

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 15, Number 38

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

Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018

Hurricane Florence dodges us; but Highlands was refuge for others

By Brian O'Shea

Imagine your home and business are directly in the path of Hurricane Florence. You grab what you can and you head to safety, which is exactly what Martin Lucas did from New Bern, N.C. Lucas began his stay at the Main Street Inn in Highlands last Thursday night.

"I just want to go home but if you go on Mapquest or something it says there are no routes available because of all the road closures," he said over the weekend. "There's still no power there and there's a curfew at night. They won't let you in or out unless you're a resident, but I can't get there."

Lucas lives in the historic downtown district of New Bern and suspects his home has sustained damage. His business remains unscathed.

"My house is seven feet off the river, so it's probably flooded," said Lucas.

Lucas' story is familiar to many who traveled to Highlands over the weekend to escape Hurricane Florence's path.

Initial storm projections had it heading for Highlands, but the storm changed directions and the town made it through with mild rain and wind. However, those initial projections caused many travelers to cancel their trips to

Highlands to avoid being caught in the storm. Still, businesses didn't



Hurricane Florence affected animals, people, property and businesses here and afar. Above is Cashiers Highlands Humane Society Shelter Manager Kaitlyn Moss with Jet, one of the 21 Hurricane Florence rescue animals now at the shelter in Cashiers. It took 24 hours and 1,037 miles to save a total of 75 animals from the Outer Banks SPCA on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

HF&R collecting supplies

Highlands Fire & Rescue is collecting items to take to the coast through Mon., Sept. 24. Items needed are pet food, cleaning supplies, Clorox, buckets, personal hygiene items, flat shovels, pump sprayers, trash bags, and diapers.

Drop them off at the station on Oak Street, or take to the HS soccer games Sept. 20 & 24 at 6p.

take any chances and made preparations.

"Based on Irma last year, we expected to sell out because of evacuees," said General Manager of Park on Main in Highlands. "But this time, we initially got a bunch of cancellations from people taking vacations, but then we filled back up with evacuees."

He said many of the inn's guests were from Charleston and the Outer Banks. On Wednesday and Thursday of last week, Woods said the ownership waived all hotel fees for evacuees from the storm.

"In 20 years of being a GM I've never seen that happen," said Woods. "Our overall goal was to reduce the amount of stress on evacuees. We wanted them to feel right at home."

Park on Main is known for being pet-friendly and there is also a temporary generator on-site as a precaution since Irma last year.

"Last year we had a lot of locals stay here because their power wasn't going to get turned on for 9 or 10 days," he said.

Manager of Main Street Inn Claire Cameron said they had a few people who had fled the storm, including Lucas.

"We lost reservations because people were thinking it was going to come here," said Cameron. "Then those were replaced with

• HURRICANE page 10

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Traffic was snarled and a car was pinned against the rock face on the Gorge Road last Thursday afternoon when a flatbed tractor-trailer disregarded the turnaround on the Highlands Road, bypassed Buck Creek and proceeded up the gorge.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

Town board to discuss tractor trailers on US 64

Everyone familiar with the Cullasaja Gorge Road (Highway 64) dreads seeing an 18-wheeler in front of them because they know they're in for the long haul. Four-

axle and larger trucks are not allowed to travel up or down the Gorge Road and there is signage notifying truck drivers of that

• See US 64 page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

HCA acquisition, the Gorge Rd. & NC 106

Tonight is the September meeting of the Highlands Town Board. It starts at 7pm at the Highlands Conference Center next to the ball field. As always, the public comment period is first on the agenda.

Also on the agenda, will be consideration of a resolution concerning the sale of the Highlands- Cashiers Hospital to Hospital Corporation of America. While the resolution supports the sale, it raises several concerns. The North Carolina Attorney General is presently reviewing this sales agreement prior to his approval. The resolution by the board would authorize me as the mayor to write a letter to the Attorney General addressing these concerns that center around conditions for reducing services, closing the facility and any buy back options.

It is important that the Attorney General receives public feedback about changes to healthcare access in this region. Concerns or disagreements over the sale need to be addressed now during this review period. Once the sale is approved, there will be no changes in HCA commitments and procedures.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

I will make two presentations to the board for their consideration. First, I will lead a discussion on the problem of tractor trailers using the Gorge Road. This continuing problem again resulted in a traffic log jam just last week by a trucker who did not heed the existing signs. This dangerous situation needs to be addressed by DOT. I'm asking board endorsement for me to write a letter requesting our legislative representatives to provide support in solving this problem.

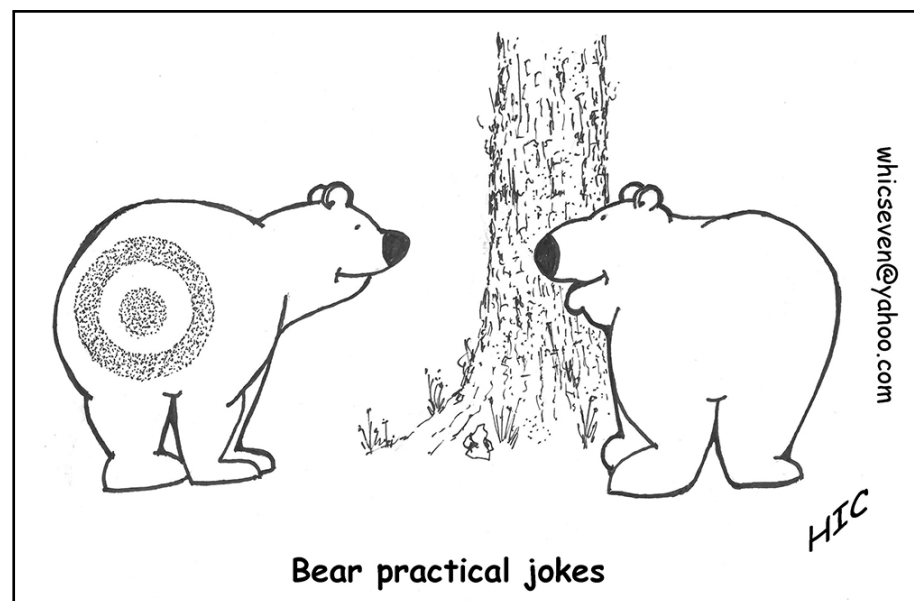
My second presentation will address the bear problem in the downtown area. One problem is the dumpsters on Oak Street. Users fail to secure the dumpsters and bears remove the garbage in search of food. I want the town staff to study the feasibility of replacing the dumpsters and move to an individual bin storage system for each business. Each business would be responsible for securing their trash from the marauding bears.

