

Highlands Newspaper

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It's a deal – HCA to acquire Mission

Next step: NC Attorney General regulatory review

Last Friday, Mission Health's Board of Directors announced that Mission Health and HCA Healthcare (HCA) have entered into a definitive agreement for HCA to acquire Mission Health. The Agreement will be sent to the

North Carolina Attorney General for applicable regulatory review.

• See MISSION page 10

NCDOT gets mixed reactions to proposed NC 106 'modernization'

Send comments for consideration by Sept. 13

With visions of the scarred US 64 corridor through the Lake Toxaway area fresh in their minds, many who attended the Department of Transportation's NC 106 presentation last Thursday, arrived with the predisposition that changing the corridor in any way should be avoided at all costs.

Others said they "liked some aspects and disliked others."

Aspects of the modernization include widening the 10-mile section of the road from Spring Street to the Georgia line to include a 40-foot right-of-way along both sides of the road.

Widening is needed to harden shoulders; construct pull-off areas for passing vehicles; for intersection realignment in three areas; and to build a sidewalk running along the east side of the road from Spring Street where it now ends to a little past Hummingbird Lane.

The widening includes hardened shoulders on both sides as well as culverts installed or replaced in numerous areas along the stretch to handle water runoff and eliminate washouts.

Though people traditionally plea with Highlands town officials to extend sidewalks in town, surprisingly, according to NCDOT officials on site, many were against the sidewalk element.

And then some people wanted to know why any of this is necessary at all.

"Highlands is a unique place that contributes to the diversity of North Carolina. Our smaller scenic highways are a part of that uniqueness. A similar project in Lake Toxaway has ruined that feel. I am completely against this project," said Andrea Schmitt.

Likewise said George Powell, who voiced both pros and cons.

• See NC 106 page 11

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The pink lines on the map depict the proposed NC 106 project route showing the 40-foot right-of-way needed on both sides of the road from Main Street to the GA line.
— photo by Kim Lewicki

Security at Highlands School is ramped up

By Brittney Lofthouse

The faculty and staff at Highlands School spent the weeks leading up to the new school year putting the finishing touches on everything to get Highlands School just right for students.

In addition to a new few faces around campus, students started this school year off with renovations to the school's security.

As part of a districtwide measure to improve the safety and security of Macon County Schools – something prompted by mass school shootings last year such as the tragedy which occurred in Parkland, FL, Highlands School has completed some upgrades.

While students began the first day of school with a new floor in the cafeteria, and window coverings for the windows on classroom doors, less noticeable

• See SECURITY page 17

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Wide Open Network's build-out could begin in March

I know folks have been wondering about where the town stands on the fiber optic broadband project. I haven't been talking about it recently, but progress has been made. Let me provide a review.

First, the town participated about four years ago with several other towns in challenging the authority of the state to regulate and limit municipal broadband initiatives. These communities argued before the FCC that there was a need for local governments in rural and underserved areas to create their own broadband networks rather than relying on private providers that were reluctant to invest in small, remote markets.

In a 3 to 2 vote the FCC declared they regulated broadband not the states. We waited for about six months for any court challenges to that vote before setting up Altitude Broadband. About a year later there was a federal court challenge that overturned the FCC decision. Since that time, we have worked to be in compliance with North Carolina statutes, namely HB 129, in



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

creating a private/public partnership with Wide Open Networks.

When the fiber optic network is built and operational, Wide Open will operate it by providing bandwidth for other private providers to deliver content and programming to customers. Highlands will benefit by developing a smart utility grid. We all will benefit by being a fully connected community.

Wide Open and their associates have designed a fiber optic network that will be available to all of our electric utility customers. The network design also includes every parcel in the town limits that may want future service. Wide Open will eventually consider providing service beyond the town.

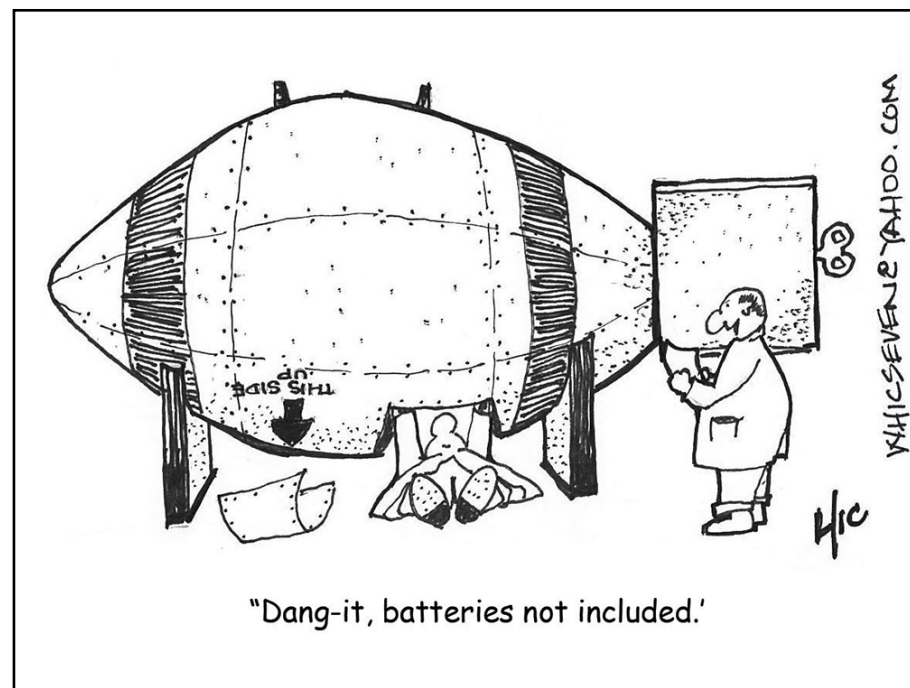
Subcontractors for Wide Open have been creating construction documents in preparation for requesting contractor bids to build the network. These documents and drawings are specific plans to run fiber throughout Highlands. The plans include substantially more fiber than will be required to initially light up the network. Additional capacity is important for the future needs.

