

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 50

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

Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019

Toters replace dumpsters to deter bears

After a season of rogue bears roaming Highlands' business district night and day, serious talk began during the March 2019 Town Board retreat outlining ways to combat the situation.

Since whether in the business or residential districts, bears are always after garbage, the Town Board made the decision to bite the financial bullet and invest in bear-proof and bear-resistant trash

receptacles.

In less than a year, bearproof trash containers were planted all over the business district and last week, unsightly dumpsters in

• See TOTERS page 15

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A public service announcement worthy of the front page

How the right car seat and proper installation can keep your children alive

Brittney Lofthouse

Safe Kids Macon County Chairman

Five years ago, shortly after partnering with the Sheriff's Office to begin a Safe Kids coalition in Macon County, I went through a 5-day course to become a certified car seat technician. During the rigorous five-day course, taught by experts who traveled here from Raleigh, I learned all about the most common mistakes when installing a car seat, I learned which car seat is best for a child's age or size, and even which seat is best based on a specific vehicle. We practiced installation on dolls before finishing the week with a free car seat safety inspection station for the community.

Over the last five years, as the Chairman of Safe Kids Macon County, I have organized a dozen car seat safety events that have checked over 500 car seats. Sometimes those car seat

checks were for my friends or coworkers, but most of them were for complete strangers who I have not spoken to since. It is widely known that car seat safety is a great passion of mine and something I constantly advocate for.

Last Friday, all of those years of car seat safety and helping others became my own reality when I got a phone call that my mother and my four-year-old niece were in a rollover accident. Their vehicle didn't just rollover, but it rolled off the bank and landed upside down in a creek. My husband and I rushed to the scene and by the time we got there, both my mother and niece were safely out of the vehicle. Seeing that car upside down with water rushing through the inside was gut wrenching. I immediately began searching for my mother and niece who were in the ambulance. Worst case scenario flashed through

• See CAR SEAT page 17

King and Queen for the night



It was a big day for Highlands School students. First the Homecoming Court rode in the parade Saturday, Dec. 7 and then they got ready for the annual Homecoming Dance. This year the dance was held at Coleman Hall in the First Presbyterian Church where seniors Dillion Schmitt and Jeslyn Head were crowned King and Queen. For more photos see page 14.

– Photos by Abigail Nichols

Tom Neal named CEO and CNO of HC Hospital

Thomas Neal, RN, MBA, MHA, joined Mission Health as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nursing Officer of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on December 1, 2019. Tom is a proven leader with more than 30 years of progressive healthcare experience. He brings with him a diverse skill set in acute care, behavioral health and post-acute operations.

Tom most recently held the position of Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems (CHS). During his time with CHS, he served as Chief Executive Officer of both Berwick Hospital Center in Berwick, PA, and Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, Roncove, WV. As CEO of Berwick Hospital Center, Tom helped to rebuild their primary care physician base and also led efforts to

• See HC HOSPITAL page 2

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Learning on the job



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Our new commissioner, Marc Hehn, and I attended the Essentials of Municipal Government Workshop last week. This workshop was sponsored by the University of North Carolina School of Government and the North Carolina League of Municipalities. It was my third workshop, and for Marc his first.

I attend these workshops because I always learn something new about municipal government. Invariably there are changes to municipal statutes.

Highlands is a member of the UNC School of Government and the NC League of Municipalities. Both organizations support towns and cities. They are important resources and consultants for member municipalities.

Mike Smith, the Dean of the UNC School of Government, was at the workshop. I had the opportunity to thank him personally for the 16 years that I have relied on the school as a critical professional resource. I was a magistrate for 10 years

before currently serving 6 years as mayor. The School of Government also trains personnel in the state's court and justice system. They have 50 professors on the faculty that specialize in all aspects of North Carolina law and government.

When I was a magistrate, Professor Robert Farb headed their criminal justice department. Farb was the definitive expert on all North Carolina criminal statutes and legal procedures. I attended continuing

education workshops where Professor Farb would analyze case studies and specific elements of a criminal statute in unbelievable detail. If a magistrate had a question about a current case or charge, Professor Farb and his colleagues were just a phone call away.

That is also the case when it comes to operating a municipal government in North Carolina. Town directors are only a phone call away from consulting with experts in specific fields such as municipal finance, meeting procedures, open records, zoning, or personnel, to name only a few.

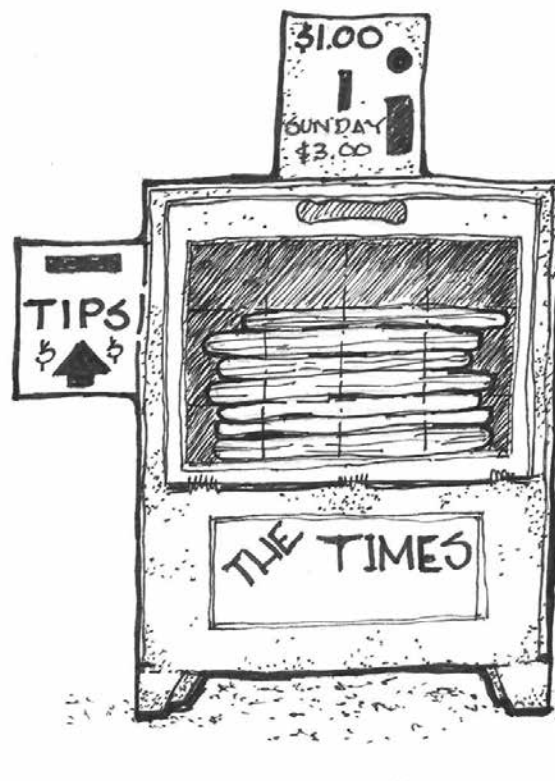
I jokingly told Dean Smith that my goal has always been to make good decisions. The last thing a mayor or magistrate wants to be is a case study for the UNC School of Government. He laughed.

At the workshop I also spoke with Rose Vaughn Williams, the legislative representative for the NC League of Municipalities. The league is also a major source of support for towns and cities. Rose informed me that she believes the legislature will take action in the forthcoming short session on short-term rentals and on fiber/broadband legislation. Her only caveat was that no one can predict what the NC Legislature will do.

Hope you can join us tonight at 7pm at the Highlands Community Center for the December board meeting. Our new commissioner, Marc Hehn, along with our reelected commissioners Brian Stiehler and John Dotson, will be sworn in. I also want to thank outgoing Commissioner Eric Pierson for his many years of service on the board.

