

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020

Do you want your Congressional representative to live in District 11?

By Brittney Lofthouse

The logical answer to the question raised in the headline

should be a resounding "yes," but residents in Western North Carolina's District 11 could potentially

lose their representation in Congress, depending on the outcome

• See **DISTRICT 11** page 11

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Migrant workers get mobile health clinic

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

The Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley distributed more than \$100,000 to the Vecinos Farmworker Health Program for a new and much-needed mobile clinic on Dec. 11 at Cashiers United Methodist Church.

Vecinos is a nonprofit health-care organization serving and advocating for farmworkers in western North Carolina. Vecinos aims to improve the lives of farmworkers and their families by offering mobile medical services and health education, along with advocating for farmworker rights.

Rotary also received its largest individual donation of \$25,000 by Rotarian Ron Keller. Last year, Keller made a challenge gift of

• See **CLINIC** page 10



More than 20 Highlands School alumni gathered the Saturday after Christmas to battle it out on the Bball court.

Highlands School brings back alumni basketball game tradition

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Highlands School hosted its first alumni-basketball game in 10 years on Saturday, Dec. 28, with dozens of former students representing their class by battling it out on the court.

More than 20 Highlands School alumni showed up for Sat-

urday's game with Blue taking on arch rival Gold and that's when things got real on the court.

Teams Blue and Gold were neck and neck throughout the first three quarters, but then Gold stepped up their game and took the win 55-42.

Highlands Athletic Director Brett Lamb said it's all to have a

good time wants to make it an annual event, again.

"It's a great way to keep our alumni as a part of our program and let our current players to see some of the 'old timers,'" said Lamb. "Big thanks to Booster Club, [Chris] Duffy and all that attended. It really shows Highlander pride."

Select Bank is coming to Highlands

By Brittney Lofthouse

The Highlands Entegra Bank location will soon have a new owner.

As part of the merger agreement between Entegra Bank and First Citizens Bank, three Entegra Bank locations, including the Highlands location, had to be sold to another bank prior to the merger being approved by the Department of Justice.

The two entities announced just before the new year that Select Bank and Trust had purchased the three Entegra Bank locations and would assume operations in the next few months.

"The agreement with Select Bank represents a step forward in the merger with Entegra, said Frank Holding, chairman and chief executive officer of First Citizens Bank. "Select Bank is

• See **SELECT** page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

On preserving what matters

While I'm optimistic about many things at the beginning of the new year, I also have concerns.

What I'm about to describe is illustrative of concerns and challenges that I think we will face on the Highlands Plateau.

A recent article in the Carolina Press reported that the US Forest Service is partnering with the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation seeking advice on how to manage and preserve forest species. The Cherokees have thousands of years of traditional knowledge about managing and preserving the forest, especially plant and wildlife species.

What really caught my attention was the US Forest Service's concern about managing the ramp population. Ramps are a wild onion that the Cherokee and settlers have eaten in the spring for many generations. There is a growing concern that wild ramps of the forest may become endangered. Trendy restaurants that cater to "hip foodies," are now serving wild ramps as an



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

exotic, but popular, dish.

Chefs are creating a growing market for this traditional, albeit lowly dish. Entrepreneurs are going into the forest and picking gallons of ramps to meet this demand. A gallon bucket can bring as much as \$50.

The article points out that the Cherokee had the rule of fours when harvesting wild plants. Out of four plants they would only harvest one, and even that plant was cut to where the root was harvested in order to generate a new plant.

The forest service experts want to learn about these practices as a way of sustaining natural plant life in forest lands. Like ginseng and Galax, demand and over-harvesting of ramps could become a serious problem. Currently, licenses are required to harvest plants on forest service lands, but laws do not deter the unscrupulous.

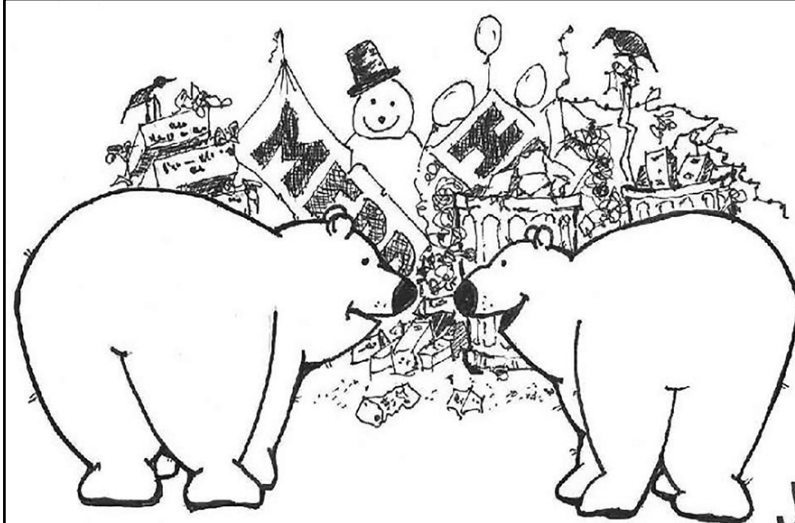
There is a lot of talk about invasive species on the plateau, like Japanese Knot Weed and Kudzu. It might just be that we humans are the biggest invasive species to the plateau. Our uncontrolled and thoughtless actions could have detrimental consequences to this unique environment. The growing problem with the wild ramp is a cautionary tale, maybe another canary in the mine situation.

