

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 23

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

Thursday, June 6, 2019

Bank robber found in Highlands

By Brittney Lofthouse

A bank robbery that started in the Eastern part of the state came to an abrupt halt on Thursday, May 23 in Highlands with the help of multiple agencies.

According to Sheriff Robert Holland, the Macon County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) was contacted by the police department in Greenville, NC on May 23 requesting assistance in apprehend-

ing bank robbery suspects who were believed to be hiding out in Highlands.

The MCSO Special Response Team (SRT), along with U.S. Mar-

• See **BANKROBBER** page 14

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Speed limits in town likely to decrease

By Brian O'Shea

Changes to speed limits on roads into Highlands and unmarked roads throughout the outskirts of town may give the "Larry Leadfoots" a reason to hit the brakes – the Public Safety Committee recently voted to recommend slowing things down, especially on unmarked roads.

"If it doesn't have a center line it should be less than 20-25 mph," said Town Engineer Lamar Nix. "You can't go fast on those roads; they are not designed for two-way traffic. And if it's a pedestrian area it should be 15 [mph]."

Areas in question are the unmarked roads without center or edge lines and the entrances into town. Coming from Franklin into Highlands, posted limits go from 50 mph to 25 mph. Coming

• See **SPEED** page 17

The pots of gold at the 'ends' of the rainbow – Highlands and Cashiers!



Local photographer Linda Barden snapped this shot of nature's wonder at the Whiteside overlook on US 64 east Friday, May 3.

Chiefs outline reasons for fire tax hike for Sky Valley/Scaly & Highlands FDs

At recent budget discussions for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget both the Highlands Fire and Rescue and the Sky Valley-Scaly

Mountain Fire and Rescue departments have come before the Macon County Board of Commissioners requesting fire tax increases.

This is the first no-revenue neutral rate increase the departments have requested since 1999 when the fire

• See **FIRE TAX** page 16

Moccasin War sign to be dedicated June 10

A Legends & Lore® Marker will soon commemorate the historic Moccasin War that was fought in 1885 on Main Street in Highlands. The Highlands Historical Society is inviting the public to a short dedication on Monday, June 10th, at 8:30 in the morning. The marker will stand at the corner of 4th and Main streets between the Highlands Inn and Old Edwards Inn, where the war was actually fought.

Briefly stated, the Moccasin War legend tells of a revenue collector who arrested two moonshiners from the Moccasin Township just across the border in Georgia. He confined them in the Highlands Inn to await trial. An army of 18 Moccasin volunteers declared war on Highlands. During

• See **MOCCASIN** page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Clarifying misinformation in recent letter

A recent letter-to-the-editor raised questions about our water and sewer department policies and pending rate increase. The writer implied that I didn't create an accurate picture of the rate increase, and that I withheld information about Highlands having the third highest water and sewer rates in the state.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Let me first address several inaccurate statements and resulting questions. To the writer, we do not have 1,500 customers outside the town limits. Of our 2,883 water customers, only 198 live outside the town limits and only one is on sewer. We have 1,240 town customers on both water and sewer.

The double rates for water customers outside town limits was questioned as a fairness issue. It is fair, considering the Town of Highlands taxpayers built the water and sewer system. It is also a deal for the 198 customers outside town. Decades ago developers and residents in these areas entered the double rate agreement, mainly because they couldn't provide water by drilling wells. Having city water has been a benefit for these outside town customers

by maintaining home values, fire protection and insuring access to safe and thoroughly tested water.

The town took over the waterlines to several of these outlying areas decades ago as a part of the agreement. We maintain these lines and replace them just as if they were in town. For example, last year we replaced a failing 50-year-old waterline outside the town. It cost the town \$375,000 to put in a state-of-the-art 6-inch waterline that serves about 13 homes. Was that a fair deal to

those residents who pay \$70 a month for water? Will the town ever recoup that capital expenditure through usage fees that basically operate the system from year-to-year?

Despite a small customer base, Highlands has spent millions of dollars well beyond operations costs to build and maintain the water and sewer system. This year about \$600,000 will be spent to complete the water tank on Satulah, and \$875,000 to replace the aging waterline on Split Rail. Another \$200,000 is earmarked to rework a water plant filter and another million will be spent in the coming years to add a new filter. In any given budget, like this year, \$200,000 can be spent just to replace critical pumps and parts in the water and sewer system. We also maintain 24/7 service to all areas.

Yes, to some degree we are on the higher end of the rate structure but consider our unique situation. The state report that the letter references cautions about making costs comparisons between municipalities. We are a small market, isolated, seasonal community that provides services normally found in larger municipalities. The report also states high water and sewer rates are not necessarily bad. If municipalities continually undercharge actual operating and maintenance costs, the cumulative effect is an eventual large debt service to upgrade plants and distribution systems. We do not have such debt because we periodically adjust rates to pay as we go.

Finally, the letter questions the fairness of minimal charges and the fact that we do not suspend those fees for seasonal residents. The town could not operate the system based solely on demand. Our water and sewer staff are licensed professionals. We can't employ these crucial workers based

• See MAYOR page 19

• HIC'S VIEW •



whicseven@yahoo.com

CATS

Keep dogs away from mama bears and cubs

There have been three reported bear attacks on dogs in the last week.

Two involved chihuahuas. One was killed at a residence on Crowe Drive when it got between a mama bear and her two cubs. Another on Little Bear Pen was allegedly taken and eaten by a bear. And a couple of days ago, two standard poodles at a residence off Hicks Road were attacked sustaining lacerations and puncture wounds.

According to Cynthia Strain of the Bear Taskforce, this is an uncommon occurrence.

"People need to know it is an extremely uncommon occurrence, yet it could happen, especially with small dogs," she said. "It's best to keep them on a leash at all times if they live in a neighborhood that has bears around. The mother with cubs would be an especially dangerous situation, and a dog doesn't understand the danger of getting between a protective mother and her little ones. Bears aren't aggressive, but they are protective, just like any of us would be if we felt we or our children were in danger."

• WEATHER •

	Friday 6/7		Saturday 6/8		Sunday 6/9	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	71 F	60 F	67 F	59 F	68 F	60 F
RealFeel	76 F	61 F	72 F	60 F	71 F	56 F
Winds	4 g 5	3 g 5	4 g 6	4 g 5	4 g 6	3 g 6
T-Storms	60%	40%	49%	40%	40%	39%
Rainfall	0.36	2.5	0.66	1.01	0.94	0.61
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to
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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.



NEW ON MARKET: The mountain contemporary home is light and bright inside with skylights and clerestory windows. Originally built by Schmitt Builders, the home had a remodel by renowned Atlanta builder, Keith Ashe, several years ago. The kitchen is open to the great room to make sure everyone is included in the conversation. In addition, there is a den adjacent which could double as a TV viewing area or a separate dining room. Located in Highlands CC.

MLS# 91051 | Offered for \$647,000



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MLS# 90948 | Offered for \$487,000

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MLS# 89690 | Was \$549,000 NOW Offered for \$499,999



PRICE CHANGE: This lovely home features lots of natural wood and re-finished floors. With three bedrooms and two and one-half baths on the main level, it also features a garage, workshop, and additional room downstairs. The owners have made great improvements, including a new deck, retaining wall, new paint, encapsulated crawl space, appliances, and the price includes furnishings with only a couple of exceptions. Lovely back yard and nice patio. Don't wait!