By the way, the newly sworn commissioners will have to take a two-hour course on ethics and conflicts of interest. This extensive course is put on by the University of North Carolina School of Government.

• HIC'S VIEW •



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...HC HOSPITAL continued from page 1

bring about significant improvements in patient experience scores, safety and quality outcomes.

Tom has an MBA from the University of Louisville, MHA from the California College of Health Sciences, BSN from Regents College of New York and an ADN

from Jefferson Community College.

"Please join me in welcoming Tom to the Highlands and Cashiers communities," said Kathy Guyette, Division Chief Nurse Executive and President Regional (Sister) Hospitals.

— Submitted Press Release

• WEATHER •

Thu, 12-Dec	Fri, 13-Dec	Sat, 14-Dec	Sun, 15-Dec
43°F 31°F	45°F 39°F	51°F 32°F	49°F 34°F
Times of sun and clouds	Periods of rain	Rather cloudy, showers around	Mostly sunny
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 45° Low: 25°	High: 42° Low: 35°	High: 48° Low: 33°	High: 53° Low: 26°

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Highlands Newspaper

www.highlandsinfo.com

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Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

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

Highlands, N.C., 28741

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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.



PRICE CHANGE: Previously used as a commercial building but could easily be converted back to a residential building. There is currently no kitchen, and the bathrooms do not have showers or bathtubs. This vintage cottage offers 6 rooms and 2 partial baths, a garage, and a lower level. It was completely renovated in 2018. New metal roof, new American standard HVAC system, new Pella windows, new beams, and decking. Would make a great rental property once converted back to residential.

MLS# 91851 | Was \$ 774,999 NOW \$699,999!

HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN The living room of this 3BR/3.5BA home has soaring wood ceilings, and is accented by a stone fireplace and beautiful wood flooring. It opens to a large, perfectly private screened porch which runs the entire length of the home. The kitchen has granite counters, SS appliances, and beautiful cabinetry. The master on the main level boasts an upscale bath with tiled shower and soaking tub. Upstairs are two guest suites. The lower level is partially finished.

MLS# 90910 | Offered for \$747,000



PRICE CHANGE: Sit on the front porch and enjoy the views of Sparkling Lakes. It has been recently painted and the updated kitchen includes gorgeous new quartz countertops, farm sink, updated cabinets, and Whirlpool stainless steel appliances. A newly finished bonus room with full bath above garage. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths. Also includes a 10' two-seater boat complete with troll motor, power washer and tools! Offered furnished (by Summer House) with short exclusion list.

MLS# 92005 | Was \$ 775,000 NOW \$760,000!

HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN This warm and inviting home has been updated and is generous with room for everyone. The great room boasts a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace. The large master on the main level opens up to a wonderful covered screened porch with a second stone fireplace. An open kitchen with stainless appliances and granite counters is adjacent to a large dining space and another sitting area. Upstairs are two additional bedrooms with a great loft.

MLS# 92290 | Offered for \$729,000



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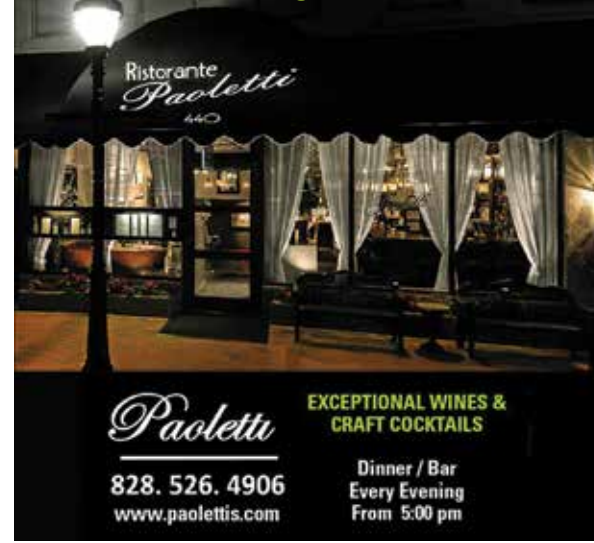
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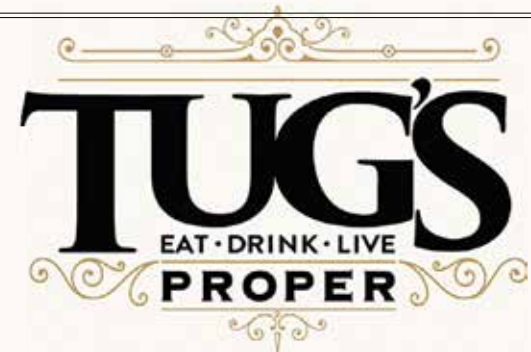


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• OBITUARIES •

Elden Eugene Adameit

Elden Eugene Adameit, 96, died Wednesday November 27, 2019.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 25 years, Lucy Merle (nee Bradley) Adameit; son, James (Kathy) Adameit; daughters, Pamela (Harry) Mann and Mary (Donald) Crissey; 4 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Born in Raritan Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey, he was the son of the late Aimee and William Adameit.

He attended Leonardo DaVinci High School, and shortly thereafter joined the Army Air Corps in January 1943, training as an Aerial Photographer. Mr. Adameit took part in the June 6, 1944 D-Day assault at Normandy Beach, France during WWII. He was awarded the Distinguished Unit Badge, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal and WWII Victory Medal during his service.

After his military service, Mr. Adameit trained as a Millwright and lived in Virginia, New Jersey, and eventu-



ally moved to Florida where he joined ECI/ Raytheon Corp, having retired in 1985. He soon relocated to North Carolina where he spent the majority of his retirement years.

Notably, Mr. Adameit was a 68-year member of the Masonic fraternity, including Scottish Rite, Shiners, York Rite, and Royal Arch Masons. He was most recently awarded the Knights of the York Cross of Honour (KYCH) in 2018 at age 95.

He loved music, travel and learning in general. The day before left this world, he was found perusing the Internet. People were drawn to his keen sense of humor,

sharp memory and kindness. He was a master story-teller and oh, how we will miss those tales.