I am grateful in many ways that we have a booming economy on the plateau, but this robust tourist business may put pressures on the environment and community that could have a lasting impact. How much should we build, develop, and in the lowly ramp situation, harvest?

How many short-term rental units can the community sustain before permanent neighborhoods are eroded? How many more parking spaces can the business district accommodate? And how many tourists do we have the capacity to attract? How many visitors can the town accommodate without becoming overcrowded to a tipping point? These are all questions we need to address because we all want to preserve what it is that brings people here: the lowly ramp, the beautiful landscape, and the simple mountain life.

Hope you have a happy and prosperous new year.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Yum, it's left over season. And to think we use to sleep through the holidays."

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• LETTER •

An Exceptional Bit of Cardboard

Dear Editor,

I recently found in my mailbox a piece of cardboard addressed to Postal Customer.

I assumed it was meant for me or my spouse. I also assumed that other Postal Customers in Highlands may have received a similar bit of mail. It is entitled "WideOpen Highlands." At first, I thought we may soon have more bars and possibly a poolhall. Nope, it flogs connection to the





internet.

Now, the reason I consider this to be exceptional is that I take exception to just about everything on both sides of the cardboard. I have been involved in all things electronic since 1954 and computers in particular since about 1990. I know a little about cables and networks.

The front side is laden with assertions

• See LETTER page 4

• WEATHER •

Thu, 9-Jan	Fri, 10-Jan	Sat, 11-Jan	Sun, 12-Jan
			
46° F 37° F	51° F 48° F	60° F 45° F	61° F 40° F
Times of clouds and sun	Mild with rain and drizzle	A shower and t-storm around	Mild with clouds and sun
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High: 48° Low: 29°	High: 50° Low: 40°	High: 57° Low: 48°	High: 65° Low: 44°

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Highlands Newspaper

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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.



BLUE VALLEY RIDGE This home has features to delight: three bedrooms, two baths, split plan, all on one level, with soaring stone fireplace in the living room. Lots of natural light comes through the windows where there is a mountain view that could be enhanced with trimming. An upstairs loft area is for extra sleeping, den, or office. A full unfinished downstairs is a blank canvas for whatever you choose. Move-in ready and ready to go as a rental; offered completely furnished.

MLS# 92548 | Offered for \$479,000



HIGHLANDS FALLS CC This is a fully furnished 3BR/2BA home in pristine condition with premium mountain views. Almost everything in the home was tastefully renovated in 2016, including all new flooring, a new kitchen with upgraded GE slate appliances and a 5-burner gas range, a gorgeous new master bath with heated tile floor, new Lennox HVAC system, new LG washer and dryer, and fresh paint inside and out. New roof in 2018.

MLS# 92294 | Offered for \$469,000

CHESTNUT HILL Easy in and out from this great one level cottage that boasts new flooring, new appliances and countertops, new light fixtures, and a single car garage. Freshly painted on the inside. Lovely rocking chair front porch and a screened porch in the back. Landscape care and exterior maintenance of the home is provided by the HOA. This is like living in a condo but enjoying a single family home. HOA fees also include road maintenance, snow removal, water and sewer.

MLS# 92582 | Offered for \$325,000

CHESTNUT HILL Great location in Chestnut Hill on a cul de sac. Lovely rock-ing chair front porch plus a screened porch in the back. Landscape care and exterior maintenance of the home is provided by the HOA. This is like living in a condo but enjoying a single-family home on one level with a garage. HOA fees also include road maintenance, snow removal, water and sewer. The home is in great condition. There is an activity center in the community.

MLS# 91604 | Offered for \$315,000



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...LETTER continued from page 2

that are misleading and in some cases are untrue. It is very much lacking in the helpful factual information a person needs to make a decision about opting for the services offered by WideOpen Networks.

WideOpen implies that copper is old and limited. Their website states they will run a fiber cable to your building to a junction device that has four of the old/bad copper connections where you can connect more old/bad copper cables to your modem and router. But not to worry, they offer an option. For only about three thousand five hundred dollars they will install fiber cables in your house.

They make no mention of what their top speed in Highlands may be or what the prices will be. My local cable company has already run fiber cables and offers speeds up to 1 Gigabyte. They are also upfront about what the cost is.

