

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 15, Number 39

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Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018

Main St. to be repaved starting April 1

Plan involves new streetscape down center of Main prior to DOT paving

At last Thursday's Town Board meeting, an announcement by Town Manager Josh Ward that NC DOT plans to repave Main

Street the Spring of 2019 initiated discussion about accelerating plans to renovate the entire streetscape.

According to Ward and Mayor

Pat Taylor, DOT's 25-year paving plan will involve milling – taking up – anywhere from 2-23 inches of as-

• See **REPAVED** page 7

• INSIDE THIS ISSUE •

Mayor on Duty.....	2	Events.....	14
Weather.....	2	Investing at 4,118 Ft.....	16
Obituaries.....	7	HS Sports.....	17
Word Matter.....	8	Police Report.....	19
Fall Home Imp.....	12-13	Classifieds.....	19

The NC 106 project is dead

During Sept. 20 Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor spoke his mind.

It's hard to say which issue riled him the most – the “modernization” of NC 106, tractor-trailers on the Gorge Road, the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) acquisition of Mission Health, or the bear/people dumpster problem in town.

NC 106

As it turns out, at the Southwestern Rural Planning Organization meeting Monday night, Sept. 24, at which Mayor Taylor chaired, the NC 106 improvement project was nixed.

Staying in the funding pipeline depended on the number of points the project was given in various categories – public comment, environmental, economic development and safety. A project could get up to 100 points. The NC 106 project got 17.63 local points but zero quantitative points, therefore it is no longer in the pipeline.

Instead, attention and the points NC 106 garnered, has shifted to West Main Street in Franklin due to a higher quantitative score and a better chance of funding.

Mayor Taylor said some aspects of the proposed project were good, but not the one-size fits all scenario concerning curbs, rights-of-way, and widening.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said he would like to see the three intersections realigned for bus safety and the mayor said he would still like sidewalks on NC 106.

According to Taylor, monies for those projects could possibly come from another DOT account and could be recycled later.

The Gorge Road

Though not on the agenda, also at the Southwestern Rural Planning Organization Monday night, MC Commissioner Ronnie Beale and Taylor were able to talk to NC DOT Division Engineer Brian Burch about the problem of tractor-trailers traveling up and down the Gorge Road.

“Brian Burch agreed that this needs to be addressed,” said Taylor. “He acknowledged that what's in place now – the signage and the turnaround – isn't working.”

Tuesday night, Sept. 25, Highlands, Franklin and the coun-

• See **DEAD** page 16



At last week's Macon County Schools board meeting held at Highlands School, students in the 4th and 5th grades opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. When in Highlands, the School Board meetings are held in the school's Media Center.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

Highlands School continues to 'exceed'

For the fourth year out of the last five years, Highlands School exceeded the state's projected academic growth.

At the September Macon County Schools board meeting held at Highlands School last week, Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin gave a “nutshell” of highlights of accountability for Macon

County Schools in the 2017-'18 school year as compared to the state's 115 school district.

For the 2017-'18 school year South Macon Elementary School (SMES) received a “B” – one of the 28.2% of elementary schools in the state that did so. SMES was also the only elementary school in the district to exceed growth – one

of the 24.1% in the state.

Iolita Valley and Cartoogechaye elementary schools both received a “C” joining 44.5% of others in the state but both met their projected growth.

East Franklin Elementary School received a “D” joining 20.8% of elementary schools and

• **EXCEED** page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Main Street improvements and HCA purchase

Tonight the Highlands Town Board is having a special meeting at the Highlands Civic Center. In case folks may be confused by the location, it's the building in front of the swimming pool.

Two issues are on the agenda. At 5 p.m., the board will review the DOT paving plans for Main Street, including 4th Street going out to Buck Creek Road on US 64, and going to Clear Creek on NC 107. The repaving project will cost just under five million dollars. The Main Street section, starting at 1st and going to 4th street, will begin early in April and be completed by Memorial Day. The other sections will continue into June.

The public works committee of the board has a plan to improve the center parking on Main Street by installing curbing and some planting areas for bushes and a few more trees. The loss of parking for this project would be minimal, about three spaces. Now is the time to decide whether to move forward with this plan before DOT starts paving. The plan would require DOT approval and town funding.