A funeral service was held Saturday, December 7, 2019 in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Adameit family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Marjorie Tibitha Webb

Marjorie Tibitha Webb, 82, of Highlands, NC passed away Saturday, November 30, 2019. She was born February 6, 1937 in Macon County, NC to the late Sarge and Effie Henry Gibson. She was married to Joe Ed Webb who died in 2008. Mrs. Webb was a homemaker and attended Highlands Assembly of God Church. She loved people, loved her grandchildren, loved her snuff and loved going ginseng hunting with her husband Joe.

She is survived by four daughters, Mary Sue Gilpin (Jack) and Ann Gilpin both of Brooksville, FL, May McNeal (Ronnie) of Webster, FL and Linda Webb of Hendersonville, NC; four sons, Albert Webb, Charles Webb (Pam) and Benny Webb (Cathy) all of Hendersonville, NC and Doug Webb of Brooksville, FL; many grandchildren, great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by two sisters, Doris Webb and Myrtle McCall and three brothers, Jack, Gene and Edward Gibson.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at Horsecove Cemetery, with Rev. Randy Reed officiating.

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

Walter 'John' Watson

Walter "John" Watson, 79, of Highlands, passed away on Friday, December 6, 2019.

Born in New Rochelle, NY, he was the son of the late Walter LeRoy Watson and Mary M. McKinney Watson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Linda Watson. John was a US Navy Veteran.

He is survived by three children, Mark Watson of Mount Toxaway, Terry Watson of Highlands, NC, and Joanna Watson of Franklin; three grandchildren, William Watson, Andrew Watson and Heather Watson Felder; three great grandchildren, Chloe Isabelle Watson, Grady Felder and Greer Felder and two nephews, David Ginn and Danny Ginn.

A Graveside Service was held at 2 pm Sunday, December 8, at Highlands Memorial Park. Rev. Randy Lucas will officiate.

Pallbearers were Mark Watson, Terry Watson, Andrew Watson, Rance Jones, Keen Jones and George Schmidt.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Highlands Memorial Park or Fidelia Eckerd Nursing Center, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741.



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•WORD MATTER•

Those Dreaded Expectations

I heard someone say the following words recently: "I never expected that from her." I won't provide context, but hearing the words caused me to smile.

Humans are the only creatures in the natural world who have expectations, of themselves and of others. Expectations of one's self is probably not a bad thing. It allows us to set goals, to establish priorities in our lives, and to experience the feeling of satisfaction at accomplishing something.

Imposing expectations on others, whether verbalized or kept to one's self, is a recipe for, at best disappointment, and at worst, resentment.

I've voiced this to people at one time or another and have been greeted with skepticism. "How can you not have expectations of others?"

Simple. It's a conscious decision I make in order to reduce the incidence of either disappointment or resentment in my life.

When I was running my business, I held semi-annual meetings with each of my teammates (I didn't refer to them as employees or subordinates) to establish parameters by which each would be evaluated. I understood that these mutually agreed-upon goals and standards of performance could be interpreted as expectations, but for me they were just what the words implied. This can feel like hair splitting but stay with me.

There's a psychology to having expectations of others. For some, it's difficult to let go of the idea that expecting something to happen will actually make it happen. I expect it to rain today therefore it will rain today. If things play out as expected, would I experience happiness that my expectation was met? Or, will I feel disappointment because it rained? It's not the thought that's the problem. It's the expectation flowing from the thought.

When my daughters were young I told them, literally all the time, if they applied themselves they would get excellent grades. I never expected them to achieve at a certain grade level. Grades weren't something over which they had any true control. Teachers dealt out grades, and teachers being members of the human race could decide that simply applying one's self wasn't enough to merit an A. Additionally, scholastic achievement is individual in nature. Some students are capable of doing extremely well in some subjects but not necessarily in others. I be-



Bud Katz

lieve when parents arbitrarily demand a certain level of performance from a child they're setting themselves up for disappointment and could be creating a level of resentment in their children.

Someone I know is a dedicated fan of a certain Major League baseball team. During the off-season, the team made a couple of trades and free-agent acquisitions, leading this person to expect improved performance in the division standings. It didn't happen. His expectations were crushed due to things occurring beyond the scope of the off-season activities.

We – pretty much all of us – hold unspoken if not unconscious expectations regarding a wide range of things.

"Take this pill and you'll lose weight." We take the pill, but we don't lose weight because we didn't change our eating habits.

"This film is filled with Oscar-worthy performances." We watch the film but leave the theater disappointed because the script was weak.

"Vote for me and I'll do this, that or something else." We do, but he doesn't, because he didn't understand the limitations of his position.

In all of these admittedly manufactured examples we were asked to accept a premise over which we had no control.

The only things about which we should ever consider holding any expectations are instances where we can control the outcome.

We're conditioned by life experience to hold at least some expectations, such as clean water when we turn the faucet, or light when we flip a switch on a wall. Honesty when we hear words from someone who has sought our trust.

Sometimes, not having expectations can result in a happy experience. That walk in the woods you didn't particularly want to take suddenly produced an encounter with a small family of deer.

Other times, having expectations can lead to crushing disappointment, or worse.

Some people are simply incapable of not holding others to unrealistic expectations. I feel for them, for they are certain to experience consistent disappointment. Those who can accept others as they are and as they do, will, I believe, enjoy a less frustrating life.

It's okay to impose expectation on yourself, when you're capable of controlling an outcome. As far as expectations of others, do so at your own risk.



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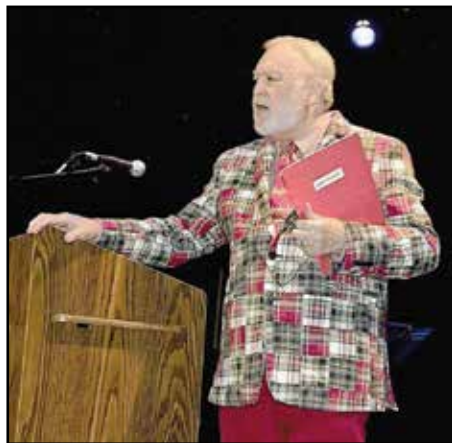
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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Don't miss HCP's free holiday program, tonight Dec. 12

Thursday evening, December 12, beginning at 7 p.m., the Highlands Cashiers Players will present their free Holiday Program as they have done for the past 23 years. It would be 24 years this time, but last year the event got snowed out. So the Players



and Dean Zuch will read favorites from the past.

