

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 15, Number 40

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Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018

## Community input 'beautifies' Main St.

Last Thursday the Town Board and a number of concerned citizens and shop owners discussed proposals for beautifying Main Street.

The issue came up when

NCDOT announced that its 25-year repaving plan of Main Street from 1st-4th would begin April 1, 2019 instead of the original date of 2020.

Commissioners Eric Pierson

and John Dotson who sit on the Street Committee, said people had asked if the look of Main Street could be softened and so the 2009 Main Street plan that was born of

• See **MAIN ST.** page 12

## Discussion diminishes fear of HCA

Concerns about the Hospital Corporation of America's acquisition of Mission Health and how it will affect HC Hospital have been downgraded a bit now that the Town Board has met with members of the HC Hospital Foundation Board face-to-face.

At the September Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor requested permission to send the NC Attorney General a letter in conjunction with a resolution outlining the town's concerns about the future of HC Hospital. Taylor wants the AG to know of the town's concerns before the final decision is made.

However, at the urging of HC Foundation Chair Dr. Walter Clarke, the two boards met Sept. 27 to clear the air first.

After listening to the board's spokesperson Sam Lucas, who sits on the foundation board, the hospital operating board and the new Dogwood Trust Foundation board, it is clear he is and will continue to

• See **HCA** page 20

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## Grandparents' Day at Highlands School



Last Friday was Grandparents' Day at Highlands School where grandmothers and grandfathers were invited to have lunch with their grandsons and daughters and to visit the Book Fair in the Media Center. This is Ms. Hessling's 2nd grade class. — Photo by Kim Lewicki

## WCU BIOLOGIST:

## Quality of WNC's fall leaf season hinges on weather

If the warmer and wetter than normal conditions prevalent across Western North Carolina over the summer continue into

September, fall leaf colors in the mountains are likely to be muted, but a transition into a normal

• See **LEAF** page xx



Incumbent Jim Davis



Candidate Bobby Kuppers

## Candidates for the NC Senate race speak out

By Brittney Lofthouse

There isn't a single race on the ballot that is unopposed this election cycle, a testament to the state of North Carolina politics -- every North Carolina General Assembly race across the state will see both a democratic and republican challenger on the ballot.

For Western North Carolina, the North Carolina Senate's

50th District's candidates are both familiar faces in Macon County. Bobby Kuppers and Jim Davis are vying for a seat in the state's General Assembly, but at one time the two men served Macon County on the Board of Commissioners -- serving together from 2008-2010.

**Bobby Kuppers – Democrat**

Kuppers grew up in Macon

• See **PROFILE** page 22

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### The reality of the situation ....

Recent feedback makes me think some folks view the Highlands Plateau as a sovereign nation where citizens control everything. On the other hand, current situations remind me that is not the case.

In the discussion concerning tractor-trailer-trucks on the Gorge Road, several people have told me Highlands should ban those trucks from coming to Highlands, period. More than once it has been suggested to me that tractor trailer trucks should be directed to a transfer center in either Dillard or Franklin to off-load cargo destined for Highlands. Small trucks would then make deliveries to Highlands.

In addition to being complicated and expensive, it would be illegal according to U.S. and North Carolina law, not to mention constitutional freedom of movement rights. Highlands has no authority to regulate interstate commerce, nor transportation rules. The tractor trailer trucks pay federal and state licensing fees that allow them to travel on any federal, state or municipal public road. The only exception, as in the case of the Gorge Road, is public safety. Now



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

I am not an employee, owner, or investor in the trucking industry, nor do I work for NCDOT. I'm simply stating reality, we cannot dictate who comes to and passes through our community.

Another example concerns the deployment of G5 broadband, also known as small cell technology. It involves installing units about the size of big electrical transformers with antennas on power poles every several hundred feet apart throughout a community. One citizen recently wrote a letter to the editor stating we did not want this intrusive smart technology in our community.

The problem is that it is not our decision to make. In fact, the Federal Communications Commission approved an order on September 26 containing sweeping regulations, many of which severely limit the regulatory authority of municipalities and counties. Limitations on local fee structures, implementation procedures and aesthetic requirements all fall under this FCC ruling. For Highlands to say we are not going to allow this technology is prohibited. Thank goodness we couldn't ban telephone lines in 1914, nor power poles and lines in 1929. Furthermore, within the next 20 years the feds and state will regulate the related use of automated vehicles.

I am hopeful that our forthcoming fiber optic network will help the town manage the emergence of G5 technology more effectively than other communities. The fiber

•See MAYOR page 12

## • HIC'S VIEW •



### 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 10/5		Saturday 10/6		Sunday 10/7	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp ○	78 F	61 F	76 F	59 F	75 F	62 F
RealFeel® ○	86 F	63 F	83 F	65 F	82 F	62 F
Winds ○	3 g 5	2 g 4	3 g 5	2 g 4	3 g 6	3 g 5
T-Storms ○	11%	24%	39%	31%	24%	31%
Rainfall ○	0	0	0.11	0.06	0	0.09
Snowfall ○	0	0	0	0	0	0

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather





## RAVENEL RIDGE

This 4 bedroom, 5 1/2 bath home has spectacular views of a range of 30 mountains, including Satulah, Little Bear Pen and Shortoff, as well as overlooking picturesque Highlands. It's a perfect home for entertaining, with its covered screened outdoor living space with its own stone fireplace for enjoying the cool evenings. The soar-ing ceiling and open living room add to the appeal. The living, dining, kitchen and award-winning bar area layout make it an easy flow for large groups. The oversized master bedroom and bath has two separate closets. There is abundant storage throughout. With its own kitchen and fireplace, the terrace level is perfect for a guest retreat, mother-in-law suite, or spacious home office. This home is located in the ex-clusive gated community of Ravenel, which is within walking distance to downtown Highlands.

**MLS# 88281 | Offered for \$3,177,000**



## HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB

This idyllic retreat is situated on Lake Sequoyah and designed to offer views of nature, mature landscaping, and the lake from almost every window. An open floor plan and quality features including gleaming oak flooring, native stone fireplace, tall windows and a vaulted ceiling lined with timber add a dramatic tone to the living area. The sophisticated formal dining room sets a benchmark in gracious living whether you are enjoying a candlelit dinner for two or the company of friends. A well-appointed kitchen boasts beautiful cabinetry, spacious granite countertops and tile backsplash. Step out to a welcoming deck overlooking the lake where there is plenty of space to entertain a crowd or just spend a quiet morning with a cup of coffee and a good book. Keeping room off the kitchen complete with gas fire-place, stunning carved wood bar and casual dining area; cozy guest apartment over 2-car garage; fire pit; private dock. Too much to list here - come see it soon!

**MLS# 89162 | Offered for \$2,495,000**



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## CULLASAJA CLUB

A picture of good taste and style, this superb, lake front house is surrounded by the most enchanting scenery with gardens and trails, plus babbling water features, ga-zebo, and private dock on Lake Ravenel. With captivating views from almost every room, the home was designed to suit all occasions. The living room ceiling soars two stories with a floor-to-ceiling native stone fireplace, a built-in bookcase, and a wall of glass which opens to the spacious covered deck. The polished heart pine floorboards throughout give this home an open, relaxed feel that is easy to maintain and contributes to its character and charm. The beautifully appointed kitchen boasts rich cabinetry, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, plus a large island; it opens up into an intimate dining area and a cozy den. This home is a true masterpiece and waiting for your family's memories to begin!

**MLS# 89386 | Offered for \$2,900,000**



## HIGHLANDS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB

The magnificent views of Whiteside Mountain greet you as you open the front door to this meticulously maintained home. The awe-inspiring views can be enjoyed from most areas in the house. The main floor includes a beautiful living room with cathedral ceiling and gas stone fireplace, dining area with built-in bar and wine storage, up-to-date kitchen with gas stove and electric oven, laundry room with storage, and additional full size refrigerator as well as a lovely large screened porch. Located on the main level is the master bedroom that boasts a second gas stone fireplace as well as a loft for office or storage, "his and her" closets, and a luxurious master bath with double sinks, jetted tub, and separate shower. A welcoming guest bedroom and bath are upstairs. The lower level features a small refrigerator and microwave near the living area, four more guest bedrooms, four baths, and a large screened porch. Membership to HFCC is optional.

**MLS# 89271 | Offered for \$1,695,000**



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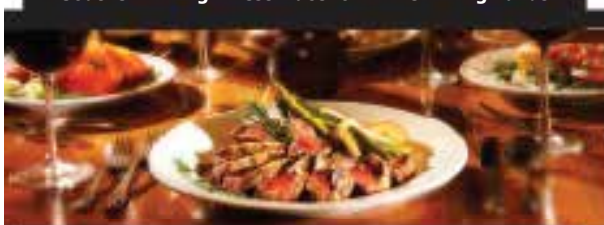
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**HIGHLANDS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB** This wonderfully located 2BR/3BA villa is next to a stream with a great view of the lake. The focal point of the living room is the stone fireplace and wet bar. The hardwood flooring and the wood beams on the cathedral ceiling give the living room just the right mountain feel. Sliding doors open the living area to the deck. The private and tranquil screened porch and open deck offer space for quiet contemplation as you listen to the sounds of the flowing stream. The den can double as extra sleeping space. for overnight guests.

**MLS# 89466 | Offered for \$599,000**



**COLD SPRINGS** The main level in this wonderful home features a space to relax in front of a roaring fire plus a large spot for entertaining. The kitchen is large and open with more cabinetry than you can possibly fill and plenty of counter space! One guest suite with outside access and the oversized master suite is up half a flight of steps. The master boasts a fireplace, a walk through closet, and a large bath with double vanities, separate tub, and shower. Cold Springs is a great equestrian community with amenities including a spring fed lake, tennis court, stable and paddock.