At tonight's meeting there will be



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

preliminary plans and mapping in order to assess the scope of the project. I also anticipate the board even making a site visit to Main Street during the meeting. The time devoted to this item could range anywhere between one to two hours.

At 7 p.m., the board will review the current resolution that I presented at the September Town Board meeting concerning the acquisition of the Highlands Cashiers Hospital. The resolution was tabled until tonight so representatives from the hospital and foundation could come to address the items in the resolution. At the meeting, time will be allocated for Mission folks to address their concerns followed by Q & A and discussion.

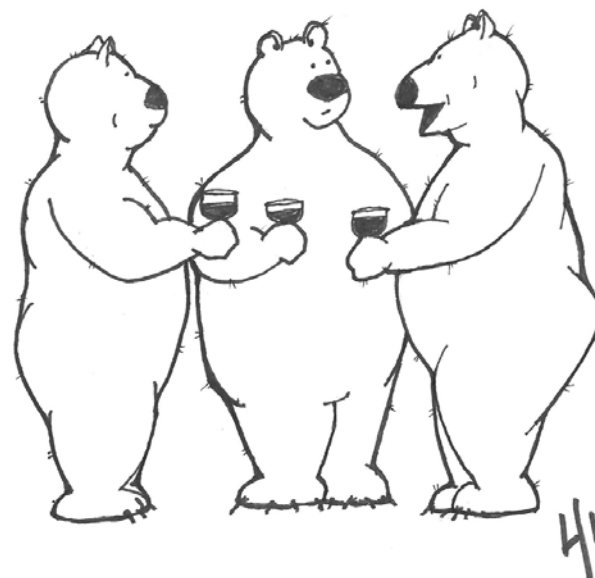
As I stated at the last board meeting, everyone, including the hospital folks and the Town Board, are concerned about long-term healthcare access for this community. There are no "good and bad guys" in regard to this issue. Community leaders seek the common goal of insuring healthcare access.

I met with hospital and foundation representatives last Friday. While I still don't embrace all of their positions, and am skeptical about some outcomes, I appreciate the hard work and due diligence that they have devoted to this process. They have had to face difficult challenges. When it comes to modern healthcare there are no simple issues. I really appreciate volunteer leaders who have been willing to deal with the pressure of making these hard decisions.

As the resolution states, I and the board are not against the sale of the hospital. It is very likely the Attorney General Stein will approve the sale. My concern centers around insuring services continue during the five- and ten-year commitment. And, finally, if HCA were to sell the hospital campus, we want assurances that community organizations would have the first option to obtain the facility and continue to provide healthcare access to the community.

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• HIC'S VIEW •



"We had dinner at the Dimmitts last night. Their trash was an eclectic medley of tasty tidbits."

• LETTER •

Mayor Taylor 'gets it' on road issues

Dear Editor,

Just want to say thanks to Mayor Taylor for his sensitivity to the residents of Highlands.

I am referring to his response to two highway issues. DOT plans for NC 106 and US 64 west along the gorge.

Having dealt with DOT in Florida and previously in NC, I understand that they take an approach of "one size fits all" and have little room for understanding the needs and desires of communities who differ substantially from their designs. This is where a sensitive Mayor can and did step in. Leave NC 106 alone and put up better signage was Mayor Taylor's response. Thank you, Mayor.

I might add one more suggestion, take photos of the driver getting a citation and publicize it on trucker websites.

**Howard Warshauer
Highlands**

• WEATHER •

	Friday 9/28		Saturday 9/29		Sunday 9/30	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	71 F	53 F	72 F	53 F	69 F	55 F
RealFeel	73 F	58 F	80 F	58 F	72 F	58 F
Winds	4 g 5	4 g 5	4 g 6	3 g 4	4 g 6	3 g 5
T-Storms	29%	24%	40%	40%	40%	24%
Rainfall	0.12	0	0.2	0.04	0.13	0.11
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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www.highlandsinfo.com

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

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• OBITUARIES •

Herbert 'Tim' Francis Holt

Herbert "Tim" Francis Holt, 82, of Highlands, N.C., and formerly of Miami, FL, passed away Monday, September 17, 2018.