An ensemble from The Mountain Voices Chorus will once again sing several beautiful holiday songs from their recent Christmas concert. Afterwards the audience is invited to join the cast downstairs in PAC for

will do it again and hope for good weather this time!! Coordinated by Vangie Rich and Virginia Talbot, the entertainment features writers from the Highlands Writers Group reading their original stories: Ken Sharpe, Jeannie Chambers, Luke O'Steen, Bud Katz, Wayne Coleman, and Lee Lyons. HCP actors Michael Lanzilotta, Vangie Rich

refreshments. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. No tickets are needed. The program is a Christmas gift to the community from the Highlands Cashiers Players and Highlands Performing Arts Center. Information is also available on the Players Website: highlandscashiersplayers.org.

National Theatre of London's 'Small Island' via satellite at PAC Dec. 14

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the National Theatre of London's production of Small Island on Saturday, December 14 at 1 PM. Andrea Levy's Orange Prize-winning novel Small Island comes to life in an epic new theatre adaptation. Small Island embarks on a journey from Jamaica to Britain, through the Second World War to 1948—the year the HMT Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury. The play follows three intricately connected stories. Hortense yearns for a new life away from rural Jamaica, Gilbert dreams of becoming a lawyer, and Queenie longs to escape her



Lincolnshire roots. Hope and humanity meet stubborn reality as the play traces the tangled history of Jamaica and the UK. Small Island is BBFC rated 15 due to use of strong language. As part of depicting the experience of Jamaican immigrants to Britain after the Second World War, at times characters in the

play use language which is racially offensive. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org or www.highlandspacperformingarts.com or at the door. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

Ongoing

• Movies at the Playhouse Fri & Sat 1, 4, 7; Sun. 1 & 4; Tues-Thurs 1, 4, 7.

• Ice Skating at K-H Founders Park – Thurs., 1-8p; Fri. & Sat 1-10p; Sund. 1-5p. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The Bascom is open Friday - Monday 10am-5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

• At the Highlands Recreation Dept. pool. Public Swim Monday-Thursday 11a-7p Friday and Saturday 11a-6p and Sunday 1-6p.

• Fibber Magee's Clothing Thrift Store on Laurel Street is open Tues.-Friday 10a to 4p and on Saturday from 10a to 2p.

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Mtg at 7p.

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30pm.

Mon.-Wed.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt 5:30-6:30.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more info, call Kristy Lewis at 526-3376.

Mon. & Fri.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:15-10:15 a.m.. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am - 1pm

Tuesdays

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• The Highlands Writers Group meets Tuesday, at 3pm in the downstairs boardroom at The Bascom. Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or budandlynn@me.com.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets from 10:30-11:30 am in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club meets to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. For more information please call 828-349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

• Highlands Area Indivisible Group meets at 5 pm in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit with Tori Schmitt at 7:30am.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• At Community Bible Church, 5-5:30p - Dinner – Free (Donations Appreciated) 5:45-7p - G.R.O.W. Get Real on Wednesdays – Classes offered on money management, addiction, discovering your spiritual gifts and personality type, studying the bible, evangelism, parenting, marriage, grief, and more. All are welcome! Visit www.cbchighlands.com.

• Power Flow Yoga with Nalicia Allio a certified Yoga Instructor 12-1pm and 6:30-7:30pm.

First Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Wed. & Fri.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107, Cashiers. For meeting times in Cashiers go to website www.aawnc80.org or call (828) 349-4357.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Exploration Hike 2:30pm. Visit forests, streams, and other spots across our campus, experiencing unique habitats and honing your observation skills.

• Storytime at Hudson Library, 10:40 am. Open to the public

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15pm at First United Methodist Church Outreach Center on West Main Street in Franklin Call Donita (828) 526-9510.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 6:30-7:30 at the Rec Park.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474.

• Highlands Town Board meeting at 7p in the Community Building on US 64 east and Poplar Street.

4th Thursday

• At the Hudson Library, Kids Zone LEGO Club. Intended primarily for kids in grades 1-5, LEGO Club allows creativity and STEM skills to develop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

Thurs., Dec. 12

• Highlands Town Board meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Building next to the ball-field.

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group's annual Christmas Party will be held Thursday at 7 pm in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Riverview Street, Franklin. Please bring your favorite finger food and an inexpensive gift to exchange. Everyone welcome!

Sat. Dec. 14

• Breakfast with Santa at HUMC 9-10 a.m.

• Santa in the K-H Park on Pine Street 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Wreath Laying Ceremony at Highlands Memorial Park at noon.

• The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the National Theatre of London's production of Small Island on Saturday, December 14 at 1 PM. at times characters in the play use language which is racially offensive. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org or www.highlandsperformingarts.com or at the door. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

Mon. Dec. 16

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's cardiac rehabilitation department will host an

open house on Monday, from 10 to 11 am. Stop by and tour the department, meet the cardiac rehab care team and enjoy heart-healthy snacks. For more information, call 828-526-1469.

• The Friends of the Library invite you to join us for "Christmas at Cashiers, An Evening of Holiday Music and Readings" on Monday at 7 p.m. Enjoy an evening of music, readings, refreshments and holiday cheer at the Cashiers Library, 249 FrankAllen Road - across from the post office. Admission is free.

Wed., Dec. 18

• Come to Hudson Library on Wednesday at 2pm to view the newly-released Christmas movie that was filmed just down the road in Clayton, GA!

All Kendall Riley wants for the holidays is to save her family's ranch, but her longtime rival, small-town scrooge Brick McCree, has other plans Starring Erin Cahill (Saving Grace, Last Vermont Christmas), Nicholas Gonzalez (The Good Doctor, How to Get Away with Murder), A Martinez (Longmire, Santa Barbara), and Lindsay Wagner (The Bionic Woman, Grey's Anatomy). Note: Due to production studio guidelines, the library may not include movie titles in its print advertising. For more information on the movie (including its title) or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031.