**MLS# 89105 | Offered for \$450,000**



**FLAT MOUNTAIN ESTATES** This lovely home features lots of natural wood and refinished floors. With three bedrooms (split plan) and two and one-half baths on the main level, it also boasts a garage, workshop, and additional room downstairs that could be a family room, den, office, exercise room or whatever you need it to be! Great improvements have been made, including a new deck, retaining wall, new paint, encapsulated crawl space, and appliances; the price includes furnishings with only a few exceptions. Come sit on the deck and breathe in the mountain air!

**MLS# 88950 | Offered for \$399,000**



**HIGHLANDS** Own a piece of history in this updated 1921 five bedroom home that was once owned by the renowned botanist Thomas Grant Harbison and is on the National Registry of Historic Places. The open kitchen and dining area are centered around a beautiful stone fireplace - perfect for chilly mountain mornings! The back of the home has two porches; one on the main floor that opens to a grand stone patio and a sleeping porch on the second story - a wonderful southern tradition. Close to shopping/dining, yet far enough away from noise and street lights. 3+ acres.

**MLS# 88806 | Offered for \$775,000**



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## • OBITUARIES •

### Ruth Gade Furnald



Ruth Gade Furnald died Sept. 2, 2018. She was born in New York City Aug. 2, 1934 but grew up in Winter Park, FL. She graduated from the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA, then attended Bennett College in Millbrook, N.Y., where she enjoyed the equestrian program and studied art. After a stint with Time-Life in New York—where she became friends with photo-journalist Alfred Eisenstaedt when she helped him with his images of the sinking Andrea Doria liner—she had a career in retail in NYC, ending up as assistant ladies' glove buyer for Lord & Taylor. She then returned to Florida to become one of the first kindergarten teachers at Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy in Melbourne, Fla. When she and her husband Harry Malcolm Ferguson adopted twin boys Eric and Stuart in 1965, Ruth stayed home to be a full-time mom, and the family spent summers in Highlands. After her divorce she went back to work for Robinson's department store and then, in 1977, moved to Highlands year-round with her husband Donald Furnald.

In Highlands, Ruth taught tennis and worked for Isabel Chambers at the Burlap Bag (where the Chandler Inn now is) before buying the Christmas Tree Shop from its founder Posie Wright in 1979. It was then located in the Burlap Bag shops; Ruth later relocated the store "on the Hill" (now the site of the OEI's Hummingbird Lounge). She vastly expanded the store's footprint and offerings and—through her hiring of Buck Trott to play Santa—unwittingly if indirectly helped bring about the current mayoral dynasty. Later Ruth start-

ed The Grinning Frog children's shop, where she sold wonderful, shiny, inexpensive-but-distracting toys and games.

After selling her shops, Ruth enjoyed working part time at Summit One art gallery and for Chad Lucas at his interior design store.

Ruth loved tennis and art, and children and animals. She was a member of the Highlands-Cashiers art league and a docent at The Bascom. She and her sister Patsy Penney (who survives her, along with her brother John Gade and her sons, nieces and nephew) spent many summers helping with the flowers at the Church of the Incarnation. Ruth was a past member of the Highlands Country Club, Cedar Creek Racquet Club and Mountain Laurel Tennis. Her best friends were all found in Highlands, a place she dearly loved.

Ruth's memorial service took place on Sept. 8 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Melbourne, Fla. Her family will have a fun and joyful gathering in her honor in Highlands next summer.

### Alice Faye Reese Sewell



Alice Faye Reese Sewell of Kyle, TX, 87 years old, left this earth on Sunday, September 2, 2018 for a new life and a new body in heaven with her friends, loved ones, and family who have gone before. These include her parents, Myrtle Cora Henderson and Robert Lee Reese, Sr. Her twin brother, Dallas Ray, his wife Ila Sue, her older brother, R.L. (Dugan) and his wife, Sue and her nephew, Richard Reese. She is survived by four sons, Joe Sewell, Dale Sewell and Gary Sewell (Carla) of Austin, Texas and Rodney Sewell of Jefferson City, MO. Two sisters, Lucy May Reese of Atlantic Beach, FL and Elizabeth Anne Wilson of Clemson, SC. One brother Furman Dexter Reese (Barbara) of Oakway, SC.

She and her twin brother Dallas Ray, were born on "Bug Hill" in Highlands on October 14, 1930 with the help of Mrs. Paul Henry, Midwife. The picture of all the many twins who were born in Highlands can be seen at the His-

torical Society. The Reese family has several sets of twins, including Faye's nephew, David Reese (Cashiers) and niece Donna Hoffman (Snowmass, CO). Her other nieces and nephews include: Dallas Reese, Jr (FL) Kathy Brewer (NC) Darrell Reese (NC) Debbie Sapp (FL) Becky Reese (TN) Alan Wilson (SC) Jeffrey Wilson (SC) Karen Reese (Highlands) and Kevin Reese (Highlands).

As a teenager working for Bill Holt at Bill's Soda Shop, Faye

witnessed much of that period of Highlands history. She later traveled the world with husband Jerry Sewell who was in the U.S. Air Force. She retired from the Air Force Base Exchange, Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas. After retirement, she worked for Sears. The family would like to thank all of her many longtime friends in Texas who gave her so much love and comfort in the last months of her life. All of them and anyone who ever met Faye, knew she was truly a hardworking, happy, loving, caring, and giving person.

Faye loved and was interested in many things, including: The Blue Ridge Mountains of home, traveling, Texas Bluebonnets, collecting, and especially sea turtles. She was lucky enough to be able to visit the Sea Turtle Farm in the Cayman Islands. Her family nicknamed her, "The Turtle Woman" which was a perfect nickname for

• See OBITUARIES page 9



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## ...OBITUARIES from page 8

her because the turtle is a symbol of steadfastness and endurance.

She was a wonderful dancer and once won a dance contest dancing 52 hours with only short breaks every so often. Her skill at embroidery (taught by her mother) was truly amazing. She made and gave as gifts many, many beautiful pillowcases, scarves and tablecloths.

Memorials can be sent to: Christopher House, Hospice. 2820 E. Martin Luther King Blvd., Austin, Texas 78702 or Sea Turtle, Inc., 6617 Padre Island, Texas 78597. Graveside service will be held in Highlands at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 14, 2018.

## Mary 'Sandra' Dickson Ballentine

Mary "Sandra" Dickson Ballentine, 84, passed away Monday, October 1, 2018. Mrs. Ballentine was born January 8, 1934 in Anderson, SC to the late Harvey and Ruth Dickson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim Ballentine. Sandra was a member of the PEO, President of the Wilson Woman's Club, Founding member of Saturday Club in Anderson, which is still active; and the PTA president in Wilson for many years.

She loved playing the guitar and singing folk songs, seeing her grandkids, reading, cooking, Ham amateur radio, cats, chocolate, and being in the mountains with friends "KF-4SQN is out". She loved Sunday school in Highlands. Not only did she sing and play guitar, she performed programs at different organizations and functions and she played with the Anderson Piano Ensemble.

Sandra was a member of the Highlands First Presbyterian Church where she was a member of the Women's

Circle. She was also was a former choir member and Elder in the 1st Christian Church in Belhaven, NC.

Survivors include her favorite son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Evelyn Ballentine of Wake Forest, NC; four grandchildren, Allie Ballentine Dew (Robert) of Wendell, NC, Lauren Ballentine, Joshua Ballentine, and J.J. Ballentine all of Wake Forest, NC; a sister, Pricilla Eichelberger of Atlanta, Ga; and good friends, Ken and Susan Hawkins.

Sandra was preceded in death by her aunts, Mary, Sarah, Sulah, and Bet.



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### TUESDAY

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# • WORD MATTER •

## It's Time to Own Our Greatest Global Challenge

Every day I read something deeply troubling about our environment. Our oceans are polluted with plastic trash in epic proportions. OUR oceans. A combination of hot, dry conditions and

a few unthinking humans are responsible for the burning of tens of thousands of acres of our forests in the western United States. OUR forests. Biblical rainfall is causing our rivers and creeks to rise way above flood lev-

els, the result of which is enormous destruction of property and loss of life. OUR rivers and creeks.

Hurricane season has already reared its nasty head and we all know it's just a matter of time in terms of when and where increasingly powerful, destructive storms will make landfall.

The previous two paragraphs barely scratch the surface of all that's happening right now to our planet. That's OUR planet. And I haven't even mentioned climate change or global warming. But now I will.

This issue, the one involving OUR natural world and what we who claim divine dominion over it can do to preserve it for future generations has risen to the same level of conversational warfare as those involving guns, or abortion.

I still hear people, for what reason I can't fathom, claim that rising sea levels and temperatures are just cyclical anomalies. They still argue that humans have had no role in thawing polar ice caps and the threat this presents, not only for coastal dwellers, but for most of humanity. They don't accept the overwhelming conclusions of the global scientific community that OUR planet's climate is, in fact, changing, and not for the better, and that we humans are, at least in part, responsible for it.

I recently heard, with my own two ears, someone glibly proclaim that this kind of phenomenon, exactly what we're experiencing, happens every 15,000 years or so. These words are uttered with the certainty born of absolute ignorance, as if, 15,000 years or so ago, there were 7.5 billion people, an estimated 2-3 billion motor vehicles burning oil and gas, billions of livestock farm- and wild animals pumping God knows how much methane into the atmosphere, millions of factories, running on fossil fuel-generated energy, belching carbon emissions you can see in the air over certain cities, here and around the world, and into the lungs of the inhabitants of those cities ... okay, enough. You get the point.