MLS# 88950 | Was \$399,000 NOW Offered for \$379,000



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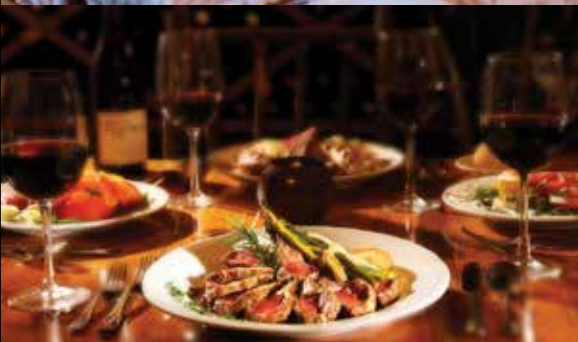
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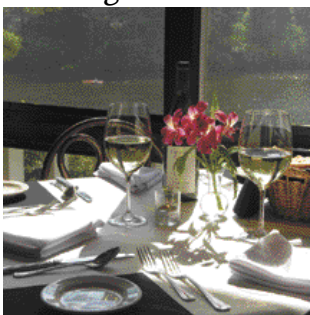
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HIGHLANDS FALLS CC This great property backs up the National Forest so when relaxing on the huge covered deck, only nature is in view. With handsome wood floors throughout the common areas, a stone fireplace, and vaulted ceilings, the home has a terrific floorplan that makes entertaining a breeze. The owner created a level back yard which is beautifully landscaped and fenced. Don't let this one slip away if you're looking for a special home at HFCC!

MLS# 89562 | Offered for \$995,000

HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN A Excellent location for this newly renovated in town 3 bedroom 3 bath home. This one level living is only steps away from the soon-to-be redesigned Performing Art Center/Play House. Offers a large back deck for entertaining, detached, oversized two-car garage, which could be turned into a guest cottage. Incredible private flat back yard with its own art studio. Landscaped yard is beautiful. Walk to Main Street with wonderful shopping and dining!

MLS# 88180 | Offered for \$840,000



SCALY MOUNTAIN Phenomenal year round views from this very unique and contemporary home in King Mountain. It's located on the Atlanta side of Highlands, about six miles from Main Street in Highlands. The property backs to the Nantahala National Forest and has beautiful rock outcroppings on the nearly level land. The home was designed by Jim Fox and has lots of interesting angles and spaces. The focal point is a sunken fireplace niche with comfortable seating.

MLS# 89729 | Offered for \$895,000

HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN This 4BR/4.5BA home is well maintained and in move-in condition. It has a quaint mountain feel and decor throughout, with shiplap wood paneling and beautiful wide wood plank flooring. The main level has a large Master bedroom with bath and sauna on one end and second bedroom on the other end with a full bathroom. Separate dining area, great living area, plus a cozy sitting area with a stone fireplace. Convenient to downtown Highlands!

MLS# 90808 | Offered for \$799,900



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Photos shown are of another Old Edwards Club project, Cottages on 5th, and are representational of what will be offered at Cottages on 4th



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BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS

Rotarians learn about AHEC

Rotarian Chris Wilkes introduced speaker Hilary Wilkes with the Advance Highlands Education Committee (AHEC) who addressed the Rotary Club on May 28. AHEC has raised over \$100,000 for Highlands School in its inaugural year – increasing the school's technology tool kit and adding resources for teachers and students. Wilkes described the school's urgent need for infrastructure and capital improvements. For more information about AHEC, email advancehighlands@gmail.com.



From left: Derek Taylor, Jeff Weller, Hilary Wilkes, Melissa Delany, Chris Wilkes, Leigh Hartman and Stephanie McCall.

H-C Hospital recognizes nursing achievement



Congratulations to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital DAISY Award recipient Lacey Killian, BSN, RN. Killian serves as a nurse in the Acute/Medical-Surgical Department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The award was presented recently at a ceremony at the hospital. The DAISY Foundation is a national nonprofit that honors nurses and the amazing care they provide to patients and families.

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Mountaintop Rotary earns 2019 District Award for Membership Growth



In recognition of an outstanding 25% increase in membership in one year, Rotary District #7670 gave its 2019 District Award for Membership Growth to the Mountaintop Rotary Club.

Shown here during the award celebration from left are Dr. John Baumrucker, incoming 2019-20 President; Peggy Wike, Assistant District Governor; Isaac Olowabi, District Governor; Duncan Greenlee, Current Mountaintop Rotary President and Tucker Chambers, Immediate Past President.

Interested potential members or visiting Rotarians are invited to attend a meeting of the Mountaintop Rotary on any Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at 530 Main Street, Highlands.

• THE INK PENN •

My King Arthur TBR list

I bet you didn't realize that writing about books can cause a gal a problem. That's right, the problem is I wind up adding more and more books to my To Be Read (TBR) list. When I write about a favorite author, I may realize I'm not up to date on his or her offerings, or when I write a column on King Arthur books, for example, I find additional books I must read. And, last but not least, readers send me suggestions. My TBR list is neverending.



Kathy Manos Penn

In an effort to show myself that I do occasionally check titles off my list, despite constantly adding new ones, I thought I'd share my progress with you. Since December, I've checked eight books off the list—three in the King Arthur category. Of course, I've read more than eight books, but not all were on my list. How does that happen? I walk into the library to pick up books I've put on hold and see books in the section marked "Floating Collection." Those are new books that can only be checked out for two weeks, and sometimes I can't resist grabbing at least one.

Back to the books on my list, though. I've read two books I discovered while researching King Arthur books and one recommended by Kim, the editor of this paper. None were available at my local library. First up was "Finding Camlaan," a novel set in modern-day Great Britain. It offers a different take on the origins of King Arthur and takes the reader on a suspenseful journey from Oxford to Cornwall, Stonehenge, and Wales. I was especially taken with it because I had visited both Oxford and Cornwall on my 2018 trip to England, and the descriptions resonated with me. And, now, after reading this book, I'm eager to visit Wales too. Many thanks to Kim for this well-timed recommendation. I keep thinking about rereading it, something I rarely do.

Next was Charlie Lovett's "The Lost Book of the Grail," set in the fictional town of Barchester, England, a town created by Anthony Trollope. This book moves between events happening as early as 560 AD and as recently as 2016 with a few stops in 1941. It too is a different take on the legend of King Arthur with emphasis on the quest for the Holy Grail. Reviewers describe it as a combo history, mystery, and love story. I've read two of Lovett's earlier books, "The Bookman's Tale," and "First Impressions," and all three were equally engaging and entertaining. If you're a King Arthur enthusiast, you'll want to add this to your list.

Finally, I dove into "The Forever King," a book whose setting moves across continents and from ancient times to modern. There were times I couldn't put it down and others where I thought, "Get to the point." Perhaps these words from one reviewer explain my reaction: "Reminiscent of parts of TH White's 'Once and Future King' combined with Robert Parker's Spenser series." That description captures the writing perfectly, and while I like TH White and Parker, I found the style combination a bit disconcerting. As yet another original take on the legend, though, the plot is intriguing.