Born in Lowell, MA, he was the son of Galeard and Helen Holt. Tim was a retired Coral Gables Police Officer in the state of Florida. He enjoyed golfing, riding motorcycles, and camping.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Holt; children, Russell Jones and Scott Jones; sisters, Dottie Tumblin and Gail Howell; brothers, Peter Holt and Rick Holt; and four grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com

William D. Calloway



William Dewitt (Bill) Calloway, age 76 passed away on September 19, 2018. He was a native Highlander and lived in the Yellow Mountain community of Jackson county. He proudly served his country spending four years in the U. S. Air Force in the early 1960s. Bill considered it an honor to attend the local American Legion Post 370 meetings. After his service, he was employed for many years at Pratt Whitney Corporation in West Palm Beach, FL. He later operated a painting contracting business in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

Bill was the son of the late Emma Louise Calloway Pell and the late Samuel Dewitt Calloway. He was formerly married to Mildred McDowell of West Palm Beach, FL. They had one son Thomas Chadwick Calloway who resides in West Palm Beach. Bill later married Hope Hedden Buchanan of Jackson County, the love of his life, who passed away in 2017. He was the stepfather of Brent Buchanan (Debi), and Kellen Buchanan both residents of the Yellow Mountain community of Jackson County. He was also the step-grandfather of Cayden Buchanan.

Bill had three sisters, Joan Morrow, deceased (Ed); Barbara James (Herbert, deceased); Sammie Houston (Bob); and one brother Jack Calloway (Susan). He also had the following half -sisters

and half-brothers: Celia Williams, (Ken, deceased); Teresa Speed (David); Freda Isham; Tony Calloway (Anne) and Russell Calloway, deceased. He had numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews

Bill was always devoted to his family, and they were devoted to him. For recreation he enjoyed golf, hunting deer and turkey with gun and bow. He spent happy days at camps with fellow hunters and friends.

A memorial service will be held at the Highlands United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 29 at 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers a donation in Bill's memory can be made to the Stewart Cemetery, c/o Jeff Stewart, 3401 Yellow Mountain Road, Cullowhee, NC 28723 or the Highlands United Methodist Church, PO Box 1959 Highlands, NC 28741.

...REPAVED continued from 1

phalt on areas of the street which have been built up over the years before resurfacing and restriping.

The first phase will be on Main Street from 1st to 4th streets followed by south 4th from Main

street to Clear Creek Road and north 4th from Main street to Buck Creek Road.

"The asphalt plants open April 1 so that's when the work will

• See REPAVED page 9

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• WORD MATTER •

Guns

Guns. There, I've said it. Why don't you write something about guns, Bud?" I've been asked that question more than a couple of times.

Since starting Word Matter I've aimed for balance. Simply shouting an opinion has downsides. First, I'm bound to upset at

least half the audience. Second, since I'm neither an absolutist nor stridently dogmatic, my opinions tend to come with some degree of nuance. Nuance upsets some people. Sorry. It's how I'm wired.

"You're a mugwump," they say. "Come on, dude, take a side."

It's not that easy.

Yes, I'm a mugwump. I'm not affiliated with any political party and I believe very few issues are either simple or easy when you actually unpack them.

So, guns. To quote the U.S. Constitution on the matter,

"A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Let me say from the outset, I believe the Second Amendment is, as constitutionalists put it, 'settled law.' The right to keep and bear arms by individual Americans is NOT going to be repealed, nor should it be. That said, and as I've said in this space before, nothing in the Bill of Rights is absolute. There are limits on all the amendments, including #2. For example, legal precedent prohibits individual ownership of many weapons, especially weapons of war.

America is exceptional among the na-



Bud Katz

tions of the world in how we address private gun ownership. Thanks to a large, vocal individual gun-rights community, and to an active, well-funded industry trade association, gun ownership by individual Americans is a valued tradition and, as a purely practical matter, nigh impossible to undue. And, once again, there's no reason to confiscate guns owned by individual, law-abiding Americans.

But Americans are weary of gun violence in general and with what seems to be an ongoing practice by individuals, who legally purchase certain types of weapons, from walking into places where other Americans should feel safe, and opening fire.