Finally, I will discuss with the board the proposed NC 106 project. I believe our friends at DOT became carried away with the design for the proposed project. Unfortunately, DOT has highway road design standards that apply to all areas of the state, so those standards were superimposed upon the scenic NC 106. In the long run, DOT needs to reconsider these state standards and make them more environmentally appropriate for a given region. A road standard may work on the east coast but be a real problem in the mountains. I am on the Southwestern Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee, which meets later this month. I will request any priority points for this project to be redirected to more important projects in Macon County. Since this project already had a low priority rating, the redirection of the points will virtually kill the project. Now that's not to say some improvements on NC 106 won't be made in the future, but certainly not anywhere near the scale as the ones proposed for this project.

Hope to see you tonight.

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Extended Forecast, go to
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• HIC'S VIEW •



Bear practical jokes

• LETTER •

Route 106 widening and smart grid

Dear Editor:

When it comes to the widening of Route 106, and the introduction of a "smart community" in Highlands, I would strongly urge my fellow citizens to stay "dumb and narrow" instead of becoming "smart and wide."

With regard to the NCDOT, we have already witnessed the massive scarring of the gorgeous Toxaway area; "new road improvements" have resulted in endless piles of mountain dust and old growth tree destruction, creating a "suburban wasteland" from an area which was once wild and beautiful. Thomas Edison and Henry Ford loved that hidden place called Toxaway; now, they are turning over in their graves as this debacle unfolds.

What Toxaway has become is just the tip of the iceberg; no town is safe. Soon, the entire plateau will be robbed of its beautiful ancient mountains, rare animal habitats, old growth trees, and raw natural beauty.

Aside from the road widening project, you, the American taxpayer, will soon pay for the "smart grid" project. That payment will take the form of both your dollars and your privacy. According to the Sept. 6th edition of the Highlands Newspaper, Mayor Taylor states that "Highlands will benefit by developing a smart utility grid" and "We will benefit by being a fully connected community." He further states: "Smart cell network technology is being developed by major communication providers. It would involve placing broadband antennas and

• See LETTER page 10

• WEATHER •

	Friday 9/21		Saturday 9/22		Sunday 9/23	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	76 F	56 F	77 F	58 F	74 F	57 F
RealFeel	82 F	62 F	84 F	62 F	78 F	63 F
Winds	4 g 6	3 g 5	3 g 5	2 g 4	3 g 6	4 g 5
T-Storms	20%	3%	40%	24%	24%	39%
Rainfall	0.02	0	0.04	0	0	0.14
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

Highlands Newspaper

www.highlandsinfo.com

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703,

Highlands, N.C., 28741

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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.



CULLASAJA CLUB

This may well be the best buy in any of the country clubs in Highlands. It won't matter if it is just the two of you or an extended family, this home has great spaces for everyone to enjoy. As a couple, the main floor has everything that you need including a sun porch with another fireplace and a home office built for two. The living room is bright and opens to the kitchen where even the most proficient chef will enjoy the amenities. The master suite features a private porch and a deluxe bath with a closet to envy. Upstairs holds a great area to read or play games, plus a sleeping room for the little ones. The terrace level boasts a family room that will accommodate the entire family, plus a climatized wine cellar with tasting nook, a large billiards room, and three great guest suites. With wonderful views of the golf course and the mountains and lots of open & covered decks, this home is just about perfect in every way.

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\$340,000
MLS# 88439

The master is oversized with an extra large walk-in closet and a newly tiled shower, new granite vanity, and new lighting. The large kitchen boasts white cabinetry and brand new stainless steel appliances and easy access to the one car garage.

\$315,000
MLS# 86979

One level with 3BR/2BA. The great room boasts vaulted ceilings, beautiful hardwood floors and built-ins next to the gas fireplace. The kitchen opens to the great room and has lots of cabinetry and granite countertops.



\$305,000
MLS# 87425

Great location in Chestnut Hill on a level lot with a small fenced yard for a dog in the back. Lovely rocking chair front porch plus a screened porch in the back.

\$298,000
MLS# 86978

One level living with two bedrooms and two baths. The large kitchen boasts white cabinetry and has easy access to the one car garage. Move in ready!



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Contract*

\$290,000
MLS# 82769

Great location in Chestnut Hill. Lovely rocking chair front porch plus a screened porch in the back. Located on a cul de sac with plenty of room to walk the dog or fiddle in the yard. Fenced dog run in back.



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• OBITUARIES •

Barbara Kennedy Stokes

Barbara Kennedy Stokes, 91, of Venice, FL passed away Friday, September 7, 2018.

She is preceded in death by her husband Charles E. Stokes and sons Charles "Rusty" Stokes, Michael J. Stokes and Bradley D. Stokes, Sr. and one grandson Bradley D. Stokes, Jr.