I've left King Arthur behind for now and have moved on to mysteries set in the 21st century. With five library books sitting on my desk, I have my work—or pleasure—cut out for me.

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

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

What does Due Diligence mean in the NC 'Offer to Purchase'?

According to NC Law, the due diligence period in North Carolina is a negotiated period of time during which a buyer has the opportunity to conduct their "due diligence" before deciding to move forward with the purchase of the home. Unless negotiated otherwise, all inspections are paid for by the buyer.

The first time most people see one of these contracts is usually right before they sign it and often it's done quickly especially in today's hot real estate market. Of course, signing a document for the most important buying decision in one's life shouldn't be rushed into lightly. However, if you are sure this is the right house for you and the offering for the home is a fair price, then push on. The contract has some guidelines and safeguards that protect both the buyer and seller of real estate in North Carolina. The due diligence period of time and process is of most importance.

There are many aspects to what a buyer needs to determine during this period, so it is important to know how much time may be needed to complete the process. This may include a professional home inspection, inspections on systems including septic, well and a water test, HVAC, fuel tank generator, appraisal and a survey. With an older home, there may be additional inspections.

The weeks leading up to closing can either be stressful or uneventful; there may be many unexpected things that come up or it may be smooth sailing. Either way, as either a buyer or seller, knowing what to expect during this period can go a long way for your peace of mind, as well as help you think strategically through the "what-ifs" before they happen.

And most importantly, should the buyers be obtaining a mortgage loan, this also comes under the due diligence period. This can take between 30 to 60 days of due diligence for final loan approval, depending on the lender, and usually two weeks after that time for the attorney to prepare for closing. "NOTE: Buyers obligation under the contract are not specifically conditioned upon obtaining or closing any loan." Thus, the timing of the due diligence period is of great significance



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Other items that come under the due diligence period include review of documents regarding a subdivision such as Covenants & Restrictions, dues and fees, etc. Also, verification of any flood hazards, utilities and means of access, streets and roads and who maintains the access, zoning and governmental regulations and any other items that pertain to the type of property being purchased. Any legal questions need to be discussed with the closing attorney.

Before the end of the due diligence, the buyer can ask for any repairs they would

like the seller to complete but the seller is not obliged to do any of them. It is at this point that the buyer would decide to either terminate the contract or move forward to closing. If the seller agrees to do the repairs, they must be completed in a good and workmanlike manner. The buyer has the right to verify the repairs were completed to their satisfaction.

The buyer and seller can also agree that the seller give a credit to the buyer at closing for the cost of repairs. Many buyers like the credit so they can do the repairs as they see fit. Or there can

be agreement between buyer and seller for a price reduction on the property.

To get through due diligence smoothly you need to understand exactly what will happen, what money is on the line when, and what your options are at each stage of the process. It is recommended to work with a local NC Realtor who can assist the buyer or seller regarding due diligence, escrow deposits and due diligence fees.

• Lynn Kimball has 45 years of real estate experience, with 34 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and has served as Vice President and Director 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. BHHS Meadows Mountain Realty has three locations, on Main Street downtown Highlands, on HWY 107 South in Downtown Cashiers or visit Lynn at the Cashiers Road location across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at lynn@bhhsmmr.com

•WORD MATTER•

Guns or Butter? Pick One.

There's often, with any presidential administration, an instance revealing how one policy can conflict with another. The impact of such conflicts can quickly be felt, even here on the Highlands-Cashiers plateau.

The economic recovery following the recession of 2007/'08 began during the first months of the first Obama administration, and has continued nonstop during the first two years of the Trump administration. The stock market is approaching record levels of performance. Unemployment is at a historic low; even income is inching upwards. The American economy is expanding. This, on balance, is all good.

The policy conflict that threatens to upset our delicately constructed economic appletart has to do with the administration's unrelenting crackdown on immigration across America's southern border.

The best laid plans of any administration can come crashing down due to, for want of a better example, one eye looking one way and the other looking another way. It's also results from trying to impose political solutions to complex economic and social problems.

Here on the plateau businesses serving mostly upscale visitors and second-home residents during the season are experiencing difficulty attracting and retaining mostly low-paid, non-resident employees. In the past, many of these employees were found among workers from south of the border. They worked in hospitality and food service sectors, health care, in our landscaping and contracting businesses, doing necessary jobs to which most Americans simply aren't attracted.

They still do, but due of fear of exposure, not to the same extent as has been the case in the past.

The administration's immigration crackdown is leaving many of these essential positions unfilled, as is evidenced by the constant, sometimes incentive-filled recruitment advertising in this and other newspapers in Highlands, Cashiers, Franklin, Sylva, Clayton, GA and Walhalla, SC. The impact of these positions remaining unfilled shows up in slower service, sometimes sparsely-filled or even empty shelves, and a sense of frustration on the part of employers, shoppers, diners and hotel guests.

I'm not suggesting there's a simple solution to this. Both the politics and economics are complicated. But doesn't it boil down to, at least on some level, whether we continue to slam the door on immigration, or would we rather these jobs were filled?

The plateau doesn't have a robust resi-



Bud Katz

dent employment base. The average age is 60+, and many are beyond these kinds of jobs. Real estate is precious and costly, and there's very little rental or multi-family housing available. Consequently, many of those earning \$10 - \$15 an hour must come from down the mountain. This means longer commutes and more cost in time, gas and auto maintenance. Couple this with upscale residents and visitors with high expectations and low thresh-

olds for inconvenience. Ultimately, something goes wrong.

Harsh policies on immigration play well with a significant portion of the administration's base. So do deregulation policies which help improve and expand the economy. I'm not here to argue the merits of one versus another. I'm simply pointing out that the policy conflicts exist because elected officials of all affiliations and on all levels are subject to the expectations of their constituents. In this case, record low unemployment means low wage, yet essential jobs will go unfilled.

The argument during WWII was about guns or butter, pick one. Today, we find ourselves having to choose whether to fund essential, broad-based programs, such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, education, and veterans' services, or upper-tier tax cuts, defense spending, environmental protection (clean air, clean water), infrastructure, and law enforcement. Maybe that's just another way of saying, guns or butter.

Policy conflicts impact people. The policy conflict between immigration and low-wage jobs is playing out here. People doing those

jobs need to be able to live within reasonable distance to where they work. Often that's not the case here on the plateau. They need to pay rent or a mortgage, buy groceries and pay for everything else necessary to have a decent life. We want people to have decent lives, don't we?

As you're moving around the plateau this

season, in addition to being patient, it's a good idea to notice the people who are taking care of your wants and needs. Let them know they're appreciated. Smile at them every now and then. Drop a "please" or a "thank you" when appropriate. And always keep in mind our "season" is their livelihood.



Highlands Country Club

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Highlands

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Movies at the Playhouse – NEW SCHEDULE – Fri. & Sat. 1, 4, and 7 p.m.; Sunday 1 and 4 p.m.; NO MOVIES MONDAY; Tues., Wed., and Thurs. 1, 4, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 / \$2 off on Tuesdays.

• 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.

Monday - Saturday

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open from 10a to 4p.