With this network, each customer will have a dedicated fiber that runs back to network servers. That individual fiber system means the availability of almost unlimited bandwidth to customers now and well into the future. The demand for bandwidth is just getting started.

Small cell network technology is being developed by major communication providers. It would involve placing broadband antennas and equipment on utility poles about

• See MAYOR page 19

• HIC'S VIEW •



• LETTERS •

Remind you of a certain someone?

Dear Editor;

The Mayo Clinic defines Narcissistic personality disorder with the following signs and symptoms:

1. Have an exaggerated sense of self-importance
2. Have a sense of entitlement and require constant, excessive admiration
3. Expect to be recognized as superior even without achievements that warrant it
4. Exaggerate achievements and talents
5. Be preoccupied with fantasies about success, power, brilliance, beauty or the perfect mate
6. Believe they are superior and can only associate with equally special people
7. Monopolize conversations and belittle or look down on people they perceive as inferior
8. Expect special favors and unquestioning compliance with their expectations
9. Take advantage of others to get what they want

• See LETTER page 8

• WEATHER •

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	Friday 9/7		Saturday 9/8		Sunday 9/9	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	79 F	59 F	76 F	61 F	73 F	61 F
RealFeel®	88 F	66 F	85 F	66 F	77 F	61 F
Winds	3 g 5	2 g 4	3 g 5	3 g 4	4 g 7	3 g 5
T-Storms	24%	24%	24%	24%	60%	31%
Rainfall	0	0	0	0	0.16	0.21
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

Featured PROPERTY

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB

A TRUE treasure for those seeking only the best! The interior is a feast for the eyes with warm subtle colors throughout the open floor plan enhanced by handsome hardwood floors. The welcoming entry has a whimsical feel. A spacious living room provides abundant seating anchored by a beautiful fireplace and accented by the formal dining space. The large kitchen has a sunny breakfast area which opens into a bright and cheerful garden room for family times or casual entertaining. From here you enter a wonder-ful screened porch and stone terrace for cooking out. A master suite with sitting room offers separate "his and hers" bath areas with walk-in closets for each. Three additional guest bedrooms each have private baths. Almost the entire home is on one level. Expan-sive decks, terraces and porches surround the entire home where there is total privacy with no other home visible except far across the gorgeous golf course.

MLS# 88238 | Offered for \$1,695,000

Featured PROPERTY

GREAT BUY IN HIGHGATE

It is not often that a home with this much character and a great mountain view is on the market for less than \$1M in a prominent Highlands neighborhood! Located on the Atlanta side of Highlands close to Highlands Country Club and just a few miles to Main Street, this home was sited for privacy and to take advantage of the beautiful mountain view. High wood ceilings and gleaming hardwood floors set off the horizontal wood walls and antique beams. The floor-to-ceiling wood-burning stone fireplace is the focal point of the living room which opens to a large covered deck with a gas log fireplace. The master suite boasts a fabulous bath with his and her vanities, a large tile shower and a soaking tub. Upstairs are two delightful guest suites.

MLS# 88513 | Offered for \$939,000



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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!



*Under
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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Mission Health has served western North Carolina for more than 130 years.

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At HCA Healthcare, we know the critical role Mission Health plays in delivering the highest quality healthcare to the communities of western North Carolina, and we are excited about the opportunity to partner with Mission Health to help ensure that continues for many years to come.

A Commitment to Continuing Mission Health's Legacy and Advancing Healthcare in western North Carolina

Local Leadership

As part of HCA Healthcare, Mission Health will continue to be managed locally by the people who know the community best.

Community Investment

HCA Healthcare plans to invest \$10.5 billion for capital expenditures over the next three years in the communities where we provide care.

Serving Rural Communities

Our approach for fifty years has been to enhance clinical excellence by using our scale and resources to support our caregivers, and we take that same approach to rural healthcare. We are committed to providing access to high quality patient-centered care in every community we serve.

Charity Care

Poor and at-risk populations will benefit from HCA Healthcare's charity care policy, which is even more generous than what Mission Health currently provides.



We invite you to learn more about HCA Healthcare and this historic partnership.

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• OBITUARIES •

Dr. Paul McMillian Davis, III

Dr. Paul McMillian Davis, III 63, passed away Saturday, August 25, 2018 at Piedmont Hospital in

Atlanta, GA. Dr. Davis was born in New Orleans, LA. to the late Dr. Paul McMillian "Mac" Davis, Jr. and Frances "Fran" Bolton Davis.

Dr. Davis was an Orthopedic Surgeon in the Atlanta area. He completed his undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University; MBA degree from Emory University; and his medical degree from Louisiana State University.

He loved to ride his motorcycle, cook, swim and hunt. He also attended Community Bible Church in Highlands, NC.

Survivors include his five children, Paul McMillian Davis, IV, Stephen Bolton Davis (Elizabeth), James "Jim" Stafford Davis, Catherine Calderwood



"Cate" Davis, William "Will" Parker Davis; a grandson, Carter Davis; a sister, Frances S. Davis; a brother, James B. Davis (Linda); and his fiancé, Judy Stovall of Atlanta, GA.

