roasting Rub. Toss to coat well.

SAUTE on medium heat until just browned. Remove from heat and add to slow cooker.

ADD coconut milk, Greek yogurt, and tomato paste to the slow cooker. Stir to coat chicken with mixture, then add 15 green cardamom pods.

COVER and cook on low 4-6 hours.

SERVE atop grain of choice, serve with a side of naan bread, or shred to create pulled-chicken sandwiches and serve on buns! if desired. However, when doing this, you may need to turn the burner down to medium and add 10-20 mins to the time allotted for browning the brat.

OPEN 7 DAYS

Mon-Thurs:

10:30a to 5:30p

Fri-Sat:

10a to 6p & Sun: 11a-5:30p

...MAYOR continued from page 2

Macon County Commission, Jim Tate, was also at the meeting. Both Chairman Tate and I felt it was a good and positive exchange of information. Mr. Hall assured us that HCA was committed to keeping the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Angel Medical Center open and moving forward as a part of the larger Western Carolina HCA network. I told Mr. Hall that I hoped that 10 years from now folks will look back at my concerns and say, "why was that old mayor so worried about the hospital, look how great it is doing now."

Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

2018 Bel Canto Concert Raises \$62,000 for Highlands' Music Programs

The 26th Annual Bel Canto Recital that was held at the Highlands Performing Arts Center in September was an extraordinary concert of four internationally acclaimed singers: Soprano Elizabeth Caballero, Mezzo Soprano Elizabeth Pojanowski, Tenor Robert McPherson and Baritone Keith Harris. Attendees were treated to a beautiful and fun program from opera to Broadway show tunes. Returning Artistic Director, Stella Zambalis and Pianist Stephen Dubberly, continued their superior work on behalf of this annual concert.

Thanks to the generosity of this year's benefactors, Bel Canto Recital raised \$62,000 for local music programs and education in Highlands. Bel Canto supports all the music education programs in Highlands and the Bascom Permanent Collection. Stell Huie, Bel Canto Steering Committee Chairman, recently announced the dis-

tribution of funds to the following beneficiaries:

- The Bascom: \$30,000
- Highlands School: \$15,000
- Highlands Community Child Development Center: \$10,000
- The Gordon Center for Children: \$6,000
- Presbyterian Church After-

School Program: \$1,000

For more information about the Bel Canto Recital or to get on the mailing list for the 2019 concert, please call 828-787-1463 or send an e-mail to highlands-belcanto@gmail.com, or write to Bel Canto Recital, P.O. Box 2392, Highlands, NC 28741.



Photo by Marty Boone

Above: at this year's Bel Canto performance, Stephen Dubberly (at piano) and Soprano Elizabeth Caballero.

Below: Bel Canto Recipients from left: Marcia Franklin - Highlands School, Delaine Mehder - The Gordon Center, Stell Huie - Bel Canto Chairman, Teresa Osborn - The Bascom, Kay Holland-McKee - Presbyterian Church After School Program



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• ALL ABOUT BOOKS •

Mystery novels set in California

Though I'm partial to mystery series set in England, I also follow several set in the US. It's hard to beat my long-time favorite, Robert Parker's Spenser and Jesse Stone mysteries set in the Boston area, but two LA series also rank high on my list. Published in 1992, Michael Connelly's "The Black Echo" introduces Hieronymus Bosch, an LAPD cop, named for a Renaissance painter by that name. Who does that to a child? Fortunately, he goes by Harry. Bosch is Connelly's protagonist in 20 novels with the 21st coming in October this year.

In the first book, we learn Bosch was a tunnel rat in the Vietnam war. Both the war and the early death of his mother were defining experiences for Harry. In 20 novels, Connelly explores Harry's complex personality and what drives him. I'm eagerly awaiting the next book and have binge-watched each season of the Amazon original series "Bosch" starring Titus Welliver. Fair warning, both the books and the Amazon series are dark. If Harry ever smiles, it's a fleeting expression.

Connelly also wrote five novels with defense attorney Mickey Haller as the lead character. "The Lincoln Lawyer" was the first and was made into a movie starring Matthew McConaughey. Bosch is a darker character than Mickey, but both series are enjoyable.

Robert Crais's series, also set in LA, starts out a bit quirkier, a bit more humorous than Connelly's. That's more a product of his main character Elvis Cole's quick wit than it is of the plots. Elvis is closer in personality to Parker's Spenser, witty but with a code of honor that drives him to do the right thing, no matter the personal cost. In the first book, readers discover that Elvis has a Felix the Cat clock in his office, the one with the tail that wags. I see that clock as emblematic of his personality.



Kathy Manos Penn

Spenser has Hawk, and Elvis has Joe Pike. Starting in 1987 with "The Monkey's Raincoat," Crais has published 17 Elvis Cole/Joe Pike mysteries, and we learn more about the personalities and histories of the two as the series progresses. From time to time, Joe Pike takes the lead, and Elvis has his back instead of vice-versa.

When I have the opportunity, I like to start with the first book in a series. In doing so, I've been able to notice the Elvis Cole stories grow in complexity and seriousness. That makes this recommendation from Robert Crais intriguing:

"I always suggest [readers] begin with 'L.A. Requiem, or even one of the stand-alones like 'Demolition Angel' or 'The Two Minute Rule.' It isn't that I feel the earlier books aren't as 'good' as my more recent efforts—I am intensely proud of those early novels—but my newer books are richer, broader in scope, and way more complex in their structure, so I believe them to be more representative of the work I am doing today."

If I were reading this today without having read any of the Crais novels, I know I'd still follow my rule of thumb and start at the beginning. I often discover an author new to me by picking up a book at a library sale and starting in the midst of a series. When I enjoy the book, though, I set out to find the early ones and read them in order. Whatever your preference, if you enjoy crime novels and serious mysteries, Connelly and Crais are good authors to try.