When James Madison wrote the Second Amendment he was simply putting into words a practice which had been time tested during the over 200 years prior to ratification of the Constitution. He didn't

• See WORD MATTER page 11



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Town Hall Meetings



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Thursday, Sept. 27 | noon-1 pm
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Jane Woodruff Clinic, Room 103
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Friday, Oct. 5 | noon-1 pm
Cashiers Recreation Park

355 Frank Allen Rd.
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...REPAVED continued from 7

begin, but the contract will stipulate that the Main Street portion be completed by May 25th," said Ward. "This includes all parking spaces and areas around planters so there will be disruption."

Paving Main Street from 4th to 5th streets is not part of the plan that will begin April 1.

Meanwhile, the works for months now, has been a

plan to revamp the Main Street streetscape to soften its appearance so it doesn't look and feel like one big parking lot.

"We want to completely revamp Main Street from the way it is now," said Commissioner Eric Pierson who with Commissioner John Dotson sits on the public works committee. "This will make Main Street 100% better than it is right now."

The plan, which will be discussed in full at a special

• See REPAVED page 10



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Sat., Sept. 29
7:30pm



FEATURING ERIC ZANG



CHOREOGRAPHY BY SONIA OCHOA

...EXCEED continued from 1

didn't meet projected growth which means it will be labeled a "low performing school" by the state.



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As for middle schools, Macon Middle School got a "B" joining the 20.2% in the state; it also exceeded growth; joining 30.4% in the state.

Mountain View Intermediate got a "C" like 45.9% of others in the state but it met its projected growth at the 38th percentile.

As for high schools, Macon Early College joined 21.3% of schools in the state to get an "A," a first for Macon County Schools. It met its growth projection like 37.8% of high schools in the state.

Highlands School and Franklin High School both got a "B" joining 37.8% of schools in the state. However, Highlands School is the only high school in the county to exceed growth – the fourth time in five years.

"The fact that Highlands School exceeded growth again is exceptional said Superintendent Dr. Baldwin. "That it has been able to maintain that level of achievement is remarkable."

Nantahala High School got a "C" joining 33.1% of schools in the state. Franklin, Nantahala and MEC met expectations.

Macon County schools were 30th in the state for End-of-Course and End-of-Grade tests; up from 2016-'17 which was 38th and 46th in 2015-'16. Baldwin said the school system is "definitely moving in the right direction."

Statewide Macon County's 8th grade scores were the strongest – 11th in the state with its math

scores the 10th in the state.

Overall, Macon County schools' end-of-course grades ranked 47th this year – up from 61st last year.

ACT test scores fell this year landing at the state average compared to 8.7 points above state average in 2016-'17

The high school graduation rate was at 91.2% for 2017-'18; North Carolina's graduation rate was 86.3%.

– Kim Lewicki

...REPAVED continued from 9

called meeting Thursday, Sept. 27 in the Civic Center at 5 p.m., will include a "ribbon" of plantings down the center of the street so vehicles going west can pull in and vehicles going east can pull in.

"This will eliminate the 'pulling through' problem we have now," said Commissioner Dotson.

At least in one plan, an additional crosswalk is planned for the middle of the street – in addition to the crosswalks at the end of each leg.

In addition, the parking configuration will be altered; however, commissioners said only 3-4 parking spaces will be lost.

Commissioners agreed the plan would have to be decided upon and implemented quickly so it is in place prior to DOT's start date of April 1.

– Kim Lewicki



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...WORD MATTER continued from 8

and couldn't, at that time, envision automatic and semi-automatic rifles, fast-action handguns, and other modern weapons designed with the single overriding purpose of killing other people.

Even the NRA, the National Rifle Association, wasn't established as a "gun rights" organization when it was formed in 1871. Its original purpose was to advance rifle marksmanship. It was another 63-plus years before it began advocating for gun ownership. The NRA actually supported the National Firearms Act of 1934 and the Federal Firearms Act of 1938, both of which would be condemned today as setting oppressive limits on the manufacture, sale and ownership of guns. It wasn't until 1977, in reaction to the Gun Control Act of 1968, the NRA began vehemently, and successfully opposing even reasonable regulations on guns, such as age restrictions, gun registration and deep background checks for ownership of certain types of weapons.