Advent & Christmas Activities
AT INCARNATION
Saturday, Dec. 14th
 5pm Christmas Chorale
Sunday, Dec. 15 Advent III
 9am Education Hour - Images of Advent
 10:30am Children's Chapel & Holy Eucharist
 Greening of the Church after service
 5pm Christmas Chorale
Wednesday, Dec. 18
 12pm Eucharist in Chapel
Sunday, Dec. 22 Advent IV
 10:30am Children's Chapel & Holy Eucharist
Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
 5:30pm Family Service in the Nave
 10:15pm Carol Sing in the Nave
 10:30pm Holy Eucharist in the Nave
Wednesday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
 10:30am Holy Eucharist Chapel
Sunday, Jan. 6th - Feast of the Epiphany
 10:30am Children's Chapel & Holy Eucharist

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
 520 Main Street, Highlands, NC • (828) 526-2968

Summit Charter School presents its inaugural Holiday Choral Concert at the Summit Center Gym on Wednesday at 6 p.m. The show will feature Summit's 4th - 5th Grade Chorus, directed by Bart Gilleland, as well as the Middle and High School Chorus, directed by Jesse Loyd. Following the performance, the Summit Family Association (SFA) will host a reception with hot cocoa, cookies, and a photo booth with Santa and the Summit Bear. The

community is more than welcome to attend...come join us for a fun and festive evening supporting our musical Bears!

Thurs., Dec 19

• At OEI's The Farm, a holiday evening with Mike Kinnebrew from 6-8 p.m. \$20 Cover charge. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Free hot cocoa and cookies. Cash bar available.

Sat., Dec. 21

• Santa in the K-H Park on Pine Street 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**Please join us during the holidays at
 First Presbyterian Church of Highlands**
Sunday Worship Services at 11 a.m.

Advent Study Sunday Mornings thru Dec. 22
 9:30-10:30 a.m., in the Church Library
 Advent 2019
 Cynthia M. Campbell's book, Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes is the focus of the study.
 Rev. Dr. Curtis Fussell and Rev. Emily Wilmarth, facilitators

Saturday, December 21
 Longest Night Service
 An Ecumenical Blue Christmas
 Worship Service
 5 p.m.
The Blue Christmas service allows us to grieve losses, to acknowledge our pain, and to take comfort in God's abiding love and care for us.
Everyone is welcome to attend this ministry of our local churches.

Tuesday, December 24
 Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service
 4:30 p.m. Musical Prelude
 featuring Harpist Jillionna Bailey-Plemmons
 Candlelight & Communion Service
 designed for the entire family
 at 5 p.m.
 Homily by Rev. Emily Wilmarth
 Nursery available for children 2 years and under

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands
 Located at 471 Main Street
 PO Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741 • 828-526-3175

Highlands 2019 Olde Mountain Christmas Parade



Highlands 2019 Olde Mountain Christmas Parade



Crowds of people lined Main Street from 5th to 3rd for the annual Olde Mountain Christmas Parade Saturday, Dec. 7 from 11a to noon. The weather cooperated this year with a balmy day under sunny skies. Civic groups, nonprofits and businesses – 51 in all – entertained and delighted onlookers of every age.

– Photos by Kim Lewicki



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[PkgNumberShort]

Declassified by order of the President

September 24, 2019

~~EYES ONLY~~
~~DO NOT COPY~~

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: ~~(S)~~Telephone Conversation with President Zelenskyy of Ukraine

PARTICIPANTS: President Zelenskyy of Ukraine

Notetakers: The White House Situation Room

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: July 25, 2019, 9:03 - 9:33 a.m. EDT
Residence

~~(S)~~The President: Congratulations on a great victory. We all watched from the United States and you did a terrific job. The way you came from behind, somebody who wasn't given much of a chance, and you ended up winning easily. It's a fantastic achievement. Congratulations.

~~(S)~~President Zelenskyy: You are absolutely right Mr. President. We did win big and we worked hard for this. We worked a lot but I would like to confess to you that I had an opportunity to learn from you. We used quite a few of your skills and knowledge and were able to use it as an example for our elections and yes it is true that these were unique elections. We were in a unique situation that we were able to

NOTE: A Memorandum of a Telephone Conversation (MEMO) is not a verbatim transcript of a discussion. The text in this document records the notes and recollections of situation room duty Officers and NSC policy staff assigned to listen and memorialize the conversation in written form as the conversation takes place. A number of factors can affect the accuracy of the record, including poor telecommunications connections and variations in accent and/or interpretation. The word "transmit" is used to indicate portions of a conversation that the notetaker was unable to hear.

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2 **UNCLASSIFIED**

achieve a unique success. I'm able to tell you the following; the first time, you called me to congratulate me when I won my presidential election, and the second time you are now calling me when my party won the parliamentary election. I think I should run more often so you can call me more often and we can talk over the phone more often.

~~(S)~~The President: [laughter] That's a very good idea. I think your country is very happy about that.

~~(S)~~President Zelenskyy: Well yes, to tell you the truth, we are trying to work hard because we wanted to drain the swamp here in our country. We brought in many many new people. Not the old politicians, not the typical politicians, because we want to have a new format and a new type of government. You are a great teacher for us and in that.

~~(S)~~The President: Well it's very nice of you to say that. I will say that we do a lot for Ukraine. We spend a lot of effort

In this season of Thanksgiving I have enormous gratitude that I am an American. I am grateful that We are in gravely serious times, as our Congress considers the options and consequences of impeachment. Despite President Trump's appeals to read the transcript of his phone call with Ukraine's President I will calmly analyze its content, come to your own conclusions and communicate your thoughts to Rep. Mark Meadows. Further, I hope readers will participate in a respectful exchange of views through Letters-to-the-Editor. I realize this is a hectic and demanding time of the year. But surely our country deserves our thoughtful

Rep. Mark Meadows: (202) 225-6401 • 217
Senator Richard Burr: (202) 224-3154 • 217
Senator Thom Tillis: (202) 224-6342 • 113

and a lot of time. Much more than the European countries are doing and they should be helping you more than they are. Germany does almost nothing for you. All they do is talk and I think it's something that you should really ask them about. When I was speaking to Angela Merkel she talks Ukraine, but she doesn't do anything. A lot of the European countries are the same way so I think it's something you want to look at but the United States has been very very good to Ukraine. I wouldn't say that it's reciprocal necessarily because things are happening that are not good but the United States has been very very good to Ukraine. ~~(S)~~President Zelenskyy: Yes you are absolutely right. Not only 100%, but actually 100% and I can tell you the following; I did talk to Angela Merkel and I did meet with her. I also met and talked with Macron and I told them that they are not doing quite as much as they need to be doing on the issues with the sanctions. They are not enforcing the sanctions. They are not working as much as they should work for Ukraine. It turns out that even though logically, the European Union should be our biggest partner but technically the United States is a much bigger partner than the European Union and I'm very grateful to you for that because the United States is doing quite a lot for Ukraine. Much more than the European Union especially when we are talking about sanctions against the Russian Federation. I would also like to thank you for your great support in the area of defense. We are ready to continue to cooperate for the next steps specifically we are almost ready to buy more Javelins from the United States for defense purposes.