• *Kathy is a Georgia resident. Find her books "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday" and "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is also available at Highlands Mountain Pans. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.*

To see which candidates are running in the Nov. 6 election, as well as the six NC Constitutional amendments on the ballot, see the sample ballot on pages 26 and 27.



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Early Voting continues in Highlands at the Civic Center/Rec Park and in Franklin at the courthouse until 1 p.m., Nov. 3.

Living in bear country during 'bear season'

**Cynthia Strain, Chairwoman
B.E.A.R. Task Force**

Bear hunting season is upon us. Hunters with guns and howling dogs might end up on your property. What is the law?

While it may not be ethical, it is perfectly legal for anyone, including a hunter, to be on your property if it is not properly posted.

The NC Landowner Protection Act provides two ways for landholders to post their lands to prevent hunters, trappers and anglers from entering their property:

- Place signs on the property boundaries at a distance of 200 yards apart or closer.

- Purple paint on trees or posts around areas intended to prohibit trespass. The paint line needs to be at least 8" long and the bottom of the line between 3' and 5' from the base of the tree or post. The paint marks must be placed 100 yards apart or closer.

Sportsmen need written permission, dated within the past 12 months, signed by the land owner or lessee, to hunt, fish, or

trap on lands posted with signs or purple paint. NC Wildlife officers will enforce the Landowner Protection Act.

The western NC bear season for this year is Oct. 15 – Nov. 17, 2018 and Dec. 10 – Jan. 1, 2019.

Here are some other laws related to bear hunting in N.C.:

- It is unlawful to take a cub less than 75 pounds or a female bear with cubs.

- Bear hunting is prohibited in bear sanctuaries (eg. Panthertown) and within the city limits of Highlands.

- Feeding bears processed food is illegal. Placing any kind of bait for bears is prohibited on game lands.

- It is illegal to shoot a bear while it is eating unprocessed food.

- The season limit is one bear.

- It is unlawful to remove or destroy the collar from a hunting dog.

- N.C. law protects hunters from liability in the case of injuries or damage caused by their hunting dogs.

For more information go to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission website.


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Bear wandering through K-H Founders Park.

— Photo by Brian O'Shea

• WORD MATTER •

Do Your Job and VOTE!

There's an election next week. Happens every couple of years. Our Congressman wants another term, as does our state Senator, state Representative, a couple of county commissioners, a few judges, the sheriff, and a couple of others. There are also six modifications some folks want to make to the state constitution.



Bud Katz

Don't fret; I'm not going to tell you who to vote for. You likely wouldn't listen to me even if I did. But no, that's not my job. It's yours.

But I am going to encourage you to vote. Because, if you don't, you're shunning the single, most important responsibility of citizenship with which you have been blessed. Frankly, if you don't vote you probably should be ashamed of yourself. Sorry, but that's how I see it.

In the last election, in 2016, about one third of registered voters, and just under half of all eligible voters (meaning registered voters plus those who are eligible but haven't even registered), stayed silent. In a representative republic, where every citizen of age can and should participate, to have just over half actually invest in the only thing your nation, state, city, or county asks of you, is, not to put too fine a point on it, pathetic.

In many, if not most of the nations in the world, the right to vote isn't really even on the table. Here, it's not only on the table, it actually matters.

It's true that it's getting harder to be an informed voter in America. There's a lot of lying going on. There's a whole lot of misdirection going on. There's almost too much information available, from both credible and, literally, incredible sources. But that shouldn't matter. Even if you choose to vote straight party, which I won't ever encourage anyone to do, it's important to do your job, know the candidates and the issues, and play your part.

Too many people actually say and believe that their vote doesn't matter. That's nonsense! In 2000, in Florida, one vote per precinct could have changed the outcome of the entire presidential election. One vote per precinct! Americans might not have fought in two costly and unnecessary wars. Thousands might not have

died for absolutely no affirmative outcomes. Untold treasure might not have been wasted. One vote per precinct!

So, yeah, your vote matters!

It's unfortunate to hear people who don't take the time to cast a ballot complain about outcomes. When I voted this year at the Highlands Rec Center, the entire exercise took me

less than 10 minutes.

Isn't your voice worth 10 minutes of your time?

I don't mean to whine but it simply doesn't make sense to me that there are people who enjoy all the blessings associated with being American, are eligible, and in some cases have even registered but can't manage to participate in an election. These candidates, on all levels of government, are responsible for making decisions, voting for or against bills, putting in place or eliminating regulations that affect every single one of us. You can vote absentee, you can vote early, or you can vote on Election Day. What excuse or reason is there for choosing not to participate?

In North Carolina, those of us who are eligible and registered, regardless of whether we are affiliated with any political party, are able to participate in both primary and general elections. We can play a role in determining the names that will be on the ballot and we have a role in determining which names will be entrusted with elected office. That means, to a point, we have influence over who gets to decide everything from the parameters of a local sign ordinance to whether or not, as a nation, we go to war.

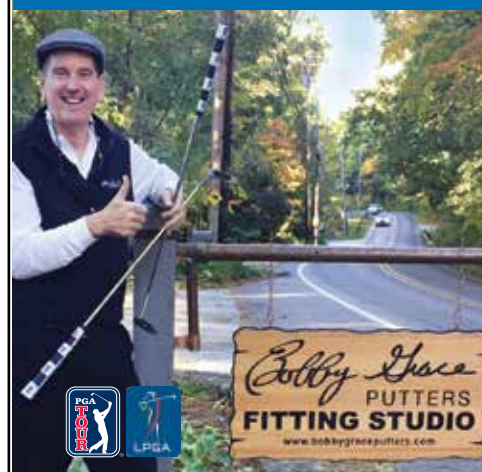
Personally, I wish every elected official would push for wider voter registration instead of looking for ways to purge voter roles. I wish every eligible voter registered to vote and then voted every single time he or she had the opportunity, including primaries, runoffs and general elections. I wish every candidate had to address the wants, needs, hopes, dreams, and expectations of every eligible, registered voter. I think the republic would be more representative and I believe those we elect would be more responsive.