One fact WideOpen got right is that fiber transmits data much faster than copper – 65,000 times faster. Fiber cable were first put in service by US government in 1975 (nope WideOpen did not invent fiber cable) and was put in commercial use in 1977 by a Chicago telephone

•See LETTER page 8

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Highlands School students see free movie at Playhouse



The Highlands Playhouse hosted students of all grade levels to a complementary Christmas film at the playhouse. "It's our pleasure to treat the students of Highlands School to a fun outing right before the holidays," said Managing Director Lance Matzke. "The students demonstrated kindness and respect while visiting the Playhouse. We look forward to hosting them again soon!"

Die Hards turn out for Resolution Run 2020 on Jan. 1



Despite colder temperatures and a brisk wind this year, there was a good turnout on January 1 for the annual Resolution Run. At least 35 runners and walkers met at K-H Founders Park to make the trek. – Photo to Bob Sutton.

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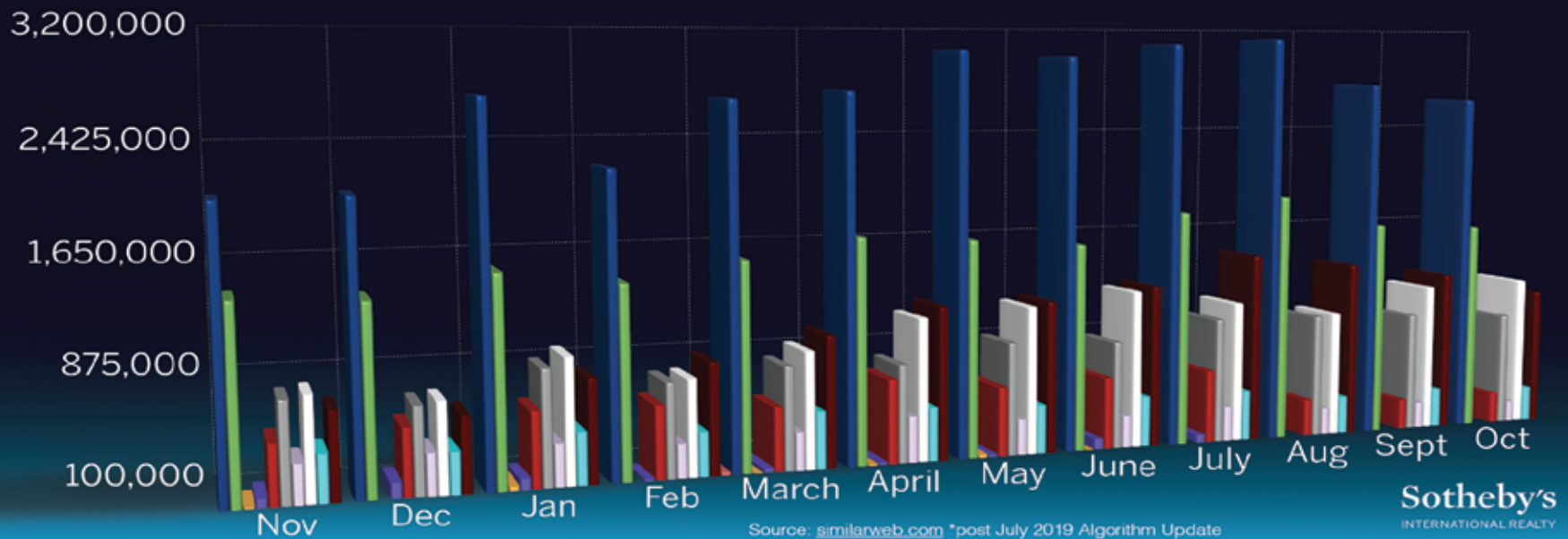


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Make Highlands a Part of your New Year's Resolution

New Year's resolutions run the gamut but most of them have to do with a healthier lifestyle in the coming year. Whether it has to do with eating better, working out, drinking less, being more organized, or making more time for family and friends, your goals can be achieved here in our mountain town. If you are looking to achieve your New Year's Eve resolution, schedule a meeting with a Highlands Realtor® today.

Fresh mountain air is good for the soul. The Highlands area is full of activities to enjoy outside. From golfing and fly fishing to hiking and biking, fresh air and mountain scenery can be enjoyed while being active. Likewise, most Highlands homes have outdoor spaces to enjoy. Screened porches, decks, and patios may feature fire pits, outdoor fireplaces, and room to relax or entertain. Spending time outside is good for both the brain and the body.

Vacation time is great family time. Buying a home in Highlands ensures a lifetime of memories



Lynn Kimball

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ahead. Time away from the hustle and bustle of daily life offers a welcome respite. This can be time for families to unwind and reconnect. No matter how you slice it, more time with family and friends and less stress is a great New Year's resolution to achieve!

A Highlands Realtor® will welcome the opportunity to up-

date you on market conditions while helping you get to know the area. Make Highlands lifestyle a part of your New Year's resolutions!