Conversations about our environment



**Bud Katz**

have become dogmatically and politically entrenched thanks to interests on both sides of the question(s) arguing their individual points of view without really considering the time that's passing and the tipping points being reached and exceeded.

Not to put too fine a point on it, but our planet, OUR PLANET, is sick, and depending how old we are and where

we happen to be at any given moment, evidence of that sickness and the absence of any honest action being taken to remedy what we're doing is visible all around us.

If I may be blunt, I and a significant number of you reading these words, regardless of which side of this issue our interests lie, likely won't be around to see the worst of what we've done and continue to do to OUR planet. We will be either in the ground or up in smoke, neither of which outcome, by the way, really helps alter the situation in which we find ourselves.

I don't expect politicians, here or anywhere else around the world, to get a real handle on things anytime soon. Politicians are, of course, creatures of influence and funding from parties interested in doing little or nothing because it suits their specific agendas and lives right now. Only humans, especially young ones, hopefully angry as heck about the calamitous situation we're bequeathing to them, have the ability to change things, if they're willing, and if they are able to ignore the outside influences laughing all the way to the bank.

It didn't have to come to this. We didn't have to blithely go about our lives as if everything was fine and dandy. Everything is not fine and dandy. We may not be able to change the world's climate but we can change some of our own behaviors that are contributing to the problem.

OUR world, OUR cherished way of life, is in danger. We need to own this issue and do everything we can to help change OUR future.

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



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# • LETTERS •

## Support Highlands School! Come to the Fall Festival

Dear Editor,

Growing up as a child in Highlands, every autumn you looked forward to the Fall Festival. Having a K-12 school in our community gives us many unique traditions.

As long as anyone can remember the Senior Class has put on the event as a rite of passage.

In the beginning, it paid for a senior trip and then became a PTO fundraiser to help pay for caps & gowns and donate funds back into the classrooms.

Even though it is the PTO's largest fundraiser, it's about more than the money.

It is about a Senior class that gives back to their school and community. A community that has been their support system from Kindergarten-12th grade.

It is about a staff of teachers and a group of PTO board members that all volunteer to blow up balloons, man cake walks, supervise large inflatables and ticket tables, serve food together and pick up trash when it is all said and done.

It is about classes who collaborate on choosing a theme for a box for the silent auction.

It is about a carpentry class that constructs new games from scratch that can be used year after year.

It is about businesses in the community who donate food and raffle prizes. It is about parents who bake cakes and baked goods for the cake walk and care about their child's education.

Join us this Saturday from 5-9 at Highlands School to enjoy one our greatest traditions...the Fall Festival.

**Andrea Chalker**  
HS Fall Festival Chair

## 1/2 Price October Bookworm Sale

Dear Editor,

Did you know that the Highlands Bookworm is having a 1/2 price sale the entire month of October? Thanks to so many generous donations, we have more books than we can shelve. In case you do not know about us, we are an arm of the Hudson Library. All our staff are volunteers, all our books are donated, and all our profits go to help fund our local Highlands Library, The Hudson Library.

We are in Falls on Main, next door to the Highland Hiker. We are open Monday-Saturday from 10a-4p. From Vintage books to current best sellers, the bargains are amazing. Many customers walk in and comment they cannot believe we are a used book store and are grateful to have the opportunity to support our library through both donations and purchases. For some, we are the best kept secret in Highlands.

So, join us the whole month of October for our 1/2 price sale. Find that long lost book you have searching for or find a nice comfortable read for the cooler weather. We look forward to seeing you.

**Helene Siegel**  
Highlands

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## ...MAIN ST. continued from page 1

the 2009 Parking Study were dusted off as a "starting point."

"Our concern, is that if we are going to rework Main Street, now is the time," said Commissioner Dotson. "We only need to tear up Main Street once, that's for sure."

What concerned Main Street shop owners was the potential loss of parking spaces.

That 2009 plan included a crosswalk from north to south in the center of the block at Town Square, a 2-foot, a curb and gutter median running down the middle of the street from 3rd to 4th streets with trees planted along the way.

Not only would a crosswalk in that location take up 6-10 parking spaces, but logic suggested people wouldn't use it – which is one reason the plan was nixed back in 2009 and again Thursday night.

"People walk from their cars to the sidewalk and back anyway, so the crosswalk doesn't serve any purpose. How do you make someone use a crosswalk when they are parked in the center of the block? They would have to get out into the traffic to get to the crosswalk," said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

People also suggested the 2-foot median running the length of the street would be a tripping hazard.

Commissioners Dotson and Pierson said the 2009 plan was never on the table; but rather was a starting place.

So, for the next hour the talk began with not doing anything to coming up with a workable, agreeable plan.

Initially, Commissioners Brian Stiehler and Donnie Calloway tried to nix the entire discussion because they thought they were called to the meeting to vote on the 2009 plan. In fact, Calloway made a motion to halt the discussion all together and Stiehler seconded it; the motion failed 3-2.

Finally, it was agreed that installing five or six diamond-shaped planters – like the ones along the sidewalks – in the middle of that many 33-ft.-long parking spaces would keep drivers from pulling through those particular spots to do U-turns while softening the parking lot look of Main Street with trees.

Mary Adair Trumbly suggested the idea which she said would satisfy the desire to green up and cool down the street without losing parking.

Michelle Bears thought it was a good idea, too, saying a few shortened spots – like those along the sidewalks – wasn't going to hurt anything.

"Putting in planters shouldn't be an issue for anyone. If they don't want to use the shorter spots, they can go to the next one. It's a win-win situation and the street will look fuller as far as green space goes," she said.

Bob Mills reminded everyone that back in 1989 the trees on Main

Street were cut down and Harry Bears said he thought the street was "freaking beautiful" the way it is now.

"Every 75 feet on either side there is a tree. Town Square is gorgeous. Up and down Main Street there are trees. There is so much green on Main Street, now. I wonder if you have taken a walk," he asked the board.

Commissioner Dotson agreed that the ends of the street and the sides look great, "but down the middle we could soften up the nasty bowling alley feeling you get when you drive into town whether its full and you see cars or if it's empty and you just see asphalt."

Commissioner Patterson said she understood people's concerns but didn't want to just say no to the whole thing.

"Yes, it's different and yes, it will present challenges until people get used to it, but I see positives in the plan. It will look better, it will green it up, cool it down, would even help with storm water retention. And it may help with traffic flow because we won't have both lines of cars waiting to get out or in on both sides all the way up the street," she said.

In the end the board agreed to have the Land Use Committee go over the plan. A visual will be presented at the October Town Board meeting so the plan can be put into action.

– Kim Lewicki

## ...MAYOR from 2

optic network would promote the use of small antennas on our utility poles without the need for those unsightly transmission units that will be used in many areas of the county. Because we will have a cost effective alternative, I believe we will be able to work with G5 providers in the coming decade.

While the deployment of the G5 system may be alarming to some, there are potential benefits. The reliance on cell towers, structures detested by many, could be diminished. Also, the G5 system could be economically deployed in areas that now have no, or little, broadband access, like most of Western Carolina. It would eventually reduce the need for large bundles of copper wires that currently adorn our utility poles.

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# • FINANCIAL MATTERS •

## Is a living trust necessary?



Michael P Henderson, CFP®  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™

bank accounts, transfer on death brokerage accounts, and insurance policies among them.<sup>2</sup>

Inevitably, some assets may be left outside the trust. Many people live for years after the creation of their living trust and acquire further assets. Unless a pour-over will is subsequently written and authorized to direct those assets into the trust at your death, they will be distributed to your heirs the way the courts see fit (and

pour-over wills must be probated). A living trust is not considered a will substitute.<sup>3</sup>

Living trusts lack creditor protection. They are not exempt from “predators and creditors” who might want a piece of your estate.<sup>2</sup>

The larger your estate, the more useful a living trust may be. So, as you think about your wealth and your heirs, you should explore whether a living trust is appropriate for you.

And don’t forget to fund the trust. One of the problems I often see in my practice are people who walk out of their attorney’s office and never “fund the trust”. It’s an unfortunate reality that many people spend all the time, money, and effort of setting up a trust, and then fail to fund it properly. Assets that are never placed in the trust don’t qualify for the benefits. Also, consider having your documents reviewed every 3 to 5 years by a qualified, trusted professional.

• *Investment advice and financial planning services offered through CollaborativeWEALTH® an SEC Registered Investment Advisor; Securities offered through LPL Financial - Member FINRA/SIPC and separate business entity.*

1. LegalZoom.com, “Top Three Benefits of a Living Trust” (November 2015)

2 Bankrate.com, “6 surprising facts about a living revocable trust” (January 15, 2016)

3 TheBalance.com, “Using a Pour-Over Will in Estate Planning” (May 12, 2017)

4 IRS.gov, “Estate and Gift Taxes” (Sept 2018)

*This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax or legal advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific situation with a qualified tax or legal advisor. The writer is not engaged in rendering legal or accounting services. This information should not be construed as investment, tax or legal advice and may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any Federal tax penalty. LPL Financial Representatives offer access to Trust Services through The Private Trust Company N.A., an affiliate of LPL Financial*

Since this is my very first article in this paper, I thought I’d take a minute to introduce myself.

My name is Mike Henderson and my family has owned a home on the Cashiers Road near the entrance to Highlands Falls CC since 1953. My wife Colleen and I have been married for 35 years and have 3 children and 4 grandchildren (soon to be five).