There's an election next week. It happens every couple of years. Do yourself,

your friends and neighbors, Macon County, the state of North Carolina and the United States of America a favor, and vote.

• Bud Katz is a full-time resident of Highlands and a member of the Highlands Writers Group.

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Early Voting continues in Highlands at the Civic Center/Rec Park and in Franklin at the courthouse until 1 p.m., Nov. 3.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Through October

• The Bookworm is having a 1/2 price sale. Located at the Falls on Main, next door to the Highland Hiker, open Monday-Saturday 10a – 4p.

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Mtg at 7p.

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness 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. Tori Schmitt at 5:30-6:30 at the Rec Park.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC 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.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:30. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am.

• 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 from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

• The Highlands Writers Group meets to read, workshop, or to just share information on writing, every Tuesday, 3pm-5pm, in the downstairs board room at The Bascom, 323 Franklin Road, Highlands. For more information, call 828-526-3190.

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 to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. For more information please call 828-349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:15. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

Wed. - Sat.

• At Highlands Inn on Main Street held in the dining room, Afternoon Tea 2-4:30pm. Royal Tea: \$45; Classic Tea: \$35. Call 828-526-9380 for more information.

Wednesdays

• The Glenville Historical Society Museum is open every Wednesday through Saturday 11am to 3pm until October 13 at 4735 Highway 107 in Glenville next to Signal Ridge Marina. Go to www.glenvilleareahistoricalociety.com

First 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 at Rec Park.

Thurs. - Sat.

• Highlands Historical Village is open 11a to 3p through October.

Thursdays

• Live music in OEI's The Wine Garden on Main Street. Zorki from 7-9 p.m.

• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 a.m. 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 – 8:15pm 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 at the Hudson Library at 5p. For info call 770-823-0601

Fourth Thursday

• At the Hudson Library, Kids Zone LEGO Club. Intended primarily for kids in grades 1-5, LEGO Club allows creativity and STEM skills to develop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

Saturdays

• 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.

Sundays

• Live Music in OEI's Hummingbird Lounge 8 p.m. to close with Paul Jones.

Nov 1 – Dec 30

• At The Bascom, interweaving Southern Baskets. The art of basketry, including examples of Native American works and fine art baskets.

Fri., Nov. 2

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Honor Our Military Dance," Friday night, at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Mr Ken Perkins from Pelzer, SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call: 828-787-2324, 828-332-0001, 706-746-5426.

Sat., Nov. 3

• At PAC, Julie by August Strindberg, at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite Series featuring the National Theatre (London.) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Mon. Nov. 5

• The Jackson County NC NAACP invites you to attend a candlelight vigil in Sylva, NC, on Monday, November 5th @ 6:30 pm. This is to remember the victims of racial political and religious violence in the United States in the last few weeks as well as to protest the sending of bombs and threats of biological toxins to public officials of various parties. We will gather at the Courthouse Fountain on Main Street, below Jackson County Public Library. This is a nonpartisan, nondenominational event. Please refrain from bringing signs with sticks on them. Join us to stand against racial, religious and political violence of all kinds.

Nov. 6, 8, 13, 15

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Highlands Playhouse

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

At The Bascom. Resident Artist Series with Frank Vickery....Fire, Fire, Fire. \$125 for the session

Wed. Nov. 7 and 14

• At The Bascom. Love is the Sound of a Potter's Wheel. 10 am – Noon and 3:15 – 5 pm. Ages: 8 and up

Sat., Nov. 10

• At PAC, Muhly's Marnie, Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Sat., Nov. 17

• At PAC, King Lear by Shakespeare at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite Series featuring the National Theatre (London.) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047.

Fri.-Sat., Nov. 23 - 24

• At The Bascom. Gingerbread House Workshop 10a-12 and 1-3p. All Ages. Gingerbread designers will find a world of all the sweets and confections needed to decorate imaginative gingerbread houses. Participants may enter their creations in a contest to be judged by popular vote. The winner will receive a Bascom gift certificate! \$50/house (The whole family can work on one house). Please note that due to changes in our suppliers product line, the gingerbread houses are smaller for 2018. This leaves more room for creative landscaping!

Sat., Nov. 24

• Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street beginning at 6 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 1

• Annual Olde Mountain Christmas Parade on Main Street beginning at 11 a.m.

• At PAC, Mozart's The Magic Flute at 2pm. Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. (After the Highlands Christmas Parade) Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047.

• Chefs in the House at The Farm at Old Edwards. Parade night party with

Pitmaster Rodney Scott.

Sat., Dec. 8

• At PAC, The Madness of King George by Alan Bennett at 1 p.m. Live via Satellite Series featuring the National Theatre (London.) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047.

Sat., Dec. 15

• At PAC, Verdi's La Traviata Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

Sat., Jan. 5, 2019

• At PAC, Allelujah by Alan Bennett at 1 p.m. Live via Satellite Series featuring the National Theatre (London.) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

Sat., Jan. 12

• At PAC, Cilea's Adriana LeCouvreur, at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Sat., Jan. 19

• At PAC, Antony & Cleopatra by Shakespeare, at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

Sat., Jan. 26

• At PAC, The Tragedy of King Richard II by Shakespeare. at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Sat., Feb. 2

• At PAC, Bizet's Carmen, Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discus-

sion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street,

Sat., Feb. 29

• At PAC, I'm Not Running by David Hare. at 1 p.m. Live via Satellite Series featuring the National Theatre (London.) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Sat., March 2

