

Highlands Newspaper

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

Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019

18-wheelers in NCDOT crosshairs

After a lot of back and forth between NC Highway Patrol and the NC Department of Transportation, it looks like there is some real movement to curtail if not eliminate tractor-trailers on the Gorge Road.

At last Thursday's Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor asked the board to OK a resolution allowing the installation of clearly identified traffic cameras on US 64 at both the Highlands and Franklin entrances. They would be used

to photographically document tractor-trailer truck drivers who willfully disregard radar-activated warning signs and proceed either up or down the Gorge Road.

Several years ago, NCDOT
• See 18-WHEELERS page 21

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Town gets serious about garbage

The town's Code of Ordinances was amended last Thursday to address solid waste as it applies to bear-resistant toters and water and sewer allowances outside of town.

The Code of Ordinances is not the same as the Unified Development Ordinance which applies mainly to zoning and land use and as such must undergo a public hearing before amended.

The Code of Ordinances, however, can be amended and passed by the Town Board without a public hearing because they have penalties associated with them which means noncompliance can be assessed by the Code Enforcement Officer with infractions punished monetarily.

The change to the Solid Waste section of the Code of Or-

• See GARBAGE page 27

High 5 to a great school year!



Det. Sgt. Andrea Holland was one of several Highlands Police officers on hand Monday morning to welcome Highlands School students to school. Getting the High-5 is 2nd grader Jensen Bowers. There are 370 students so far – up from last year's 341. For more photos see page 24.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

Thief jailed for 70 months for Gold n' Clipper robbery

On Thursday, Aug. 11, U.S. District Judge Martin Reidinger sentenced Jeramie Lee McSweeney, 39, of Lenoir, N.C., to 70 months in prison and three years of supervised release, for the 2015 robbery of a jewelry store, announced Andrew Murray, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina. McSweeney was also ordered to pay \$176,400 in restitution.

John A. Strong, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Charlotte Division, and Chief Bill Harrell of the Highlands Police Department join U.S. Attorney Murray in making today's announcement.

According to documents filed with the court and today's sentencing hearing, on July 2, 2015, McSweeney and his co-conspirator,

• See THIEF page 27

Highlands Mayor Taylor urges support of 'Fiber Act'

Rep. Corbin takes on his own party to fight for rural broadband expansion

By Brittney Lofthouse

House Bill 431, also known as the FIBER ACT, would allow local governments to build broadband infrastructure and lease it to private Internet providers using taxpayer dollars. While the bill has passed important committees in the House, the bill is receiving

major push back from major telecommunication companies as well as members of the Republican Party, despite the bill being sponsored by Republican NC House Rep. Kevin Corbin.

At last week's Town Board meeting, Highlands Mayor Pat

• See FIBER ACT page 20

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Investigating vacation rental ordinances

In my report at last Thursday's Highlands Town Board Meeting, I requested that the land use committee and staff review the issue of short-term vacation rentals, commonly referred to as VRBOs. With the emergence of the Internet's "sharing economy," these kinds of rentals have significantly increased here and across the country.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

some regulations already adopted by several North Carolina communities. Even before this article, I had asked our planner, Michael Mathis, to research what other cities were doing in regard to VRBOs. Michael found that communities across the nation have adopted VRBO ordinances.

I had also watched a video of a North Carolina House committee meeting that was reviewing a proposed VRBO bill. Our representative, Kevin Corbin, chaired the committee. Both sides of the issue were discussed, i.e. individual property rights versus potential disruptions to residential neighborhoods that also relate to property rights.

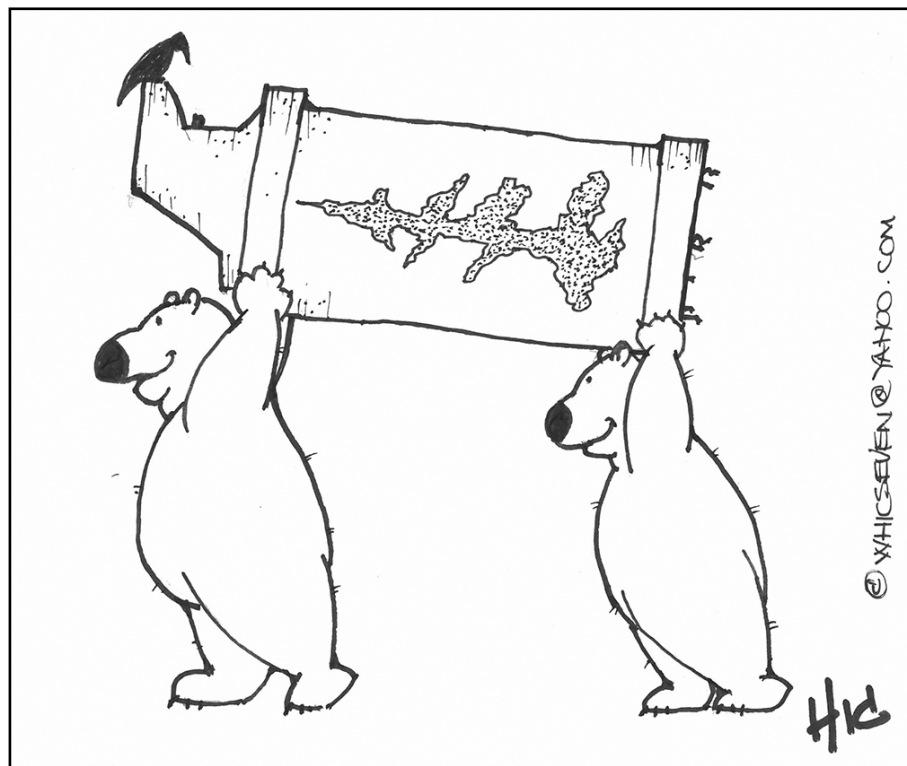
Adoption of local regulation is driven in part by a concern that the proliferation of VRBOs in neighborhoods transform these residential zones into de facto hotel and motel districts. The overcrowding of homes, increased parking, noise and introducing activities in neighborhoods that are normally reserved for business districts are all concerns for homeowners in R1 and R2 areas.

To be fair, I live next to a home that is used as a VRBO. It is operated quietly and in good order. On the other hand, I have received feedback about VRBOs situations that fall just short of operating like a fraternity "animal house" with over-crowding, jammed parking, excessive noise and disruptive behavior. Again, I do not want to eliminate VRBOs, but we should consider regulations that keep these VRBOs in line with the character of our neighborhoods.

Towns like Nags Head and Cornelius have adopted regulations requiring registration of VRBOs with the town. Most ordinances require a local contact person in case of a problem with the rental. Many communities limit the number of adults in a VRBO based on the size of the house or number of bedrooms. Other regulations center around parking and fire safety concerns.