She is survived by daughters Vickie L. Stokes of Pine Island, FL and Shelley S. Vidmar and her husband Jeffrey of Highlands, NC & Venice, FL; three grandsons, Scott C. Schehl, Matthew R. Schehl & Skye J. Stokes and two great-grandchildren Michael and Emma Stokes. She is also survived by her sister Sarah Slack and brother Earl Kennedy and his wife Betsy of Columbus, OH., and many nieces and nephews.

Our mother was blessed over the years to have made many friends and touched so many lives along the way. Our family will "celebrate her life" privately.

Ronnie loved fishing, watching the Atlanta Braves, and singing while playing guitar, especially for his Zion Hill Baptist Church family. Ronnie was always there to lend a helping hand to relatives and friends for whatever people needed him for.

Ronnie is survived by his wife Alice of 23 years, daughters Angela Webb, Susan Kowalsky (Kevin Kowalsky), son Chad Ronald Webb, loving uncle to Austin Young; sister, Shirley Webb Guffey (Wade), and dear friend Else Cunningham. Ronnie was a loving father, husband, and friend to everyone.

Ronnie was preceded in death by his parents, Elvin and Madge Frady Webb; and a sister, Judy Webb Byrd.

A special thank you to the Four Seasons Hospice Team and Ben Sutton of the Charles George VA Medical Center Respiratory Therapy Department, for their loving care and support during his final days.

The family will receive friends

and family on Thursday, September 20 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory in Franklin. Funeral services will be at Zion Hill Baptist Church in Sylva on Friday, September 21 at 2 p.m. Ronnie will also be laid to rest at Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery. There will be an extended celebration of life at the Pumpkintown Community Center following the services.

Pallbearers will be Ernest Franks, Bruce Rish, Scott Vinson, James Monteith, Paul Rogers, Mark Rath and RV Johnson.

Flowers can be sent to the Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory at 105 West Main Street, Frankling, NC 28734. Memorial donations can be made to the Zion Hill Baptist Church - cemetery fund in care of Mary Wilson 3110 Pumpkintown Road, Sylva, NC 28779.

Online condolences may be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Webb family.

• HS SPORTS •

All about volleyball

This week middle school volleyball played Smokey Mountain, Blue Ridge, and Tallulah Falls.

They lost to Blue Ridge in two sets and lost to Smokey by forcing them into the third.

They were able to pull out a win over Tallulah Falls. Their next home game will be tonight, September 20th. They will play Eagle Ridge starting at 4:30p.

High school volleyball played Nantahala, Cherokee, and Robbinsville.

Varsity beat Nantahala in a strong 3 sets, as well as Cherokee.

JV also beat Cherokee in two, but didn't play Nantahala. They both lost to Robbinsville but fought very hard and played a much better game compared to when they travelled to Robbinsville.

Varsity lost in three close sets as well as JV who lost in two sets.



Kedra McCall

Their next home game is on Tuesday, September 15th. They will play Swain and JV will start at 5p with varsity following.

Middle school soccer played Blue Ridge.

They lost to Blue Ridge in the last few seconds when Blue Ridge was able to put one more away. They

lost 2-1.

Their next home game will be on Wednesday, September 26th. They will play Cullowhee starting at 4p.

High school soccer played Blue Ridge. They played until the very end, losing in the 2nd round of PK shootouts.

They couldn't quite pull it out but gave it everything they had. Their next home game is tonight, September 20th. They play Tallulah Falls starting at 6p.

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Ronald 'Ronnie' Wayne Webb



Sergeant First Class Ronald "Ronnie" Wayne Webb, 62, of Sylva, NC, succumbed to cancer at the comfort of his own home in the loving embrace of his wife, Alice, on September 13, 2018.

SFC Webb enlisted as an Infantryman, following graduation from Sylva-Webster High School. The "Sarge" dedicated 20 years to the service of his country, retiring from the U.S. Army in 1995.



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• WORD MATTER •

Does it Matter if Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is Non-Profit or For-Profit?

It's no secret that America's healthcare system is in a constant state of flux and change. This is true everywhere, including here in Highlands.

As we know, there are five major components involved in the delivery of health-

care services: patients, physicians, hospitals, pharmaceuticals, and insurance. For now, let's focus on hospitals, or, in our case, the hospital.

I came across an interesting report recently about the nature of hospitals in

America. The report, the result of a study commissioned by Health Affairs, a respected healthcare industry journal, caught my attention because it contained a discussion involving the question of whether or not a hospital's tax status has anything to do with its success, either financially or in terms of patient care.

This is relevant for us because our community's hospital is in the process of changing from being a small part of a large, regional non-profit healthcare organization to becoming a small part of a large, national for-profit chain of hospitals.

When we decided to locate here one of the reasons we did so was the presence of, at that time, a highly respected community hospital. The realities of the marketplace and the ever-changing nature of the healthcare industry in America, led Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) leaders to accept an offer to become part of Mission Healthcare. After only a couple of years, Mission is in the process of joining Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), a for-profit business.

For those who may not fully understand such things, 'non-profit' is a tax status, not a business model. In broad terms, non-profit hospitals don't pay federal taxes on 'excess revenues' produced by delivery of services. The proper designation should be 'tax exempt,' because most non-profits, hospitals or otherwise, do make money. In exchange for their tax-exempt status, non-profit hospitals are to 'serve the healthcare needs of the communities' in which they operate. This often translates to these facilities having to meet the needs of un- and under-insured patients, and others unable to afford care.

For-profit hospitals, typically owned by investors, expect their facilities to make money. Since for-profits do pay federal taxes on their profits, these hospitals often pick and choose the services they're willing to provide, often choosing to provide profitable ones at the expense of those others, which are not. They also have the ability to prioritize the patients they accept and the services they provide by turning away those who fall into either uninsured or underinsured, non-emergency status. This could include Medicaid and Medicare patients, as well as hospital-provided nursing care.