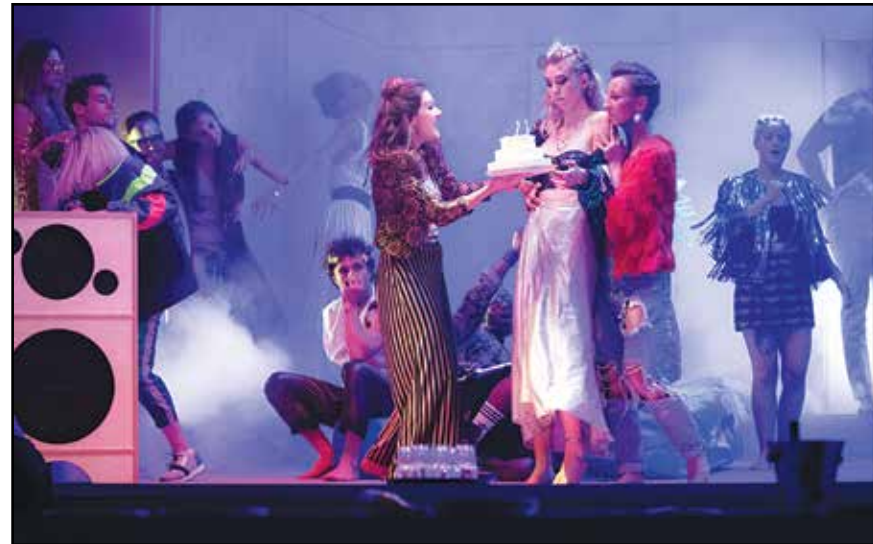
• At PAC, Donizetti's La Fille Du Régiment. Live via Satellite featuring the Met-

ropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Sat., March 30

• At PAC, Wagner's Die Walküre at 12 noon. Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

'Julie' Live via Satellite at PAC Saturday, Nov 3



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the National Theatre of London's production of Julie, Live via Satellite, on Saturday, November 3 at 1pm.

An adaptation of August Strindberg's classic play Miss Julie which was written in 1882.

This new version, written by Polly Stenham (That Face), remains shocking and fiercely relevant in its new setting of contemporary London. Wild and newly single, Julie throws herself a late night birthday party.

Meanwhile in the kitchen Jean and Kristina cleanup as the celebration heaves around them. Crossing this threshold, Julie initiates a power game with Jean – which rapidly descends into a savage fight for escape and ultimately survival.

Staring Vanessa Kirby, who recently won a BAFTA Award for best supporting actress for playing Princess Margaret in The Crown; also seen in Mission Impossible 6: Fallout as the White Widow, released July 2018.

This production contains strong language, scenes of a sexual nature and strobe lighting. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC.

...AMENDMENTS continued from 1

and media have tried to help the public learn more about the wide-ranging proposals. I hosted a discussion at my university because I believe we should have frequent debates over our constitution.

But I'm also a constitutional conservative; the burden of proof lies with those advocating change. I've heard arguments from different perspectives. I've read the legal texts and the relevant academic research. I see six reasons why those arguing to "Nix All Six" are right:

1) The amendments are solutions in search of problems. There is no movement to restrict hunting and fishing, but the amendment implies that such a specter is haunting us. The victims' rights amendment includes minimal substantive changes to the rights already in Article 1 Section 37 of the constitution. The proposal for photo

voter identification to fight "voter fraud" is the most egregious. All available evidence shows that in-person voter fraud is astonishingly rare, while the "solution" risks preventing hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians from exercising their rights. Voter ID is like chemotherapy for a cold.

2) The deliberation process falls short of the high standard for constitutional debates. Constitutional changes correctly face a higher standard of scrutiny. Supporters have met the standard on the formal side, but fall well short on more fundamental norms. In some cases legislators had only hours to consider constitutional amendments, because a rare General Assembly supermajority could prevent debate. That supermajority, however, exists only because the majority party has abused the redistricting process to ensure party representation out of proportion

to their vote share. This gerrymandered supermajority taints the legitimacy of the proposed amendments.

3) Proponents have provided precious little information. Constitutional amendments should be moments of democratic engagement. Our elected officials should make the case for amending the constitution at public forums streamed into our laptops and living rooms. As a voter, I've done my work to find and share information. Why aren't the elected officials pushing these changes doing the same? Even their wording on the proposals is misleading. The proposed income tax cap does not "lower the income tax rate" to 7 percent, as ballots will read. The personal income tax rate in North Carolina is already 5.499%. And if one party unanimously opposes the creation of a "bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections Enforcement," it is not bipartisan.

4) Proponents are asking us to vote without knowing how the amendments will be implemented. Five of the amendments require the General Assembly pass implementing language. What forms of voter identification will be acceptable? How many seats on the judicial vacancies commissions will each branch of government be given? We don't know. Underscoring the importance of implementation, research shows that tax caps just change which taxes are levied, not how much. Why not lay out those details in the amendment or provide implementing language in advance? "Vote first, know later" hampers government accountability.

5) These amendments will make North Carolina harder to govern. Contrary to supporters' message, an even number on the board of elections is just as likely to promote gridlock as to promote bipartisanship. Gridlock means boards cannot effectively

organize elections. In Wake County, one person's refusal to agree could mean that there is a single early voting site for 734,774 eligible voters. Opponents of the victims' rights amendment point out that the small procedural changes will be extremely costly and further stall a justice system that is already too slow. In judicial appointments, the chief justice would play a key role. If there is a vacancy in the office of chief justice, as has happened with four out of the last five, there is no provision to fill that vacancy if the General Assembly is not in session. There is also no provision to fill a vacancy in any judgeship during the entire final year of that judge's term.

6) This is mostly about the legislature taking power from the governor. This isn't inherently bad, but the governor enjoys the legitimacy of a statewide vote. Meanwhile, legislative power in recent years has accumulated in the hands of the majority leaders in the House and Senate. These proposals mean taking power from a statewide elected office and giving it to two people who are elected by a few thousand voters — voters who were practically hand-selected by those same officials in gerrymandered districts.