This is an emotion-charged issue for Americans on both sides of the conversation. Gun rights advocates are against any real or perceived "infringement" of their right to keep and bear all the guns they want. Gun control advocates believe there are too many guns already in circulation and support banning weapons used in mass shoot-

ings in recent years. The extremists on both sides make so much noise it's difficult to have a sensible conversation about something on which reasonable compromise could mean a great deal in terms of both safety for individuals and the legitimate rights of gun owners.

As is often the case, I see plenty of room for agreement if only people on both extremes would STOP SHOUTING AT ONE ANOTHER. Gun rights advocates must stop claiming that any regulation stifles the intent of the Second Amendment. It doesn't. There are no state armies in America, and so-called private militias, allowed in some states, are heavily regulated.

Gun control advocates must stop calling for confiscation of ALL privately owned guns. Simply put, confiscation is both illegal under the Second Amendment, and impractical by any measurement. It's not going to happen.

I doubt mine will be the last word on this combustible issue. But I do believe there's room for calm discussion upon which both sides can agree: something must be done to curb gun violence and mass shootings in America.


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

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Attract Beautiful Songbirds to Your Backyard

(StatePoint) Did you know that you can create a safe haven for wild song birds in your own backyard? By taking a few simple actions, you can provide birds with vital resources they need to thrive, as well as guard them from common flying hazards.

Protect Them

Before inviting birds to your yard and garden with food and habitat, first take measures to protect them.

Unfortunately, millions of birds die annually by striking glass, making the windows and glass doors of your home a potential safety hazard. Help reduce the risk of bird strikes by applying special decals that reflect ultraviolet sunlight from your home's windows, particularly those highly reflective of open sky. Virtually invisible to humans, they keep birds safe without affecting your view.

The ones offered by WindowAlert, for example, give the appearance of slightly frosted translucent glass, but glow like a stoplight for birds. For fuller protection, supplement the decals with WindowAlert UV Liquid, making marble-sized dots to create a "visual barrier" across glass surfaces. To learn more, visit WindowAlert.com.

You can limit other hazards to birds by ensuring cats, dogs and other predatory (but otherwise adorable) pets are monitored while outside to pre-

vent attacks. Dogs can be trained not to attack birds. If this proves to be an issue, consider consulting a professional dog trainer on how to break this bad habit.

Feed Them

Birds in transit expend a lot of energy, but you can ease their hunt for food. Avoid the temptation to feed birds yesterday's bread. Stale breads that have developed mold could be potentially harmful to birds.

Instead, populate your garden with native flowering species and supply a bird feeder stocked with a variety of seeds. Strategic placement of a bird feeder is key in preventing bird strikes. Place your feeder either closer than three feet or farther than 30 feet from windows. Clean your feeder periodically to ensure its contents are fresh and free of potentially toxic mold.

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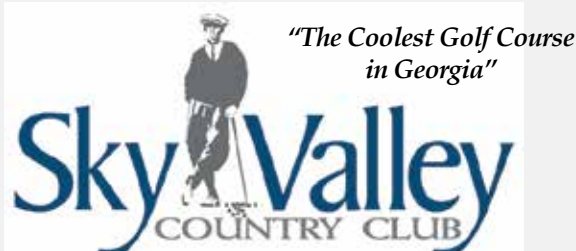
• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Thursday, Sept. 27

At HC Hospital, Town Hall meeting with President/CNO Jackie Medland noon to 1 p.m.

Jane Woodruff Clinic room 103. Subject: Hospital update.

Sat., Sept. 29



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• 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

• At Blue Valley Baptist Church, 5th Sunday Singing & Dinner starting at 10 a.m., Special singers are Mark Wheeler Family. Question? Call Rev. Oliver Rice at 706-782-3965.

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 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.

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.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 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.

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 after September, check the Players website: 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, 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, 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 after September, check the Players website: Highlandscashiersplayers.org or leave a message at 828-526-8084.

Thurs., Oct. 18

• See EVENTS page 15

...EVENTS continued from page

• The Highlands School Scholarship Golf Tournament at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The cost for the event is \$150 per player. To

sign up, please contact event co-chairs, Brian Stiehler (787-2778) or Rebecca Shuler (526-2118).