A funeral service was held Thursday August 30, 2018 at the Community Bible Church with the Rev. Gary Hewins officiating. Burial was in the Highlands Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the donor's choice in memory of Dr. Paul M. Davis, III.

Online condolences may be left at www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Davis Family.

Timothy Mark Bentley

Timothy Mark Bentley, age 61, went home to be with the Lord, Tuesday, August 28, 2018, after an extended illness.

Celebration of Life was held Friday, August 31st at Community Bible Church with Dr. Gary Hewins officiating.

Burial will be held at 12 noon on Saturday, September 15, at Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery in McIntyre, GA. A luncheon will follow at the church.

Tim was born in Baldwin County and lived most of his life in McIntyre, GA. He worked with Rheem Manufacturing in Milledgeville, for nine years. After which Tim took over the family business, Bentley Enterprise, a restaurant supply company. He was able to travel and meet people making friends wherever he went. Tim has been living in Highlands, NC for over a year, with his sister Susan.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Lindberg Bentley, Sr. and Christine Topping Bentley



of McIntyre, GA; and a sibling baby Bentley; and his brother-in-law, Bill Pugsley. He is survived by three siblings; Charles L. Bentley, Jr. (Linda); Susan Bentley Pugsley; Kevin Bentley (Carla); nephews, Trey Bentley (Elizabeth), Michael Bentley (Jessica), Mitch Bentley (Courtney), Ben Bentley, and Nick Bentley; great-nieces, Abbi Bentley, Kylie Bentley, and Madi Kate Bentley; great-nephew, Luke Bentley; and a special cousin and friend, Jodi Bentley Roberts.

Tim was always a devoted and loyal son, brother, uncle, and friend to all. His entire family knew when they called on Tim, he would be there to help them with whatever the need happened to be, large or small. We give thanks to the Lord for being blessed with Tim in our lives and are truly thankful Tim rededicated his life to Christ. He will be missed by those whose lives he touched.

Donations may be made in memory of Tim to: Community Bible Church, C/O Children's Ministry, PO Box 2916, Highlands, NC 28741 or Happy Hollow Christian Academy 156 E Main St, Irwinton, GA 31042.

Macon Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

...LETTER continued from page 2

10. Have an inability or unwillingness to recognize the needs and feelings of others

11. Be envious of others and believe others envy them

12. Behave in an arrogant or haughty manner, coming across as conceited, boastful and pretentious

13. Insist on having the best of everything — for instance, the best car or office

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• WORD MATTER •

Our President and Mr. Putin

Sufficient time has passed since President Trump's surreal meeting with Russian president Vladimir Putin for us to engage in a bit of reflection. Per the precedent set during his meeting with North Korea's Kim Jung Un, we aren't privy to what was said, or agreed to, when the two spoke in private. Whether or not we should be is a question worthy of consideration.



Bud Katz

punitive level.

Our economy is strong, as it was in both 1962 and 1988. Our military is, by miles, still the best trained, best equipped, and most powerful in the world. Why does an authoritarian thug, with a struggling, oil-based economy, and a Cold War army in visible decline, get to use the world as his playpen? At what point will we, once the most respected and feared power on the

planet, assert ourselves and put a stop to Mr. Putin's aggressive activities? What exactly will it take for our elected leaders to behave in our national interest?

To be sure, the world today is different than it was in either the early 1960s or the late 1980s. In those days Russia was led, first, by a Communist ideologue in Nikita Khrushchev, and then, in the case of Mikhail Gorbachev, by a political pragmatist. Now, as Putin clearly aspires to return its status to that of world leader by whatever means necessary, Russia is being led by a brutal, paranoid, anti-American, former KGB intelligence operative.

This is not a guy who makes friends or plays nicely with his enemies.

As we've seen in the aftermath of our President's one-on-one with North Korea's Kim Jung Un in Singapore, with only translators in the room, negotiating with a belligerent, autocratic, antagonistic national leader is different than negotiating the building of a hotel or casino, with a city, or a labor union.

Mr. Putin is a seasoned politician and has been operating on the world stage for decades. Mr. Trump is neither, and his predilection for secrecy in these meetings, even from his own staff and advisors, is, or should be, a matter of genuine concern. What exactly is being said in those meetings he doesn't want others to hear?

Our president is playing a dangerous game. Nuclear weapons are involved. The lives of hundreds of millions of people are at stake.

We, our elected officials, and those others tasked with looking out for our interests, should know exactly what's being said when any POTUS meets with global counterparts; including those we like and trust, and especially those we don't like and shouldn't trust.

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

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...MISSION continued from page 1

As part of its normal regulatory review process, the attorney general will evaluate any effect the transaction could have on market competition, whether HCA Healthcare is paying a fair price for the acquisition and how pro-

ceeds resulting from the sale will continue to benefit western North Carolina.

The proceeds of the sale combined with Mission Health's remaining cash and investments – after all debts and obligations have been paid – will

ultimately be transferred to the newly formed Dogwood Health Trust whose sole mission is to dramatically improve the health and well-being of all people and communities of western North Carolina.

HCA Healthcare has agreed to pay approximately \$1.5 billion for the assets of the Mission Health system. Under the terms of the definitive agreement, nearly all Mission Health facilities and clinics will become part of HCA Healthcare while continuing to operate under the Mission brand. Importantly, HCA has committed to maintaining key clinical services for at least five years and keeping open all rehabilitation and acute-care hospitals for a minimum of 10 years, other than St. Joseph's Hospital which was already planned for transition.

Likewise, HCA has agreed not to sell any rehabilitation or acute-care hospital for a minimum of 10 years. None of these protections exist for Mission Health programs or facilities today.