I can't imagine that anyone believes the process behind these six proposals sets a positive model for the future. Instead of providing full information, legislative leaders are relying on voters to be ill-informed and vote based on partial, misleading ballot descriptions. It doesn't meet the constitutional standard.

• *Note: This piece by Mark Nance first ran in Raleigh's News & Observer on Oct. 25. To read more from The News & Observer, see newsobserver.com.*

To see which candidates are running in the Nov. 6 election, as well as the six NC Constitutional amendments on the ballot that are referenced above, see the sample ballot on pages 26 and 27.

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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

Proper Financial Planning Critical for Women



Michael P Henderson, CFP®
Certified Financial Planner™

A key goal of investing for retirement is making sure you save enough to make your money last throughout your lifetime. On this score, women may need to save more than men. The current life expectancy of a female at birth is roughly 81.3 years, compared with 76.5 years for a male.¹ Although five years may not appear significant, many people in this age group incur expenses for health care and other items while living on Social Security and personal as-

sets. Keep in mind that life expectancy statistics are averages, and many people live much longer. It is not unusual for an individual's retirement to last 20 or 30 years or more. There is also the issue of the length of a person's career and how much time an individual has to build retirement assets. Many women take time off for caregiving responsibilities, and during these years, they may not be adding to their retirement portfolio.

In addition, time off from work may affect Social Security benefits because people who are not working do not earn credits that are used to determine retirement benefits. Also, parents, children, and other loved ones often have financial needs, and both women and men may provide help for family members, which may divert funds from retirement savings.

Estimating How Much You'll Need

Of course, every woman's life is unique, and many women capitalize on the benefits available to them, including

participating in an employer-sponsored retirement plan or funding an individual retirement account, to build the assets needed for their later years. It's important to not underestimate how much you may need or the importance of ongoing contributions to retirement accounts to build assets over time. Although there are no guarantees, the longer you stay invested, the more likely that your contributions may benefit from compounding, when investment gains are reinvested and potentially earn even more over time.

Your financial advisor can help you calculate how much you are likely to need for your later years. Be sure to consider how you will pay for health care expenses not covered by Medicare or other medical insurance. When considering sources of retirement income, log on to www.ssa.gov to review your estimated retirement benefit from Social Security. If you find that your retirement assets are coming up short, delaying retirement or saving more while you continue to work may be helpful strategies.

• *Investment advice and financial planning services offered through Collaborative-WEALTH® an SEC Registered Investment Advisor;*

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The opinions expressed in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. All performance referenced is historical and is no guarantee of future results.

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Food and Nutrition team receives national safety recognition

The Food and Nutrition team at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital was recently awarded 3rd place in National Safety from Morrison Healthcare out of 700 other hospitals within the nation.

"I am beyond proud of our team here at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital," said Nicole Whitmire, Director of Food and Nutrition Services. "Our team members work so hard day in and day out caring for the nutritional needs of patients, residents, Meals on Wheels recipients and customers, ensuring production is complete and safety is followed. This award shows just that."

As with any work environment, accidents can occur. When they do, team leaders investigate the accident and educate the employees involved while also educating the team on how to prevent the accident from occurring again. Team members stay mindful of such events and have prevention techniques to monitor the safety for themselves and their fellow employees.

(Pictured: front row - Louis Cragg, Kitchen Supervisor; Shannon DeShane, Server; Sonia Barandarian, Cook; Nicole Cook, Registered Dietician; Kate Morrow, Dietetic Intern; second row - Ravit Steinberg, Caterer and Baker; Janet Singletary, Dietary Aide; Nicole Whitmire, Director; Kirtis Kresmer, Cook; Jon DeWitt, Cashier and Retail Services; Joel Porter, Cook. Not pictured: Yunaya Balding, Patient Services Supervisor; Bruce Sloan, Utility; Caleb Cannon, Utility; Bradley Votry, Cook; Linda Bennett, Server; Ashlee Brewer, Server and CA; and Jason Channell, RDO, Morrison Healthcare)



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Realtors and Voting

Everybody knows that Realtors sell, list, rent and manage real estate. And, I think most everybody knows you don't have to be Realtor to sell, list, rent or manage real estate.

The difference?

It's in the capital 'R.' A Realtor is a real estate agent/broker that is a member of the Realtor Association, the NAR; anyone else that holds a real estate license is just a real estate agent.

Each state has a Realtor Association. In North Carolina, the NCAR represents more than 42,000 real estate brokers.

According to the NC legislative policy statement: NC REALTORS® serves as the voice of real estate in North Carolina. We pledge our support in providing solutions to problems facing our state and our community.

To fulfill our goals we believe in the following Quality of Life Principles:

1. Protect Property Owners. The United States and North Carolina Constitutions recognize and protect the natural right to own property. REALTORS® hold steadfast that private property rights are a foundation upon which our nation was born and are central to a free market economy.

2. Promote Housing Affordability Essential to our system of values is homeownership, the cornerstone of the American Dream. We believe that every citizen has the right to safe, affordable housing, whether it is in an urban, suburban or rural setting.

3. Build Better Communities Sensibly. Communities flourish

when common sense guidelines are followed, ensuring a high quality of life at a reasonable cost. We encourage broad based taxation to support infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, etc.) that accommodates quality residential, commercial and industrial growth in an environmentally sensitive manner.

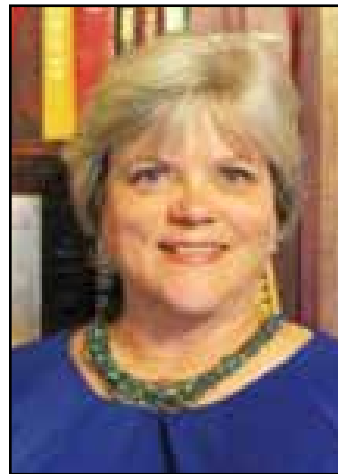
4. Ensure Economic Vitality A strong, healthy economy sustains the communities in which we live and work. It results from steady and strategic residential, commercial and industrial growth. Economic development spurs new opportunities, creates jobs, increases the tax base and invigorates communities.