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

...LETTER continued from page 4

company. WideOpen implies that with other cable the 'standard' is dropped calls and low quality "videoconferences". The only dropped calls I have experienced during these past 22 years have nothing to do with my very reliable local cable. They were on my cell phone. Having no opportunity or need to "videoconference", I can't say if it is low quality or not. They also state that with other cable you are often forced to "bundle". Let's figure this one out. I have been forced to "bundle" zero times in 22 years. Now this does not seem to be very often.

On the backside of this exceptional piece of cardboard they ask for a lot.

The backside seeks quite a bit of the Postal Customer's personal and financial information.

Seemingly more than is needed for WideOpen to accomplish their stated goal of where to run cable first in the Highlands area.

If I were interested in answering their "survey", I would not include what I am paying now and definitely not my phone number since phone conversations on the potential customer's end provides no written evidence of what assertions and promises their sales persons may make.

If other Highlands Postal Customers have no internet or have unreliable service with terrible/nonexistent customer service, they may want to consider WideOpen, but only after WideOpen or the town of Highlands reveals what speed each user really needs and what the actual total cost will be. WideOpen

just provides a connection to the internet all other services and equipment and fees are extra.

WideOpenNetworks operates out of office number 2150 on Kraft Drive in Blacksburg Virginia which is right in the midst of many Virginia Tech buildings. I assume that there are many computer/network savvy people in Blacksburg, yet according to the Blacksburg Government website, WideOpen Networks serves only two neighborhoods with Comcast and Verizon serving the whole city. Seems puzzling to me.

As for me, right now, I am staying with my local cable company.

**Larry Brannan
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...CLINIC continued from page 1

\$25,000 to Rotary to initiate fundraising for a new mobile clinic with a goal to raise \$75,000. Over the past four months, Keller and Vecinos Executive Director Marianne Martinez have visited Rotary Clubs throughout WNC to reach the goal.

"This is the most satisfying \$25,000 I've ever spent," said Keller. "Since I started this, seeing this happen and come together, all the active support we've received for this is incredible."

Martinez said a new mobile clinic will allow Vecinos to serve patients like 'Roger,' who had to take an unexpected trip to Mexico from WNC. While on his way to his hometown, he was kidnapped, drugged, beaten, and robbed by a gang. He escaped to his family and made his way back to his job in WNC.

While Roger's physical wounds healed, Martinez said his mental wounds and PTSD persisted.

"He reached out to Vecinos for confidential help, worried that one of his 5 roommates, or 74 close neighbors might overhear his story," said Martinez. "Vecinos helped him, but because of our infrastructure with the current mobile clinic, we were limited in our approach. A new mobile clinic will allow us to fully serve patients like Roger, and so many more, who need not only physical care, but much more beyond what we can see with our eyes."

Migrant farmworkers typically live in

crowded rooms with limited privacy or security. Martinez said having a private, third space to seek health care is critical to farmworkers' well-being.

Their current mobile clinic is one room, open to the elements, and not completely private, which limits the physical exams and mental health interventions that can be done.

A new mobile clinic allows them to serve farmworkers in their homes, after the workday, breaking down barriers to accessing health care as well as cultural barriers to seeking mental healthcare. The new mobile clinic will incorporate three separate rooms for confidential physical and mental health screenings.

Vecinos means "neighbors" in Spanish, and that's the foundation of the program's mission, said Martinez. 98% of Vecinos patients are Spanish-speaking; all identify as Latino.

"Vecinos believes in reaching out, with open hands and hearts, and being good neighbors to the people who plant and pick our food," she said. "Farmworkers often feel like an invisible population; at Vecinos, we don't just offer health care, we aim to show appreciation for the important work that farmworkers do, offer them the support and care that all people deserve, and welcome them to our area as valuable members of our community."

...SELECT continued from page 1

known for its longstanding commitment to customer service. We'll work together to ensure a smooth transition."

Select Bancorp Inc. the holding company for Select Bank & Trust, was founded in 2000 and is headquartered in Dunn, N.C. While based in North Carolina, Select Bank & Trust also has locations in South Carolina and Virginia.

"We're excited about extending our presence to these Western North Carolina communities and look forward to welcoming our new customers and employees to our bank in the days ahead," said William L. "Bill" Hedgepeth II, president and chief executive officer of Select Bank.

Macon Bank CEO touted the sell and shared his support of the new bank and

its mission.

"Select Bank shares the same values and philosophies of our two companies. We believe Select Bank will be a great fit for these customers and communities," said Roger Plemens, president and chief executive officer of Entegra Bank.

As part of the agreement, Select Bank will assume approximately \$180 million in deposits and will purchase approximately \$110 million in loans.

Plemens noted that employees currently serving the three branches will retain their jobs and customers will be given the opportunity to remain at the branches and transfer their accounts to Select Trust or move to a different branch location of Entegra Bank, which will soon become First Citizens.