"From the very beginning, Mission Health's Board worked

diligently and continually to ensure that the very best path was selected for the people of western North Carolina and to make certain that our community has access to high quality, effective and compassionate care for generations to come," said Mission Health Board Chair John R. Ball, MD, JD. "After completing due diligence and finalizing definitive agreements that have significant protections for our rural communities, we are convinced that HCA Healthcare is the right and best choice for western North Carolina and Mission's team members, providers and patients. It is heartening to share that every single Mission Health member entity Board voted unanimously to approve this transaction."

Mission Health will continue to be managed locally while HCA Healthcare brings its significant capabilities in operations, capital access, clinical trials, research, predictive modeling, analytics and more to augment Mission Health's existing capabilities. HCA Healthcare Behavioral Health Services is one of the nation's largest acute care psychiatric providers. HCA

Healthcare also brings a strong track record of assisting older adults in meeting their unique healthcare needs, and their system not only includes advanced geriatric care but also supports specialized geriatric emergency services and programs tailored to healthy aging.

Further, HCA Healthcare has committed to \$430 million over five years in capital expenditures which includes the completion of the Mission Hospital for Advanced Medicine, building a replacement hospital for Angel Medical Center and building a new Behavioral Health hospital.

Additionally, HCA will contribute \$25 million, that when combined with a matching \$25 million contribution from Mission Health, will create a \$50 million innovation fund to invest in businesses providing innovations in health care delivery that benefit the people of western North Carolina.

"The Mission Health Board has been steadfast in its desire to truly improve the health status of the people of western North Carolina. They believe that joining HCA Healthcare is an extraordinary opportunity to build upon Mission Health's exceptional quality, ensure that every entity within Mission Health has significant protections that it lacks today and to create a remarkable foundation that intends to invest in the social determinants of health," said Ronald A. Paulus, MD, President and CEO of Mission Health. "HCA Healthcare has a strong track record of enhancing its hospitals' operations and a proven history of investing in the communities it serves. The fact that we have ensured unprecedented protections for our rural communities in western North Carolina, enabled a \$50 million innovation fund and created the Dogwood Health Trust all demonstrate how this transaction will be transformative for our region."

To stay informed visit www.missionhealthforward.org.

– Submitted

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

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The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

...NC 106 continued from page 1

"This road serves only one town at the end of the 10-mile stretch. Highlands is dependent on the natural beauty that surrounds it. Any impact on that natural beauty will have a negative impact which will reduce the exclusivity of its appeal," he said.

But according to NCDOT Project Development Engineer Wanda Austin, the modernization of NC 106 wouldn't look anything like what's happened to US 64 through Toxaway where numerous curves have been straightened by chopping off the faces of mountains.

She said the project isn't as drastic and they would likely build walls rather than construct the road the Toxaway way. Plans for that project were established and put in motion over a decade ago – similar to the current NC 106 timeline which was started in 2017 and if funded will begin in 2027.

"Construction practices have changed," she said.

NCDOT said the need to modernize the NC 106 corridor is due to vehicle traffic which is steadily increasing each year. Changes to NC 106 might alleviate tractor-trailer traffic on the Gorge Road since signage and turnarounds at the base of the

mountain in Franklin, clearly aren't working, as pointed out by Mayor Pat Taylor at a recent Town Board meeting.

Powell said it's true that NC 106 is a supply line and work force corridor to Highlands and it needs to be safe, practical and accessible in inclement conditions.

According to NCDOT, daily traffic on NC 106 ranged from 3,100 to 7,200 vehicles per day in 2017 and is forecast to increase to 5,600 to 12,700 vehicles per day by 2040. Therefore, truck passing lanes are proposed to ease congestion and improve safety as are turn lanes at intersections – like those currently at Main Street and NC 106, as well as the widening of the existing lanes to current standards to improve shoulders and accommodate sidewalks in some areas.

Intersection realignments and improved sight-lines are proposed for three roads bisecting NC 106 – Ritchie Road, Hale Ridge Road and at Hudson/Cobb.

An alignment "straightening" is proposed for just two areas – one of which is at the Blue Valley Overlook and the other is in the vicinity of the Chinquapin Trail head at NC 106.

More than the 40-foot right-of-way

• See NC 106 page 18



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Fall Home Improvement

Upgrades add beauty and comfort to your home

(StatePoint) While a simple home upgrade once meant a new area rug or fresh coat of paint, these days, there are new and unexpected ways to update your space in order to add beauty and comfort to your home.

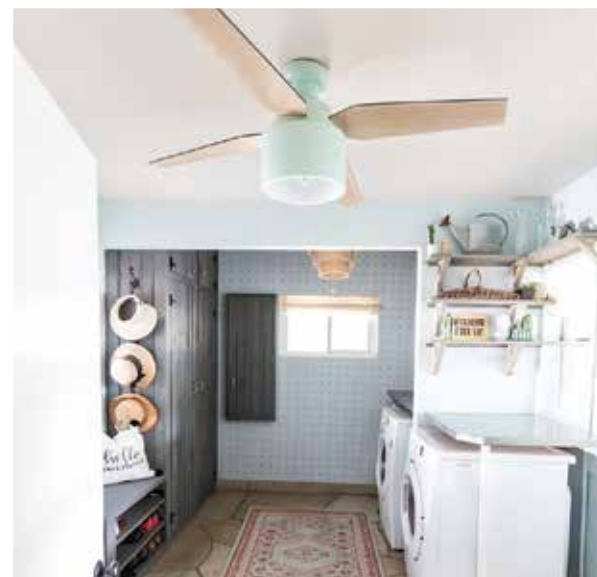
• Think Smart: New technology can add unexpected convenience and luxury to your everyday life. Virtual assistants like Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant and Apple HomeKit, can help make your space cozy, comfortable and secure, giving you the ability to control light bulbs, door locks, blinds, music and more with voice commands. Companion apps also allow you to control home elements through your phone from anywhere.