We usually come to Highlands at least 3 times per year and I’ve spent part of every summer in Highlands since 1963. My teenage summers were spent hanging out at the Rec Park, playing baseball on the Little League team, and square dancing at Helen’s Barn every Friday night (yes, I can clog).

I’m an independent wealth advisor and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ in the Orlando area and my goal for this column is to write articles designed to help you better manage financial resources beyond simply saving and investing.

So, to start out, let’s talk about a question I often hear – Is a living trust worthwhile??

With the estate tax exemption for a married couple just above \$11 million in 2018 4 (up from \$650,000 in 1999), and since there is no longer the need to use a trust to capture the exemption amount for each spouse while they’re still alive, obtaining a Revocable Living Trust may not be as cut and dry as it once was.

To help answer this question, let’s look at what living trusts can and cannot do.

Are living trusts as necessary as some make them out to be? The fact is that they are not for everyone. However, they can be used to pursue (and realize) some key estate planning objectives.

A properly written and executed living trust has three key benefits. One, assets placed within the trust are exempt from probate. Two, a living trust is a private document—the way assets from it are distributed will never be made public. Lastly, although creating a trust may cost more than creating a will, trusts are often cheaper for heirs to execute than wills 1,2

Not all assets need living trust protection. Some assets routinely transfer to heirs without being probated – Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), workplace retirement plan accounts, payment on death



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## • HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

### End of season games are winding up

Highschool volleyball played Swain, Hiwassee Dam, and Andrews this week. Varsity couldn't finish any with a win but pushed both Swain and Andrews into a fourth set.

JV lost to Swain and Hi Dam but finished the game with a win in 2 sets against Andrews. Their regular season games are slowly coming to an end. They won't have any more home games but have their conference tournament coming up.



Kedra McCall

Middle school volleyball also played three games this week. They played Cullowhee, Hiwassee Dam, and Eagle Ridge. They lost to Cullowhee and Hiwassee in two sets but beat Eagle Ridge in two. Their second round of Tri State Tournament is on October 5th if they make it. The place is TBA but they will play at 4:30.

High school soccer played Franklin as well as Murphy. They finished the game against

Franklin at a 1-1 tie. With about 20 minutes left of the game the refs walked off the field deeming it unsafe to continue playing with the soaking wet field and kids intentionally sliding after being warned. They also beat Murphy 4-2. Their next home game will be on Saturday, October 13th. They will play Polk County at 10 am.

Middle school soccer played Cullowhee, Tallulah Falls, and Summit. They beat Cullowhee 2-1 but lost to Tallulah Falls 4-1. They also played their first round of their conference tournament. They played Summit and finished with a 3-1 win.

They don't have any more home games this season but their next game will be on Friday, October 5th if they continue to win through their tournament.

Outside of their tournament their next game will be on Monday, September 8th. They will play at Cullowhee starting at 4pm.

Come support your Highlanders as their seasons begin to finish up

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# • YOUNGER THROUGH FITNESS •

## The 3 Pillars of Fitness Part 3 Cardio Fitness For Life



**Hank Miller**  
828-305-9713

The best should always be saved for last as it will resonate longer.

Cardio fitness actually should be first on everyone's list of health priorities but I am presenting it last in this series due to its vital importance so that it actually will be first on everyone's mind who follow this column.

A few decades ago the term aerobics became part of the common vernacular.

Many of you remember the jogging craze of the 1970s, followed by the aerobic dance classes popularized by Jane Fonda and Richard Simmons.

It wasn't long before the onslaught of treadmills, elliptical machines and numerous videos promoting weight loss and heart health -- Tae Bo, PX 90, Water Aerobics, Jazzercise, Spin classes and on and on.

The variety is endless and if performed regularly any one of them can be effective for improving quality of life.

Before we go into just what the benefits of cardio exercise are I think it's important to delve into some aspects of our internal make up, so that we can visualize just what these exercises are effecting inside our machinery.

In past columns we've discussed muscle typing in skeletal muscles. In this article we will take it a step further. There are three distinct classes of muscles in the human body.

The first muscles were the topic of our previous column on muscle mass. They are the voluntary, striated, skeletal muscles and those are the muscles which allow us to be mobile. Secondly, there are involuntary smooth muscles which are found in the walls

of blood vessels and hollow organs such as the intestines, stomach, the iris of our eyes etc. The smooth muscles in our veins and arteries dilate and contract to facilitate blood flow.

Lastly, and most importantly, is the cardiac muscle itself. Without cardiac muscle there is no blood flow and without blood flow there is no life.

Cardio exercises depending on intensity will utilize variations of our energy systems. The term most of us know is aerobic which means functioning in the presence of oxygen. Exercises that are aerobic comprise repetitive motions in which the body can bring in enough oxygen to facilitate motion for a long period of time. Jogging, dancing and hiking are examples of aerobic movement. The other variation of cardio exercise, anaerobic movement, is more intense and the system cannot get in oxygen fast enough for the metabolism to handle it for a long period of time. Sprinting a hundred-yard dash is an example of anaerobic exercise. The human system on average can go anaerobic for up to three minutes. After approximately three minutes it needs time to recover the needed oxygen and regenerate the energy system. If you have ever run out of steam after running really fast for a short distance you have experienced anaerobic movement. All of life's emergencies usually require anaerobic conditioning.

Both of these systems are vital to our function and it is vital to challenge them regularly to maintain our health and stave off early onset aging.

In past articles I have emphasized that our

• See FITNESS page 19

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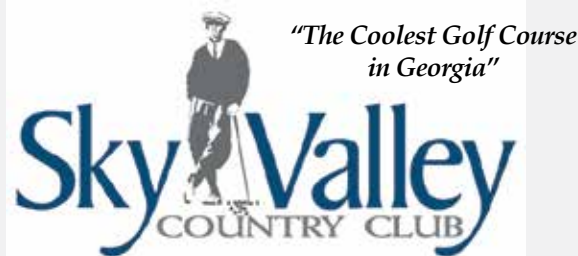


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...LEAF continued from page 1



**A preview of what's to come. This is a shot of Mirror Lake in Highlands in 2017.**

**– Photo by Linda Barden**

weather pattern would result in a brighter tapestry of hues across the region.

That's the word from Beverly Collins, Western Carolina University's autumnal season soothsayer and prognosticator of leaf pigment potency. A professor of biology at WCU, Collins combines her knowledge of forest ecology with observations of weather trends to assess the potential for a big leaf color season.

"Warm and wet conditions are great for photosynthesis, but the sugars that are made tend to be used in tree stem and leaf growth, rather than accumulated in leaves, where they can trigger the tree to make less chlorophyll (the green pigment) or produce anthocyanins, the red color we see in fall," she said.

The weather typically becomes drier in the WNC mountains during autumn, which is what long-range forecasts are indicating for this year. "If that comes to pass, leaf color could very well turn out to be brighter, but still a little more muted than normal because photosynthesis and chlorophyll production slow in the fall as the days get shorter and temperatures cool," Collins said.

Leaf fanatics want to know when the color will be at its peak. Collins said the declining daylight of late summer and autumn is the primary factor affecting the timing of the colors. "In the Western North Carolina mountains, colors begin to appear in early September as the shortening days cue color change in plants such as sumac and sourwood," she said.

However, weather also contributes to the timing of fall color, and if the weather stays warmer than normal, the peak could be delayed and more spread out over time, Collins said. For example, many of the towns in WNC's southwestern mountains are located in valleys at around 2,000 feet in elevation, and peak color there might be delayed until the fourth week of October, rather than happening the week before. Generally, the peak occurs at higher elevations north of Asheville in early October, and then works its way down the mountainsides and to the southwest across the region, she said.

The quality of the fall leaf season isn't just related to the sharpness of the hues, but also is influenced by the spectacular variety of tree species in WNC that create a patchwork quilt of color that blankets the mountains, Collins said. The highest elevations along the Blue Ridge Parkway and in Great Smoky Mountains National Park feature red spruce and Fraser fir trees that retain their green needles all year, but below those trees is the northern hardwood forest of maple, cherry and birch trees that often shows its red and yellow colors early.

Even lower down, the mixed oak and hardwood forest usually retains its red, orange and yellow colors for a longer period. Overall, the high species diversity and varied topography of WNC is likely to provide some inspiring scenery for the typical traveler who visits the region through October and into early November, Collins said.

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## ...FITNESS continued from page 15

systems function best when they are regularly and reasonably stressed. Also, we have emphasized that our modern world has resulted in much less systematic stressing and therefore poorer health and vitality. Exercising is the modern remedy to this dilemma.

So, what are the benefits of cardio exercise on our systems and which exercise is best? Regular aerobic exercise increases the tone and function of the heart muscle itself and can be a big factor in reducing the risk of cardio vascular disease.

It does this by building the structure of the heart muscle which in turn increases the stroke volume of each cardio contraction. Increased stroke volume means that the heart pushes out more blood every time it contracts. Along with the former benefits the body will produce denser capillaries which in turn improve the cellular gas exchanges, bringing in more oxygen-rich blood and nutrients to our cells and taking away more of the wastes and carbon dioxide.

The results are: overall lower resting blood pressure, increases in HDL Cholesterol (good stuff) and reductions in LDL cholesterol (bad stuff), lower stress levels, mood elevation, weight management and lower levels of depression.

Any aerobic exercise done with enough intensity will bring about these benefits. The aerobic you choose should be the one that

you enjoy the most. For aerobics to be effective they need to be done regularly. In other words, most days of the week, and should be practiced for 20 minutes to an hour. If you like to walk, then just do it and do it regularly. If dancing is your thing then do that. You could try riding a bike, going to an exercise class or hiking in the woods. Any of these will work just fine and if I haven't mentioned enough then use your imagination.