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~~(S)~~The President: I would like you to do us a favor though because our country has been through a lot and Ukraine knows a lot about it. I would like you to find out what happened with this whole situation with Ukraine, they say Crowdstrike. I guess you have one of your wealthy people. The server, they say Ukraine has it. There are a lot of things that went on, the whole situation. I think you're surrounding yourself with some of the same people. I would like to have the Attorney General

call you or your people and I would like you to get to the bottom of it. He got away yesterday, that whole nonsense ended with a very poor performance by a man named Robert Mueller. An incompetent performance, but they say a lot of it started with Ukraine. Whatever you can do, it's very important that you do it if that's possible.

~~(S)~~President Zelenskyy: Yes it is very important for me and everything that you just mentioned earlier. For me as a President, it is very important and we are open for any future cooperation. We are ready to open a new page on cooperation in relations between the United States and Ukraine. For that purpose, I just recalled our ambassador from United States and he will be replaced by a very competent and very experienced ambassador who will work hard on making sure that our two nations are getting closer. I would also like and hope to see him having your trust and your confidence and have personal

I live in a democracy and I can voice my opinions to my elected Representatives and Senators in Congress.

Zelensky, many people have not read it. Perhaps by having it readily available here, you will read it, crit-

leaves, Sen. Richard Burr, and Sen. Thom Tillis.

or and in-person conversations.

ful scrutiny of the President's ability to lead us forward as the United States of America. - Jane Jerry

160 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515

ell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

en Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

relations with you so we can cooperate even more so. I will personally tell you that one of my assistants spoke with Mr. Giuliani just recently and we are hoping very much that Mr.

Giuliani will be able to travel to Ukraine and we will meet once he comes to Ukraine. I just wanted to assure you once again that you have nobody but friends around us. I will make sure that I surround myself with the best and most experienced people. I also wanted to tell you that we are friends. We are great friends and you Mr. President have friends in our country so we can continue our strategic partnership. I also plan to surround myself with great people and in addition to that investigation, I guarantee as the President of Ukraine that all the investigations will be done openly and candidly. That I can assure you.

~~(S)~~ The President: Good because I heard you had a prosecutor who was very good and he was shut down and that's really unfair. A lot of people are talking about that, the way they shut your very good prosecutor down and you had some very bad people involved. Mr. Giuliani is a highly respected man. He was the mayor of New York City, a great mayor, and I would like him to

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call you. I will ask him to call you along with the Attorney General. Rudy very much knows what's happening and he is a very capable guy. If you could speak to him that would be great. The former ambassador from the United States, the woman, was bad news and the people she was dealing with in the Ukraine were bad news so I just want to let you know that. The other thing, there's a lot of talk about Biden's son, that Biden stopped the prosecution and a lot of people want to find out about that so whatever you can do with the Attorney General would be great. Biden went around bragging that he stopped the prosecution so if you can look into it... It sounds horrible to me.

~~(S)~~ President Zelenskyy: I wanted to tell you about the prosecutor. First of all I understand and I'm knowledgeable about the situation. Since we have won the absolute majority in our Parliament, the next prosecutor general will be 100% my person, my candidate, who will be approved by the parliament and will start as a new prosecutor in September. He or she will look into the situation, specifically to the company that you mentioned in this issue. The issue of the investigation of the case is actually the issue of making sure to restore the honesty so we will take care of that and will work on the investigation of the case. On top of that, I would kindly ask you if you have any additional information that you can provide to us, it would be very helpful for the investigation to make sure that we administer justice in our country with regard to the Ambassador to the United States from Ukraine as far as I recall her name was Ivanovich. It was great that you were the first one who told me

that she was a bad ambassador because I agree with you 100%. Her attitude towards me was far from the best as she admired the previous President and she was on his side. She would not accept me as a new President well enough.

~~(S)~~ The President: Well, she's going to go through some things. I will have Mr. Giuliani give you a call and I am also going to have Attorney General Barr call and we will get to the bottom of it. I'm sure you will figure it out. I heard the prosecutor was treated very badly and he was a very fair prosecutor so good luck with everything. Your economy is going to get better and better I predict. You have a lot of assets. It's a great country. I have many Ukrainian friends, their incredible people.

~~(S)~~ President Zelenskyy: I would like to tell you that I also have quite a few Ukrainian friends that live in the United States. Actually last time I traveled to the United States, I stayed in New York near Central Park and I stayed at the Trump

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Tower. I will talk to them and I hope to see them again in the future. I also wanted to thank you for your invitation to visit the United States, specifically Washington DC. On the other hand, I also want to ensure you that we will be very serious about the case and will work on the investigation. As to the economy, there is much potential for our two countries and one of the issues that is very important for Ukraine is energy independence. I believe we can be very successful and cooperating on energy independence with United States. We are already working on cooperation. We are buying American oil but I am very hopeful for a future meeting. We will have more time and more opportunities to discuss these opportunities and get to know each other better. I would like to thank you very much for your support.

~~(S)~~ The President: Good. Well, thank you very much and I appreciate that. I will tell Rudy and Attorney General Barr to call. Thank you. Whenever you would like to come to the White House, feel free to call. Give us a date and we'll work that out. I look forward to seeing you.

~~(S)~~ President Zelenskyy: Thank you very much. I would be very happy to come and would be happy to meet with you personally and get to know you better. I am looking forward to our meeting and I also would like to invite you to visit Ukraine and come to the city of Kyiv which is a beautiful city. We have a beautiful country which would welcome you. On the other hand, I believe that on September 1 we will be in Poland and we can meet in Poland hopefully. After that, it might be a very good idea for you to travel to Ukraine. We can either take my plane and go to Ukraine or we can take your plane, which is probably much better than mine.

~~(S)~~ The President: Okay, we can work that out. I look forward to seeing you in Washington and maybe in Poland because I think we are going to be there at that time.

~~(S)~~ President Zelenskyy: Thank you very much Mr. President.

~~(S)~~ The President: Congratulations on a fantastic job you've done. The whole world was watching. I'm not sure it was so much of an upset but congratulations.

~~(S)~~ President Zelenskyy: Thank you Mr. President bye-bye.