Particular about your shower? Create the perfect experience every day by programming temperature and water flow settings to your lik-

ing. Enjoying family movie night and don't want to get off the couch? With a WiFi-enabled SIMPLEconnect smart fan from Hunter Fan Company, for example, you can turn the light and breeze on and off with simple voice commands.

• Living gallery wall: Add vitality and beauty to your space with a living gallery wall, whereby plant life becomes a work of art. Known as a vertical garden, there are many ways to go about it, whether it's affixing planters in a pattern to your wall or hanging a flat panel of succulents and moss and bordering it with a picture frame. This will create a lively visual and a healthy one at that – adding oxygen to the rooms of your home, or even nutrition, should you choose to plant herbs.

• Add a breeze: Whether



you live in an old house where central air is non-existent or you just want to add some ventilation to your space with a low-key upgrade, there's no need to call in an HVAC team. Adding a ceiling fan to the landing of your staircase, for example, can help pull and circulate cool air into the upstairs space. Or, consider transforming the traditionally neglected laundry room into a space that's comfortable for

getting chores done. The addition of a ceiling fan can create a breeze and alleviate the heat created by the dryer.

For more design or upgrade tips, follow Hunter Fan Company on Instagram at @Hunterfanco or visit itsa-hunter.com.

Thinking outside the box when updating your space can go a long way toward adding beauty and comfort to your home.



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Fall Home Improvement

Upgrade your kitchen to cook like a professional

(StatePoint) Of course, cooking like a chef at home requires talent and practice. But there's no doubt about it – having the right culinary tools, appliances and prep space is essential, too.

To upgrade your kitchen so that you can cook like a chef, consider the following:

Prep Like a Pro

Save time and energy and get a cleaner cut by maintaining your knives. Properly clean, dry and store knives directly after use and regularly sharpen them. Whether that's on a magnetic strip on the wall or an in-drawer organizer, the best options will allow you to see all your knives at once so you can reach for the correct one. Precision slicing? You may also wish to invest in a mandoline.

Bake a lot? Consider ditching the measuring cups by using a digital scale instead. You'll get faster, more accurate results. And the bonus of less to clean-up.

Cook Like a Pro

When it comes to ensuring that there are no limits to what you can do in the kitchen, it's all about having top-notch appliances. Check out the Pro Series Collection of free-standing ranges from ILVE. Known for their handcrafted Italian appliances, the new series offers chef-quality features such as a removable griddle, high BTU brass burners and a built-in warm drawer to keep cooked food at an ideal temperature for serving. Available in a 36-inch single or unique double oven configuration as well as 40-inch and 48-inch sizes with double ovens, the electric ovens feature

multi-function cooking options and included rotisserie accessory. The Pro Series is equipped with features that professional chefs dream of at a price point that the home culinarian can afford. Offered in stainless steel and matte graphite colors, you can get a professional-style cooking experience while maintaining the sleek design of your kitchen.

Move Like a Pro

Do an audit of your current cooking habits, bearing in mind the layout of your kitchen and the organization of go-to ingredients. Are you expending time and energy walking all the way around the kitchen island just to get to the fridge? Are you spending too much time poking around for a particular spice or oil? The optimal flow in your kitchen space will allow for more intuitive food preparation and help you stay light on your feet.

Want to cook like a professional? Update your kitchen accordingly. A few upgrades can help you become a better chef.



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Which home improvements get the most return when selling your home?

As with most scenarios, there aren't hard and fast rules on which home improvements are the most effective for home value, but there are some basic guidelines.

The first thing a home owner needs to understand is that there is a big difference in home improvements and home maintenance. Every homeowner needs to work diligently on home maintenance. A good rule of thumb is that it will most likely cost you 1% of the sales price per year to completely maintain your home. As

you will see in the rest of this issue on home improvement, divvying up the maintenance chores by season is your best way to keep your home in good condition and to make it more marketable.

There are home renovations that will give you a good return on investment (ROI.) The following items average more than 80% return for dollars spent when looking at a mid-range home. As you might notice from the list, these are mostly outside items. Remember, you need to get the buyers inside the home for them to even consider it for

purchase: adding manufactured stone veneer, a new entry door, a deck addition and a garage door replacement

Other exterior items to look at are: patching cracks in sidewalks and driveway, replacing door-knobs, painting fences, etc. Making the exterior of the home inviting is your first goal.

While the interior renovations usually don't hit the 80% return, some of the main areas to focus on are the kitchens, baths, floors and walls. Yes, that sounds like the entire home, and it basically is!

A minor kitchen remodel will net you a much higher return on the investment than a full-blown gourmet kitchen blow out if the goal is to "spruce up" a home that you have decided to leave.

Some thoughts on the best improvements to make on the kitchen you are leaving would be to resurface the cabinets or replacing the doors and hardware. On older wooden cabinets, painting the cabinets and replacing the hardware would be a good ROI option. New faucets and sinks are another fairly cost-effective update. The counter top or appliance replacement will depend on their current condition.

Bathrooms are another key area where you can renovate without a total blow-out. Consider new floors, fixtures, lights and painting. Once again upgrade the cabinets with new hardware/paint. If the space is small, make sure to paint it a lighter color. REMOVE the carpet in the bath and put in another type of flooring. A carpeted bath is one of the biggest buyer turn-offs.