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...DEAD continued from page 1

ty met for their quarterly meeting – this time in Highlands – and as a coalition, agreed to present a resolution to NC Rep. Kevin Corbin stressing the importance of solving the “tractor-trailer on the Gorge Road” problem.

Various solutions include flashing signs in Highlands so truckers know to turn down NC 106 instead of proceeding down the Gorge Road as well as flashing lights on 441 and again at the turnaround on the Highlands Road, so truckers know not to proceed up the Gorge Road to Highlands.

“I believe with this coalition, something can be done,” said Taylor.

HCA/Mission Health

At a special called Town Board meeting tonight in the Civic Center at 7 p.m., the Town Board will meet with H-C Hospital Foundation board members and members of Mission’s H-C Hospital to discuss the terms of the HCA acquisition.

At last Thursday’s Town Board meeting, Mayor Taylor requested permission to send a letter to the NC Attorney General in conjunction with the resolution the town wants to send itemizing its concerns outlined in the Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) between Mission Health and HCA.

However, at the urging of H-C Foundation Chairman Dr. Walter Clark, the board agreed to table the letter until the three entities can go over the terms outlined in the APA so everyone understands its implications, thereby correcting the resolution and subsequent letter to everyone’s satisfaction prior to sending it on to the AG.

What’s most concerning to the Town Board is what happens to the H-C Hospital complex if in five or ten years HCA doesn’t see the bottom line it desires and it decides to sell the property.

“If HCA were to sell the hospital campus, we want assurances that community organizations would have the first option to obtain the facility and continue to provide healthcare access to the community,” said Taylor.

Mayor Taylor is also concerned that if no one steps forward to purchase the hospital to run as a healthcare facility, the property could become a shopping center or the like.

Commissioner Dotson, who was against tabling the resolution, said he wanted a guarantee that a healthcare facility would be here forever.

“I don’t believe Mission has been forthcoming as far as the sale was concerned until it absolutely had to. I have no faith whatsoever that this hospital will be here 10 years from now as a hospital. I, too, would like to see it last forever,” he said.

He went on to say he will only support whatever it takes to continue the hospital.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway said he is still miffed that neither the hospital nor the foundation board notified the Town Board of its intentions to sell to Mission Health in the first place. But he did appreciate the fact that the foundation board has been forthcoming this time – concerning the sale to HCA.

Dumpsters

This year has been “the year of the bear” in Highlands.

They are walking through the business district at all hours, knocking over garbage cans, grease containers, crawling in and out of dumpsters – basically making a mess.

In many cases people are to blame, because even though the dumpsters have clip pins and chains that when properly used de-

• See DEAD page 22

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• HS SPORTS •

This week's volleyball and soccer games

By Kedra McCall
Highlands School

This week high school volleyball played Rosman and Hayesville. Although they didn't win, they fought hard and changed it up a bit.

JV lost to Rosman in 2 and varsity lost in 3. JV also lost to Hayesville 2-0. Varsity then played them, changing the line-up trying something new but lost after 4 sets – though winning one.

Their next home game will be on Tuesday October 2nd. Only varsity will play Blue Ridge and it's Senior Night.

The middle school volleyball game this week was rescheduled to October 1st. They will play Eagle Ridge at home starting at 4 p.m.

High school soccer was busy this past week playing Cherokee, Tallulah Falls, Hayesville, and Swain.

They won all four games. They beat Cherokee 8-1, Tallulah 2-0, Hayesville 4-1, and Swain 8-0.

Their next home game will be on Monday, October 1st. They will start at 6

p.m. and play Murphy.

Middle school soccer played Murphy and Swain. They won 9-0 over Murphy but lost to Swain 4-1. Their conference tournament will start on Monday, October 1st. Who they play, and where they play will be determined.



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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.