I have asked for this committee review because I continue to receive concerns from residents. If we adopt an ordinance, it needs to be in place prior to the state legislature taking action in the coming months.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• LETTERS •

Say 'no' over and over to lighting up downtown

Dear Editor,

I want to join Alice Nelson by "stepping up and speaking out" against lighting up Highlands. It's unnecessary for safety and unwelcome for our environment.

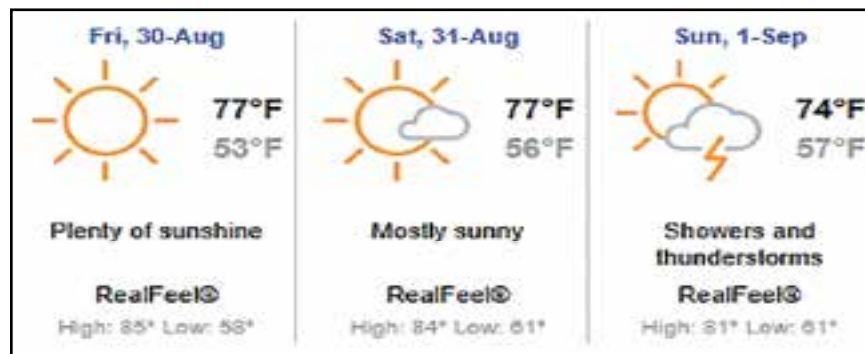
Let's try to keep the ambiance of Highlands by NOT changing it ... its rapidly being overwhelmed to the point of "killing the goose who laid the golden egg." Let's try to keep the lovely village real and not all about 'creating' something else.

Thank you Alice for your letter speaking out!

Margaret Cain
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 12

• WEATHER •



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Letter Policy:

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



WILDWOOD MOUNTAIN Completely renovated beautiful home by Coppage Builders offers a custom kitchen with SS appliances, breakfast nook, and separate formal dining room. Handsome hardwood floors throughout and a vaulted wood ceiling in the living room with a cozy stone wood-burning fireplace. The master bedroom and 2 guest bedrooms are all on the main floor. Upstairs are two bonus rooms with multiple uses. Very private location.

MLS# 90566 | Offered for \$585,000



HIGHLANDS FALLS CC One of the best locations inside the gates of Highlands Falls CC, this one level home not only backs up to national forest land for complete privacy but makes for an easy walk to the Swim and Tennis Center or to the clubhouse. The great room opens to the kitchen and to the large covered, screened porch. The master suite is oversized and has plenty of room to relax in an easy chair and boasts two large walk in closets plus "his and her" baths.

MLS# 90917 | Offered for \$579,000

TURTLE POND Situated on more than 5 acres of beautiful land and adjoining national forest land, this property provides a cool and quiet respite from the hustle and bustle of city life. With 5 bedrooms, two bonus rooms for additional sleeping areas, a large living room upstairs and an additional family room down-stairs, there is plenty of room for visitors. The main level also offers two large open decks as well as a wonderful covered screened porch.

MLS# 90428 | Offered for \$549,000

BUCKBERRY FALLS This single story, 3BR/3BA home is the perfect year around home or mountain get away. Enter the home through the large 18x 30 deck facing Shortoff Mountain into the great room. Once inside, you enter the main liv-ing space with living room, dining room, and recently updated kitchen. Recently updated with an incapsulated crawlspace, low maintenance landscaping, circular driveway, and a generator. Located 3 miles from downtown Highlands.

MLS# 91527 | Offered for \$549,000



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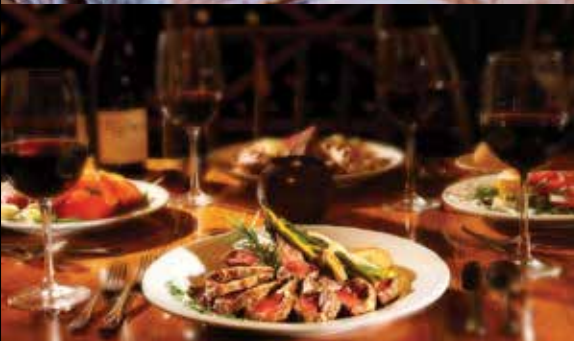
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HIGHLANDS FALLS CC Located on the 11th fairway overlooking the green, you can enjoy the mountain views and cool summer evenings from the covered vaulted screened porch. The great room has vaulted and beamed ceilings with built-ins next to the stone fireplace. Enjoy morning coffee in the large eat-in kitchen which overlooks an entry garden. The kitchen has been updated with new counter-tops and SS appliances. Recently reduced from \$550,000.

MLS# 91526 | Offered for \$525,000



ROLLING ACRES Located at the end of a cul de sac less than 2 miles from town, this great home is in immaculate condition. The one car carport has a covered walkway to the large wraparound screened porch with easy access to the eat-in kitchen. With beautiful cabinetry and countertops, the kitchen has a pass-through to the living room and opens to the dining room. The dining room is large enough to seat a gathering and has a picture window to enjoy the mountain view.

MLS# 91293 | Offered for \$500,000

WOODLAND HILLS 3BR/2BABA on main level with upper level loft. Huge downstairs with the additional guest area and a full bathroom, 2 family rooms. There is a large open deck off main level with a lower level covered deck. Great landscaping as well as wonderful back yard with rope swing. Only a couple minute walk to community Apple Lake for canoeing and fishing where the home has deeded access. Well maintained and close to town.

MLS# 91530 | Offered for \$497,000



MISTY COVE Tucked away in quiet Misty Cove is this 4BR/3BA custom home. Situated on almost 4 acres, this one level home is ideal for all your needs. Three bedrooms and two baths are located on one side of the home, and the large master suite is on the other. The large stone fireplace in the living room is perfect for those cold days. Relax on the rear covered deck and enjoy the sounds of the stream down below. If you want privacy and serenity, this home has it all.

MLS# 91577 | Offered for \$489,000



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JOYCE FARMS CHICKEN WINGS & FRIES

•WORD MATTER•

The inside scoop on TV news

I've mentioned before that watching television news can be hazardous to your wellbeing. When I worked in and with the news media I learned how newscasts are assembled. I'm talking now specifically about the 6:30pm national newscast. Local newscasts also are culpable, but to a lesser extent. Watch closely and you'll see what I'm talking about.

This is not meant to drive you away from watching the news, although based on how bad it's getting, I'm not sure you're receiving the news you need or necessarily want. Years ago, I attended a panel discussion featuring, among others, the General Manager at one of America's top all-news radio stations. The conversation covered, among other "inside the business" issues, how news organizations decide what story to tease in earlier programming and to run first, at the top of a newscast. I'd always believed it best to "lead" the newscast with the story of most importance to the largest audience. It makes sense; people care about what affects them most.

Wrong.