• 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. & 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 Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon.-Wed.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:15-10:30 a.m.. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

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

Tuesdays, June 11-July 30

• **Free Community Yoga and Gentle Movement** at The Ball Field with Rachel Kinback, Certified Yoga Teacher, 500hr; 5:30-6:15p. People of all ages and ability levels are invited to meet at the Ball Field for fun, expressive, gentle Yoga and Movement. This 45 min guided practice will be inclusive, so come as you are. Packing a blanket or exercise mat and water bottle is encouraged. The baseball field site is located adjacent to the Highlands Community Building off N. 4th St./ Hwy 106 headed toward Cashiers. Restrooms will be available on site.

Tuesdays

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

• The Highlands Writers Group meets every Tuesday, 3pm in the downstairs boardroom at the Bascom Center for the Visual Arts. 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 for class schedule.

• 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.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays

• Beginning June 6 through July 18, The Church of the Incarnation announces that a Grief Support Group will be offered on Thursdays, from 4 – 5:30, beginning June 6 through July 18. The group will not meet on July 4th. The purpose of the group is to offer support for those suffering from life transitions, such as terminal illness, death of family or close friend, miscarriage, and relationship or job loss.

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

• Kids Zone at Hudson Library, 3:30- 5 pm. A different STEAM Program each week.

• 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 Out Reach 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.

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

Fourth 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 de-

velop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

Fridays

• Live music in Town Square from 6-8 p.m.

First Fridays

• The Bascom at Sotheby's series features different artists each month with a reception the first Friday of every month at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty from 4-5:30p at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64 across from The Old Edwards Inn. The public is invited to come meet the artist, view the exhibit and have some wine.

• At the Rec Park Pool. Movie Float-in Night - all ages First Friday night of every month. Pool opens at 6:30p and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. For any other information call 828-526-1595.

Fourth Friday

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a until noon.

Friday - Monday

• At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm): Free Admission to exhibition spaces and SmArt Space for children. For more information call 828-526-4949.

Saturdays

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

• Free music in the K-H Founders Park on Pine Street 6-8 p.m.

Sundays

• Live Music in OEI's Hummingbird Lounge 8 p.m. to close with Paul Jones.

Thurs.-Sun., June 6-9

• From Thursday, through Sunday, it's the 12th annual Highlands Motoring Festival. Thursday, is the opening event – Monte Carlo Night at HFCC. From 6pm to 10pm. Food, beverage, and gaming. At the end of the evening, items donated by local merchants will be auctioned off. On Friday, the Festival's "One Lap of the Mountains" driving tour leaves Highlands in the morning for a day of driving a curated route through WNC. It's sold out. On Friday evening it's a Parade of Main Street beginning at Kelsey Hutchinson Park at 5:30pm. A procession of classic

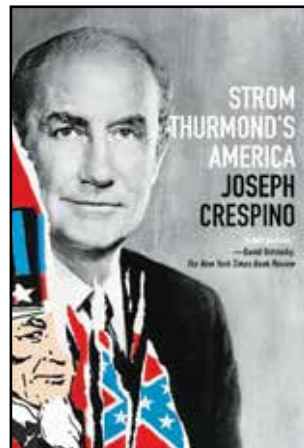
CLE Offers Presentations on Gardening and Strom Thurmond

June is the perfect month in Highlands! While most people off the mountain are complaining of the sweltering, hot summer days, here in Highlands, we have almost air-conditioned like temps.

If you find yourself looking for ways to occupy these idyllic summer days and want to keep your brain active then check out the Center for Life Enrichment. CLE has been offering engaging, stimulating lectures and classes for the Highlands-Cashier Plateau for 27 years.

Gardening is a favorite pastime for many in the Highlands area. There are many gorgeous gardens filled with beautiful, fragrant plants. Tuesday, June 11 Time: 2-4 Dr. Amanda Storm of WCU's Biology Dept. will share some survival strategies of plants, and how they are continually engaged in acts of warfare, struggle and intrigue. Who knew all of that was going on in your garden! Come learn about some of the mechanisms plants use to deal with these challenges, focusing on native and common garden plants.

Americans have a fascina-



tion with controversial public figures, and few have been more formidable, more controversial, and more complicated than Strom Thurmond. As author of Strom Thurmond's America, Joe Crespino of Emory University will reflect on Thurmond's life and long political

career, which began in earnest after World War II when he was elected Governor of South Carolina, included a run for the presidency in 1948 and ended in 2002 after forty-eight years in the U.S. Senate. This will be an engrossing lecture on one of America's most controversial political figures. Thursday, June 13 Time: 2-4.

So, if you're looking for ways to spend these sensational summer days in Highlands, take a minute to explore the line-up offered at CLE this season. All lectures are \$25 for members/\$35 for non-members. Walk-ins are welcome and students attend FREE. Visit www.clehighlands.com or call 526-8811 for more information. Lectures are held in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center located at 348 S. 5th Street.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

and modern exotic cars will leave the Park at 6pm. Upon returning to the Park, there is a Welcome Party at the High Dive until 8 p.m. The main event, "Cars in the Park" opens to the public at 10am on Saturday. On Sunday, in Wright Square from 8am to 12pm there is an unjudged event. It is open to the public and free of charge.

Thurs., June 6

- At CLE, Lakeside Cooking Demo and Lunch Time: 11-2 Cost \$30/\$40 Chef: Travis Brooks. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

- At CLE, Why China Will Never Pass the U.S. as the #1 World Power. Time: 2:30-4:30 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Al Tuchfarber. To register please call 526-8811 or

visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

Fri., June 7

- At CLE, More Laughing Tales of Southern Dysfunctional Families. Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ann Platz Groton. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

- Live music in Town Square 6-8p. Tallulah River Band.

- The Bascom and The Highlands PAC Present: Great Art On Screen: Monet, 5:30-7p. at The Highlands PAC, optional dinner after at EL AZTECA. Film Ticket Price Only: \$16 on-line or at the door

Sat. June 8

- Live music at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8 p.m. Colby

Deitz Band

- Memorial United Methodist Church is having a Craft Fair and Bake Sale, from 9a to 2p. Come take a look at the works of local artists and crafters, and munch on a few goodies at the same time. Location: 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin.

Sun.-Mon. June 9-10

- The annual Mullen Lecture Series at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands features Dr. Mary Brown Bullock, former President of Agnes Scott College and noted authority on U.S.-China relations. Her talk on Sunday at the 11a service at the Church will focus on missions to China. Her lecture on Monday at 10:30, also at the Church will be entitled China at 70, which refers to the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and the implications for U.S.-China relations going forward. A reception and Q&A session will follow the Monday talk. The lectures are free and open to the public.

Mon., June 10

- A Legends & Lore® Marker will be commemorated the historic Moccasin War that was fought in 1885 on Main Street in Highlands. The Highlands Historical Society is inviting the public to a short dedication on at 8:30a at the corner of 4th and Main streets between the Highlands Inn and Old Edwards Inn, where the war was actually fought. • Center for Life Enrichment-OPENING PARTY. Time: 5-7 No Cost to attend. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

- Tony Buettner will be in Highlands on June 10th, at 6pm at the Performing Arts Center to do a presentation concerning creating a Blue-Zones that encompasses Macon and Jackson County, including Franklin, Sylva, Cashiers and Highlands. If you want more information about this BlueZones event, please call Sallie at 828-506-7025. She has been leading the effort to develop this important community program.