Painting the walls and ceilings will freshen up your home. Try to remove or cover up popcorn ceilings, they are also a big buyer turn-off. Most buyers know how difficult and messy that re-moval process can be. In the mountains, a good solution could be to use a thin beadboard or wooden covering over the popcorn. Buyers spend more time than you might think looking at ceilings to determine if there are any previous leaks or cracks.



Wanda Klodosky, BIC
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Hardwood floors are a definite plus when a buyer looks at your home, but that is not always an affordable renovation. However, having great hardwoods could make a prospective buyer overlook other areas they find lacking. Replacing or at the minimum professionally cleaning older carpet will help the home show better and also show more pride of ownership. That pride of ownership will translate to the buyer's perception that

the seller cares for the home. For ceramic tiles, replacing chipped or cracked tiles and cleaning or replacing older grout will also be a renovation/repair worth the cost.

While there is a gray area as to whether this is a maintenance or renovation point, in our area having a solution to any water issues that might plague your location is one of the key things you can do to make your home more marketable.

We have savvy buyers who understand that we live in a rain forest and that water has to have a place to run off. Hopefully, that spot is not into your home! French drains, good gutters, basement encapsulation or at a minimum a well-installed vapor barrier help to give a buyer confidence in the fact that the home is ready for our rains. A musty or damp odor will make buyers leave a home faster than almost any of the other deficit listed.

Overall, buyers want a home with no visible deferred maintenance and as updated and "spruced up" as possible. The more the home looks ready for occupancy, the faster the home will sell.

• Wanda Klodosky is the Broker in Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands office. Landmark Realty Group covers the Plateau with offices in Highlands, Cashiers & Burlingame/Lake Toxaway and is the area's leader in sales as a firm. Landmark has recently partnered with Leverage Global Partners to extend our marketing reach globally. Visit www.landmarkre.com or call 828-526-4663 to contact our friendly and professional Realtors.

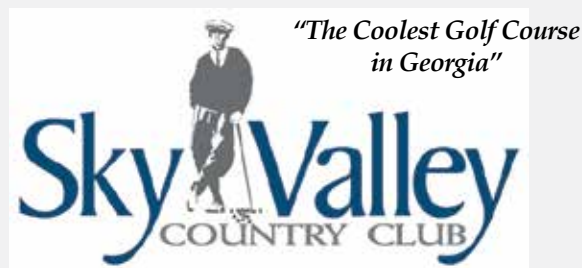
Architects who ventured beyond buildings

Fri., Sept. 21, 10am-12pm. Center for Life Enrichment

The presentation by Architect Kemp Mooney will focus primarily on 20th century architects with works that extend beyond their 'buildings.'

Works of Rennie Mackintosh, a Scottish architect (1868-1928) and Mies Van Der Rohe, LeCorbusier, Louis Kahn and

• See CLE page 18



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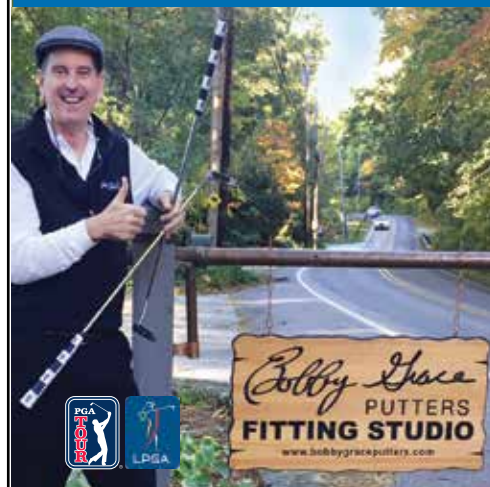
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• HS SPORTS •

Soccer teams are holding their own

High school volleyball played Swain and Hiwassee Dam this weekend.

JV beat Swain in three sets, but varsity lost in five. They both lost to Hiwassee Dam, 2-0 and 3-1.

Their next home game is on Tuesday, September 11th. Only varsity will play Nantahala starting at 5 pm.

Varsity boys soccer played Smokey Mountain. They tied 2-2. Their next home game will be Wednesday, September 12th. They will



Kedra McCall

play Blue Ridge starting at 6pm.

Middle school volleyball played Rabun Gap this week. They beat them in two sets. Their next home game will be on Tuesday, September 11th. They will play Blue Ridge starting at 4 pm.

Middle school soccer also played Rabun Gap. They won 4-2. Their next home game will be on Monday, September 10th. They will play Tallulah Falls starting at 4:30 pm.

Come support all your Highlanders!

Nantahala Hiking Club Sept. hikes

SAT. SEPT. 8:

A moderate 5-mile hike, elevation change 700 ft., along the Thomas Divide to Kanati Fork and down to Kephart Prong. Meet at Bi-Lo parking lot in Franklin at 8:30 am, drive 90 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

SAT. SEPT. 15:

A 4-mile hike on Camp Branch, an open rolling logging road. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 9:30 am. Call leader Katharine Brown, 421-4178, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, also dogs — there's plenty of water along the way.

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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.

• ALL ABOUT BOOKS •

Tales of King Arthur

Are there any King Arthur fans out there? It was Mary Stewart's King Arthur trilogy that hooked me when I was in high school. I suspect "The Cry-

stal Cave," published in 1970, was one of the many books I snuck into class and read between the covers of textbooks. I had to wait until 1973 for the second book, "The Hollow Hills," to come out, and "The Last Enchant-

ment" arrived in 1979. Described as the Merlin trilogy, the books are told from his perspective.