The example cited had to do with whether a newscast should "lead" with one of two stories: the State Legislature has voted to raise the sales tax by one point, from five to six percent, or, a four-car accident on an Interstate highway resulting in three fatalities. Four of the five panel members, all TV news directors, indicated they'd lead with the traffic accident. The radio GM said he'd "tease" the accident first but would lead with the sales tax increase.

The reasoning among the TV folks had to do with the fact that TV news is driven by pictures. The "talking head" delivering the news is important, but not as much as the "disturbing" pictures involving a gory and deadly accident scene. The reasoning by the radio GM, who didn't have the video issue, thought the 16% tax increase touched many more lives than a traffic accident.



Bud Katz

The discussion confirmed the old TV news adage, "If it bleeds, it leads."

The four "filters" television news managing editors use to build their daily newscast involve fear, sex, children and animals. Almost all national television news content typically involves at least one of those four topics.

If you want the boring town board or county commission meeting minutes, or even a non-controversial Congressional hearing, refer to your newspaper, but television news, for the most part, doesn't care about that kind of content. Unless someone leaped over a podium and attacked an elected official, there are seldom any compelling pictures from a government meeting.

If you watch, with a critical eye, any of the "big three" network nightly newscasts, you'll see story after story employing certain words and visual images designed

to instill fear. The calculation in these highly profitable chunks of time is that if you're afraid of something; bad weather, a crime spree, a mass shooting (no matter where, but especially in a replicable location, such as a well-known, heavily trafficked retail store, as was the case recently at the Walmart in El Paso), a healthcare scare, a product safety recall, or problem in our food supply, an airline disaster, exploding batteries in e-cigarettes – I'm sure you get the idea – people will remain glued to their sets.

Some editors attempt to leave viewers with a sweeter taste than would typically be found in the opening segments of most newscasts. These "kickers" as they were once called often involve kids, pets, the occasional disabled vet, the occasional "giving back" story, or the "inspiring" story. This is done so the viewer won't leave the newscast damaged or exhausted from all the fear mongering in the earlier segments.

Don't be fooled.

• See WORD MATTER page 14

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• INVESTING AT 4,118FT. •

What Should Buyers Expect from a Realtor®?

With access to the Internet today providing so much information on available properties and "How To" articles on just about everything... What are the reasons for hiring a Realtor®?

For most of us, purchasing real estate is the largest investment we will ever make. This may not be the best time to go without professional guidance. The truth is...you can't replace the years of education and experience you will find in a seasoned broker. In 99% of sales transactions, the buyer does not pay the broker...so cost should not be a factor. Most of us already have plenty to do in our lives, so why not hire a professional? It will save you a lot of time and energy. Finding a good broker is essential to enjoying a painless real estate transaction. The old saying is, "20% of the agents do 80% of



Lynn Kimball, Broker
Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices
Meadows Mountain Realty

the business". In my 45 years of being a full-time Realtor®, I have found that it is usually 10% who do 90% most of the business.

Number one is to hire someone of good character, reputation and integrity, along with a working knowledge of the area and market conditions, plus experience with N.C. Law, purchase/sale documents and up-to-date tools of the trade.

Where does one start in finding this person?

You can start by checking out the internet for a user friendly, yet professional website that provides reviews and testimonials from previous clients. After contacting an agent and finding them helpful in talking with you and/or sending you information that is pertinent to your requests, feel free to ask for references. In a small town like Highlands, you may simply

• See **INVESTING** page 18

Wildcat Cliffs CC



Andrea is one of the top 25
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Highlands Sotheby's International Realty is
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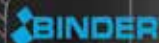


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87 Sassafras Court • MLS# 90465A
\$695,000 • 3 BR, 3.5 Baths

A professionally updated home with wonderful views of the Highlands Falls Golf Course and surrounding mountains. The home offers gracious living on two levels. The master bedroom is on the main level and features a remodeled master bath. Two additional bedrooms are on the lower level which also has a large family room and a wood deck overlooking the golf course.



150 N. Big Bearpen Mtn Rd
MLS# 91740A • \$750,000 - 3 BR, 3.5 Baths

A beautifully situated traditional home in HFCC on North Big Bearpen Mtn Rd offers a private setting on 2.54 acres of mountain forest and greenery. Shortoff Mountain is directly visible off of the back decks and the spacious living room windows. This charming home features a grand living room with vaulted ceilings framing the long-range mountain views.



1365 Falls Drive East
MLS #91084 • \$549,000 • 3 BR, 2 Baths

This one level home has panoramic views of hole #13th on HFCC golf course from the back deck. The living room is framed by an impressive vaulted ceiling with an orientation to the wooded golf course views. The room features a beautiful stone fireplace and large windows facing the golf course.



336 N. Big Bearpen Mtn Rd
MLS# 91775 • \$895,000 • 4 BR, 5 Baths

A beautifully located traditional home in HFCC on N. Big Bearpen Mountain Rd offering 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. The open floor plan home is very inviting for the homeowner's enjoyment and for entertaining.

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...LETTERS continued from page 2

Keep it up Bud

Dear Editor,

Again Bud Katz' column "Debates - Ugh" that ran in the Aug. 8 edition is spot on.

I would add to his list of issues not debated, the skyrocketing 22 trillion dollar national debt in an era of low employment and an all-time high stock market. Ten percent, or \$479 billion, of the 2020 Federal Budget goes to interest on this debt alone.

The recent passing of Ross Perot reminds me of his '92 Presidential run and his passionate concern over the then 4 trillion dollar debt. It seems we haven't learned much since. Maybe this time will be different. Let's hope so.

Joe Nuzzaco
Atlanta & Highlands

Kitchen Tour was a success!

Dear Editor,

The Laurel Garden Club's 2019 Kitchen Tour was a huge success due to those who graciously opened their homes, our generous Sponsors and Celebrity Guests, Matt Tommey, and the members of the Laurel Garden Club who gave so much of their time and effort in planning and working during the Tour.

Thank you Country Club Properties, The Dry Sink,

Highlands Falls Country Club, Inman Park Marble & Granite, J. Elliott Style, Kilwins Highlands, The Laurel Magazine, Oakleaf Flower and Garden, Wilson Gas Service and Wind River Construction for their support and sponsorship. In addition to sponsorship, we thank The Dry Sink for selling tickets for the Tour. The Club also appreciates the work by the Highlands Falls Community Association to prepare the grounds and gardens for the Kitchen Tour.

Thank you to Celebrity Guests Cashiers Kitchen Company, The Chocolate Heaven Company, J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works and Martha Porter. Guests were treated to meeting cookbook authors, special tasty treats and the opportunity to make purchases.

Thank you Matt Tommey, internationally known woven sculpture artist, for being our exclusive vendor, sharing the day with us and allowing our guests and members the opportunity to admire and purchase his incredible works.