The Health Affairs study concluded



Bud Katz

that tax status doesn't necessarily indicate a difference in quality of healthcare service delivery. Generally speaking, both non- and for-profits strive to offer the best possible outcomes for patients. If a difference was noted, it had to do with the overall focus of organization's leadership.

With non-profit facilities, leadership focus tended to be on service delivery and patient

outcomes. For-profits were more business focused, aiming for operational efficiencies and opportunities to grow. This can explain the desirability of large healthcare operations to incorporate smaller facilities into their portfolios.

What all of this means is that, once again, change is on the horizon here on the Highlands-Cashiers plateau, and few people are really able to predict with any degree of certainty what the ultimate outcome of HCH becoming part of a for-profit company might be. Those of us who are in the patient category really didn't get a vote when our community hospital joined Mission, and we're not getting one with regard to Mission joining HCA.

Unfortunately, that's just the way it is. The flow of public information regarding the upcoming absorption of Mission into HCA is, as could be expected, positive and encouraging. Of course, I'm reminded of the great American philosopher, Yogi Berra, and his admonition that, it's really hard to predict anything, especially about the future.

All of this raises a couple of quite important questions: Will we enjoy a high quality healthcare experience once our hospital becomes integrated into the HCA for-profit system? There are those, both service providers and healthcare consumers, who believe the quality of care and service was at its best when HCH was an independent, community hospital. Will that experience change again, and if it does, will it change for better or for worse, once HCH becomes a part of Hospital Corporation of America, a for-profit chain?

Only time will tell.

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



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• THANK YOU •

From the James Family

Our hearts are full of gratitude as we say many thanks to our family members, friends and neighbors for all the acts of kindness and sympathy: food, flowers, donations, cards, visits and kind words spoken to our family regarding the recent passing of our wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather Herbert (Herb) James.

– Barbara James & Family



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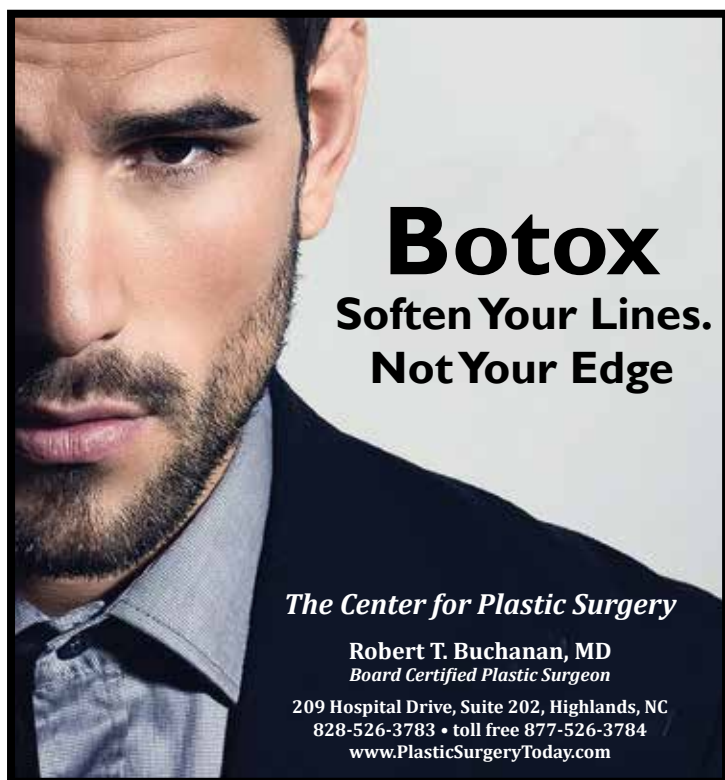
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**CHOREOGRAPHY
BY SONIA OCHOA**

...LETTERS continued from 2

equipment on utility poles about every 700 feet to support innovations like automated vehicles.”

Let us contemplate this concept: Do we really need automated vehicles on the plateau? Do we really want more junky poles cluttering up the landscape? Do we as taxpayers want to pay for these senseless projects? I have personally lived through the wonders of the “smart meter,” which are radiation-producing devices and are neither smart nor safe.

A way to find out when you are using your smart devices, the

grid will gather data about your privacy, which is then collected and sold. In essence, you will be paying for other people to sell your private personal information. With regard to keeping a community secure, smart grids are actually easier to hack into than the older technologies such as copper wire, and do compromise your privacy. I have seen the mistakes and perils of smart grid technology. 4th amendment anyone?

Whether it is the next best “road improvement” or the installation of smart grids, our unique

geological gems and our forest ecosystems are constantly under attack by anyone looking to make an easy buck.

The mountains, old growth forests, and wild animal populations cannot speak for themselves, so it is up to us as citizens. Please stay involved, and fight like hell to preserve this precious and unique place forthwith. Otherwise, you will be well on your way to seeing an “improved” plateau with the look and feel of a wasteland or an “Anywhere USA” suburb.

**Sarah Conway
Cashiers**

...HURRICANE continued from 1

people who wanted to flee the storm, but then cancelled because they decided against it because it was going to miss them.”

She said the hotel had four vacancies Sunday night when at this time last year they would have been full.

Al Bolt owner of Mitchell's Lodge & Cottages and Sabrina Hawkins owner of Highlands Inn and Highlands Lodge both said they lost money due to cancellations.

President/CEO of Old Edwards Inn Richard Delany said OEI lost about \$70,000 due to cancellations, not including the money lost from potential spa and golf business, but then picked up about 20 rooms from refugees.

He said business-wise Hurricane Florence was nothing like last year's Hurricane Irma which was a boon to businesses across the spectrum.