•WORD MATTER•

Welcome to 2020: All Politics, All the Time



Bud Katz

This year, along with the presidency, a third of the U.S. Senate and all seats in the U.S. House are, at least technically, up for grabs. According to the non-partisan Cook Political Report (www.cookpolitical.com), as of this writing, North Carolina's Thom Tillis, is "likely" to be returned to the Senate. Of the 93 House races Cook sees as competitive, the three in North Carolina (Districts 2, 9, and 13) are either "likely" or "leaning" Republican. Cook sees Gov. Cooper (D) as "likely" to be reelected. Solid, likely, leaning and toss-up are the words Cook uses to describe each race.

Of course, the presidency is, as always, in play. Unless he's removed from office or abducted by aliens, Donald Trump (R) will run for a second term, and as of right now there's no bona fide front-runner among the dozen or so candidates still in play for Democrats.

Of the 538 electoral votes available, the Cook Political report maintains approximately 85 are "toss ups," meaning they could go either way. These electoral votes are in Arizona (11), Florida (29), Pennsylvania (20), Wisconsin (10), and North Carolina (15). Another 10 states with 80 electoral votes are "leaning" either D or R and could be fall into play for a variety of reasons.

For purposes of this column, this all means we North Carolinians have every reason to (a) register and (b) vote! There's more you can do, of course. You can help register voters. You can contribute to a campaign. You can work a phone bank, knock on doors, deliver yard signs, etc. Registering and voting is, literally, the least you can and should do.

Regardless of which way you "lean" or are "likely" to vote, here are a few non-partisan suggestions before casting your ballot.

First, never believe what you hear from a candidate for any position when he or she says something definitive, such as, "Vote for me and we'll have Medicare for All." He or she may support, and may even propose Medicare for All, but he or she can't promise it, unless he or she controls both houses of Congress and holds a veto-proof majority in the Senate.

Second, even though you may have registered with a party preference (D or R), you

don't have to vote that way in the general election. One reason I've registered No Party Affiliation is that a party doesn't guarantee the best, or even a good candidate. It only guarantees a candidate that party's leadership believes might be able to win. And as we know, there's a lot more to elected office than just winning.

Third, elections often come down to making the best bad choice. Pay attention to not only what a candidate says about his/her opponent, but what he/she says about him/herself. It's always better to vote FOR, instead of voting AGAINST someone or something.

Elections matter. It's a small investment of your time to brush up on issues, learn which candidate speaks clearly to your concerns. And, while on the subject of your concerns, try to consider more than just your own interests. A candidate may indicate a preference for something you personally support (border walls, free health care, etc.), but may also be in the pocket of interests you don't care for (NRA, Planned Parenthood, etc.). Be thoughtful about who you're giving your vote and/or support to.

Fourth, just because a candidate is already in office doesn't mean he/she deserves to remain in office. Incumbents, especially on the national and state levels, have a built-in advantage when it comes to reelection. Don't vote to keep them there just because they're already there.

Finally, the elected officials who are most important in your life are actually those who are closest to you; town, city, and county boards, commissions, and councils. The state and national elections may be noisier and more interesting, but so much of what they do or don't do doesn't necessarily impact our lives.

I don't ever tell anyone who I voted for or who they should vote for. At the end of the day, the most important thing anyone can do is pay attention, do a little research on what matters to you, and vote the way and for whom YOU want, not what anyone else tells you to do. And please, don't vote based on party. Party means nothing.

It's YOUR vote. It's sacred and it's private. Use it wisely.

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Mountain Findings Thrift Store
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...DISTRICT 11 continued from page 1

of the 2020 election.

While a total of 19 candidates filed for the District 11 House of Representative seat after Rep. Mark Meadows announced he would not be seeking re-election, only 10 of the 19 live within the District 11 boundaries Meadows ran in, however, the Congressional Maps were redrawn late last year.

The new Congressional Maps were drawn in attempt to address gerrymandering issues across North Carolina. As a result, District 11 gained the entirety of Asheville, which had previously been carved out.

The new District 11 includes Buncombe, Haywood, Yancey, Transylvania, Jackson, Swain, Macon, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Henderson, Burke, Madison, Mitchel, McDowell, Polk, Avery, and portions of Rutherford counties.

Congress requires representatives to live within North Carolina but places no requirement on whether representatives have to actually live within the district they represent. This makes it perfectly legal for six candidates currently vying for the Dis-

trict 11 seat who live outside of the district lines to run for the seat

Based on records with the North Carolina Board of Elections, of those six, one candidate, Gina Collias lives outside District 11. Collias lists a Kings Mountain address, which would place her in the newly redrawn 5th district. Prior to the new Maps, neither Collias nor Morris Davis would have been within District 11.

Four Republicans register outside of District 11 – Wayne King (Kings Mountain) and Joseph Osborne (Hickory).

Dillon Gentry filed for office listing a Banner Elk address. The zip code on the State Board of Elections website registers as District 3, however, it appears the zip code listed is inaccurate. Banner Elk, which is near the Tennessee border, is in Congressional District 5. Albert Wiley filed for office and lists Salter Path, NC as his address, which is District 3 and is located on an island off the coast of North Carolina.