-- End of Conversation --

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Highlands School 2019 Homecoming Dance, Sat. Dec. 7



This year's annual Homecoming Dance was held the evening of Saturday, Dec. 7 at Coleman Hall in the First Presbyterian Church where seniors danced the night away and where Dillion Schmitt and Jeslyn Head were crowned King and Queen.



Photos
by
Abigail Nichols



...TOTERS continued from page 1

the town's rights-of-way – which offered a smorgasbord of edibles – were replaced with commercial-grade bear-resistant toters.

The town purchased 350 commercial bear-resistant toters at \$373.06 each for a total of \$130,571 and began replacing dumpsters with them last week.

The toters are 96 gallons, are double-walled and they have a seal around the lid. The monthly toter rental rate is the same as the current dumpster rate of \$6.35 per month.

“The toters are for rent not for sale, but if a business owner wants to purchase their own toter, it must be certified bear-resistant, must be no greater than 100 gallons, and must have wheels and a lift bar, in order to be dumped by the sanitation truck,” said Town Manager Josh Ward.

The bear-proof receptacles have done their job. Compared to last year, few

bears have been seen in the commercial district and the town hopes the removal of dumpsters whose lids were often left open will further deter bears and other animals and birds from feasting on garbage.

“The B.E.A.R. Task Force is extremely pleased that the mayor and commissioners of Highlands have taken the steps they have,” said Cynthia Strain. “From what I hear, there are far fewer bears roaming around downtown, and that is significant. Bears aren’t all that dangerous, but when you have them walking around downtown and parks where people and dogs hang out, there is greater potential for a negative interaction to occur. So now it is safer for everyone, including the bears.”

Though the process of removing the dumpsters and replacing them with bear-resistant toters has been reviewed for the past several months, Mayor Pat Taylor

said some in the commercial district were surprised when the dumpsters were removed.

“This plan, and the reason for it, was covered in the news media on numerous occasions. The plan was reviewed several times and approved by the Town Board. It was not an overnight, or a behind closed doors decision,” he said. “The removal of shared dumpsters was a part of the town’s effort to address the growing problem of bears scattering garbage in the business districts.”

Taylor said the businesses that were using dumpsters were provided with state-of-the-art bear-resistant-toters. Instead of paying a dumpster rental fee, these businesses now pay a toter-rental fee. Businesses that can accommodate a dumpster on their property can continue to use a dumpster.

• See TOTERS page 19



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Both Sides Now



Cliff Gottwals, Landmark Realty Group

The other day I was listening to that great Joni Mitchell song, "Both Sides, Now," which for some reason almost always prompts deep reflection. This time, however, it produced more of a chuckle as I thought about the irony of my new career path. The first 25 years of my working life were spent in banking during which I relocated 10 times. I was no stranger to working with real estate agents as we bought and sold homes and investment properties (painfully, 23 at last count). The irony that I referenced earlier stems from the fact that over the years I had developed mixed feelings about the real estate profession... and now here I sit beginning my new career as a Realtor. Indeed, I am seeing the real estate business from both sides, now.

Don't get me wrong, I have had the pleasure of working with some great brokers, and it was those experiences that opened my eyes to what a difference the right partner can make. So, in my Joni Mitchell induced state of reflection, I began

to give deeper thought to what had shaped my perceptions and what lessons learned I could carry forward into my new career. Here is what I came up with:

My best experiences came from working with professionals who put the client first. They actively listened to understand, asked thoughtful questions, and kept any personal agenda out of sight. They remained calm during negotiations, helped me remain focused on the desired outcome (particularly when I was fixating on inspection report issues), and never infused drama into the situation or grandstanded for their own benefit. They behaved in a way that reflected that they were working for

me, had time for me, and appreciated the business.

Looking back, the brokers that I respected the most were those who promoted themselves in a way that elevated the entire profession. They avoided the temptation of sharing negative outlooks on peers as a means of self-promotion. As I now reflect on my experiences as a client, I realize that most of my negative perceptions came from unfavorable things that one Realtor said about another, not from bad experiences that I had personally.


Like many clients, my internal guidance system can malfunction when I become distracted by the charm and character of a home. Caught up in the excitement, I often found myself willing to cast aside the rest of my criteria. Having a broker to help keep me on track was always of great value. Hearing the words "So I can tell you love this house, let's see how it lines up with what you said you want" would usually bring me back to my senses. Though sometimes I would ultimately decide that emotion should triumph over logic, I really appreciated a professional who helped keep me on track and make sure that my decisions were thoughtful and deliberate.

Last, but not least, the professionals that left the most lasting impressions were those who came prepared, had recommendations which were backed up by data and analysis. For most of us, real estate transactions are the largest financial commitments we will undertake during our lifetime. We should expect to work with partners who bring the same degree of market knowledge and analytical skills to real estate investments as we would expect from any other investment professional.

I am very excited about my new career and am thankful for the lessons learned from my time on both sides, now.

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year.

• *Cliff Gottwals is a full-time resident of Highlands and a broker at Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office located at 225 Main Street. Please feel free to stop by and visit with him or call him at 303.887.7479 or cliff@landmarkrg.com.*



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The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

...CAR SEAT continued from page 1



my head. The car was so damaged, I was terrified of how I would find them.

When I opened the ambulance door, I saw my niece. She had a few scratches on her cheek from the broken glass from the back windshield, but otherwise she was safe. And that is when it hit me. She was safe because her Graco five-point harness saved her life. Had she been in a booster seat, or had the seat not been properly installed, there is no question she would have been seriously injured in that horrific accident. But she wasn't. A man passing by shortly after the accident jumped into the river and cut the seatbelt that was holding her into the car. She was dangling upside down in the car, but the five-point harness of her seat kept her secured. He carried her out of the creek, still fully secured in her car seat.

As her aunt, I am beyond grateful for the string of events that kept her safe that

day, as a car seat technician, I know it was no coincidence. As a petite four-year-old, my sister had made the right decision of keeping Wren in a five-point harness car seat. That means on impact, there were five-points of impact that lessened the injury across her body and helped absorb the impact during the accident. Had my sister made the mistake, which is all too common, of transitioning Wren to a booster seat too early, we would not have had the same outcome. The car seat was properly installed inside the car. It's also secured with a seatbelt, which was locked, which kept it secured against the seat of the car even though the car was flipped upside down. The straps were snug against Wren's body, and the harness was by her armpits, which ensured that her little body didn't slip out while it dangled upside down. All things I have preached and scolded and annoyed my sisters to do for their children, and even

strangers to do for theirs... while they seem nit picky or aggravating at the time, in the event of an accident those are the very things that will save a child's life, as they did for my niece on Friday.