Tues., June 11

- At CLE, Silent but Deadly: Survival Strategies of Plants. Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Amanda Storm. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

Thurs., June 13

- At CLE, Strom Thurmond's

America. Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Joseph Crispino. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

Fri., June 14

- Garden themed Artist Talk featuring Kirk Moore of Oakleaf Flower and Garden 10-11a in The Bascom Library

- Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m. Silly Ridge Roundup

Sat., June 15

- Clothing swap at the Highlands Rec Park from 2-7p. \$5 admis-

sion. Please bring donatable items, clean and ready-to-wear clothing, shoes, accessories. Swap your unwanted clothing for "new to you" items. All unclaimed items and the \$5 admission fee will be donated to The Atlanta Mission ThriftStore – a homeless mission in Gainesville, GA

- 9th Annual Three Potter's Symposium at the Dave Drake Studio Barn. \$5 at the door. Listen to three ceramics talk about their inspiration and processes as they demonstrate a variety of wheel-thrown and hand building techniques.

A Guided Walk on the Historic Kelsey Trail

On July 5th the public will have an opportunity to hike the historic Kelsey Trail from Whiteside Mountain to the Highlands Recreation Park, thanks to the Highlands Plateau Greenway.

When Highlands was founded in 1875, there was no road to Whiteside Mountain. So, in 1881 Samuel Kelsey began work on a road that would end a quarter mile from the top of Whiteside. One resident who questioned the public benefit of such a road argued it was "of no earthly use to the town, that it goes nowhere and ends in nothing."

But Kelsey persisted, recruiting subscriptions and days of labor from citizens in and outside of Highlands, and after 500 workdays, the first wagon made its journey to Whiteside on July 10, 1883.

For the next seventy years the Kelsey Trail became one of the most popular excursions for the people of Highlands. Although the road was closed to the public in the 1950s, the Highlands Plateau Greenway

will sponsor a nostalgic walk on the original trail from Whiteside Mountain to the Highlands Rec Park.

Along the way, small groups will be led to Leila's Rock, Garnet Rock,

Highlands Falls, and Soldier's Cave where you may meet some very interesting characters from the past. Shuttles will leave from the Highlands Rec Park on Friday, July 5th, at 9:00 – 9:45 A.M. The five-mile walk, mostly downhill, takes less than four hours and will end with a picnic at the Rec Park.

It is suggested you bring good hiking shoes or boots, rain gear, water, a day pack, and your camera. Residents and visitors can register online for the walk at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com. The \$75 cost of the guided walk includes a picnic lunch and free membership in the Highlands Plateau Greenway.

Please sign up early as we are limiting the number of hikers this year to be respectful of our land owners.

Highlands' Deep Roots



Copyright © Highlands Biological Foundation 2019 Photo: Amy Conlee

June 28-29

Sometimes it can be hard to see the forest for the trees, but our forests are rich with stories and species alike. Over 100 kinds of trees are native to the Blue Ridge Mountains, and many more are cultivated in the region. Why are we so drawn to forests? What can different species - and individual trees - tell us about where we live, and what has come before?

Join us to sink your roots into the rich earth of history, science, and culture that blankets our mountains.

Friday June 28, 5:30 p.m. - Lecture by Arthur Joura from the North Carolina Arboretum followed by a reception in the meadow at HBS

Saturday, June 29, 10 a.m. - Field Trips and Workshops. Tree ID Workshop with Ron Lance, Highlands Botanical Garden Tree Tour with Drs. Kirkman and Boring, Historic Highlands Tree Tour with Sonya Carpenter and Canty Worley, Brushy Face Mountain with Paige Engelbrektsson

\$75 members, \$100 non-members. Includes lunch Saturday

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...BANK ROBBER continued from page 1



Tavarus Rashad Barnhill



Brooklyn Lashae Simmers

shals, NC State Bureau of Investigations, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations worked together to locate and arrest Tavarus Rashad Barnhill, of Ayden, NC, for Common Law Robbery of a bank located inside a Walmart in Greenville on Sunday, May 19.

Investigators say at noon, 22-year-old Tavarus Rashad Barnhill, of Greenville, entered the Woodforest Bank inside the Greenville Boulevard Walmart, demanded money from a teller

— 24-year-old Brooklyn Lashae Simmers, of Greenville — and left with an undisclosed amount of cash. The Woodforest Bank in that Walmart is open noon-4p on Sundays.

It was later determined that Simmers was in on the bank robbery with Barnhill. She was also arrested on one count of Common Law Robbery and Conspiracy to Commit Common Law Robbery.

The MCSO's SRT team re-

ceived information from federal agents that Barnhill was hiding in Highlands at the Skyline Lodge. The SRT team was utilized because the suspect was considered to be armed and dangerous.

Management at Skyline Lodge said Barnhill wasn't an employee nor was he a paying patron.

The SRT spent three hours with the hotel under surveillance at which point Barnhill was identified and found to be with two other individuals who officials say were not involved in the robbery.

When the MCSO SRT team attempted to arrest Barnhill, he fled on foot. A short foot-chase ensued before members of the MCSO SRT team, with the help of MCSO K9 officer Chase and his handler Deputy Blanton were able to take Barnhill into custody.

Barnhill was booked into the Macon County Detention Center on a \$12,000 secured bond.

...MOCCASIN continued from page 1

the battle a Moccasin youth was killed. The Georgians returned home but shut off the only road to Highlands, which passed through

their Township, and threatened to kill anyone who tested the blockade.

When a Confederate veteran volunteered to make the run, he faced four Georgian brothers marching toward him with Winchester rifles. The veteran offered three prayers for his own protection. To this day it remains a mystery why the two adversaries passed each other without firing a shot, which promptly ended the war. The veteran never knew what saved him: the prayers or the threat.



Historically this notorious war made the front page of the New York Times on March 16, 1885, and was reported in newspapers

across North Carolina and as far away as Pennsylvania, Kansas, Alabama, and California.

The assembly and fabrication of the Marker were funded by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation® of New York, which provides generous grants to help people celebrate their community's history through historic signage. This Legends and Lore Marker for Highlands is one of the first to be confirmed and authorized in the State by the North Carolina Folklore Institute.

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Spring is Here!!!

Are your furry family members overdue for a nail trim? Good News!!! Posh Paws Pet Spa is currently offering half price Nail Trim Services. These are walk-in services; no appointments necessary. Please bring current, up-to-date rabies paperwork with you.

**Springtime Special
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Half Price Nail Trim Service
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- Hair Extensions
- Manicures
- Pedicures

• YOUNGER THROUGH FITNESS •

What About The Risk

Taking a couple of aspirin, acetaminophen or an ibuprofen for a headache or to reduce the painful effects of a sore muscle and following the safety information on the label will most likely be beneficial and harmless. However, if you swallow a whole bottle at one time it could prove fatal.

How about if you take the prescribed dosage of a prescription ordered by your medical doctor who spent eight years of study in higher education and to boot gained entrance into medical school through a highly competitive selective process?

You most likely will benefit yourself. On the other hand, what if you downed an exceedingly higher dosage than prescribed of life-saving medicine such as a blood thinner prescribed to prevent a stroke or heart attack? You most likely would be doing yourself more harm than good and possibly die in the process. Too much or the wrong combination of drugs can cause serious harm and even death.