Staff at Reeves Hardware Co. on Main Street learned some lessons from Irma last year and prepares when inclement weather is expected.

Vice President of Reeves Joe Luke said they ordered heavy on generators when they thought the storm was going to hit town. Over the weekend he said they

sold out of generators, and sold a lot of flashlights, batteries and gas cans.

“We sold a lot, but we didn't see the rush we normally do,” said Luke. “A lot of people prepared early, which is good.”

The Town of Highlands took precautions as well. With the storm expected to hit Highlands in full-force, the Town had two power crews on call if the need arose.

“We enlisted two private line crews on Wednesday of last week in anticipation of Florence hitting Highlands,” said Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor in a statement. “They arrived on Saturday, and we provided lodging and food for them. Early Monday morning Director of Public Works, Lamar Nix, released them to go to hard hit areas

• See HURRICANE page 11

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...HURRICANE continued from 10

where they were needed. When we anticipate bad weather we have to lineup support in advance. If we called during or after an event, crews would have already been deployed to other areas. It's better to be proactive in these potential emergency situations."

Highlands Town Manager Josh Ward said the crews were from Knoxville, Tenn., and were on stand-by in case they were needed.

"We had no calls about storm-related problems so we dodged a bullet," said Ward.

Highlands Police Department and Highlands Fire and Rescue both took precautions in case Florence did hit town.

"We had officers on-call in case we had unfortunate circumstances arrive," said HPD Chief Bill Harrell. "But we didn't get anything storm related so we're really blessed."

Harrell added the N.C. State highway Patrol reached out to law enforcement agencies throughout the state and asked for assistance in providing security for shelters out east.

"Unfortunately, we didn't have anyone to spare to help," he said. "When we were initially in the hurricane's path those officers

I would have on-call would have been gone."

HFR Chief Ryan Gearhart said they did not receive any storm related calls. When the storm was projected to hit Highlands, they prepared by getting all of their equipment ready. He discussed putting firefighters on-call but decided against it when projections of the storm changed.



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Fall Home Improvement

Is Your Heating System Ready for Cool Weather?

StatePoint) Savvy homeowners know that with cool weather, comes a bit of preparation. A quick audit of your heating equipment can mean less wasted energy, a more comfortable home and lower energy bills.

Nearly half of all heating and cooling equipment in U.S. homes never performs to its advertised capacity and efficiency due to incorrect installation, according to U.S. government estimates. And if you have an older system that was built before current

efficiency standards, you could be spending more than needed on heating your home.

If it's time to replace your system, be sure to have it properly installed by an HVACR professional, certified by North American Technician Excellence (NATE), the nation's largest nonprofit certification body for HVACR technicians. NATE-certified technicians are skilled professionals who have proven their knowledge in the HVACR industry by passing specialized certification tests.

"The NATE-certified techs who perform maintenance and repairs do a consistently great job. We never have any concerns if the job is done right," says Rob Kirkpatrick, a longstanding customer of Thermal Services, a Nebraska-based contractor.

Beyond having an efficient heating system properly installed, you can prepare for the season in the following ways:

- Clean heating filters. Check them every couple of weeks and change them at least twice in the season, or as directed by the manufacturer.
- Check and maintain insulation. Improperly insulated walls, floors, attics, basements and crawlspaces drain away heat and can also lead to moisture imbalance. Adding weather stripping and caulk around windows and doors can also improve a home's insulation.
- Turn down the thermostat or install a programmable thermostat to regulate temperature.
- Clean the furnace

area. Don't keep chemicals or cleaning products near a heater, and don't store anything next to it that could impede ventilation.

- Free all vents and returns of obstructions. Don't lay carpet over vents, place furniture over or in front of them, or obstruct the flow of air.

- Dry air feels cooler than moist air, so install a humidifier. A simple humidifier may make the home feel five degrees warmer than a home with dry air.

- Look into geothermal heating systems which use earth's natural heat and are among the most efficient and energy-conserving heating and cooling technologies currently available.

- For optimal performance of your HVAC system, get an annual service contract which includes both heating and cooling maintenance. To find a qualified local contractor who employs certified HVACR professionals, look for the NATE logo or go to www.natex.org.

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Fall Home Improvement

Is it Time to Replace Your Entry Door? What to Know

(StatePoint) Is it time to replace your home's entry door? If your foyer is drafty, the answer is yes. Particularly with winter around the corner. Not only will a new door boost exterior appeal, it will prepare interiors for a temperature dip, making your home more comfortable, while saving you money on utility bills.

So, what should you be looking for in a door?

- A tailored fit. Nothing feels quite as good as well-tailored clothing created specifically to your size, shape and style preference. Off-the-rack clothing just doesn't fit everyone's measurements. Similarly, off-the-rack doors fall short of expectations in the same way. The materials and workmanship that go into custom-made doors are of exceptional quality and durability, and far exceed what is available as ready-made. Unlike consumer-grade doors, which are cut down to fit your need, professional-class doors are built to your exact measurements for a more secure and energy efficient door.

- Energy efficiency. Look for ENERGY STAR certified doors, which have been independently tested and certified to meet strict energy-efficiency standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. While a new door does come with a price tag, it's important to keep in mind that the right choice can help you lower your utility bills and ultimately present a return on your investment.

- Quality materials. While wood doors offer a beautiful classic look, they require regular maintenance and lack the endurance, security and energy efficiency of fiberglass or steel. Consider opting for quality materials

that will last a long time but not force you to sacrifice the look you want. For example, the low-maintenance fiberglass options offered by door system manufacturer ProVia include the Signet and Heritage collections and provide the classic look of real wood-grain, but are engineered to be highly energy efficient. The Legacy steel collection provides durability and energy efficiency, whether you opt for a woodgrain texture or smooth steel look, and is a good choice if security is your top priority.