5. Embrace Community Values- We believe that leading a happy, healthy and prosperous life begins at home. It is not only how we conduct ourselves, but also how we treat family, friends and neighbors. A positive home environment breeds respect and success in the workplace and in the communities in which we live.

Seeing as how NC Realtors are the voice of real estate doesn't mean that every person that's a Realtor has the same political opinion, and neither do they necessarily agree with the opinions voiced by the NCAR. That's one of the great things about this country, we are still given the right to have and voice our own opinion.

Realtors care what happens on Election Day because it affects their business, their client's lives as well as their own personal real estate holdings.

When you start talking about



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty
& Vacation Rentals
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taking property rights away, or taxation on real estate services, underground fuel tank storage, private well audits, point of sale energy audits, beach nourishment, residential rental registrations, limits on short-term rentals, eminent domain issues, etc., you're talking about issues that affect all of us.

I hope you plan to vote. This may be one of the largest turn outs in recent history for a mid-term election.

Do you know how "your" candidate feels about the full scope of property ownership?

There are usually important issues that will affect the way you do business and live your life. Look at their websites.

If they're incumbents, see how they've voted on prior items that concern you.

If we all spent more time educating ourselves rather than pointing fingers, the present state of our Union would be a much better place in which to live.

A very good book quoted it this way, "Love one Another." Thumper, a Disney film character, said it another way "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all." (So, he didn't know about double negatives, but

apparently the media and 99% of Americans don't either. They're doubly negative, too.)

Who you vote for is your business. Don't listen to what social media or even the news has to tell you about the candidates. If you want to have an informed vote, you must be an informed voter. You have a right to vote your choice, a right that most take for granted, but the important thing is to take the time to cast your ballot. If your candidate doesn't win? Support the office of the elected while making your voice heard in a civil manner.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are brokers/owners of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands. While they don't give political endorsements, they'll be glad to talk with you about property in the Highlands area. They can be reached at info@highlandscalling.com or 828-526-3717, and of course, highlandscalling.com

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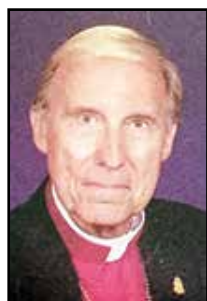
828-200-3050

bobhenritze@gmail.com

Early Voting continues in Highlands at the Civic Center/Rec Park and in Franklin at the courthouse until 1 p.m., Nov. 3. The polls are open on Election Day Nov. 6, 6:30a to 7:30p. VOTE!!!!

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Please hold my hand



Archbishop
John Erbeling

No one in our small Vermont town seemed to remember when it started. Did it start when they were high school sweethearts on their way home from school? Was it when he returned from serving his country in the war? Or was it when the children arrived a few years into their marriage and it gave them both a chance to talk and plan and dream of their future together? But no matter how or when it started, this dear sweet loving couple has taken their afternoon walk through town, hand-in-hand.

Their hair is now silver and their step is now slower and more guarded against a fall, but hand-in-hand they walk. Their animated conversation in the early years is now fewer words but no less important to the future they still have ahead of them, and the passion in their two hands grasping each other speaks volumes of the past and present of their lives.

Nothing seems to reach our souls like seeing a couple in love, celebrating their first or sixtieth anniversary. Those who work at keeping love alive, who have taken the words they said on their wedding day as a pledge, "for richer, for poorer, in sickness or in health, and love for all eternity," they have endured all. They have heard with not only ears but their hearts, St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, a reading that is most important at any wedding service. St. Paul writes about love and tells us, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude or self-serving. It is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs," and St. Paul tells us what this couple holding hands has learned: "Love always protects, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." Husbands and wives in a good marriage understand that love is a series of actions, not a fleeting feeling that someday will escape them.

A happy marriage takes two people both giving all of themselves. They will tell you it is not easy. They have chosen to forgive. They have decided to be patient time and time again, keeping no record of wrongs.

They have never lost sight of the vision of who they have become over the years together. This wonderful couple we see walk hand-in-hand has chosen to love, like a marathon runner choosing to stay in the race. They have long ago discovered that a true marriage was never intended to be a short dash, but traveled holding hands, hearts beating in unison along this path we call life, because love never fails.

Proverbs 3:5

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Johnson

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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John 3:16

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Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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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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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

...SECURITY continued from page 1



Highlands School staff identifies sophomore Jordan Carrier on the security system's video screen. — Photo by Brian O'Shea

eo screen allows school staff to monitor everyone who enters the main building.

"It increases the safety for all of the students and faculty," said Harrell. "Unfortunately, terrible things are happening in society and measures must be taken."

School Resource Officer Tim Broughton said having all the doors secured and the front door used as the main entry point, makes it much easier to monitor who comes and goes throughout the day.

"It allows us to see that someone is coming, who they're here to see, when they arrive and when they leave," said Broughton. "It's great keeping the kids safe, and it's easier to keep an eye on one point than several different points."

But a video entryway is not the last improvement in the

works regarding security at Highlands School. Jetter said discussions have been ongoing to install fences around the perimeter of the School's campus. Jetter said he walked the grounds of the school with Superintendent of Macon County Schools Dr. Chris Baldwin to form a strategy of covering the perimeter with fences, without preventing students from getting where they need to be.

"We have three different buildings that kids go in and out of all day," said Jetter. "I walked the property with the Superintendent to see if we could do more. We want to protect the perimeter without impeding the movement of students."

He added that the issue has been discussed by the district's leadership and the funding is in place, no firm dates have been set for the installation of fences.