Republican candidates who do reside in District 11 included, Lynda Bennett, Matthew Burril, Madison Cawthron, Jim Davis, Daniel Driscoll, Steven Fekete, Chuck

Arched and Vance Patterson.

Green Party Candidate Tamara Zwinak lists a Macon County address with the state placing her within District 11.

Tracey Debruahl filed for office as a Libertarian candidate and according to her Asheville address, will be in District 11 according to the new maps.

Currently, Democrat candidates include, Gina Collias, Morris Davis, Michael O'Shea, Phillip Price, and Steve Woodsmall.

Republicans are Chuck Arched, Lynda Bennett, Matthew Burril, Madison Cawthron, Jim Davis, Daniel Driscoll, Steven Fekete, Dillon Gentry, Wayne King, Joseph Osborne, and Vance Patterson.

Representing the Green Party is Tamara Zwinak.

Representing the Libertarian Party is Tracey Debruahl.

Of the 19 candidates running for office, five will appear on the ballot in March for the Democratic Primary.

The primary is March 3, 2020.

The deadline to register and/or for party changes for the primary is Feb. 7, 2020.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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; Sun. 1-5p..

- 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-

Experience the 'Wolf Moon' at the Highlands Botanical Garden Jan. 10



Explore the winter forest under the light of a full Wolf Moon on Friday, January 10th from 6-8 p.m.!

The first full moon of the year is named after howling wolves, and we are opening the Botanical Garden to allow the public to explore the grounds under its light.

Bundle up and bring your flashlight to wander through the garden on this one night only. After your stroll, join us for hot drinks and warm up by our fire in the Meadow by the Valentine House (888 Horse Cove Rd).

All are welcome to participate in this free event. In the event of rain or severe weather, the event will be canceled.

The Highlands Botanical Garden is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University. For more information, please call (828) 526-2623.

The African Children's Choir returns to CBC on January 24



The African Children's Choir will perform Friday at the Community Bible Church at 6:30 p.m. highlighting their new program "Just As I Am." The children melt the hearts of audiences with their charming smiles, beautiful voices and lively African songs and dances. The program features well-loved children's songs, traditional Spirituals and Gospel favorites. Concerts are free and open to all. A free-will offering is taken at the performance to support African Children's Choir programs, such as education, care and relief and development programs. No tickets. Donations appreciated.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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

• 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 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.

• 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.