- The right style. When selecting a style and color, take into consideration the current architectural elements of your home. Use online tools that allow you to upload an image of your home's exterior and play with various combinations to determine the right fit. Keep in mind that an entry door can either be a place to maintain the overall mood of your home's exterior or a way to add a pop of color.

For more tips and resources, visit provia.com.

This fall, set yourself up for a comfortable winter. Upgrade your entry door for substantial energy savings and a more secure home.



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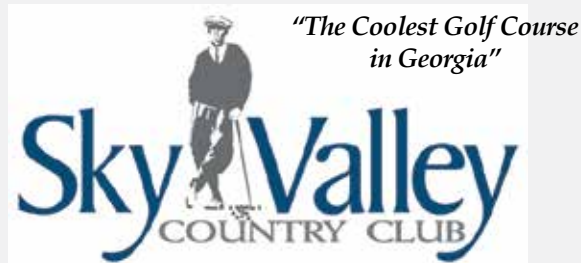
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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Thursday, Sept. 20

• An Evening with the Docs - Safe Steps: Keeping Mobile and Fit. Join Herbert Plauche, MD, as he presents a program entitled Safe

Steps: Keeping Mobile and Fit at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on at 5:30 pm in the Jane Woodruff Clinic, Suite 103. This free event is part of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Evening



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Sat., Sept. 21

• Free Live music in Town Square from 6-8

p.m.

Sun., Sept. 23

• The Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School Gap Singers will be singing during the 11a worship service at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The group is conducted by Allegra Boggess. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped-accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

Sat., Sept. 29

• SummitFest from 1-4p at the Summit Charter School in Cashiers. This fun-filled festival includes hayrides, inflatables, a photo booth,

face painting, karaoke, cake walk, safari walk, a pie throw and much more. Food includes hot dogs, cotton candy, tamales, popcorn, snow cones and more. Activity wristbands can be purchased the day of the event and are \$15 per person/\$10 for ages 4 and under. For more information, please call the school at 743-5755.

• At PAC, "A Night of World Music and Dance with Kaveh Karandish, Maz Karan Dish and Eric Zang at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Call 828-526-9047.

Sept. 30-Jan. 7

• At The Bascom, exhibit, "A Matter of Taste" will be on view at The Bascom. Admission is always free.

Wed., Oct. 3

• Flu vaccination clinic from 2p to 6p at Highlands Community Building, 869 N. 4th
• See EVENTS page 17

...US 64 continued from page 1

fact. Some town officials think more needs to be done.

Tonight at the 7 p.m. the Town Board of Commissioners meeting at the Community Building the board will discuss the issue of trucks along the Gorge Road and signage. Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor has drafted a statement to local representatives seeking assistance working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The statement reads:

The current sign system advising tractor trailer trucks not to use the Gorge Road does not work. Flashing signs that are activated by radar when large trucks approach should be installed at both ends of US 64, the Gorge Road. One sign should be located before the truck turn around at the Franklin end. It would tell truckers to stop and use the turn around. In Highlands a sign could be placed on US 64 before the intersection for NC 106 and 1st Street. This sign would order truckers to use NC 106 instead of the Gorge Road. Heavy fines could be imposed for noncompliance. I intend to ask help from our legislative delegation in instituting this plan.

Town Manager Josh Ward agrees that the current signage is not getting the job done.

"They (DOT) made the turnaround a few years ago and the mayor asked for some additional signage, which they did — they added red stripes at the top and bottom," said Ward. "But it hasn't made a bit of difference with traffic issues in the gorge. We just had one last week."

Around 2:30 last Thursday afternoon, 9-1-1 was called about a flat-bed, 18-wheeler that first ignored the signage and the turnaround on the Highlands Road, proceeded up past the Buck Creek turnoff and on

through the gorge. At the first "snake" the truck pinned a car against the rock cliff stopping traffic both coming and going.

NC Highway Patrol was on scene within minutes of the call. After the pinned car was able to maneuver away from the truck, the truck driver continued around the curve. Highway Patrol had asked the two vehicles behind the truck to move as close to the gorge side as possible, so she could hopscotch her way toward the truck.

Just before the truck entered the second snake, the Highway Patrol officer was able to get out of her vehicle, jog up to the truck and demand that the driver stop.

She called Highlands PD to stop traffic traveling down the Gorge Road — which it did at Bridal Veil Falls. When all the vehicles already in the pipeline had traveled past the stopped truck and it was clear that no other vehicles would be coming down, she escorted the truck up to Highlands where the driver was issued a citation. At that point, vehicles were able to resume the trek down the mountain.

The current signage, the truck turnaround to divert trucks from traveling to Highlands and the accompanying information station outlining alternate routes is the result of years of complaints and traffic incidents.

The turnaround was completed in 2015 and is located on the south side of the Highlands Road and west side of Highland Park Lane in Franklin — opposite the vacant lot where the circus sets up each year. However, few people have ever seen an 18-wheeler use the turnaround.

The existing road is a narrow, two-lane road with sharp curves, a steep grade and a low stone wall between the travel-way and descent into the Cullasaja River Gorge.



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Did you ever get one of those toys at Christmas, the one you'd been waiting for forever, and then after you get it, realize it didn't live up to your expectations? Or maybe, you didn't realize it took batteries, or a little imagination to make it seem like it's doing whatever it is you thought it would do. A home left to family member(s) can have the same affect. There are several things you should consider after unwrapping the gift of inheritance before the shiny wears off.