The video intercom system at Highlands School's front entryway. All visitors must be buzzed through. — Photo by Brian O'Shea

...MEDAL continued from page 1

it, and they nailed it."

In addition to both Highlands teams medaling, Highlands High School earned the No Deductions Award and Best in Spirit Award. High School Captain senior Betty Garcia has been a Highlands cheerleader all four years and said with competitions being added to the program practices are much more "extreme," but the extra effort pays off.

"Being around those other girls in the competition was very intimidating," said Garcia. "But after we won a rush of emotion came over me. We were finally rewarded for all the hard work we put into it. I was ecstatic, there's no feeling like it."

Eighth-grader Ashlynn Wilson said it was a lot of work to get there, but taking second place was worth it.

"I am so excited," said Wilson. "Everyone has worked really hard for months on our stunts and jumps. I can't wait for the next competition."

Huneycutt said she was very impressed with both teams' performance in Candler.

"It feels amazing," she said. "We went into it knowing we were underdogs never having competed

before and have never been on a competition stage. I would have been happy if they both took home third place. I'm so proud of them."

Highlands will compete again next year in late January, but there's plenty of work to be done before then gearing up for basketball season. The routines, stunts, jumps and choreography are all the brainchild of Huneycutt. Both teams practice several days a week honing their skills.

Unofficial "Assistant Coach" Kindergarten teacher Margie Potts said Huneycutt has put in a tremendous amount of dedication to grow the cheerleading program in Highlands.

"The girls go to summer camps and they all work really hard," said Potts. "And she (Huneycutt) puts in so much of her time coming up with the routines and stunts. She really wants to expand and build the program here at Highlands School."

Huneycutt may be designing energy-charged routines and stunts, but it's the students who are doing the heavy lifting...and throwing...and jumping. Tenth-grader Zaia Rodriguez-Denardis said she joined cheerleading to sup-

port the school's teams and meet friends.

"The commitment is several days a week and it's important to go to practice," she said. "We all rely on each other to make the routines work. It's like a puzzle."

Sometimes things don't work out like they should in some of the more complex stunts as Rodriguez-Denardis remembers having her toes stepped on multiple times during practice.

"I had it done twice," she said. "It hurt so bad but the pain was worth finishing the cheer routine."

Sometimes a person has to try something before diving into a commitment, but lucky for 6th-grader Lathea Watts, she said she's had fun from the beginning.

"All my friends were doing it, and when I saw it, it looked fun," said Watts. "Then I tried it and I really liked it."

Sixth-grader Anna Fox said after practicing for several weeks, the routines are becoming second nature.

"I think it's easy when you've done it for a while," said Fox. "I was a cheerleader in preschool and my mom was the coach. It's so much fun."

Junior Marilyn Valerio said their performances are much tougher than they look.

"People think it's not a sport, but it really is," said Valerio. "It's tough. And every night you go home with bruises everywhere."

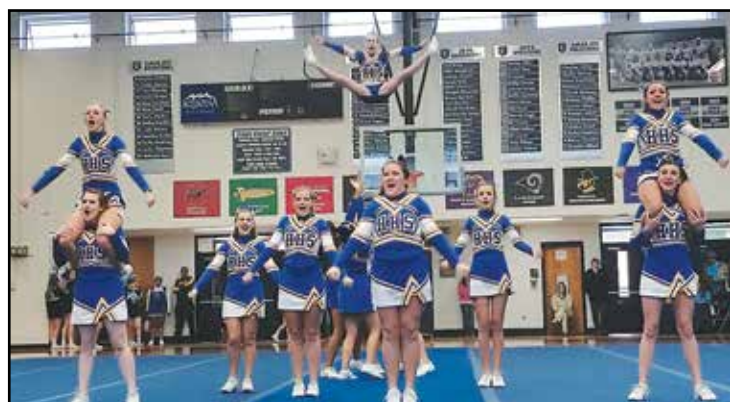
Garcia said it is most definitely a sport.

"It is hard, and I think that since we've been doing it for a while we make it look easy," she said. "But it's a lot of sweat and hard work."

Sixth-grader Ariel Arbra said even though it can rough out there, it's worth the hard work.

"It's fun because you get to do so many things like stunts and stuff," said Arbra. "It's easy once you do it for a while because you get used to it. It builds teamwork and it's fun."

Middle School basketball plays Rosman tonight at home at 4 p.m.



High School Cheerleaders at the competition.

— Photo by Margie Potts

High School Basketball Home Games through Dec. at 4p

11/19	MURPHY
11/30	FRANKLIN
12/4	ROSMAN
12/11	HIWASSEE DAM**
12/17	EAST HENDERSON
12/21	HAYESVILLE

Middle School Basketball Home Games through Dec.

11/1	ROSMAN	4p
11/5	VICTORY	4p
11/15	CULLOWHEE	4p
11/26	BLUE RIDGE	4p
11/29	RABUN GAP	4:30p
12/3	SUMMIT	4:30p



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Early Voting Begins Wednesday, Oct. 17th

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ronnie Beale

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Oct. 8. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Oct. 8

• At 9:20 p.m., a simple assault was reported at Highlands Playhouse where a woman was grabbed by the face by another woman.

Oct. 11

• At 9:45 a.m., a larceny from the Highlands Biological Station was reported where a \$70 microscope was taken.

Oct. 13

• At 12:13 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Hudson Library parking lot.

Oct. 16

• At 7:24 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street near 4th Street.

Oct. 19

• At 12:31 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east near Hickory Street.

Oct. 21

• At 4:32 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Oak Street near 2nd Street.

Oct. 22

• At 2 p.m., officers received a report of a breaking and entering and destruction to property at the Highlands Biological Center where a custom window valued at \$900 was broken and \$35 was stolen.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 11.

Oct. 11

• At 9:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Moonlight Lane.

Oct. 12

• At 10:53 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to the hospital.

• At 4:40 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

Oct. 13

• At 10:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Whiteside Mountain Road.