A very special 'thank you' goes to the five homeowners who opened their homes, allowing guests to view, admire and enjoy their elegant and exciting kitchens, homes and gardens.

Peggy Boruchow-Arnette
Paula McDonald
Cindy Trevathan
Co-Chairs, 2019 Kitchen Tour

• OBITUARIES •

James 'Shane' Marion Hedden

James "Shane" Marion Hedden, 81, passed away Wednesday, August 21, 2019 in Highlands.

Mr. Hedden was born November 13, 1937 in Mountain Rest, South Carolina to the late Wilber R. Hedden, Jr. and Opal Allsep Hedden.

Mr. Hedden was a painter by trade and worked in construction. He loved fishing, hunting and being outdoors. He was also a member of Shortoff Baptist Church.

He is survived by three sisters; Linda Hedden of Florida, Lois Rains (John) of Durham, NC, Mary Dotson (John) of Highlands, NC; Three brothers; Bud Hedden (Patricia), Ralph Hedden (Jewel) and Oscar Hedden (Barbara), all of Highlands, NC and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Mr. Hedden was preceded in death by two brothers; Thomas Hedden and Lawrence Hedden.

A funeral service was held for Mr. Hedden at Saturday, August 24, 2019 at Double Springs Methodist Church in Mountain Rest, SC with the Rev. Roy Lowe officiating. Burial followed in the Double Springs Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Will Hedden, Gerald Hedden, Adam Hedden, Alex Hedden, Wesley Hedden and Doug Hedden.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Hedden family. Online condolences are available by visiting bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Emmit Pickens Wood

Emmit Pickens Wood was born August 30, 1929 in Whittier, NC to the late Claude L. and Emma W. Wood. He died peacefully at his home in Scaly Mountain on August 24, 2019.

For more than 60 years, he was an active member of the Scaly Mountain Church of God where he served as Sunday School Superintendent and Choir Director. He enjoyed singing, playing guitar and other instruments. He served with the Church of God Men of Action who helped with several projects, including building churches across the United States. His favorite state was Alaska where he was involved with many projects. He was named, "Layman of the Year" by the denomination.

Mr. Wood retired from King Mountain Club where he had served as manager. He was a member and chaplain of the Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Department until his retirement. He was also a member of the Electric Co-op Board for over 30 years. He enjoyed traveling with his wife and friends and was privileged to see many places.

Emmit was a Christian gentleman who served God, a devoted husband and father who loved his family. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joyce McDonald Wood; three children: Eddie (Andrea) of Madisonville, TN; Kim Ruff (Randy) of Rock Hill, SC; Tamra Talley (Clay) of Scaly Mountain, NC; five grandchildren: Shane Wood of Loudon, TN, Tanya Datson of Vonore, TN, Kristy Plemmons, of Madisonville, TN, Wade Ruff, of Spartanburg, SC; Rebecca

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ALL ABOUT BOOKS

• THE INK PENN •

Where's Spot?

Are you a Spot fan? If you were born in 1980 or later, you were probably raised on the Spot books. I was sad to hear that the author passed away at the age of 86 in 2014 but happy to see that his books live on.

Eric Hill's books brought joy to a generation of children, beginning with his first book, *Where's Spot?* I discovered Spot, not as a child, but as an adult in search of a book for a one-year-old. I gave the book to that child in 1983, and it became my go-to baby gift ever after. In fact, I just purchased my umpteenth copy of *Where's Spot* to give to a mom who gave birth to a bouncing baby boy in May.

Though lift-the-flap books existed prior to the publication of *Where's Spot*, that book popularized the concept for children's books. The next few Spot books were all lift-the-flap style, but the author soon branched out into board books. A few years back, when I bought a baby gift for a friend's first grandchild, I found a snugly Spot stuffed toy to accompany the books.

The first little girl I gave the book to was the oldest of nine children, and I loved her Mom's story of reinforcing the flaps with clear packing tape so they would hold up as the book was passed down the line. I continued to give the book here and there and eventually stumbled across the 25th Anniversary Edition. I was headed to a baby shower and was astonished to realize I'd been buying the book for so many years. That time, I found it at Barnes and Noble. As I've looked for it on Amazon through the years, I've found it in French and as a DVD in England. Spot is popular the world over.



Kathy Manos Penn

I was happy to hear Spot had become the favorite of another friend's grandson when I gave him the books a few years back, but it wasn't until I got a thank you card one year that I learned just how popular Spot had been. These parents told me that they had both grown up with Spot and were looking forward to introducing their newborn to him.

It makes sense that children love Spot, as the author originally wrote and designed the Spot book to entertain his three-year-old son. His son was so delighted with Spot that Mr. Hill went on to seek a publisher. In today's world of complicated books with interactive pieces, it's hard to believe that it took some work to find a company that would take a chance on the flap concept. His puppy character soon won the hearts of children everywhere. After the debut of "Where's Spot?" letters began to roll in requesting that the story continue. And so it did with Spot going to the park, having a birthday, celebrating Christmas and more. I had to laugh when I read that Mr. Hill had begun referring to himself as Spot's Dad.

If you're in search of a gift for a newborn or toddler, try wrapping up a Spot book to make the whole family smile. What an amazing legacy Eric Hill has left us all.

• 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/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

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...WORD MATTER continued from 10

These people know exactly what they're doing. Never, ever, forget – television stations are businesses, all of which are laser focused on the bottom line. Viewers are referred to as “eyeballs,” there to be sold the products and services pitched during the seven to eight minutes of commercials in every half hour

newscast. And while you're at it, take note of exactly what's being pitched to you during those commercial breaks. In the national newscasts the overwhelming number of advertisers are pushing pills – pharmaceutical companies who know that fear causes stress, which causes stomach issues, headaches, and a whole lot

of wondering exactly what's at the root of that nagging discomfort you're feeling.

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Charming 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath has a large private lot with pond, paved road to driveway, plenty of parking, easy living one level plan. move in condition with high ceiling in great room and a lovely covered porch overlooking the pond. Offered at \$345,000. mls #91546



Located on a gentle knoll, this 3 bedroom, 3 bath is wrapped with lovely covered decks to enjoy the clean, cool Highlands air. Main level has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, updated kitchen that opens to dining and living room with fireplace. Upper level is bright and cheerful with a huge bedroom and en-suite bath. low maintenance yard with lovely native landscape. Walking distance to Apple lake. move in condition with nothing needed but your custom touches. Offered at \$575,000. mls #91460



This property has 3 residences. All 3 are income-producing. The main house is known as Jewel of the Woods Lodge and features soaring ceilings, fireplace, dry sauna, two bonus rooms and mountain views. The property has terraced gardens, two barns, one with an apartment and the other storage building with an apartment upstairs. Great long term and vacation rental history. Great farming opportunity for row crops. Offered at \$990,000. mls #91704