If you have not been exercising you should start slowly and give your body time to adapt to the new stresses. Also remember to check with your doctors and inform them that you intend to begin a regular exercise program. I encourage people not to over stress themselves but to use a common sense approach of regularly getting their bodies to a level of moderately challenged breathing and maintaining it for a reasonable period of time and then take enough time to slowly bring themselves back to a relaxed breathing state before they sit down or stop.

We will discuss more about anaerobic exercise in a future column. Until then remember, life is about movement!

• *Hank is a local fitness trainer specializing in the age 50 and over population. He is certified by The American College of Sports Medicine as an Exercise Physiologist, Certified Cancer Exercise Trainer and is a licensed NC Massage therapist specializing in Therapeutic Stretching. For comments email: hank@thebestexerciseforseniors.com*

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<b>THURS</b>	<b>IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, COLESLAW, APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS</b>	<b>\$22.95</b> SERVES 4
<b>FRI</b>	<b>WILD CAUGHT FRIED SHRIMP, BAKED POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES, AND COLESLAW</b>	<b>\$25.95</b> SERVES 4
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## ...HCA from page 1

be the watchdog concerning the best interests of the HC Hospital and thereby its future.

"The way you have presented your position tonight encourages us to have a lot of faith and trust in you where you can personally flip the coin one way or the other,"

said Commissioner John Dotson, who was initially opposed to waiting to send the resolution and didn't believe Mission had been forthcoming about the sale.

According to his presentation, Lucas has been involved every step along the way and actually had a hand in making sure the Foundation Board got \$15 million from Mission after the sale — initially the amount was

going to be less.

Lucas said he understands the HCA acquisition and the Dogwood Trust means the community is losing the emotional attachment to the hospital; something it has supported for so long.

But he said something had to be done because HC Hospital wasn't sustainable. Before going with HCA, several healthcare entities were vetted including Duke Life-point, Carolina Health Systems, NE Georgia Health Systems and others, but HCA was the only option that would be profitable and sustainable for the future of HC Hospital.

Lucas said the hospital suffers from having a seasonal population that doesn't use the facility when it is here.

Commissioners said the community is afraid that HCA will pull out leaving a shell if HC Hospital isn't profitable over the next 5-10 years.

Lucas said the Attorney General has the tail-end oversight when it comes to the Dogwood Trust which in turn oversees HCA's operations so a decreasing bottom line wouldn't be a surprise.

"After the local foundation is reorganized, funds can be used for things like an indigent care clinic which would keep people out of the Emergency Room which will immediately raise the bottom line at the hospital," he said.

In addition, he said the Eckerd Living Center can actually grow the bottom line for a for-profit entity. "There is a lot of money in nursing homes," he said.

"Furthermore, we have protections now which we didn't have with Mission. The Dogwood Trust is the seller's representative and has rights of oversight over HCA."

He also suggested the local foundation take part of the \$15 million and put it in a fund so it could purchase the hospital if necessary. But most importantly, there won't be any "surprises."

"The Dogwood Trust, the AG and the advisory board will know of a proposed sale if HCA can't make it work. It will go to the highest bidder and we [the local foundation board] will be the highest bidder," he said.

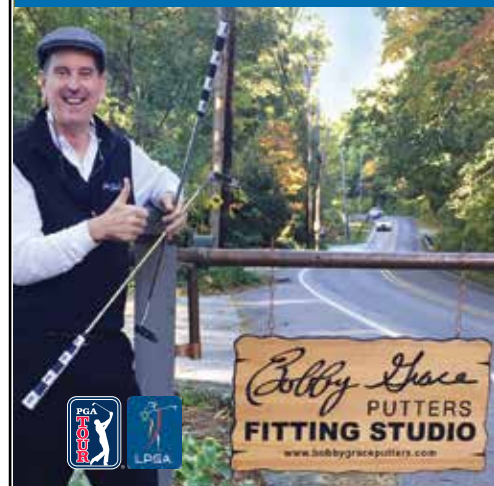
Lucas said it's likely the future of healthcare in Highlands and Cashiers will change moving from an old-fashioned hospital with beds to a health center model with more care provided at people's homes.

But for the HC Hospital to be sustainable under the current environment, the AG will want to know everyone is putting their best foot forward, he said.

"He has to believe HCA and we have support from the community — that this is positive and not gloom and doom," said Lucas.

— Kim Lewicki

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# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

## Thurs., Oct. 4

• Bingo at the Community Building from 6:30-8:30p to benefit Wreaths Across America.

## Fri., Oct. 5

• At Cashiers Rec Park, 355 Frank Allen Road, Town Hall meeting with President/CNO Jackie Medland noon to 1 p.m. Jane Woodruff Clinic room 103. Subject: Hospital update.

## Sat., Oct. 6

• The Cashiers Quilters will offer a detailed look at the craftsmanship and diversity of modern quilting with a display, a boutique, a silent auction and a bake sale from 10a-4p. at Albert Carlton-Cashiers Library. Free.

• Highlands School Fall Festival in the old gym 5-9p. Cake walk, bounce house, dunking booth, haunted house, and much more.

• Health Clinic hosted by the Health Ministry at First Baptist Church of Highlands. For insured and uninsured, 10a to 2p at the Highlands Rec Park. Flu Shots, Blood sugar screening, Vital Sign Screening, doTerra Essential Oils, Advance Directives, Safe Mobility & Movement, Medication Review by a Pharmacist, Massage Therapy and Dietitian Consultation.

• At PAC, Verdi's Aida, 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.com](http://www.highlandspac.com).

org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

## Sun. Oct. 7

• LIFE CHAIN on US 64 east downhill from the Rec Park. At 1:45 p.m., park at the Rec Park, pick up signs and walk down the hill. Come stand and pray with us. 2-3p.

• This year's Empty Bowls Benefit The Food Pantry will be held on Sunday, October 7, 11.30a-1.30p and will be hosted again at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands. Tickets are \$25 each and will be available at the door, while supplies last, or in advance at the International Friendship Center (526-0890).

## Fri.-Sat., Oct. 12-13

• The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival concludes its 37th season with a Fall Mini-Residency by the Argus String Quartet. On Friday Oct. 12, the Quartet will offer programs at the Blue Ridge School and Summit Charter School in Cashiers. They will then travel to Highlands to perform at the Highlands School. The final Feast of the Festival will be hosted by Mike and Cathy Crosby at 7p. that evening with the Quartet as special guests. On Saturday, Oct. 13 at Chestnut Hill Retirement Community and a ticketed concert at the Episcopal Church

• See EVENTS page 22

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## ...EVENTS continued from page 21

of the Incarnation at 5 p.m. Tickets for the Feast of the Festival and performance at the Episcopal Church may be purchased by calling 828-526-9060 or emailing at [hccmfnc@gmail.com](mailto:hccmfnc@gmail.com).

### Thurs.- Sun., Oct. 18-21

• HCP presents Mauritius by Theresa Rebeck at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Thursdays through Sundays. Evening shows begin at 7:30, Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. For tickets and more information check the Players website: [Highlandscashiersplayers.org](http://Highlandscashiersplayers.org) or leave a message at 828-526-8084.

### Sat., Oct. 20

• Sky Valley, GA Fallfest. 10a to 3p. Cars - antiques, classics, hot rods and other unique cars & trucks. Live Entertainment, art & crafts.

• At PAC, Saint-Saens' Samson et Dalila, 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](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

### Sat., Oct. 27

• At PAC, Puccini's La Fanciulla Del West, 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](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

### Thurs.-Sun. Oct. 25-28

• HCP presents Mauritius by Theresa Rebeck. Performances at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Thursdays through Sundays. Evening shows begin at 7:30, Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. For tickets and more information check the Players website: [Highlandscashiersplayers.org](http://Highlandscashiersplayers.org) or leave a message at 828-526-8084.

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## Come Celebrate with Us!

## ...PROFILE continued from page 1

County from the age of five, graduating from Franklin High School in 1971. He then attended the U.S. Naval Academy graduating in 1975 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He married his wife Peggy also of Franklin, following graduation.

Kuppers and his wife have three grown daughters, Amanda, Lauren and Susannah. The family attends the Snow Hill United Methodist Church where Peggy is the Chairman of the Administrative Council and where Kuppers serves as the Lay Leader.

Kuppers was selected for the Navy Nuclear Power program and embarked upon a 25-year career in the U.S. Submarine Force. He served on six nuclear submarines and was commanding officer of the USS Key West (SSN 722) from February 1993 to October 1995. He served as Chief of Staff at a major NATO submarine staff in Northwood, United Kingdom and his last tour was as Commander Officer of the Trident Training Facility in Kings Bay, GA.

He retired in 2000 and returned home to Franklin to teach and coach football. He is in his 19th year of teaching in Macon County Schools and currently teaches Civics and Economics and American History at Franklin High School. He coached varsity football for 15 years and basketball for four years. Kuppers is also on the Board of Directors for the Burningtown-Iotla Fire Department. He also serves on the board for the Cowee Arts and Heritage Center. He served as the Chairman of the Macon County Democratic party for four years and was elected to the Macon County Board of Commissioners from 2008 – 2012.

"There are several reasons I am running" said Kuppers. "First, I am concerned about the direction public education has been going in for the past eight years. Per pupil spending is down, funds for instructional supplies are down, and teacher morale is as low as I have seen it in 18 years. I am concerned about the level of commitment at the state level

of improving our public schools. Second, I am concerned about the access to affordable health care and specifically at the state level about our failure as a state to expand Medicaid. Rural hospitals are shutting down or reducing services at an alarming rate and the opioid crisis is worsening. Lastly, the partisan bickering and "my way or the highway" governing that we are living with isn't solving any of our problems and in many instances is making them much worse. North Carolinians deserve better, we can do better and we must do better!"