At 11:34 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Mountain on a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

Oct. 14

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

Oct. 15

• At 4:42 p.m., the dept. was first-

responders to a residence on W. Knoll Drive.

• At 10:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

Oct. 17

• At 4:21 p.m., the dept. investigated an illegal burn on Upper Lake road.

• At 2:48 p.m., the dept. assisted a hiker on Ranger Falls Trail.

• At 6:44 p.m., the dept. investigated an illegal burn on Upper Lake Road.

• At 8:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a resident on Sage Woods.

Oct. 18

• At 6:31 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

• At 10:32 a.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

• At 9:59 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a resident on Dendy Orchard Road.

• At 11:49 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 3:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 6:15 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Aunt Dora Drive.

• At 9:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

Oct. 19

• At 10:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Church Street.

• At 11:47 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a location on N. 4th Street.

• At 11:26 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 5:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.

Oct. 20

• At 11:49 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

Oct. 21

• A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a call of a power line down on Rich Gap Road.

• A little past midnight the dept. responded to a call of a tree down on Blue Valley road.

• At 1:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brooks Road.

• At 9:32 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a power pole fire on Klein Road.

• At 11:25 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree down in the roadway on Blue Valley Road.

• At 11:39 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree down on Harbison Orchard Road.



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2017 MCSO Annual Report



Crimes Reported

Burglaries Down **24%**
Larcenies Down **15%**

Arrests

Burglaries Up **9%**
Larcenies Up **20%**



SOURCE: 2016 North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation
Annual Summary Report of 2016 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
(2017 stats scheduled to be released by North Carolina in December 2018)

COUNTY	INDEX CRIME RATE	VIOLENT CRIME RATE	PROPERTY CRIME RATE
MACON	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN



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The polls are open on Election Day Nov. 6, 6:30a to 7:30p.

SAMPLE BALLOT

A		B		C	
<div>Sample Ballot Macon County, North Carolina November 6, 2018</div>				<div><div></div><div>G0001</div><div></div></div>	
<div><div><div>BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS:</div><div>A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown. B. Where authorized, you may write in a candidate by filling in the oval and writing the name on the Write-in line. C. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.</div></div><div></div></div>					
FEDERAL OFFICES		Board of Commissioners District 2 (You may vote for TWO)		JUDICIAL OFFICES	
US House of Representatives District 11 (You may vote for ONE)		<div><div></div> Ron Haven Republican</div> <div><div></div> Gary Shields Republican</div> <div><div></div> Betty Cloer Wallace Democrat</div> <div><div></div> Ronnie Beale Democrat</div>		NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 1 (You may vote for ONE)	
<div><div></div> Clifton B. Ingram, Jr. Libertarian</div> <div><div></div> Mark Meadows Republican</div> <div><div></div> Phillip G. Price Democrat</div>				<div><div></div> Barbara Jackson Republican</div> <div><div></div> Christopher (Chris) Anglin Republican</div> <div><div></div> Anita Earls Democrat</div>	
STATE OFFICES		Clerk of Superior Court (You may vote for ONE)		NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 1 (You may vote for ONE)	
		<div><div></div> Vic Perry Democrat</div>		<div><div></div> Andrew T. Heath Republican</div> <div><div></div> John S. Arrowood Democrat</div>	
NC State Senate District 50 (You may vote for ONE)		Register of Deeds (You may vote for ONE)		NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 2 (You may vote for ONE)	
<div><div></div> Bobby Kupperts Democrat</div> <div><div></div> Jim Davis Republican</div>		<div><div></div> Linda Light Herman Republican</div> <div><div></div> Todd Raby Democrat</div>		<div><div></div> Jefferson G. Griffin Republican</div> <div><div></div> Tobias (Toby) Hampson Democrat</div> <div><div></div> Sandra Alice Ray Republican</div>	
NC House of Representatives District 120 (You may vote for ONE)		Sheriff (You may vote for ONE)		NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 3 (You may vote for ONE)	
<div><div></div> Aaron Martin Democrat</div> <div><div></div> Kevin Corbin Republican</div>		<div><div></div> Eric L. Giles Democrat</div> <div><div></div> Robert L. (Robby) Holland Republican</div> <div><div></div> Bryan Carpenter Unaffiliated</div>		<div><div></div> Chuck Kitchen Republican</div> <div><div></div> Michael Monaco, Sr. Libertarian</div> <div><div></div> Allegra Katherine Collins Democrat</div>	
PROSECUTORIAL OFFICES		JUDICIAL OFFICES		NC District Court Judge District 30 Seat 1 (You may vote for ONE)	
District Attorney District 43 (You may vote for ONE)		<div>No primaries for judicial office were held in 2018. The information listed by each of the following candidates' names indicates only the candidates' party affiliation or unaffiliated status on their voter registration at the time they filed to run for office.</div>		<div><div></div> Donna Forga Republican</div>	
Ashley H. Welch Republican					
COUNTY OFFICES					
Board of Commissioners District 1 (You may vote for ONE)				Continue voting next side →	
<div><div></div> Jim Tate Republican</div>					
A		B North Carolina		C Ballot Style G0001	

-- VOTE BOTH SIDES --

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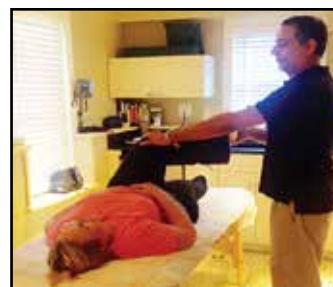
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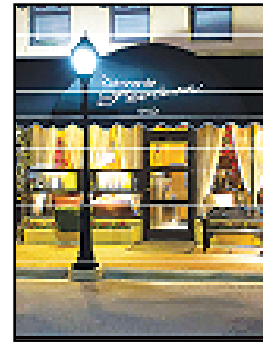
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