Now let's look at vitamins. The definition of a vitamin is: Any of various fat-soluble or water-soluble organic substances essential in minute amounts for normal growth and activity of the body and obtained naturally from plant and animal foods. The phrase "in minute amounts should be emphasized."

Taking large doses of vitamins and herbal supplements may however be just as harmful as over doing a prescription or an over-the-counter medication. In other words, over doing or combining vitamins, supplements and herbs can be dangerous.

I recently read an article online about a 50-year-old man from Texas. He took green tea extract capsules for a few months and as a result developed severe liver damage and needed a liver transplant to survive! Green tea is known for its beneficial antioxidants and for

most of us a cup of green tea will enhance our health. In the concentrated extract form, the overdose of antioxidants destroyed his liver.

Another online article by Consumer Reports listed 15 supplements to avoid.

The following are a few they listed:

Comfrey which has been erroneously promoted to relieve cough, heavy menstrual periods, chest pain and even cancer. The use of this product in reality has been linked, as a cause of liver damage, cancer and possible death.

Kava promoted for anxiety and insomnia is linked to liver damage and exasperation of Parkinson's, depression and impaired driving.

Yohimbe promoted for low libido, ED, depression and obesity has been linked to rapid heart rate,



Hank Miller
828-305-9713

headaches, seizures, liver and kidney problems, panic attacks and possible death.

For more on this topic I recommend going to consumer-reports.org and reading the entire article titled 15 Supplemental Ingredients to Always Avoid.

Since the FDA is not given the power to scrutinize and regulate

the health food industry in the same manner as it does the drug industry, I suggest that all of us be vigilant in what we put into our bodies. Be aware of products making health claims. Many of them combine supplements and these combinations could possibly contain some of the dangerous ingredients just mentioned and additionally even other possibly dangerous ingredients which were not mentioned.

When it comes to improv-

ing your health and meeting your nutritional needs, your best bet is to consume real food, preferably pesticide free, along with an abundance of fruits and vegetables and to limit processed foods, alcohol and saturated fats.

When it comes to your health, doesn't it make more sense to discuss your use of vitamins, supplements and herbal products with a medical doctor, dietician or pharmacist all of whom are highly educated rather than a sales person at a vitamin shop?

• *Hank is a local fitness trainer specializing in the age 50 and over population. He is certified by The American College of Sports Medicine as an Exercise Physiologist and is a licensed NC Massage Therapist specializing in Therapeutic Stretching. Send comments to: hank@thebestexerciseforseniors.com*

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...FIRE TAX continued from page 1

tax was first approved.

One week before commissioners are expected to vote on the budget – Tuesday, June 11 – Ryan Gearhart, chief of the Highlands Fire and Rescue, presented his department's proposal to raise the fire tax rate to help fund the purchase of property and the construction of a new fire station for Highlands. The department is requesting a fire tax increase from 0.0108 to 0.03 cents tax per \$100 valuation to pay for the property and new station. Even with the increase, the Highlands fire tax is still the lowest in Macon County.

A three-cent per \$100 valuation fire tax would net the department \$1,080,389 per year which would give it enough money to acquire property and build the building. Property cost for the new station will be the major ex-

pense for the new station as the property costs inside the town limits are at a premium.

According to Town Manager Josh Ward, the town is very close to signing a contract on property in the town limits that would be well suited for the new station. Gearhart stated the department's goal is to purchase the property and build the new station at a cost not exceeding \$5.5 million based on a 15-year loan with just slightly over three percent interest.

Gearhart expects the new station will meet the needs for the department for a long time with construction of a building with a life expectancy of 50 years and the purchase of land that would be large enough for future expansion.

With the new station, the department is hoping to have 24-hour staffing. Due to limited size, the current fire station is not fea-

sible to house firefighters for 24-hour shifts. Gearhart said 24/7 fire protection would help to improve response time, lower insurance rates and eventually taxes.

While the tax increase is expected to cover the cost of the property and construction of the new station, an additional tax increase for employment purposes may be needed upon completion of the new station. Currently, the department has two full-time employees who work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, not including off-hour volunteer responses.

The fire department held a well-publicized public hearing for the proposed tax increase; however, no one from the public for or against the tax increase showed up for the meeting. Only seven people attended the public hearing all of which were fire department, town and county staff. The fire tax increase has the support of the Highlands Board of Commissioners who recently voted unanimously to approve the increase.

The department also considered expanding the current fire station however, this proposal isn't realistic as the site is landlocked and not large enough to build a station with housing for firefighters. In addition, renovating the current fire station would require storing the fire trucks which must be stored in a climate-controlled facility. There is not such facility available in Highlands and building a storage facility to house the fire trucks during the construction would not be a feasible option.

On behalf of the Sky Valley-

Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Fire Chief Tommy James came before the commissioners at last week's continued meeting to request a fire tax increase. The organization is requesting an increase from 0.0486 to 0.0586 which is \$10 per \$100,000 valuation. The tax increase is expected to yield approximately \$94,752 or 65 percent of the tax year total.

James said the department has been running deficit budgets for several years and is seriously in need of paid hours for secretarial and maintenance work. The department's initial plan is to hire and pay for approximately 2,000 hours of work per year with 1,000 hours of secretarial work at \$15 per hour and approximately 1,000 hours of maintenance work at \$20 totaling approximately \$35,000 a year.

The Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department provides fire protection, first-responder medical assistance and other fire and rescue services for persons and property in the general vicinity of the City of Sky Valley in Rabun County, GA, and the Scaly Mountain community in Macon County, NC, collectively known as the Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Fire Protection area. The fire department provides these services contractually to Macon County and the City of Sky Valley and Rabun County as an affiliate of the Rabun County Fire Service.

The department operates two stations one in Sky Valley and one in Scaly Mountain. Apparatus from both or either station responds

to emergencies as needed with no regard to state line. Neither community has the personnel or financial resources to provide the chartered services alone, and operating expenses are shared equally by the two jurisdictions.

The department's current and only debt is for a 15-year lease for the purchase of the new Scaly Mountain Station located at 169 Hale Ridge Road. As of March 2019, the principal balance on the contract which the department has been paying on for nine years is \$646,386. Monthly payments on the station are \$9,333.18 at a fixed interest rate of 3.69 percent.


In November, the fire department mailed its newsletter to every property owner in each fire district explaining the need for increased revenue and the requested amount and rate. The Sky Valley City Council approved the increase.

In the Scaly Mountain mailings, a ballot was enclosed to enable each property owner to vote for or against the requested tax increase. Over 100 ballots were returned in favor of the tax increase and three were returned against the increase.

The fire tax increases for both departments will be included in the final proposed budget discussion. It's likely they will be approved.

Commissioners will hold a public hearing for the proposed budget on Tuesday, June 11 at the Macon County Courthouse. The board is expected to vote on the proposed budget following the public hearing.

HIGHLANDS HISTORIC VILLAGE



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Experience a universe of stories at Hudson Library!

Readers ages 0 to 17 will be exploring space and science this summer as the Hudson Library presents "A Universe of Stories" summer learning program. and is free to all participants.