### Jim Davis – Republican

Davis is 71 years old and has been married to his wife Judy Salyers since 1972. They have two sons, Jeffrey Davis age 42, Joshua Davis age 41. Davis also has two granddaughters, Carly Davis, 17, and Megan Davis, 14. Davis graduated Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 1974 and received his MS in Orthodontics 1989. Davis has practiced general dentistry in Franklin from 1974-1986 and has practiced orthodontics from 1989 to present.

Davis served as a Macon County Commissioner from 1996-2000 and again from 2004 until 2010 when he was elected to the North Carolina Senate. Davis has served in the Senate since 2011.

"As a fiscal conservative I believe government should live within its means so as not to leave a legacy of debt for those who follow," said Davis. "Since 2011, the Republican majority has transformed this state through regulatory and tax reform so that we routinely have budget surpluses and our unfunded and underfunded liabilities are being lessened. Coming from a background of local government, I have been a champion of local government in the North Carolina legislature with a bias that the government closest to the people is the best government."

North Carolina's Senate 50th seat serves Macon, Jackson, Haywood, Swain, Cherokee, Clay, and Graham counties. While each county has unique challenges and strengths, with both candidates being from Macon County, they spoke to what they felt would im-

pact Macon County the most in regards to state legislature.

"There are many very important issues in the General Assembly that affect not only Macon County but the entire state - opioids, education funding, protection of the environment, gerrymandering and more," said Kuppers. "The one that might hit closest to home is the loss of rural hospitals and rural health care services. Rural hospitals are closing at an alarming rate; Franklin has already lost labor and delivery services. It is approaching a crisis situation in rural North Carolina both in the east and in the west. Medicaid expansion would be a good first step, but more must be done to protect our rural healthcare."

Like Kuppers, Davis believes addressing the opioid epidemic is paramount and something he plans to continue working to improve.

"Addressing the opioid epidemic," Davis said of the most pertinent issues facing Macon County. "We lose between three and four North Carolinians every day to drug overdoses. This epidemic affects every demographic. I have been a leader in the North Carolina Senate introducing legislative efforts to combat this deadly problem."

Public education dominates the political conversation across the state and with a lifetime of experience teaching, Kuppers believes he is the best candidate to move the education system forward.

"My emphasis for public education would be to give our teachers the tools they need to do the job and to make sure that they know that we, as the General Assembly value what they do. The General Assembly must fund the number of teachers necessary to get our class sizes down. When they fail to adequately fund the proper number of teachers, the burden falls to the counties and that is unacceptable. Next, we must ensure adequate funding for textbooks, technology, and instructional supplies necessary to get the job done. High school chemistry teachers should NOT have to buy chemicals out of

• See PROFILE page 23



# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

## DOWNSIZING SALE

**Saturday, Oct. 6  
9a-2p**

**829 Foreman Rd ,  
Highlands  
828-200-0361**

**Highlands Police entries from Sept. 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

### Sept. 21

• At 2:05 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Wright Square.

• At 9:20 p.m., officers received a report of a burglary at a residence on Harris Drive where \$80 was taken.

### Sept. 22

• At noon, officers were notified of a larceny at The Little Flower Shoppe on Main Street where a hanging basket worth \$60 was taken.

• At 7:50 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Park on Main.

### Sept. 23

• At 3:17 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west at Hickory Hill Road.

• At 6 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Oak Street.

### Sept. 24

• At 2:34 p.m., officers received a report

of a burglary, breaking & entering at a residence on Satulah Road where jewelry worth \$1,500 was stolen.

### Sept. 25

• At 4:15 p.m., officers were notified of someone communicating threats when a man walked into the kitchen of Main Street Inn with a metal bat saying "I'm gonna knock some teeth in, Where's that maggot?" The case is under investigation.

### Sept. 28

• At 1:26 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 19.**

### Sept. 19

• At 9:03 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a resident on Cherrywood Road.

• At 9:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 9:23 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Hospital Dr.

• At 11:09 a.m., the dept. investigated smoke in the Bowery Road vicinity.

• At 5:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a

motor vehicle accident on N. 4th. Street.

• At 9:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Billy Cabin Road.

### Sept. 20

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a resident on Norton Ridge Road.

### Sept. 21

• At 8:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Blue Valley Road.

### Sept. 23

• At 7:10 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Webb Branch Road.

## ...PROFILE continued from page 22

their own pocket to teach chemistry as some teachers in the 50th district have done and are doing. We need to fully restore the Teaching Fellows program so that we can recruit the best and brightest high school graduates to enter our public

school classrooms. Finally, we need to embark on a plan that will raise our teacher's salaries to the national average over a period of years."

Davis believes the work he has done in

• See PROFILE page 20

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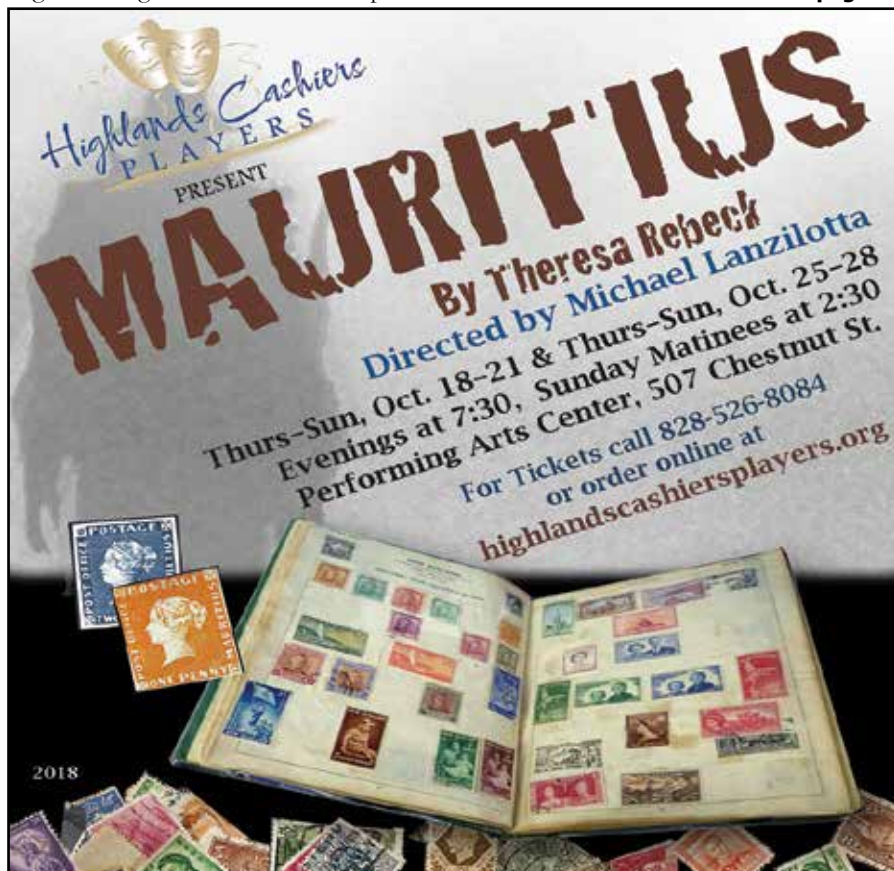
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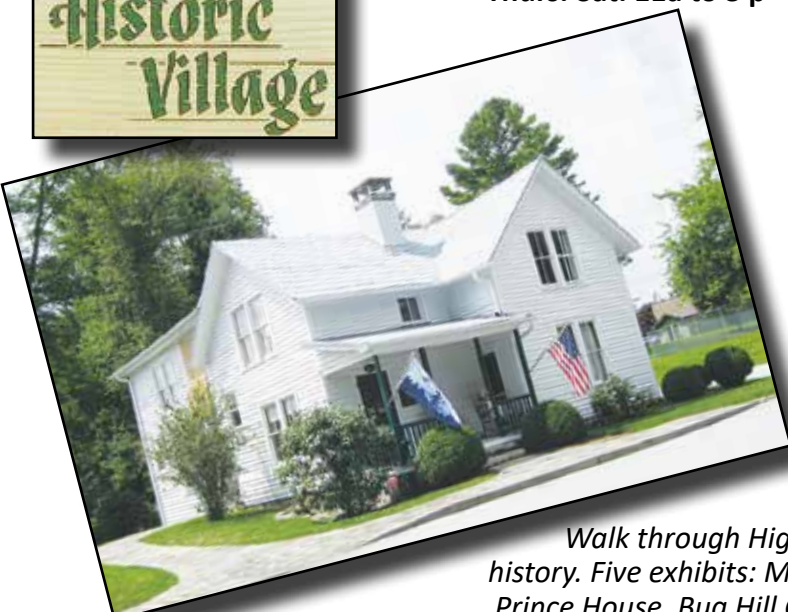


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### Outside your comfort zone ... or the roads less traveled?

When I moved to Highlands 24 years ago, I was focused on the bed and breakfast inn we were opening in October. Little did I know about the crowds of leaf lookers that would emerge! It was all I could do to keep up as other innkeepers recommended us since they had been full for months!

We lived our dream for seven years and made cooking classes a sought-after event for locals and tourists. During that time, I was pretty much "married" to the inn with little time to venture out and learn more about other areas other than Highlands proper. We were ecstatic to find help that allowed us to take a break that involved dining out twice a week at one of the many great restaurants in the area. That was our exposure to Highlands.