The first thing is to establish the current value of the property. There are two ways you can do this: You can ask a Realtor to perform a CMA (comparative market analysis) for you. Realtors will do these free of charge, and they'll give you a good idea of your home's worth based on similar properties that have sold within the last 6-12 months. What you end up with is a suggested listing price (which may or may not be close to the sales price). The second way to find your home's value is to hire a certified appraiser. If you can't fine one, your Realtor can provide a list of several from which to choose or ask your banker for a recommen-



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty &
Vacation Rentals

dation.

After learning the current value, try to disengage any sentimental value you have, because the next thing is deciding whether you want to keep it, list it for sale, or perhaps treat it as an investment property by leasing out as a vacation rental or annual lease rental. For this, find a Realtor that also specializes in rentals. (Wink, Wink) If anyone (Realtor or not) that doesn't have experience tells you "Oh, yeah, this would

rent," at least get a second opinion.

Is the home worthy of the prices listed in the first and second scenario? Often times, people tend to want to list or rent based on the current prices when their homes are not up to 'current standards.' There are plenty of contractors, interior designers and landscapers around to help you in that regard. Again, ask the people that engage these contractors to get recommendations. If you're going to be renting your property out, ask a Realtor that has experience in property management. (another wink, wink) Find out (and again, second opinions are great) where you can get more bang for your buck. Remember, some inherited homes could prove to be a bronco buck, so be prudent in gathering your costs estimates, and always allow for overages because almost everyone changes their mind mid-renovation and adds more and more to the original estimate.

Furnished or unfurnished? Well, are

• See **INVESTING** page 17



Become a
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notice to purchase
tickets!

One Night in Memphis

Saturday, September 22, 8pm

Highlands Performing Arts Center
Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling: 828.526.9047

...INVESTING continued from page 16

you selling, or renting and selling? If it's the latter, keep it furnished, but clean out and simplify. If you're selling furnished, consider LISTING it unfurnished with furnishings negotiable. The general rule: If it's being sold unfurnished, and you want the furnishings -- offer more. If it's being sold furnished, and you hate the furniture, offer less because you will have to deal with getting rid of the things you don't want. Furnishings are best sold using a separate bill of sale. Realtors are in the business of selling homes- not furniture, and you may be surprised how many sales have gone south due to pieces of furniture.

- How many people will share this gift? Sometimes, the more the merrier, but often times, not so much. Will it be a strain

for the people involved to work together for the good of all concerned? If there's a hesitation in your reply, the answer may be to run, don't walk to the nearest Realtor to get some answers. No matter how many beneficiaries there are, it's best for a Realtor to deal with only one. An estate attorney, or elder law will also be able to set up trusts and/or POA for the beneficiary group.

- *Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners/brokers of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals located at 401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands and online Highlandsiscalling.com In their corral of over fifty properties, there are vacation rentals, annual leased properties, homes for sale and/or property management. They enjoy dealing with horses of lots of different colors because there are riders to fit each one.*

...EVENTS continued from page 14

Street, Highlands. In addition to regular flu vaccine, individuals age 65 and older are eligible to receive a high dose flu vaccine. High dose vaccine available as supplies last. The cost of high dose vaccine is \$60 and Medicare will be filed.

Thurs., Oct. 4

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

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.

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Joe Deckman
347-749-6468
deckman43@gmail.com



1385 Broom Road, Tuckasegee, NC • \$795,000 HCMLS# 97556

A beautiful contemporary home situated on a serene and gently sloping hill on 46 acres of home property with magnificent surround and distant mountains. 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. Surrounded on three sides by National Forest. Approximately 20 minutes from Western Carolina University. The boat ramp to Bear Lake is about 10 minutes away. Top of the property would be ideal for a mountain cabin with magnificent long range mountain views. There are roughly three acres of cleared land which could be used for maintain horses. There is an additional 19.7-acre parcel available for purchase near the listed property Co-listed with Jody Lovell.



336 N Big Bearpen Mtn Rd, Highlands NC • \$995,000 MLS# 89133A

This is a beautifully situated traditional home in HFCC on North Big Bearpen Mountain Rd with some of the most spectacular views in the area 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. The stone fireplace provides a focal point for the living room and dining area. The two master bedrooms are on one end and two bedrooms on the other end. There is a finished lower level with full bath and a deck with long range mountain views. Country club living with 24x7 manned security gate.



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Theological Truths in TV Series: Get Smart



Father Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church
Cashiers

Does anyone remember the old TV series that ran from the mid 1960's through mid 1970, entitled "Get Smart?" For those of you who were not around back then or who may have forgotten, Get Smart was a spy-era spoof of a bungling secret agent, Maxwell Smart, and his savvy female side-kick, Agent 99. Max was also known as Agent 86. He and 99 worked for the good guys, known as Control, in opposition to Chaos (Kaos), the always-up-to-no-good, bent on evil guys. The series produced some good laughs even if it was a bit on the silly side.

Get Smart is not necessarily noteworthy as an example of good drama, cinematic success, sublime acting or technological sophistication. However, it is noteworthy for the theological premise, intended or not, that was at its core. The series title, along with the ongoing battle between Control and Chaos, good and evil, is, biblically speaking, spot on. We can learn a lot, we can "get smart," if we gain a better understanding of the ever-raging war between godly control and satanic chaos. Indeed, such knowledge can "save" us, humanity, and the world.

At the beginning of Creation, recounted for us in the first two verses of Genesis chapter one, we are given a picture of initial chaos. The earth was formless, empty and dark—it was the epitome of chaos. Who could live, what could live in total darkness and without substance or matter? Who would want to attempt to live in such a situation? The picture is further "filled-in" for us as the Spirit of God is described as hovering over the tempestuous, chaotic waters. The pre-creation waters had no order, no place to go or settle. In view of the havoc wrecked by Hurricane Florence and the chaotic seas that it spawned we have a reasonably good picture of that chaos.