Children will be awarded prizes for reading (or being read to) 20 minutes per day. For every seven days your child reads at least 20 minutes (or that you read to him or her), your child will earn a prize. Prizes include a free DVD check-out, gift certificate to The Bookworm, a free book, and the final prize for finishing seven full weeks of reading is a pass to the Highlands Aerial Park. Come to Hudson Library to get

your kids signed up for the summer reading program.

Special children's events will be on tap most Friday mornings at 10:30 in June and July, including visits from Professor Whizzpop, performer Aspen Black, Western North Carolina Nature Center's live animals, and much more. No registration is needed for any of these programs.

Children's/family movies will be screening each Friday afternoon throughout the summer. In keeping with the "Universe of Stories" theme, all our movies will have a space-related element. Family movies also screen on

the first Wednesday of every month throughout the year.

Kids Zone afternoon programs each Thursday at 3:30 pm continue through the summer months. Activities include rock painting to building marble rolls, Perler beads to 3D pens. And Lego Club continues to thrive on the 4th Thursday of each month in the Kids Zone slot.

For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031, or stop by the library during open hours. Hudson Library 10am-5:30pm Tuesday through Friday, 10am-4pm Saturday.

...SPEED continued from page 1



On US 64 east, the mph speed decreases from 40 to 25 mph once in town. The speed trailer is often at that spot on the road to alert motorists.

from Cashiers it goes from 40 mph to 25 mph, and from Dillard it's 40 to 35 mph. The Public Safety Committee will make its recommendation to the Board of Commissioners at the next Town Board meeting on June 20.

"Franklin Road and Hwy 106 coming into Town are too fast," said Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell. "One of our busiest intersections is 35 [mph], and let's be honest, most people are going 45 [mph]. Anytime you're at a pedestrian sidewalk it needs to be 25 [mph]."

He added that on Hwy 28, one lane is posted at 25 mph, and the oncoming lane is 40 mph.

Committee members agreed speed limits need to be decreased and marker signs should be posted where needed.

"This would clean it up and put a number on everything," said Nix.

What streets will be affected?

The Town does not have the authority to post speed limits on private, State, or Department of Transportation (DOT) roads. The town's current Traffic Schedule is a list of roads and speed limits that is out of date and includes several State, DOT, and private roads. Nix said this needs to be replaced with the Powell Bill Map that is a list of all the streets in town, which is updated annually and is used by emergency services.

"The Powell shows us what streets we can put speed limits on," said Nix. "It needs to replace the Traffic Schedule maintained by the Town Clerk."

Part of the plan is to mark many of the roads on the outskirts of town with signage, paint lines where needed, and lower speed limits in certain areas yet to be deter-

mined. Only the white and black state speed limit sign is officially recognized. Driving through neighborhoods with "18.5 mph" signs are suggested speed limits and are not enforceable.

Harrell added that regardless of whether it's a private, State, or DOT road, drivers are required to call 911 in case of an accident.

The Grand Reveal at Creekside is this Sat.

Creekside Village is hosting a "Grand Reveal" this Saturday, June 8 at 12 noon. The event which is open to the public will feature a Ribbon Cutting by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and a proclamation by Mayor Patrick Taylor. Food and drinks are available at The Blue Bike Café.

Creekside Village is a place for quality lodging, shopping and dining experiences. The property was recently acquired by Debi and David Bock of David Bock Builders, LLC. The Village is home to the Inn at Creekside, Posh Paws Pet Spa, The Blue Bike Café, Katrina Bozeman for K Anderson Salon and future home of Spruce Interiors and other retail and dining locations. For more information about Creekside Village, please call 404-323-9444.

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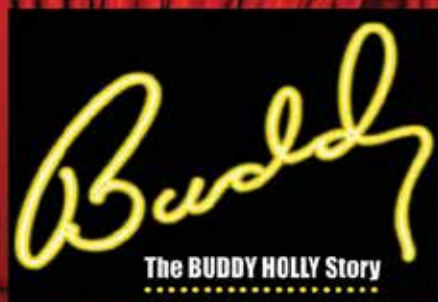
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Equity, Justice, Right, Wrong

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor
First Baptist Church of Highlands

I have been wondering if we know what these words mean today. Do we think them important anymore? Just in case, here is a refresher.

Equity refers to fairness and conformity to rules and standards. In the Hebrew Scriptures it is about rightness and fair treatment of others according to God's standards and rules.

Justice is about the determination of what is legally and ethically right and proper. The Hebrew equates this word with righteousness, or right in the eyes of God. What does God think versus what we think or what we can get away with. Psalm 99:4 tells us that God establishes equity, justice and righteousness (doing right) in the people He loves because these values are the very foundation of His throne. Simply, those who call themselves the people of God should reflect the very glory of God in their everyday behavior and treatment of others. Are we being fair in our treatment of others? Are we conforming our lives to the rules and standards of God's righteousness and His teachings, or are we content to do as we please as long as it is "legal" by man's standards and just "the way the game is played?"

Let me illustrate. If a person robs your home and takes all you have, and then is caught by the law, do we want justice, or are we content to say, "That's OK. Let's just move on. They were making a living the only way they could."

If someone lies, cheats or manipulates in a real estate transaction, or takes advantage of another, is that just good business and "buyer beware?" It is just the way the game is played? If someone or a business overcharges beyond fair market prices and proper profit, is it just being a savvy business and good capitalist?

Somewhere along the way our sense of what is right and wrong, fair and just, has lost its way. Maybe it is because our "winner take all" and "survival of the fittest" practices and treatment of others is no longer grounded in God's standards and rules. In fact, these new "virtues" have obscured our Scriptural understanding of God's righteousness – right and equitable treatment, just and holy standards. God is clear. He is a holy God and His judgment is based on justice, equity, right and wrong. You won't be able to say, "I was just exercising good business practices!" Nor can you argue that you were victimized by the capitalist system that pushed you to succeed above the rest at any price. God will check the ledgers in the end.

But lest all this be misunderstood, one would certainly expect non-believers in God who don't fear God to move in these inequitable circles.

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19

Proverbs 3:5

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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Service; Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

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Sun. 10:45am, S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

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

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

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

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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

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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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John 3:16

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

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

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

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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

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

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

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...MAYOR continued from page 2

on seasonal demands. Even the idea that seasonal folks go away for long periods of time is a fading notion. Rather than being seasonal, more and more of our residents

are in continuous transition between residences. These folks want immediate service upon arrival, and minimal fees ensure that availability.

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

What is abundantly clear is that today I see many who call themselves “Christian” acting just as worldly, unjust and unfair in their treatment of others, conveniently setting aside the right and wrong – “I’m just a poor sinner doing the best I can!” Or, “It’s my right” which appears to take precedence over God’s standard of right. This is disappointing. When we take advantage of the poor and the immigrant, and pay less than minimum wage, are we being just and fair? When we can sell an item or product way above market value “just because we can,” have we lost our mooring in equitable treatment of others? Should we use our wealth or status to bully others in our pursuit of gain and personal comforts?

Isaiah 56:1 says, “Keep justice and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come...” What our Lord wants to see when He returns is for His people to be practicing justice and behaving right-

teously.