Once we sold the inn, I became a real estate broker which allowed me to explore all of the areas surrounding Highlands and Cashiers as I became involved in the community. I am delighted to be part of what I call my little



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"Hallmark" town.

But downtown is not for everyone and since I have written so much about Highlands in the past, I want to acquaint you with other less exposed areas that surround us but keep with "the mountain feel."

An area that needs exploring is passed through by almost every motorist from all of the southern states on the way up the mountain. I still remember the sign, "Ski Scaly," and all eyes turned to see the lines of those awaiting their chance to venture down the mountain as we drove past. That would be Scaly Mountain. Most people are in such a hurry to get to Highlands they travel through this area quickly. It's time to explore Scaly Mountain and all it has to offer!

Scaly Mountain offers high elevations (surprising to most) and some of the most beautiful vistas of numerous mountains that allow glorious and mesmerizing sunsets. The cool mountain breezes of fresh mountain air

• See **INVESTING** page 25



**Kay Deckman**  
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# Highlands

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**\$795,000 • HCMLS# 97556**

A beautiful contemporary home on 46 acres of property surrounded on three sides by National Forest. The home has two wings. Part of the house can be used as an in-law suite with its own kitchen, bedrooms, and living area. Approximately 20 minutes from Western Carolina University and 10 minutes from the Bear Lake boat ramp. There is an additional 19.7-acre parcel available for purchase near the listed property Co-listed with Jody Lovell.



**\$995,000 • MLS# 89133A**

This is a beautifully situated traditional home in HFCC on North Big Bearpen Mountain Road with views of Whiteside Mountain, Shortoff Mountain, Chimney Top Mountain in Cashiers, and distant Mount Toxaway. The waterfall on HFCC golf hole #15 is visible from the home's front deck. Open floor plan. Stone fireplace is focal point in the living room and dining area. Two master bedrooms on one end and two bedrooms on the other. Finished lower level with full bath and a deck.



**\$599,000 • MLS# 89218**

At the end of HFCC golf hole #5 with a commanding view of the green and down the fairway, this home offers excellent views to be enjoyed from the main floor deck and the lower level area. The main floor features two bedrooms and two baths with a large great room which opens to the expansive covered wraparound deck. The attractive stone fireplace is a focal point in the living room area. The terrace level has another living area with a second stone fireplace plus a kitchenette.



**\$429,000 • MLS# 88084**

A beautifully maintained home with updated finishes backing up to the Highlands falls County Golf course on hole number 4. From the front entrance, you can see HFCC golf hole number 5. This well-designed home has an open living space and one level living with the master bedroom on one end and the other two bedrooms on the other end of the home. The stone fireplace provides an inviting focal point for the living room, dining, and kitchen area.



# ...INVESTING continued from page 24

are unpolluted by car fumes and the sounds of traffic disappear. The land itself is still pure with majestic trees that tower above the green space they adorn. Butterflies are free and fireflies can light up a jar and thrill your children or grandchildren. The feel of nature is real with wild turkeys that roam and unpolluted creeks running through meadows that allow for natural spring water to be your water of choice. Back to nature allows children to play outdoors (as remembered in my own childhood) and encourages them to put down their cell phones and go for a hike on the many trails that surround them.

Put your toes in the creek, picnic on a blanket with nothing but the sounds of birds and katydids surrounding you as you actually communicate with those you are with...not checking texts or emails. Engage in life as it used to be. Many professionals including doctors and celebrities have discovered the tranquility and privacy it offers.

My friends opened the zip-line in Scaly Mountain that allows you to sail through the crisp mountain air above treetops and lets you soar like the eagles and hawks seen there. This is a fun activity for families or couples to experience the mountains in a different way that is sure to please all and keeps you wanting more.

Other friends, after a trip to France and numerous vineyards, fell in love and decided to

try their hand with grapes!

After purchasing 20 acres in Scaly mountain, they have created an artist's masterpiece with one of the most beautiful settings I have ever seen. They converted the old barn into bedroom suites and remodeled the old cottage-that used to be a condiment shop on the old road to Highlands -- and it is adorable! They also built a lovely home with a view of the vineyard. The dahlia garden that overlooks a pond stands majestically above the vines. A fully equipped and covered pavilion is perfect for weddings, corporate retreats or family gatherings. Wine dinners are a favorite there and I try to attend each one!

You can't judge Scaly Mountain by what you see on Highway 106. You need to venture off the beaten path and take the roads less traveled. You will appreciate what you see. We will be delighted to help you explore and discover the beauty and serenity of Scaly Mountain, NC. After all, you're only 15 minutes from the "hustle and bustle" of Highlands!

• *Pat Allen is broker-in-charge of Pat Allen Realty Group and has been a top producer in real estate for the last 15 years. She is a Certified Luxury Home and Marketing Specialist but prides herself in selling small cabins to large mansions. She can be reached at 828-200-9179 or 828-526-8784. Stop by the office at 295 Dillard Road across from Highlands Decorating Center and visit their website: patallenrealtygroup.com*

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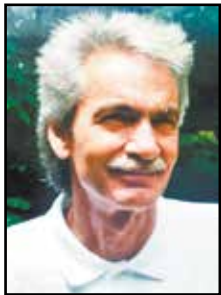
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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## What sinning means for the unbeliever and the Christian

**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Dan Robinson

I recently spent time walking the grounds of Montreat, N.C. It was there I first met Billy Graham. It would be one of several other subsequent meetings. This was because the Grahams lived in Montreat where I was a college student and because my Dad worked for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association for 20 years. How does one describe this sweet blessing? I don't know. I haven't figured it out yet. Just so very thankful that a Holy God crossed our paths.

In light of this, I was stunned with incredulity when I asked someone, about five years ago, if they had heard of Billy Graham, certain that they had. They said, "No." I usually ask that question when giving an evangelistic talk or invitation. Unbelievably, the name "Billy Graham" meant nothing to my listening friend.

I am finding a very uncomfortable sameness when I talk about Sin. It seems fewer and fewer have heard of it. And to some it means nothing at all. Although not AS true, it seems it is still true for some even in the church. So, forgive me if I sound pedantic in my following comments; but here goes.

Sin is either by Commission (doing what the Bible instructs me not to do), or by Omission (not doing what the Bible instructs me to do). And for a very long time it seems that many Christians have contented themselves with this basic (albeit accurate) definition. But the resulting implications and consequences of Sin are inestimable.

I am speaking now to the Christian. The Born-again. The Disciple of Jesus Christ. While the consequences of sin for the Unbeliever are judgement and separation from God forever, the consequences for the Believer are also severe. Yes. God will forgive. Yes. A Christian who sins will still go to heaven based on the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. But the Christian loses something which is more important than anything else. It is Fellowship with God.

When a Christian sins, his/her relationship with God remains intact. The Fellowship, however, is shattered. Frankly, this is not such a great loss to the Christian who has been a mere Religionist, or carnal, or a spiritual babe (I Corinthians 3). One cannot appreciate the loss of something one has never had. Losing Fellowship with the Lord means that we lose the sense of His Presence. This was too steep a price for Joseph to pay when tempted by the wife of another man. So, Joseph's response to the woman's overtures was: "How can I do such a thing in the Presence of God?"

I have said that the consequence of Sin is inestimable (and so it is). But, how can one make such a statement? Because the only thing greater than the sense of His Presence now is His actual physical Presence which the Christian will enjoy forever in heaven. I maintain that there is only a paper-thin veil separating those two events even now.

So, the question becomes: What does one do when they have lost this sense of His Presence? They go to a merciful God. Our Heavenly Father is not a mean parent. He is more grieved

• See SPIRITUALLY page 28

## Proverbs 3:5

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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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

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6p. Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 26

than we when we sin. Everything Jesus Christ has ever done has been for the purpose of uniting in Fellowship 'whosoever will' with the Father. He made this possible at Calvary. The Sin which separated the human race from a Holy God was dealt with once and for all. Now, anyone (yes, anyone), may know God personally and intimately through Jesus Christ the Son.

In light of all of this, I have to ask: Which is sweeter to me, Sin or the Sense of His Presence? By faith and the enabling Holy Spirit, the Christian chooses the 'Truth.' The temptations and traps litter his way all day long. Yet, like a holy mine-sweeper, the Holy Spirit steers the Christian safely through and around. Yes. The Sense of His Presence is the Pearl of Great Price.