Great entertaining home with large covered deck and an open deck. Great in-town location with an exceptional view. 3/2 on main level and 1/1 in bright, light basement. Kitchen adjoins breakfast room and sunroom; separate dining room, laundry room and pantry. Great room with stone fireplace. Property has an extra lot for 2/2.. Circular driveway. Seller is licensed agent in NC. Offered at \$799,900. mls #91662



Charming home noisy stream and end of drive privacy. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths with soaring ceilings and designer charm. 2 fireplaces, screened porch with kitchen pass through. plenty of parking and estate landscaped grounds Great getaway or investment property with great rental history. Offered at \$1,750,000. mls #91548



Holt Road, located on over an acre in a wooded glen, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, plus a charming guesthouse that has an efficiency layout is all in move in condition. Main house has bedroom and bath on the main level, with living room with fireplace, kitchen, dining and a lovely glass porch to let in the light. Lovely covered porch overlooks the ponds and fountain. Rear deck and potting room. a magical setting and lovely grounds. Offered at \$695,000. mls #91651



Located approximately 5 miles from downtown Highlands and over 4100 feet elevation. This lovely home sits on 7 acres and is flanked by USFS Lands. There are trails to explore including the Bartram Trail with this great privacy and serene setting. The house has a spectacular mountain views from most rooms and from the Carolina room and large deck. The house is move in condition, with a great floor plan, 10 foot ceilings on the main floor and 9 foot on second, two stone fire places, and heart of pine floors. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, lovely kitchen with concrete countertops and up to date appliances. A usable yard with Porte-cochere round out this happy House. Offered at \$1,270,000. mls #91258



Escape to Serenity! This picture-perfect postcard mountain retreat features both a main house and separate guest quarters with waterfalls along property line and almost 5 acres bordering a horse pasture and Christmas tree farm. There is a pond, huge yard or mini pasture with several pavilions and a shed. Deck with tin roof overlooks pond and pasture with sound of waterfall. Offered at \$565,000. mls #91631



Great family or get away home sits on a usable yard with lush landscaping and a pond. Easy access with great parking and a 2 car garage. 4 bedrooms 2.5 baths. Large open kitchen, dining and living room with fireplace. plus an office and frog over the garage. Additional shed for storage or studio. Offered at \$459,000. mls #91479



Sweet Cottage with a view of Sages Mountain for \$95,000. This one bedroom, one bath home could use some updating but would make a charming property. Only 3 miles from middle of Main Street Highlands. Plenty of USFS trails to hike and Wild Scenic rivers to play in. Original wormy chestnut ceilings in BR and Kitchen. This cottage has been lived in year-round for the past 18 years. Come see!. Hurry. Offered at \$95,000. mls #91714



2 bedroom 1 bath located on two lots on Satulah Ridge. Great walk to town location. Full unfinished basement. Great rental investment or full time location. Offered at \$309,000. mls # 91589



Tucked away at roads end behind the gates of the prestigious Ravenel development, this home is a place where you can live in peace and quiet and still be right in town. The house is elegantly simple and boasts over 4,800 heated sq.ft. yet feels like a cottage. Main floor living area is open concept with vaulted ceiling in living room, stacked stone wood burning fireplace. Master suite, laundry room, pantry, half bath and a screened porch with vaulted ceiling and an open deck are also on the main level. Lower level living area has a stacked stone gas fireplace, wet bar, its own full deck with guest suites at opposite sides. Offered for \$2,400,000. MLS# 91397



The home is divided into two apartments with kitchen, full bath, living room with granite fireplace bedroom and porch overlooking the property. Main level has hardwood floors. The lower level has stone floors, large living room and dining space, full bath and bedroom with its own deck and separate entrance. Each level has its own laundry area. New roof and electrical in 2018. Offered at \$299,000. mls #91426

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...INVESTING continued from page 11

ask others around town about their experience with or knowledge of a particular Realtor®.

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- In order to best serve you and not waste your time, the Broker should ask you questions and give you their undivided attention regarding your desires in a property, preferred location, comfortable price range, mortgage pre-qualifying, etc. They should respect your preferences and stay within your price range and properties that meet your criteria.

- Preview properties for you prior to your appointment to help

narrow down those that best suit your criteria.

- Provide copies and help familiarize you with pertinent documents such as "Buyer Agency Agreement," "Offer to Purchase and Contract," "Residential Property Disclosure" and brochures that answer questions on Home Inspections, Lead Based Paint, Real Estate Escrow and Closings, etc.

- Show only properties that are best for you, no matter what the commission fee.

- Provide available information on properties of interest to you, such as surveys, tax office info, deed, appraisals, covenants and restrictions, zoning, or anything else applicable to the property during Due Diligence Period.

- Broker's responsibility is to educate you on property values, market conditions and contract provisions for your protection. Before you make an offer, broker should encourage you to take the time you need to be comfortable in making these important decisions.

- Be skillful in negotiating, handling volumes of paperwork and patiently lead you through the negotiating and closing process.

- Help with list of professionals needed during due diligence period; provide applications and meet with home inspectors (and other specified inspections), contractors for bids on repairs/improvements, surveyor, septic/water inspectors, provide documentation/info to mortgage lender, appraiser, insurance company and closing attorney.

- Provide information to transfer utilities, review closing statement prior to closing, transfer of keys, provide list of professionals who may assist you as a property owner.

The best advice to you is to find a broker who will treat you like family from the moment of your inquiry through the closing process and any help you may need as a property owner and a new member of our Highlands community.

- Lynn Kimball has over 45 years of real estate experience, with over 35 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and previously served as a Director and Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices BHHS Meadows Mountain Realty has three locations: 488 Main Street in Highlands, 132 Hwy 107S in Cashiers or visit Lynn at her 2334 Cashiers Road location in Highlands across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@bhhsmmr.com

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...FIBER ACT continued from page 1

Taylor urged everyone to contact Julia Howard who is one of three House members who chair the House Finance committee. Howard will likely be the tie-breaker vote on whether or not the FIBER NC Act will make it out of committee for a full vote. Taylor said to let her know Highlands is for the act. Her email is Julia.Howard@ncleg.net.

John Szoka, one of the other primary sponsors alongside Corbin for the bill is also a chair. Mitchell Setzer is the third Chair and is adamantly against the bill. If Howard votes in favor of the finance committee hearing the bill, the legislation will stay alive and move forward. If not, the bill will essentially die and will no longer have a chance of becoming reality this session.

The legislation is supported by the N.C. Association of County Commissioners and the League of Municipalities and would allow local governments to install and maintain broadband lines and

lease the infrastructure to private companies, which would provide high-speed Internet to businesses and homes. Governments couldn't offer the service themselves. The goal is to help connect people who don't currently have broadband by making it easier for companies to expand their services.