My mother was also able to walk away from the accident with a minor concussion and a few scratches, undoubtedly because her seatbelt also kept her safe.

Car seat safety is something that you never think you need it... until you do. That is why as Chairman of Safe Kids Macon County, I have worked with incredible volunteers to grow the list of local technicians available to check your child's car seat for free at any time. If you haven't had your seat check, please do so today. Christmas time is a heavy travel season and ensuring your child is in the right seat, and the seat is properly installed could mean the difference in life and death.

To have your child's seat checked, contact the Macon County Sheriff's Annex, the Franklin Police Department, the Highlands Police Department, the Franklin Fire Department, or the Otto Fire Department, all of which have made it a priority to have certified car seat technicians on staff to help.

For more information on Safe Kids email brittney.lofthouse@gmail.com

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The Advent season

Rev. Bentley Manning
Episcopal Church
of the Incarnation

Advent marks the very beginning of the Christian year and is a season in which Christians are offered one of the greatest gifts of all - the gift of time. Time for us to both individually and collectively prepare for the coming of Christ. During this time of preparation God's people are invited to consider a wide and comprehensive understanding of the season - a posture which considers three distinct "moments" of Christ's arrival in the world.

First, we are asked to remember the historical arrival of Christ at Christmas over 2,000 years ago and Israel's great longing for something - or maybe more precisely someone - who would change everything - someone who would fulfill the prophetic vision that longed for an end to slavery, dreamed of reconciliation, and hoped for a return home.

Second, we look with great hope, during this season of expectation, for God's ever renewing presence in the world and the possibility of Christ's re-birth in our hearts here and now.

Finally, and admittedly a bit jarringly, we look forward to the second Advent of Christ as we faithfully anticipate his coming again in power and great glory - to prayerfully consider the temporal nature of our lives, the destiny of humankind, the return of Christ, and the consummation of the whole created order at the end of time.

Of course, all this preparation requires a good deal of waiting. But waiting is not the kind of thing many of us like to do. We like to have things when we want them and the very idea of waiting can sound, to so many of us, like such a boring and passive way to live in the world. Indeed, many of us would rather just avoid this kind of thing altogether. Instead, we prefer Peach Passes on our cars, two-day Prime shipping from Amazon.com, credit cards that take the waiting out of wanting, and faster and faster internet speeds.

Yet despite our penchant for instant gratification, the season of Advent would have us wait for Christmas. But our waiting has a focus and knowing what exactly it is we are waiting for makes all the difference.

May the gift of Advent, then, be a time of blessing and renewal; a time of expectation and watchfulness; patience and hope that together we may greet our Lord with joy when he comes again in power and great glory.

Proverbs 3:5

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

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

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

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526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

Wed: Choir: 6p

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John 3:16

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

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Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Nov. 23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Nov. 23

- At 5:18 p.m., James Wells Lowery, 36 of Highlands, was arrested for shoplifting and possession of stolen goods
- At 5:30 p.m., officers received a report of a larceny at Bryson's Food Store when a man left hiding merchandise.

Nov. 27

- At 1:40 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle hit and run accident on 3rd Street.

Nov. 30

- At 3:10 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle hit and run accident on Main Street near 3rd Street.
- At 10 p.m. officers received a report of someone taking a gold rope necklace with a gold cross valued at

\$500 from a student's backpack in the male guest locker room of Highlands school.

Dec. 1

- At 3:20 p.m., officers received a report of a domestic disturbance at the Shell station on Laurel Street.
- At 11:48 p.m., officers received a report of vandalism of property where front tires of the victims vehicle were damaged while parked on N. 5th Street.

Dec. 2

- At 4 p.m., officers received a report of burglary/breaking and entering and damage to property at a residence on N. 5th Street, where a window was broken and an interior Door damaged.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Dec. 4.

Dec. 4

- At 1:23 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rich Gap Road.

Dec. 6

- At 7:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Harbison Orchard Road.

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

- At 11:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Walhalla Road.

Dec. 7

- At 6:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on 4 1/2 Street.

Dec. 9

- At 9:46 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Pierson Dr.

- At 5:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.

From Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart:

Please remember to get your chimney cleaned before using your fireplaces this year.

In addition, if you are closing up and leaving town, please make sure you have a key holder and code the department can access in case of fire alarms while you are away,

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...TOTERS continued from page 15

However, Strain urges business owners to keep the lids latched because bear scat in the area indicates they ingest more than just food – in some cases blue and purple latex gloves.

Mayor Taylor said the removal of dumpsters on Oak Street has improved the appearance of the street.


"In addition, this will hopefully discourage illegal dumping of household trash by some uncaring residents which was an additional problem associated with dumpsters," he said.

By August 1, 2020 all residential garbage will have to be placed in bear-resistant toters, too. Like the commercial toters, the toters will have to have a lift bar so the toter can be mechanically emptied into the garbage truck.


"An added benefit to this new toter requirement will be the elimination of repetitive lifting of trash cans by sanitation workers, which has led to workmen's comp issues," said Taylor.

As bears move out of the commer-

• See TOTERS page 22



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- How the Grinch Stole Christmas, by Dr. Seuss

...TOTERS continued from page 19

cial district, they will undoubtedly move into the residential areas which is why bear-resistant toters will be required.

Strain feels sure once homeowners employ bear-resistant toters, there will be a huge difference in bear visits in residential areas.

"The other day someone had a bear at their front door. Fortunately, the police came and scared it off. This homeowner had no attractants, but the renters next door had been leaving trash out, which

attracted a bear family. Local residents are becoming smarter about bears but the visitors, for the most part, don't have a clue. So, hopefully by next August the widespread use of bear-resistant toters in residential neighborhoods will take care of that," she said.

But she said the country clubs are another story.

"What the town is doing doesn't address bears in the country clubs where private trash services, not the town, pick up trash.

If the clubs don't address this soon, I fear that the bears will wind up in those neighborhoods. The idea is to drive the bears back into the woods where they belong, not send them to other neighborhoods," she said.

Mayor Taylor said it appears the town's new bear-resistant stance is working and the Town Board is committed to following all the protocols as outlined by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources BearWise Program.

- Kim Lewicki

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