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for 1 on 1 caregiving. 20 years experience with excellent references. I love being able to give 100% to a single client, newborn to 100+. From assisting with activities of daily living, personal care & meditations to travel companion, chauffeur, gardener, seamstress housekeeper and light healthy cooking. You get all of me. Licensed in NC with my own home health business focused on one client at a time. Able to travel world wide and or seasonal locations. Mature, very patient, loving, caring, out going person and responsive to needs, reliable and punctual. Competitive rates with no hidden extra fees. Hourly or live-in. Please contact me at [Joyhomecaresolutions@gmail.com](mailto:Joyhomecaresolutions@gmail.com) or 828-200-9538. (9/27)

**EVER DREAM OF PLAYING THE GUITAR?** It's easier than you think. I have 25 years of experience teaching all ages. call James at 828-421-2655. (st. 9/13)

**GUTTER CLEANING, METAL FABRICATON** roof repairs, debris removal. Call 371-1103. (st. 4/26)

**SC HOME SERVICES.** All things wood. We fix, build, modify or adjust cabinetry. 25 years experience. 772-214-4990. (st. 6/28)

**MURPHY'S PAINTING CO.** Interior & Exterior Painting, Sheetrock Repair, Wallpaper Removal, Log Homes, Decks. Insured. Free Estimates. 828-524-1391 or 828-332-0525. (st/ 6/28)

**PROTECTIVE COATINGS INC.** Custom interior/exterior painting, pressure cleaning decks. Log home staining. Water damage repair. Insured. Call 828-421-6361. (st. 3/22)

**RELAXING THERAPEUTIC STRETCHING** on Heated Table: Free up joints, increase Range Of Motion, improve walking gait & posture, prevent pain. NC LMT6820. A golfer's #1 tool is range of motion. 828-305-9713. (st. 8/23)



**DO YOU HAVE POT HOLES? NEED WATER DIVERTED CRACKS REPAIRED?** Call Daniel at DC Coatings Asphalt patching maintenance and repair at 828-421-7405 (st. 3/1)

**HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDI-MAN** - Can fix anything inside or out. Carpentry, painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling, and will monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-482-0159. (9/20)

**MOLD AND MUSTY SMELL IN YOUR HOME?** Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.

**HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON:** scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 8/9)

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE INCREDIBLE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY.** 3 acre prime location in Scaly Mountain, NC. 7 rental units including US Post Office. Located across from new Dollar General on Hwy 106 (Dillard Rd.) & Hale

Ridge Rd. 10% ROI. For more information contact Sandy Hall (828) 526-3752

**3.20 ACRES UNRESTRICTED.** Power underground, borders National forest, 190 degree view. 10 min to Main Street. 3 septic fields, 1 well 7 g.p.m. 2 house foundations established and approved by county inspectors. 2Bed/2Bath Clayton home livable while building. Spring rights and more land available. For beautiful sunsets contact [gracefamilia@yahoo.com](mailto:gracefamilia@yahoo.com). (st. 9/21)

**1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC** - \$28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm...open for negotiation. Please email if interested to [ddmarsh15@aol.com](mailto:ddmarsh15@aol.com) or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

**RENTALS BEAUTIFUL RIDGE TOP HOUSE.** Mirror Lake. 3BR/2.5BA, covered porches, upgrades. Available Sept 1st. Yearly lease, \$1,700/month. 678-576-8312. (st. 8/30)



**VACATION RENTAL:** In-town Highlands 3bd/3ba. One Oct week available 2018. Perfect for Thanksgiving/Christmas. \$420 nightly. Visit our web site for more details, [29brockcourt.wordpress.com/](http://29brockcourt.wordpress.com/) or call Chambers Agency 828-526-3717. Open year-round. (9/27)

**APARTMENT FOR RENT.** 2bed/1bath, Scaly Mountain, NC. \$650 per month, utilities included. Annual lease first month and \$650 security deposit. No pets. References required. Contact Sandy Hall 828-526-3752. (st. 9/13)

**LUXURY APARTMENT IN TOWN.** Walk to Main Street. 1BR 1BA. \$3,500 per month. 3 month minimum. Sorry, no pets, no smoking. Adults only. 828-421-1709. (st. 5/10)

**SOUTHERN BELLS RESTAURANT** on Cashiers Road for lease. Experienced restaurateurs only. Call 706-782-6252. (st. 5/3)

**FALLS ON MAIN** - Up and Down units available. Call 706-782-6252. (st. 5/3).



## 18 SP 99 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NORTH CAROLINA, MACON COUNTY

Under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed Tucker-Joyner Properties and guaranteed by Harold J. Joyner to Smith, Thompson, Shaw & Manause, PA as Trustee in the amount of \$555,000.00, payable to Capital City Bank and secured by a Deed of Trust dated January 10, 2005 and recorded in Book G-29, at Page 1578, Macon County Registry, North Carolina.

Default having been made of the note thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Scott D. Neumann, having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust, and the holder of the note evidencing said default having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door of the county courthouse where the property is located, or the usual and customary location at the county courthouse for conducting the sale on October 29, 2018 at 10:00 AM, and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described property situated in Macon County, North Carolina, to wit:

Being all of: Lot 1, containing 1.27 acres, Lot 2, containing 0.92 acre, and Lot 3, containing 0.81 acre, together with that certain 0.59 acre parcel located above Lot 1 and 3, containing 0.81 acre, together with that certain 0.59 acre parcel located above Lot 1 and designated as "Park Area" on plat referenced herein, all of Highlands Gorge and further shown and described on a survey dated May 16, 2005, prepared by Benjimim a. West, RLS, and recorded Card 4508, Macon County Registry, together with the join, non-exclusive right to the use of easements shown on said plat, and the additional 50-foot access easement conveyed to Grantor herein by deed recorded in Deed Book W-25, Pages 1438-1440, Macon County Registry.

\*The general description of the property is provided for convenience but is not guaranteed; the legal description in the Deed of Trust controls.

A cash deposit (no personal checks) of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale. Following the expiration of the statutory upset bid period, all the remaining amounts are immediately due and owing. **THIRD PARTY PURCHASERS MUST PAY THE EXCISE TAX AND THE RECORDING COSTS FOR THEIR DEED.**

Said property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance AS IS WHERE IS. There are no representations of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale. This sale is made subject to all prior liens, unpaid taxes, any unpaid land transfer taxes, special assessments, easements, rights of way, deeds of release, and any other encumbrances or exceptions of record. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the current owner(s) of the property is/are Tucker-Joyner Properties, LLC.

An Order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination [NCGS 45-21.16A(b)(2)]. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in their sole discretion, if they believe the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy.

**Scott D. Neumann  
P.O. Box 2020  
535 N. 4th Street  
Highlands, NC 28741  
(828) 526-0200 • (828) 526-0218 Fax  
Oct. 4, Oct. 11**

## NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION MACON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

A General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6th, 2018. All registered Voters of Macon County may participate in this Election. The polls will be open 6:30am-7:30pm at all 15 locations. Voters must go to their proper Precinct in order to cast their vote on Election Day. There is NO voting at the Board of Elections Office on Election Day. If you do not know your Polling location, please contact the Board of Elections office and you will be assisted with the information. Lists of polling locations are available on the Macon County Board of Elections webpage.

Absentee by Mail for this Election is available. Absentee by Mail will end October 30, 2018. Registered Voters may request for an Absentee ballot to be mailed to their home to be filled out at their convenience. An Absentee request form is required to be submitted in order to receive an Absentee ballot. Request forms are available on the Macon County Board of Elections Website. Requests must be received by Tuesday, October 30th, 2018. Completed Absentee ballots must be returned to the office by 5:00pm on Election Day.

The Voter registration deadline is Friday, October 12th, 2018 at 5:00pm. Same day registration will also be available at Early Voting locations for those who miss the deadline. With the proper documents, you may register and vote on the same day.

The following contests will appear on the 2018 General Election ballot: US House of Representatives District 11, NC State Senate District 50, NC House of Representatives District 120, District Attorney District 43, NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 1, NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 1, NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 2, NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 3, NC District Court Judge District 30 Seat 1, NC District Court Judge District 30 Seat 2, NC District Court Judge District 30 Seat 3, Macon County Board of Commissioners District 1, Macon County Board of Commissioners District 2, Macon County Clerk of Superior Court, Macon County Register of Deeds, Macon County Sheriff, Macon County Board of Education District 2, Macon County Board of Education District 4, Macon Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor.

The following Amendments will appear on the ballot: SL2018-96 Hunt and Fish, SL2018-110 Victims Rights, SL2018-117 Ethics and Elections, SL2018-118 Judicial Vacancy, SL2018-119 Maximum Tax Rate, SL2018-128 Require Photo ID. Official explanations of the amendments can be found at ncsbe.gov/Elections/2018-Election-Information or the Board of Elections Office.

Early Voting will begin on Wednesday, October 17, 2018-Saturday, November 3, 2018. Macon County has 2 Early Voting locations. Voters may cast their ballot at either location:

1. The Board of Elections Office located on floor 1 of the Macon County Courthouse, 5 West Main Street, Room 127B

2. The Highlands Civic Center 600 N. 4th Street, Highlands, NC

The hours for both locations will be Monday-Friday 7:00am-7:00pm. Early Voting will also be available on the last Saturday, November 3rd, 2018, 8:00am-1:00pm.

For further information on the Candidates, please contact your local Republican and Democrat Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please contact the Board of Elections Office. 828-349-2034. Your Vote is your Voice!

**Melanie D. Thibault, Director  
(Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4)**

## ...PROFILE continued from page 23

the Senate over the last seven years speaks for itself.

"Public education is 57% of North Carolina's state budget so it is one of the legislature's top priorities," said Davis. "We have increased the education budget by over \$2.7 billion since the republicans assumed the majority. In-

creased spending is not the answer to all of our education challenges, but it is very important to provide adequate teacher salaries and other educational expenses."

Local and national metrics suggest that the economy is strengthening. Macon County is currently considered a Tier 1 coun-

ty which means that it is one of the most economically distressed counties in the state. Both Davis and Kuppers believe that is something that can be improved.

"There are many factors considered in the Tier designation for counties in NC," said Kuppers. "Additionally, there are a fixed number of counties in each Tier so the counties are rated relative

to each other, rather than to a fixed standard. That being said, the pros of being designated Tier 1 is that your county may qualify for certain grants and state funds not available to the other Tiers. The downside of Tier 1 is a bit more complicated. To determine the downside, you must understand why the county fell to Tier 1. Moving from Tier 2 to Tier 1

could indicate a downward trend in some or many of the measures used to establish the Tier ranking. But, it might not mean your measures dropped at all, just that counties that had been behind you improved more rapidly. Either way, it gives the counties information which can be used to set policy to improve their situation."



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