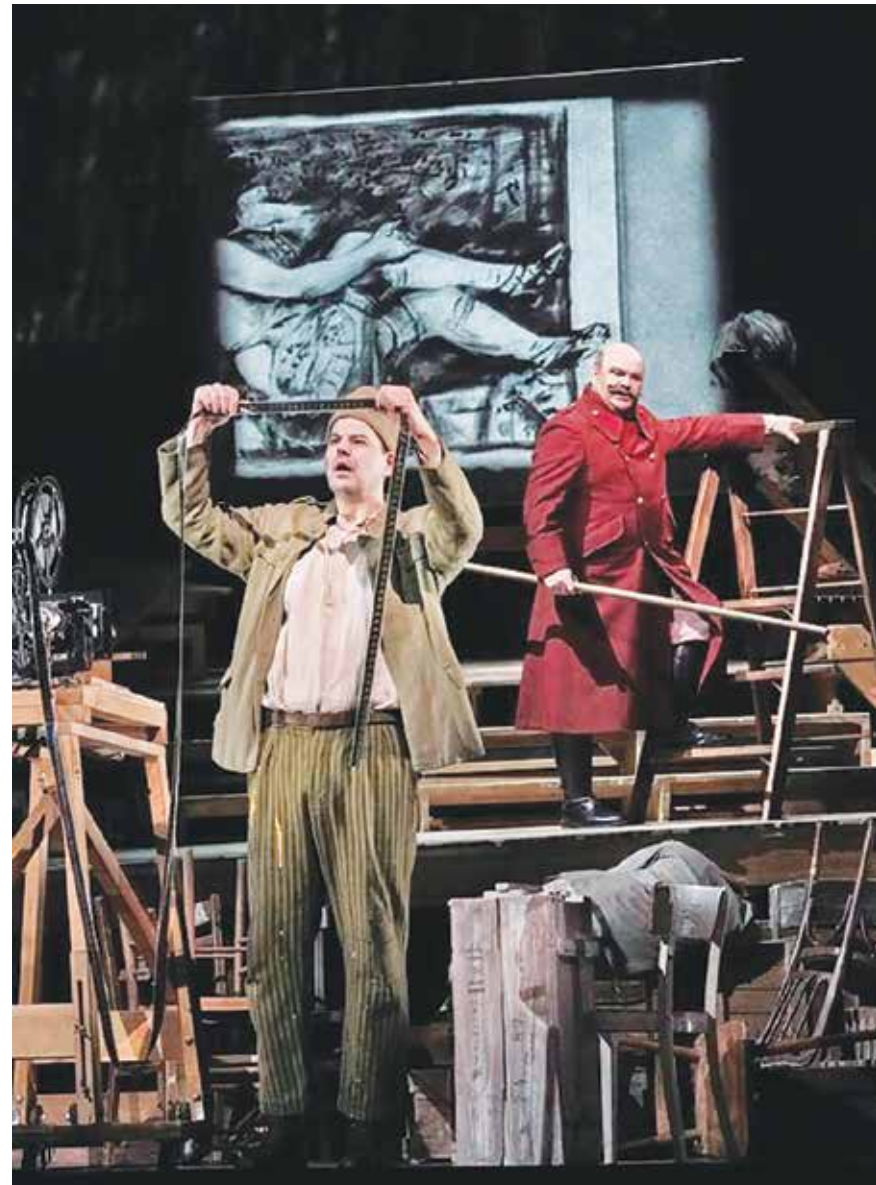
Fri., Jan 10

• Explore the winter forest under the light of a full Wolf Moon on Friday, from 6-8 p.m. The first full moon of the year is named after howling wolves, and we are opening the Botanical Garden to allow the public to explore the grounds under its light. Bundle up and bring your flashlight to wander through the garden on this one night only. After your stroll, join us for hot drinks and warm up by our fire in the Meadow by the Valentine House (888 Horse Cove Rd). All are welcome to participate in this free event. In the event of rain or severe weather, the event will be canceled. The Highlands Botanical Garden is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University. For more info call (828) 526-2623.

• Please consider donating blood and helping those in need at the plateau's first blood drive in 2020! Every donor receives a wellness check that includes blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening. This event is hosted by the American Red Cross and Summit High School, which conducts a service project every month. The blood drive is open to the community and will take place between 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM in the Summit Center gym. If you would like to sign up to give blood, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter "Summit" to schedule an appointment. We hope to see you

• See EVENTS page 15

Live via Satellite, the MET Opera's production of Wozzeck is Sat. Jan. 11



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will screen, Live via Satellite, the MET Opera's production of Wozzeck by Berg on Saturday, January 11 at 12:55pm.

Berg's 20th-century shocker stars baritone Peter Mattei in the title role, with Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin on the podium and soprano Elza van den Heever as the long-suffering Marie. Groundbreaking visual artist and director William Kentridge unveils a bold new staging set in an apocalyptic wasteland.

Based on an unfinished play by Georg Büchner, this tale of marital betrayal, social rejection, and cruel militarism in a bleak German village foretells of devastation on both local and global scales.

There will be a pre-opera discussion beginning at 12:30pm. Run time is 2 hours.

Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org or www.highlandspacperformingarts.com or at the door. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

• THE INK PENN •

To read or not to read

Do people still read books? It depends on whom you ask. A Wall Street Journal Article posed the question differently: “Does the Book Have a Future?” I discovered that we’ve been bemoaning the death of reading for at least a century. The author of the article regularly reviews books for the WSJ and begins by referencing an essay from 1902, “The Lost Art of Reading,” in which, you guessed it, the essayist expresses concern that people don’t read as they once did.

In surfing the internet, an activity often blamed for the supposed death of reading, I discovered that 74% of adults have read at least one book in the last twelve months. Book is defined as “book in any form.”

Those who worry about our

reading habits seem more concerned that the internet has lessened our “capacity to focus on lengthy works of literature.”

As a former English teacher, I’m happy if folks read books, period. I read literary fiction, to be sure, but I’m addicted to mysteries and have spent many more of my available reading hours on books by John Sandford, Robert B. Parker, Michael Connelly and the like than those by Iain Pears, Elizabeth Kostova, and Ian McEwan.

Can you recall the days when we worried that children watched too much TV instead of going out to play? Or perhaps instead of reading. Today, we worry we spend



Kathy Manos Penn

too much time in front of our phones, tablets, computers or TVs. What will the worry be in the future?

What I don’t know is how many folks are avid readers, as I describe myself. I read at least two books a week as opposed to one a year. I also read excerpts from the WSJ every day and daily news alerts that somehow show up on my tablet. Don’t ask me how.

How did I become an avid reader? How did I become a person who wants to shoot herself if she’s sitting in a doctor’s office without a book? Blame it on my parents. My mother read to me when I was a child. She took me

to the library even though we lived in NYC and had to ride the bus to get there. Santa brought me books. If my father didn’t have a book to read, he’d pull a volume of the encyclopedia from our bookcase. They taught me well, and yet they worried about my being a bookworm.

What are you missing if you don’t read books? Is it detrimental to spend more time reading newspapers and magazines than reading books? Either habit can build vocabulary. Either habit can expose you to new ideas or expand your horizons. Is reading “The Hobbit” better for you than reading a newspaper? One is fantasy, and some would argue the other sometimes borders on it. One may distract you from the grind of daily life, and the other may depress you no end.