The Town of Highlands is already working on offering residents Internet and were grandfathered in due to a loop hole in the law a few years ago. If the new legislation passes, Highlands would be able to better partner with Macon County or even Franklin to expand the infrastructure and better serve residents throughout Macon County.

"I am very pleased that Representative Corbin is helping to bring the issue to the forefront as we as a county are currently stymied with our hands tied with trying to help improve the situation," said Macon County Commission Chair and Highlands Representative Jim Tate. "The problem is not going to be solved until the state can come to agreement that access to broadband is truly more important than ensuring that the larger companies are making a profit. In my opinion, if approved, this will be a fantastic step forward in trying to solve the problem."

In the eastern part of the state, large cable and telecommunications companies object to having to compete with the public sector, in some cases the governments that regulate them. However, the FIBER NC ACT is specifically designed to help rural areas such as Macon County that don't have broadband companies knocking down the door to service the areas.

In addition to telecommunications companies, some conservative Republicans are also against the change asserting that government should have no role in providing Internet access.

During the House committee meeting, committee Vice Chair Rep. Michael Speciale, R-Craven, said that, unlike police and fire protection, providing Internet service goes beyond the proper role of government. He said the bill would eventually lead to local governments providing their own

service or getting into financial trouble.

Rep. Kevin Corbin, who serves as the primary sponsor for the bill disagrees.

"It would allow Macon County and other rural counties in North Carolina to assist in the expansion of broadband," said Corbin. "A county like Macon that is financially stable could invest in this infrastructure without raising taxes or adversely affecting the budget in any way. I am pushing hard for rural North Carolina. Unfortunately, we are having to battle urban interests and the big broadband companies. Josh [Dobson, another bill sponsor] and I are trying to think outside the box here. Anytime you do that you get the objection that we've 'never done it this way before' Unfortunately, we are having to battle with the big broadband companies as well as some within our own political party. We continue to push for rural North Carolina."

Corbin is joined by Josh Dobson R-Avery and John Szoka R-Cumberland in sponsoring the bill.

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale supports Corbin's efforts but believes it leaves a lot of questions unanswered.

"The fiber act is a good start," said Beale. "The concern is how many rural counties can afford to build the infrastructure for broadband access. Broadband is not a luxury but a necessity. It is vital for economic growth, education and many other areas. Another concern is if the infrastructure is in place will there be a provider and at what cost? In Macon County we have seen first-hand that is all about the money. We have a cell tower that was supposed to supply cell service and possibly broadband to the Nantahala area; still today there is nothing on the tower after five years. Until the legislators take steps to tell these providers that we have been penalized long enough because of our topography, until this happens, I am afraid rural counties are going to continue to struggle with broadband access."

As of press time, the chairs of the finance committee were still debating whether they will take up the legislation.

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...18-WHEELERS continued from page 1

constructed a truck turnaround in Franklin not far from the 441 intersection in hopes that after viewing the static warning signs not to proceed, they would turnaround and head for Highlands another way.

Unfortunately, truckers still disregard signage and proceed up the Gorge Road oftentimes causing accidents and at the very least snagging traffic.

Mayor Taylor said NCDOT has told him that radar-activated warning signs have been purchased and will be installed very soon at both the Highlands and Franklin entrances directing truckers not to go down or up US 64.

However, he said NCDOT would also like to use cameras to prove drivers disregarded the warning lights, but a resolution is required to make that happen.

"That is what the resolution before you is about," said Mayor Taylor. "The proposed cameras are not to determine speed like those used on highways across the country. These cameras will be used, and a photograph of the truck will be taken, only if drivers go right past the radar-activated warning lights and proceed down or up US 64."

Taylor said the purpose is two-fold. "One, the radar-activated warning lights will go off and there will be signs saying 'you will be photographed if you proceed' and second, a photograph will provide evidence so if a charge goes to court it will show that the driver willfully violated numerous warnings," he said. "It's not a ticketing system, it's a documentation system."

Before the photographic mechanism can be considered, the NC Legislature needs to know there is a show of support in the form of a resolution signed by the Macon County Commission and the towns of Franklin and Highlands.

Once the legislature gets the resolution, it can consider and even speed up the passing of special legislation making it legal for cameras to be added as deterrents at the top and bottom of US 64.

According to Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell, the radar-activated warning signs will be calibrated only for 18-wheelers and a photograph will only be snapped if the driver disregards the warning mechanism and proceeds.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said she understood that the photograph would only be used as evidence if an "incident" with the truck occurred after bypassing the warning.

Mayor Taylor and Chief Harrell reiterated that the "incident" is disregarding the warning lights and proceeding up or down US 64 not just if the truck gets stuck

or impedes traffic.

Mayor Taylor said "they are going to get stuck so there will be a problem which means state patrol can access the photograph to make the case," he said.

Chief Harrell said witnesses usually – and are encouraged to call 911 at which point Highway Patrol responds and the photograph can be used to prove the violation.

Harrell reiterated that both the flashing warning signs and the cameras are calibrated based on mass so standard vehicles won't activate the mechanisms.

The other issue brought to the table by the mayor involved sending a letter to Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis as well as Rep. Mark Meadows to oppose any push for heavier or longer trucks across the state put forth by the trucking industry.

"Adding any weight from the current limit of 80,000 pounds or allowing double tractor-trailers to add five feet to each trailer would only make things worse for drivers in North Carolina," reads the letter. "The last thing our citizens need to face on the road is bigger, more dangerous tractor-trailers."

Mayor Taylor said furthermore, US-DOT found in an earlier study that trucks with more than one trailer had 11 percent higher fatal crash rates. In its most recent study, the department found the longer double-trailer trucks – like the ones under consideration in Congress – took 22 more feet to stop than twin-trailer trucks on the road today.

In his letter Taylor also cited the wear and tear these larger trucks would impose on the North Carolina highways.

"Our roadways are already in disrepair with inadequate funding being allocated to keep up with the damage caused by heavy traffic. Who will pay for the added strain on our highways?" he asked.

According to Taylor the trucking lobby is trying to get Congress to OK an increase in the tandem two-trailer configuration from the current 28 feet to 33 feet and to increase the length of one-trailer trucks to 54 feet and 10,000 pounds.

"Our highways in Western North Carolina are just not designed for that kind of weight," said Taylor.

But Commissioner Patterson said there are two-sides to every story and asked that the issue be tabled until more information could be gathered.

"I understand this is a problem in the mountains, but saying we are against this as a blanket policy across the state, I'm just not sure. What is the reason for this in the first place?"

Commissioners will likely discuss the issue at a later date.