Church attendance on Sunday doesn’t amount to a lot if on Monday through Saturday we are unjust, inequitable, and unfair in our treatment of others. We must remember that God’s mercy, grace and forgiveness are only exercised by repentance. Without genuine repentance – turning from our sin – we are left with God’s justice. And in His holiness, sin will be judged unless you claim forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Christians are to be just in their dealings with others, grant mercy, forgiveness and restitution when those who act unjustly seek it. But absent these, there is nothing left but God’s justice and at times the laws of our land. “For what you sow, you will reap.” “God has told you, O man, what is good: and what does your God require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

Also, let me clarify the operational plan of our fiber optic network referenced in the letter. The town will not control the network programming. Our private partner

and providers will operate the network and determine costs. The town’s interest will be operating a smart grid that will enable us to efficiently manage the utility system.



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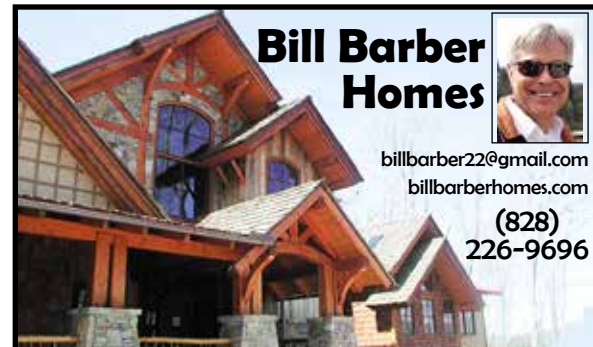
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COMIC BOOKS -- Buy / Sell. Call Bob @ 302-530-1109 (st. 5/23)

HELP WANTED

DUTCHMANS CASUAL LIVING STORE Looking for full and part time sales associate to join our team. Must be able to work weekends and holidays. Please call Shannon or Gabbi at 828-526-8864. (st. 6/6)

RANDEVU RESTAURANT is looking for great people to fill the following positions: Waitstaff/Hostess, Dishwasher, Line Cooks. Open 8-3-Be home in the evenings. Randevu is a great family/ team atmosphere with excellent wages. Call 828-743-0190 for interview. (st. 5/23)

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THE DRY SINK IN HIGHLANDS is hiring for full or part time sales positions for the 2019 season. If you like to cook, that is a plus! We're looking for team oriented people who can offer great customer service to our many customers. If you are friendly, detail oriented, like helping others, enjoy cooking, gadgets, and lots of interesting merchandise, come by and fill out an application, or submit information to: contact_us@thedrysink.com. (st. 4/18)

OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA are looking for the following employees: Head chef, pastry cook, baker, assistant inn manager, bellmen, housekeeping supervisors, spa attendant and housekeepers, servers/bussers Assistant Sommelier and Reservationist, Human Resources

Manager, Executive/HR Assistant sales assistant -- Acorns -- F/T, P/T Warehouse Associate -- Please apply online at www.oldedwardsinn.com or call: Pat Turnbull at 828-787-2697. (3/7)

POTPOURRI BOUTIQUE STORES IN HIGHLANDS looking for full time and part time sales persons. Retail sales experience with women's clothing and accessories preferred, eyewear experience a plus. Must be able to work weekends and holidays, except Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving day and Christmas day. Fun, lively, fast paced environment. Please stop by the store for application or email resume to potpourri-highlands@yahoo.com (st. 4/4)

SALES ASSOCIATE HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS, NC. Full time, part time and seasonal. Inquire to 828-200-0928. (st. 3/38)

SKYLINE LODGE -- Hiring part-time Front Desk Clerk. Download, drop by or call 828-526-2121 for an application. Background checks done. (st. 3/28)

ALLISON DIANE CLOTHING -- looking for a parttime sales associate. Call 828-526-5404 or come by Bryson's Corner at Main and 4th streets. (st. 3/21)

THE UGLY DOG PUB wants you to be a part of our team. We need managers, full-time servers, bartenders, and support staff with a positive attitude, ability to multitask, and a willingness to work as a team. Experience preferred but not required. Working nights and weekends is required. 828-526-8364 theuglydogstaff@gmail.com. (st. 3/21)

WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT is looking for experienced waitstaff, hostesses, line cook, pantry person and bussers. Please call Jacques at 526-3807. (st. 2/14)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY has full- and part-time positions available. Competitive wages for all positions, 18+ only. Apply in person at 521 East Main Street in Highlands or call 828-526-2400.

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HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 4/25)

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

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RIVERFRONT BY OWNERS -- A most desirable "level" lot, 224 feet of riverfront, 1,300 sq. ft. home and an 800 sq. ft. efficiency apartment on scenic US 64 west. Five miles from Franklin and 12 miles from Highlands. Exterior is log siding finished natural, interior is cherry paneling. A brick and concrete spiral stairway leads up to the front porch and entrance. Garages for 3 cars and a carport and a well-lit workshop. Also, a gazebo and wishing well. Air conditioner, water heater, well pump, roof shingles and

windows have all been replaced. The spacious 14'x30' living/dining room has a sloping vaulted ceiling with open beams, stone fireplace, and glass doors out to the back porch on the riverbank. Truly a fisherman's dream. Reasonably priced at \$335,000. Serious and qualified callers only please. (828) 369-2278. 6815 Highlands Road, Franklin. Photos on Craig's List. (5/30)

SIX ACRES ON BUCK CREEK ROAD behind Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Sign on property. 843460-8015. (st. 5/30)

3.20 ACRES UNRESTRICTED. ED. Power underground, borders National forest, 190 degree view. 10 min to Main Street. 3 septic fields, 1 well 7 g.p.m. 2 house foundations established and approved by county inspectors. 2 Bed/2 Bath Clayton home livable while building. Spring rights and more land available. For beautiful sunsets contact gracefamilia@yahoo.com. (st. 9/21)

1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC - \$28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm...open for negotiation. Please email if interested to ddmarsh15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

COMMERCIAL SPACE RENTALS

LOCATION IS EVERYTHING! Prime retail space available on Main Street in Highlands: 3,000 prime retail space available for rent. Contact Jody or Wood Lovell. Highlands Sotheby's International Realty. 828.526.4104. (st. 1/10)

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS ROOM FOR RENT -- with private bath, wifi and cable, 2 miles from Highlands Hosp. 600/mth. utilities included. share kitchen. 828-526-9891

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POLICE & FIRE REPORT

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

May 23

- At 9:33 a.m., a burglary/breaking & entering was reported at a residence at VZ Top where a leather recliner, a three drawer chest of drawers and an Eller and Owens bedroom desk were stolen. \$2,100.

- At 10:30 a.m., officers were called about a burglary/breaking & entering at a residence on VZ Top where a luggage holder and black tornado fan were taken.

- At 10:35 p.m., officers were called about a possible domestic disturbance at a residence on Stoney Creek Road.

May 24

- At 4:43 p.m., a medical call threatening code 10 was reported from a residence on Leonard Road. **The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 25**

May 25

- At 10:58 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Morewood Circle.

May 26

- At 3:13 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Spring Street.

May 27

- At 12:05 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at Cliffside Lake.

- At 11:05 p.m. the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

May 28

- A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive.

- At 6:34 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on N. 5th Street.

- At 3:48 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

May 29

- At 4:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Brookside Lane.

May 30

- At 6:36 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid the Cashiers FD.

May 31

- At 8:54 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.
- At 1:32 p.m., the dept. was called about a motor vehicle accident on Carolina Way but the dept. couldn't find the accident.

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