What is the creative, loving God of the universe going to do in the face of life inhibiting Chaos? He will bring order to creation, he will bring it under his benevolent, sovereign, and powerful Control. And such is the substance of the following verses from the first two chapters of Genesis. The Master or Lord of Control brought life giving, life enhancing order from the dangerous, chaotic mess.

But, that state of garden-like bliss didn't last long. Reading on in the Bible we find that this heaven-sent peace lasted only until Adam and Eve, acting on behalf of all humanity, decided to wrest Control from the Lord of Creation. They sinned. We sinned. We wanted control of our lives and we thought that being in the driver's seat, as it were, would accomplish that for us. How short-sighted we were! Satan gained control through our sin and uses that leverage today to keep us in an unending, chaotic mess.

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

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Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

8:30a quiet service, 9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship

Service. Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper at homes

First Thursdays 5p bi-lingual Holy Eucharist

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Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street • Sunday Service 11 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays—Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Middle & High School;

10:45am: Child. Program, 10:45am: Worship Service

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am

Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship & Communion: 8:30 & 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 6p

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Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: Bible Study 10a; Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening Worship

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

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

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

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HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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Lutheran Church of the Holy Family, yolasite.com

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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

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743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Sundays: School — 10 a.m.; Worship — 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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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

• POLICE REPORTS •

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

Aug. 24

• At 6:50 p.m., officers were called about a bear that broke into a home on Bruner Lane causing \$200 damage to a screen door.

Aug. 31

• At 8:56 a.m., officers were called about an identity theft when someone tried to get a credit car and change an address.

• At 3:30 p.m., officers were called about someone scamming a victim through sending fake Microsoft message and calling her after to fix her computer.

• At 9:15 p.m., officers were called about a liquor law violation and someone in possessio of marijuana at a restaurant on N. 4th Street.

Sept. 1

• At 1:12 a.m., Joseph William Ferro Grier, 35, of Cashiers was arrested for DUI when he was pulled over on US 64 east and Popular Street. He was issued a \$2,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is Dec. 3

• At 6:55 p.m., officers were called about wildlife that pulled a panel off a fence valued at \$100 at Highlands Country Club.

Sept. 4

• At 2:49 a.m., officers were called about a simple assault at a motel on NC 106. Sept. 5

• At 3 p.m., officers were called about a juvenile possessing less than 1/2 oz. of marijuana and possession of marijuana paraphernalia on the Highlands School campus.

Sept. 5

• At 3 p.m. officers were called about theft of hundreds of dollars of climbing equipment from an apartment on Main Street.

Sept. 6

• At 4:40 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main street near the C 106 intersection.

Sept. 11

• At 7:48 a.m., vandalism of property was reported at Old Edwards Inn And Spa where a bathroom was destroyed, a window broken, and chairs and tables thrown around.

Sept. 12

• At 8:20 p.m., Mark Coats, 74 of Highlands, was arrested for intimidation. He was issued a \$2,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is Oct. 2.

Sept. 6

• At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Main and 3rd streets.

Community Health Fair

*Hosted by the Health Ministry at
First Baptist Church of Highlands
For insured and uninsured*



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
HIGHLANDS

**Oct. 6 • 10am - 2pm
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
- Dietitian Consultation

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

In an attempt to order human behavior in the only safe-mode possible, God had declared the fruit of a single tree to be off limits. Our Almighty Father did so because he knew that with anyone else "in charge" we would wind up right back in the very chaotic mess we chose when we took the fruit. Look at the world around us and discern, if you will, who or what rules the roost: Control or Chaos?

Thanks be to God that his love is more powerful than satan and our proclivity to sin or control. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to wrest back ultimate Control from the hands of Chaos, the devil. And this he accomplished by paying the price for our sin, surrendering his own life. He paid the price so that we could choose to refuse that forbidden fruit from this day forward. That is, if we will but "Get Smart" we can cancel the death dealing decisions of the past by saying yes to God, to his Son, Jesus Christ. Chaos will get the message and God's Holy Spirit will supply the power to be free from the ultimate mess.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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SKYLINE LODGE is hiring maintenance landscapers and yard men. Call 828-526-2121. (st. 9/13)

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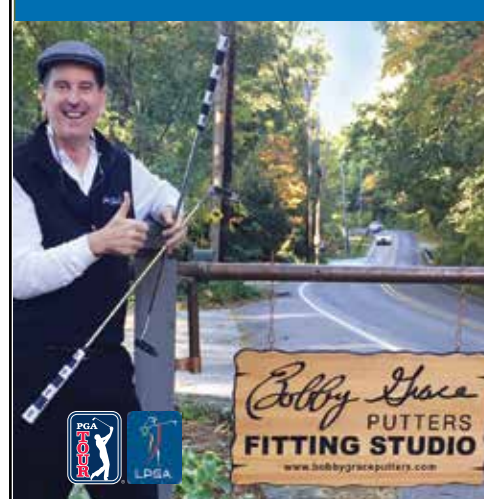
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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 21

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...CLASSIFIEDS continued from page 19

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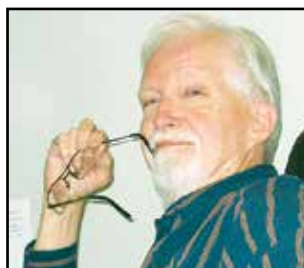
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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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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

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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. (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 or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

RENTALS BEAUTIFUL RIDGETOP 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 Food & Wine Festival, Thanksgiving/Christmas. \$420 nightly. Visit

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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)

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Walk to Main Street. IBR IBA. \$3,500 per month. 3 month minimum. Sorry, no pets, no smoking. Adults only. 828-421-1709. (st. 5/10)

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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.

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