– Kim Lewicki



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Tuesday, September 3 Time: 2:00-4:00 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Michael Jordan
- **NEWLY ADDED Iphone and Ipad Class**
Wednesday, September 4 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$75/
\$85 Instructor: Loraine Smith
- **Disputes in the South China Sea**
Wednesday, September 4 Time: 10:00-12:00
Cost: \$25/\$35 Presenter: Krista Wiegand
- **How Hospice Supports Dying Well**
Thursday, September 5 Time: 2:00-4:00
FREE COMMUNITY EVENT Presenter: Beth Nease
- **Bringing Venezuela Back from the Brink**
Friday, September 6 Time: 2:00-4:00 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Jennifer McCoy
- **Annual Meeting**
Monday, September 9 Time: 5:00-7:00 NO COST
- **Mountain Meadow Field Trip**
Tuesday, September 10 Time: 10:00-12:00 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Cauty Worley
- **Fake News or the Real Deal**
Wednesday, September 11 Time: 10:00-12:00
Cost: \$25/\$35 Presenter: Rajvee Subramanian
- **Influences of James Dickey and Pat Conroy**
Friday, September 13 Time: 10:00-12:00 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Ellen Malphrus
- **The ABZ's of Wine**
Tuesday, September 17 Time: 3:30-5:30 Cost: \$45/\$55
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Two live concerts coming up in Sept. at PAC



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present two live concerts in September.

Sat., Sept. 14 (8pm) Jason Petty will pay tribute to Hank Williams in *Hank & My Honky Tonk Heroes*. Sun., Sept. 29 (8pm) The Tenors UnLimited cleverly combine popular opera, musical theatre, crooner standards and original songs that has been the key to their success.

Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 Highlands PAC, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC.

'Dearly Departed' is at PAC



From left: Vivian Kennedy, Jim Gordon, Faye Siegel, Ron Leslie, David Spivey, Lauretta Payne

Scenes from Highlands-Cashiers Players' hilarious and heartwarming current play, "Dearly Departed," showing at the Highlands Performing Arts Center this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 pm, and Sunday at 2:30 pm. Call 828-526-8084 or visit www.highlandscashiersplayers.org for tickets.

...OBITUARIES from page 12

Ruff, of Denver, CO; five great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

He is also survived by one brother, Lawrence Wood of Brevard, NC, four sisters: Hazel Miller of Scaly Mountain, NC; Oleta Rogers of Asheville, NC; Ruth Keever and Judy Reece of Whittier, NC.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers: Vernon and Earl Wood and two sisters: Gladys Wood and Elsie Coggins.

The family will receive friends at Beck Funeral Home at 12 p.m. on Saturday, August 31. The celebration of life will follow at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Beck Funeral Home with Rev. Donald Bates and family members officiating. The committal service will conclude at Scaly Mountain Church of God Cemetery where Mr. Wood will be laid to rest.

The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation for every kindness shown to them during this time.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Georgia, is in charge of the arrangements. If there are any questions, please call 706-782-9599. An online Memorial Register Book is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.



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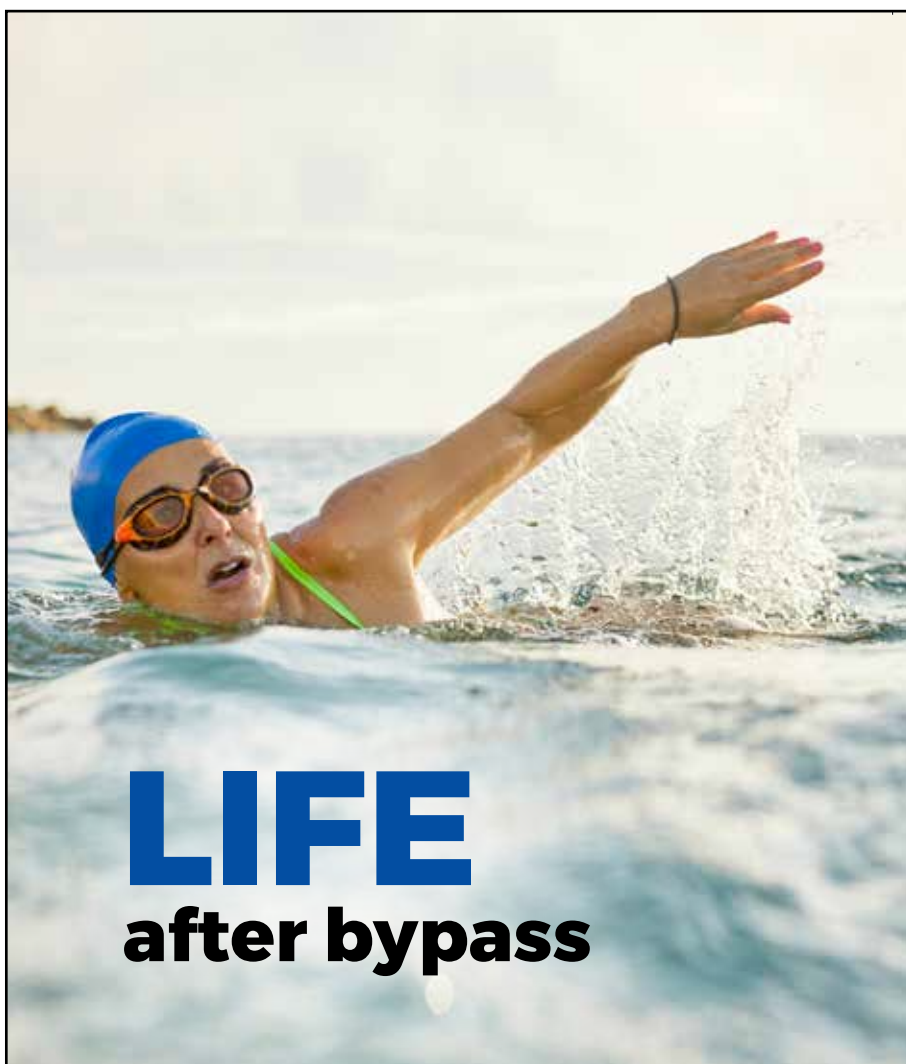
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First Day of 2019-'20 school year



The first day of Highlands School went off without a hitch but Tuesday morning students entered a dark school. The power was out in a section of Highlands due to a problem on Arnold Road but it was restored by 8:30 a.m. Until then generated emergency lights and open blinds on windows lit the way.

— Photos by Kim Lewicki & Sayla Roman



The Phoenix Vocal Ensemble to perform Sun. Sept. 1 at First Presbyterian



The Phoenix Vocal Ensemble from Pebblebrook School in Cobb County, GA will sing during the 11a worship service at Highlands First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 1. The group is directed by Nathan Medley and is a chorus of approximately 20 students taken primarily from the junior and senior classes. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this service as well as all services at First Presbyterian Church. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and Fifth Street.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Love Your Neighbor

Rev. Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian-
Church, Cashiers

The thing I have loved so much about our nation is the diversity we have in every area of life. I was taught at home and in school that America was a land of freedom. You could say what was on your heart and it was alright for others to disagree with you. I remember many teachers saying I may disagree with you but I will fight, and even give my life, for your right to say what you really believe.