I was surprised to find that Stewart had written two more in the series in 1983 and 1995. Those will have to go on my library wish list ASAP. Before her King Arthur phase, Stewart was primarily a romantic thriller writer, and I have vague memories of reading her novels "Nine Coaches Waiting" and "My Brother Michael."

As I was searching for details about my favorite books, I came across a BookBub article, "17 Magical Books About the Legend of King Arthur." I can't claim to have read them all, but I've enjoyed quite a few. Of Stewart's books, only "Crystal Cave" made the BookBub list.

Sir Thomas Malory's "Le Morte d'Arthur" is not on the list either, but it was his tales of Arthur, Launcelot, and Guinevere that became the foundation for all that followed. His compilation published in 1485 was translated from stories written in French and is surprisingly readable. I was well on the way to becoming a life-long King Arthur fan by the time I read it as an English major in college.

My enjoyment of Malory's tales led me to T. H. White's "The Once and Future King," which is on the BookBub list. Published in 1958, it was the inspiration for the 1960 Broadway musical Camelot. I must have first seen the 1967 movie version on TV and seeing Richard Harris reprise the role on stage is a cherished memory. Of course, I have the CD.

"The Mists of Avalon" by Marion Zimmer Bradley made the list and is one of my favorites from the 80's, probably because it was a retelling of the story from the female perspective. Reflecting on how much I enjoyed



Kathy Manos Penn

the novel reminds me that there was a 2001 TNT miniseries starring Anjelica Huston, Julianna Margulies, and Joan Allen.

My trip down memory lane surfaced three other King Arthur films I've seen. First is the 1963 Disney animated "Sword in the Stone," also based on T. H. White's book. Skip past Camelot, and I must admit a weakness for the 1995 movie "First Knight" starring Sean Connery as King Arthur and Richard Gere as Lancelot. The 2004 "King Arthur" with Clive Owens and Keira Knightley was yet another fascinating retelling of the tale, this time with Arthur portrayed as a Roman officer.

Of the 17 books on the BookBub list, I found two to add to my To Be Read list. "The Forever King" trilogy is a modern fantasy tale of a young man who stumbles across an antique cup that turns out to be The Holy Grail. It even has an ex-FBI agent in it, a twist that makes it a perfect combo for this mystery addict.

Also on my list now is "The Queen of Camelot," another retelling of Guinevere's role in the rise and fall of Camelot. I'm anticipating reading new books, watching old movies, and winding up in a King Arthur induced coma sometime soon.

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



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...SECURITY continued from page 1

changes come in the form of new front doors that will eventually be locked all day and only allow entry via camera access.

According to Principal Brian Jetter, most exterior doors are also now locked all day which limits access to the building during the school day.

"Hopefully, these improvements, when finished, will make our school a safer and more enjoyable place to be," said Jetter.

Like every other school in Macon County, Highlands School is also staffed with a fulltime School Resource Officer.

Master Officer Tim Broughton is assigned to Highlands School and is a joint partnership between Highlands Police Department and Macon County Board of Commissioners. Master Officer Tim Broughton is employed by the Highlands Police Department, but Macon County Commissioners allocate \$50,000 a year for the officer's salary and benefits.

Master Officer Broughton started the new school year with a new patrol vehicle. The new Camaro dawns the DARE logo and will be bolster community engagement.

Macon County Commissioners made school security a priority in this year's county budget by earmarking specific funding for school security upgrades across the district. Macon County is following a national trend to look at areas on school campuses to ensure students are safer during the

school day.

"New front doors with a swipe card/camera entry system are currently being installed," said Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. "The security cameras will allow school administrators and law enforcement officials to monitor the campus for potential dangers and help to deter threats against our students and staff."

In total, Highlands School has 36 security cameras and phones in each classroom.

Discussions are ongoing about installing fences between the middle school and main building, similar to those at Franklin High School, to minimize accessibility to entryways on the campus from the soccer field and middle school building.

Jetter said he likes the idea of the school perimeter being more secure so people can't walk into the center of campus.



School cameras are cleaned and tested annually. — photo by Brian O'Shea



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...NC 106 continued from page 11

widening is proposed in three areas to construct truck-passing lanes – just north of Rockledge Road, just north of King Gap Road, and near Bartram Way.

There are four aspects to the project schedule – Concept Development which began the winter of 2017; Public Overview which began the summer of 2018; Planning & Design which will take place the winter of 2019 and includes a feasibility study and the funding decision; and the final Preconstruction phase the fall of 2025 which will start with the right-of-way acquisitions and end with construction beginning the spring of 2027.

Interestingly, unlike donated rights-of-way on secondary roads, property owners on primary roads like NC 106 would be monetarily compensated for the 40-foot right-of-way or more they are requested to relinquish.

“The property will be appraised and if we can’t settle with the property owner there are five levels of mediation we can go through, eventually going to court if we have to,” said Austin. “A property owner trying to block this would make the process take longer, but we would eventually settle.”

To be funded, the project must make it through the prioritization process which includes “points” given for economic development, alleviating congestion, the need for lane width and shoulder hardening, local feedback, support from elected officials as well as NCDOT personnel. If funded, construction would begin in 2027 and likely continue for three years.

NC DOT officials said they will know in Dec. 2018/Jan. 2019 whether the project will get the green light or be put on hold.

Comments are requested by Sept. 13 and will be reviewed for one month prior to being posted on the NC-DOT website.

Send comments by post to: Anne-Lenart Redmond, Project Manager, STV Engineers, Inc. 1600 Perimeter Park Drive, Suite 225, Morrisville, NC 27560 or email: anne.lenart-redmond@stvinc.com.

The bridge over Middle Creek is separate from the NC 106 plan; it’s already in the pipeline and work will begin on it prior to 2027.