2018 Upcoming Events

at the
 Center for Life Enrichment

OCTOBER

- **Monday, October - 1 What Lives in Your Garden**
Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Kefyn Catley
- **Tuesday/Thursday October 2, 4, 9, 11 (4 sessions) - Explore Your Creativity Through Sketching and Watercolor**
Time: 10-12 Cost: \$125/\$135 Instructors: Knight Martorell and Freddie Flynt – **CANCELLED**
- **Friday, October 12 - Fire Up The Stills: A Brief History of Moonshining in Appalachia**
Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35 Presenter: Bruce E. Stewart
- **Monday, October 15 - Baking Tips and Techniques with Martha Porter**
Time: 10-2:30 Cost: \$65/\$75
Instructor: Martha Porter
- **Thursday, October - 25 iOS Updates**
Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$75/\$85
Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith

Students Attend All \$25 Lectures for FREE, Walk-ins are Welcome!

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Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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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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CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

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

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

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Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

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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

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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

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

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

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• POLICE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Aug. 10. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 10

• At 11:06 p.m., officers were called about an ordinance violation at a residence on Mirror Lake Road. Sept. 6

• At 4:40 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Main and 3rd streets.

Sept. 12

• At noon, officers received a call about someone throwing TVs and trash on someone else's property.

• At 3 p.m., officers received a call about someone taking a UPS package off the front porch at a residence on Chowan Drive.

Sept. 14

• At 8:59 p.m., Ashley Marie Vasallo, 19, of Franklin, was arrested for a probation violation. She was issued a \$250 secured bond. Her trial date is Oct. 2.

Sept. 15

• At 1:15 a.m., Lani Lynette Parsley, 35, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI when she was stopped on NC 106 and Buttermilk Road. She was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. Her trial date is Oct. 15.

Sept. 17

• At 10:45 a.m., officers received a call about a breaking and entering at a residence on Bowery Road where a outbuilding was broken into and a lawn mower valued at \$350 was taken.

Sept. 19

• At 5:08 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east and Foreman Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 11.

Sept. 11

• At 8:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherrywood Drive.

Sept. 13

• At 7:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

Sept. 14

• At 4:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire at a residence on Wildwood Drive. Nothing was found.

At 3:44 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wildwood Drive.

At 7:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Webbmont Road.

At 10:27 p.m., the dept. was first responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

Sept. 16

• At 5:43 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a downed powerline on Mountain Moorings Drive.

Community Health Fair

*Hosted by the Health Ministry at
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For insured and uninsured*



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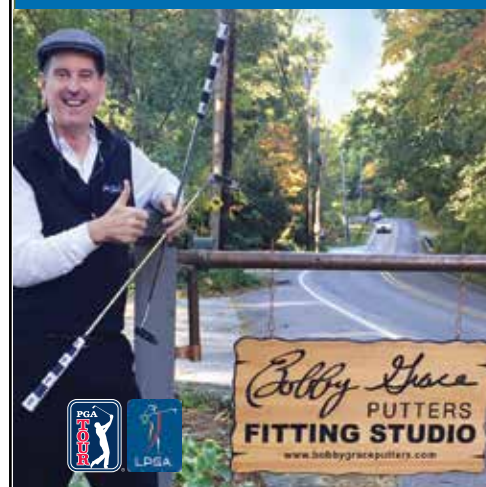
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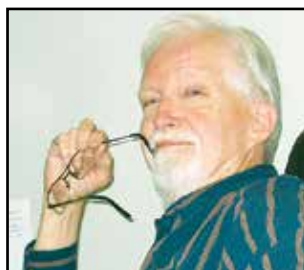
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3.20 ACRES UNRESTRICTED. Power underground, borders National forest, 190 degree view. 10 min to Main Street. 3 septic fields, 1 well 7 g p.m. 2 house foundations established and approved by county inspectors. 2Bed/2Bath Clayton home livable while building. 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 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/ 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).

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)

...DEAD continued from page 16

ter the bears, many times people don't bother to shut the lids or clip the pins.

At the Thursday Town Board meeting, Mayor Taylor asked the board to give the town staff approval to study the feasibility of developing a bin system for use on Oak Street in particular, like the one John Lupoli constructed for his tenants in the alley behind Town Square. Removing the large dumpsters on Oak Street - some of which are on town property - would also improve the appearance of the street, he said.

"The bin system may curtail residents from illegally dumping their garbage in these commercial spaces and the bear issue would also be reduced," said Taylor.

The board agreed to have staff examine the feasibility of implementing the proposed system by looking at the costs, fees, location and operation of the system. If doable, the system could make it into the 2019 budget.

- Kim Lewicki

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