This idea came from Christianity. It came from Christ's summation of the second table of the Ten Commandments. He said in Matthew 22:38 "Love your neighbor as yourself." These words carry a message we need to remember in this nation today. The greatness of America has never been her army, economy or political systems it has always been her freedom and concern for her people.

Were there problems in the founding of this great nation? Yes, of course there were, but over the years we have worked, and yes even fought, to correct those short comings. There is not another nation on this earth, for that matter, that has ever worked so hard to give all men freedom.

George Washington, our first President in 1789 declared "The liberty enjoyed by the people of these states of worshiping Almighty God agreeably to their conscience, is not only among the choicest of their blessings but also of their rights."

There can be little doubt that our first president knew the foundation of this nation was freedom. Daniel Webster who served as a Senator and as Secretary of State under three different presidents said "[T]he Christian religion – its general principles – must ever be regarded among us as the foundation of civil society."

Why would he have believed that? Because he knew that without the principle of loving your neighbor a constitutional democracy would fail. Noah Webster, the School Master to America, declared "[T]he religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His apostles... This is genuine Christianity and to this we owe our free constitutions of government." He also made this point "[T]he Christian religion... is the basis, or rather the source, of all genuine freedom in government... I am persuaded that no civil government of a republican form can exist and be durable in which the principles of Christianity have not a controlling influence."

We seem to have entered a day when those principles have been discarded and serve us no more. That leaves us open to losing our most basic freedom, the freedom of speech. If we loose that freedom all will fall and we will find ourselves enslaved by the whims of others. It is imperative that we return to the days of discourse where we spoke and listened because that alone can show our love for our neighbor and our nation and its founding documents. May God grant us such a revival.

Proverbs 3:5

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

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CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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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

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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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;

Choir 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship 8:30a Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

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

Wed.: Choir: 6p

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

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

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

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HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

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

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

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

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706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447, Pastor Gary Hewins

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Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

...GARBAGE continued from page 1

finances was spurred to curtail the town's bear problems and to address the workmen's comp issues the town has been experiencing due to the physical act of picking up residential and commercial trash cans.

What concerned two citizens who spoke during the public comment period at the Town Board meeting was money already spent on bear-proof garbage enclosures and the size and weight of the required bear-resistant toters.

Nina Burke said she had spent \$1,500 on a bear-proof enclosure in which she puts her garbage cans and Alice Nelson said maneuvering 64- and 96-gallon bear-resistance toters to the bottom of their drive was not possible for her and her husband.

Mayor Pat Taylor said Burke's bear-proof enclosure was fine as long as it could be opened and the cans had both totter bars and wheels so they could be rolled out and lifted mechanically by the garbage truck. In her case she wouldn't need bear-resistant toters – just toters with bars and wheels – since she keeps them in a bear-proof enclosure.

When Nelson learned there were 33-gallon bear-resistant toters available she felt they would be able to load them into the back of their pick-up truck and drive them to the end of the driveway for pickup.

In a nutshell, commercial customers have until Jan. 1, 2020 to either purchase bear-resistant toters with bars or rent them from the town. All dumpsters are to be removed from the town rights-of way. If a bear-resistant enclosure is used to house garbage receptacles, permission must be had first from the town.

If not in a bear-resistance enclosure, toters must be bear-resistant. Refuse not in the proper container will not be picked up by the sanitation crew nor will the crew pick

up trash spewed on the street by animals.

Residential customers have until Aug. 1 to move to bear-resistance toters or toters which can be rolled out of a bear-proof enclosure and lifted mechanically into the garbage trucks.

In addition, toters – bear-resistant or otherwise – may not be more than 100 lbs.; all waste must be bagged – no loose garbage can be put in receptacles, and no loose bags can be put on the streets. Violations are punishable by a civil penalty of \$50 for each offense.

Water Connections

The town has been getting requests for water and sewer hookups outside the town limits as well as requests to be annexed to get town services.

Years ago, Highlands town fathers OK'd water to developments outside the town limits, but that practice has long been over. Except for the H-C Hospital complex, sewer hookups outside the corporate limits of the town have never been allowed and that rule stands.

Currently, only in-town residents and nonresidents served by town water from a previous agreement with the Town Board can have town water. The only way to get town water outside the town limits is to be voluntarily or involuntarily annexed.

However, annexation doesn't guarantee town services – water, sewer or utilities. The town must OK extending those services and will only do so if it is in the public interest and isn't a financial burden to the town. Furthermore, homeowners must shoulder the costs of "meeting" the town lines whether within the corporate limits or annexed.

Amendments to the Code of Ordinances were unanimously accepted and are in affect immediately.

– Kim Lewicki

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Aug. 11. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 11

• At 10:35 a.m., officers were called about vandalism to property at the gate house of Shelby Place estimated to be \$500.

• At noon, officers were called about the embezzlement of \$60,000 from Paoletti Restaurant.

Aug. 15

• At 12:25 p.m., officers were called about items valued at \$1,250 taken from a Frontier truck.

Aug. 16

• At 9:06 p.m., officers were called about larceny of bluetooth speakers valued at \$250 taken from a bag at the K-H Founders Park.

Aug. 18

• At 8:11 p.m., officers were called about vandalism of a headstone valued at \$400 being knocked over on Memorial Park Drive.

Aug. 20

• At 1 p.m., officers were called about a television valued at \$200 being taken from a residence on Zermatt Circle.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 17.

Aug. 17

• At 2:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Arnold Road.

• At 7:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Knut Gap Road.

At 5:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Glenn Falls Road.

Aug. 19

• At 2:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 2:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

Aug. 21

• At 1:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire on N.4th Street.

Aug. 23

• At 5:29 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

...THIEF continued from page 1

Gregory Lee Gobble, robbed the Gold-n-Clipper jewelry store located in Highlands, N.C. Court records show that Gobble entered the jewelry store, broke the glass casing, and stole two pieces of jewelry valued at \$176,400.

According to court records, Gobble and McSweeney were seen fleeing the scene in a vehicle driven by McSweeney. Highlands police officers arrested McSweeney later the same day. According to documents filed with the court and Thursday's sentencing hearing, McSweeney recruited Gobble to assist in the commission of the robbery.

On February 11, 2019, McSweeney

pleaded guilty to Hobbs Act robbery. Gobble, who was arrested in South Carolina on August 2016, was previously sentenced to 41 months in prison and three years of supervised release.

In making today's announcement, U.S. Attorney Murray thanked the FBI and the Highlands Police Department for their investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorney John Pritchard, of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Asheville, is in charge of the prosecution.

– Submitted by the Dept. of Justice, Western District of NC



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