– Kim Lewicki

...CLE continued from page 14

Frank Lloyd Wright will be discussed. Following the two world wars, reconstruction of damaged cities allowed the development of modern ventures into city planning, architecture and allied arts.

These three leaders suggested paths for the next generations of architects who would continue to investigate ideas of design beyond their specific buildings.

Mooney will also show examples of his own works with this discussion. Architectural works have won awards, been published and exhibited. Drawings, paintings and three-dimensional projects have been seen in regional and international publications and exhibitions.

He is a graduate of Clemson and Yale universities. While maintaining his architectural offices, he has taught courses in architectural design and theory as well as visual arts for more than 49 years.

The lecture will be held in the CLE lecture hall located in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center at 348 S. Fifth Street. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 non-members

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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Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

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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.

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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.

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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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

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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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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

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

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

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

July 14

• At 3:30 p.m., officers were called about a noise ordinance violation at a residence on Mirror Lake Road where the person failed to pay the ordinance fee.

Aug. 16

• At 11:44 a.m., officers were notified of a person trespassing at Highlands Inn when they were asked to leave and refused to do so.

Aug. 18

• At 6:59 a.m., David Lee De-weese, Jr., 43, of West Virginia, was arrested for DWI when he was stopped on US 64 west near Mirror Lake Road. He was issued an unsecured \$2,000 bond. His trial date is Sept. 24.

• At 10:24 a.m., officers were notified of a fraudulent financial transaction concerning bank fees.

• At 2 p.m., officers were notified of a shoplifting incident at The Christmas Tree where a patron took an ornament.

Aug. 22

• At 1:13 p.m., officers were notified of identity theft when someone opened a Verizon Wireless account in someone else's name.

Aug. 25

• At 3:04 a.m., Wesley Alan Moore, 31, of Sapphire, NC, was arrested for DWI. He was issued a \$500 unsecured bond. His trial date is Sept. 24.

Aug. 27

• At 6:30 p.m., officers respond-

ed to a two-vehicle accident on N. 5th Street near Chestnut.

Aug. 28

At 4 p.m., officers were notified of someone opening bank accounts in someone else's name without authorization from that person.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 21.

Aug. 21

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

• At 7:57 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

Aug. 22

• At 7:01 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Split Rail Row

• At 6:02 p.m., the dept. began a search and carry-out for a hiker bit by a rattle snake on the Ellicott Rock Trail.

Aug. 23

• At 7:17 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane.

• At 8:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Skyline Lodge. Road.

Aug. 24

• At 1:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on

Cobb Road.

• At 3:04 p.m., the dept. was called about smoke in the area off Walhalla Road.

• At 4:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brushfire on Chestnut Street.

• At 3:55 p.m., the dept. was called about possible illegal burning on Upper Lake Road.

Aug. 26

• At 7:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 11:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Turtle Pond Road.

Aug. 28

• At 1:03 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a motorist on Sky-lake Drive.

Aug. 29

• A little past midnight, the dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at Zachary Field.

• At 2:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Brushy Face.

Sept. 1

• At 9:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Brookside Lane.

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... MAYOR from page 2

every 700 feet to support innovations like automated vehicles. This fiber optic network can be integrated with this small cell system in the future.

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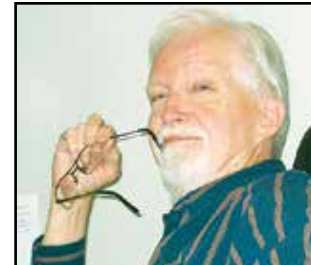
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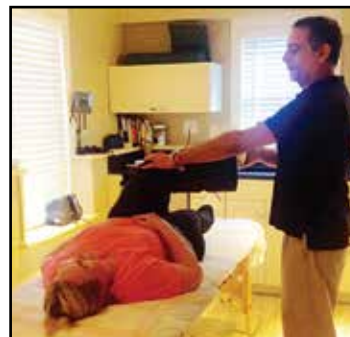
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HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDI-MAN - Can fix anything inside or out. Carpentry, painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling, and will monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-482-0159. (9/20)

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

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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE JOE WEBB CABIN FOR SALE BY OWNER IN HIGHLANDS. To be moved. See Reuben Cox's Book on Joe Webb pages

108 and 109 for pictures. Email Tom@tomchambers.co or call Tom's office at 828.526.2075. Serious inquiries only please, (st. 8/2)

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 ddmars15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

RENTALS



VACATION RENTAL: In-town Highlands 3bd/3ba. One Oct week available 2018. Perfect for Food & Wine Festival, 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)

4BD 3.5 BA, 1 CAR GARAGE W/STORAGE, large yard with backyard fenced, dogs negotiable. On the Atlanta side of Highlands, 5 minutes from the Post Office. \$2500 month. Offered unfurnished, one year minimum lease, references, credit check and deposit required. Call House in Order 828-484-1571. (st. 8/30)

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)

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)

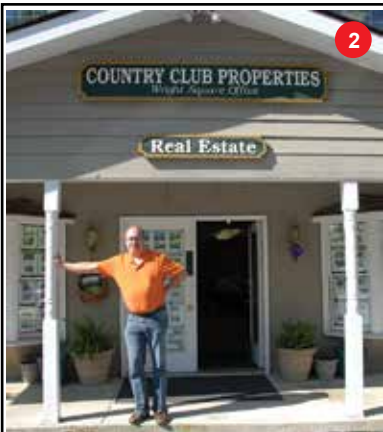
FALLS ON MAIN - Up and Down units available. Call 706-782-6252. (st. 5/3).

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