Given the option to read or not to read, what would you choose? If the answer is to read, what would you read? Books, newspapers, magazines? Fiction or nonfiction? I will always choose to read and to read books. “So many books, so little time.” That’s 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/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

The health insurance issue during retirement

One of the challenges people face when they crossover from working to not working is obtaining affordable health insurance. Unfortunately, people who retire or become self-employed prior to age 65 may be in for a rude awakening.

Because of my profession, I spend an inordinate amount of time following the markets and politics. While I am a political junkie (those closest to me would attest), I’m most interested in legislation that would directly or indirectly effect mine and my client’s financial situations. Part of my job is to keep them abreast of any changes that would cause us to rethink the strategies we’ve implemented.

I’ve been particularly interested in health care legislation for two reasons; 1) as a now 57-year-old self-employed individual with pre-existing conditions, the cost of health insurance is one of my



Michael P Henderson,
CFP® CKA®
Founder/Wealth Advisor
Crossover Point Advisors

largest monthly expenses (and that doesn’t include out of pocket). And 2), because many of my clients retired in their mid to late 50’s, I need to provide them guidance. Unfortunately, other than employer-based health insurance, I’ve found few alternatives.

This issue seems to be everywhere. Every Democrat can-

didate is promising a fix, some are measured and more realistic, others are not. All will require more government involvement and even higher deficits. At the same time, I am reminded the GOP crashed and burned on the promise “repeal and replace.” They controlled both chambers of Congress and the Whitehouse and still couldn’t get it done. Meanwhile, medical expenses are the leading cause of bankruptcy in the U.S.

What really bothers me is that after 18 years of searching for solutions, I still don’t know how as a nation we fix it (or at least fix it without destroying quality health care). Emergency rooms are not doctor’s offices and when people don’t seek care because of the cost, it eventually costs more. Most people don’t think a VA Hospital type of system is the solution, and our government’s ability to be

• See FINANCIAL MATTERS page 17



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- Up-Dos
- Hair Extensions
- Manicures
- Pedicures



THE DRY SINK
HIGHLANDS, NC

Time to think about your Valentine!







The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

...EVENTS continued from page 13

there!

- Summit Charter School is now enrolling K-11 for the 2020-21 school year! Come walk the beautiful public school campus, tour the classrooms, meet the faculty and learn more about becoming a Summit Bear. Summit is a tuition-free public charter school in Cashiers that engages students in learning experiences that stimulate discovery, inspire excellence, and nurture a positive influence in an ever-changing world. Tours will include the school's brand new high school building as well as the Summit Center, which features a gym and new classrooms for music and art education. Learn more about the school's individualized education and place-based programs on Friday, January 10th at 8:30 a.m. For more information or to RSVP, please call 828-743-5755 or email mhudson@summitschool.org.

Sat., Jan. 11

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take four short moderate-to-strenuous hikes to several waterfalls off Hwy. 281, including White Owl Falls, Dew Falls, Johns Jump Falls and Whitewater Falls. Be prepared for rhododendron roots to walk over and hang onto. Bring or wear water shoes as the best view of White Owl Falls is across the creek. Total hiking distance is 1.5 miles with several short steep in and outs. There is a parking fee at Whitewater Falls. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10 am, drive 26 miles. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 828-743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sat., Jan. 18

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a rambling moderate 4-mile hike around Wallace Branch, up the Bartram Trail, across a stream to a lovely trail through the pines

and coming back on a Forest Service road, elevation change 500 ft. Meet at 9:30 at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Irene Brew, 772-263-3478, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Fri., Jan. 24

- The African Children's Choir returns to CBC at 6:30 p.m. For the program, "Just as I am." Free but donations accepted.

Sat., Jan. 25

- Fireside chat and book signing with Bitter Southerners and Chefs at Art's at the Lodge, noon to 2 p.m. Open to the public.

- Chefts in the House at Half-Mile Farm. Chef Joe Kindred of Kindred and Steven Satterfield of Miller Union. Reserve Dinner Seats by calling 828-787-2635 or 828-787-2816.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 4-mile hike up Rabun Bald, elevation change 900 ft., on the Georgia Bartram Trail, hiking from Beegum Gap to the summit (second highest point in Georgia) and to a platform with 360 views of the surrounding area. Meet at Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center at 10 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sat., Feb. 1

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike to Siler Bald on the Appalachian Trail, elevation change 700 ft., for 360-degree views of Wayah Bald, Winesprings and a glimpse of Nantahala Lake. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 10 am, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Robert Barnable, 369-1565, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sat., Feb. 8

- The Nantahala Hiking Club

will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7-mile hike, elevation change 900 ft., from Long Branch to Rock Gap in the Standing Indian Recreational Area, starting at the backcountry parking lot, up Long Branch to the Appalachian Trail at Glassmine Gap, then north to Rock Gap, and

returning by a Forest Service Road. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 11 am, Drive 32 miles round trip. Call leader Katharine Brown, 421-4178, for reservations. Visitors and dogs on leash are welcome.

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Why I love Willie Nelson and Loving the Willies Among Us

By Milton Ready

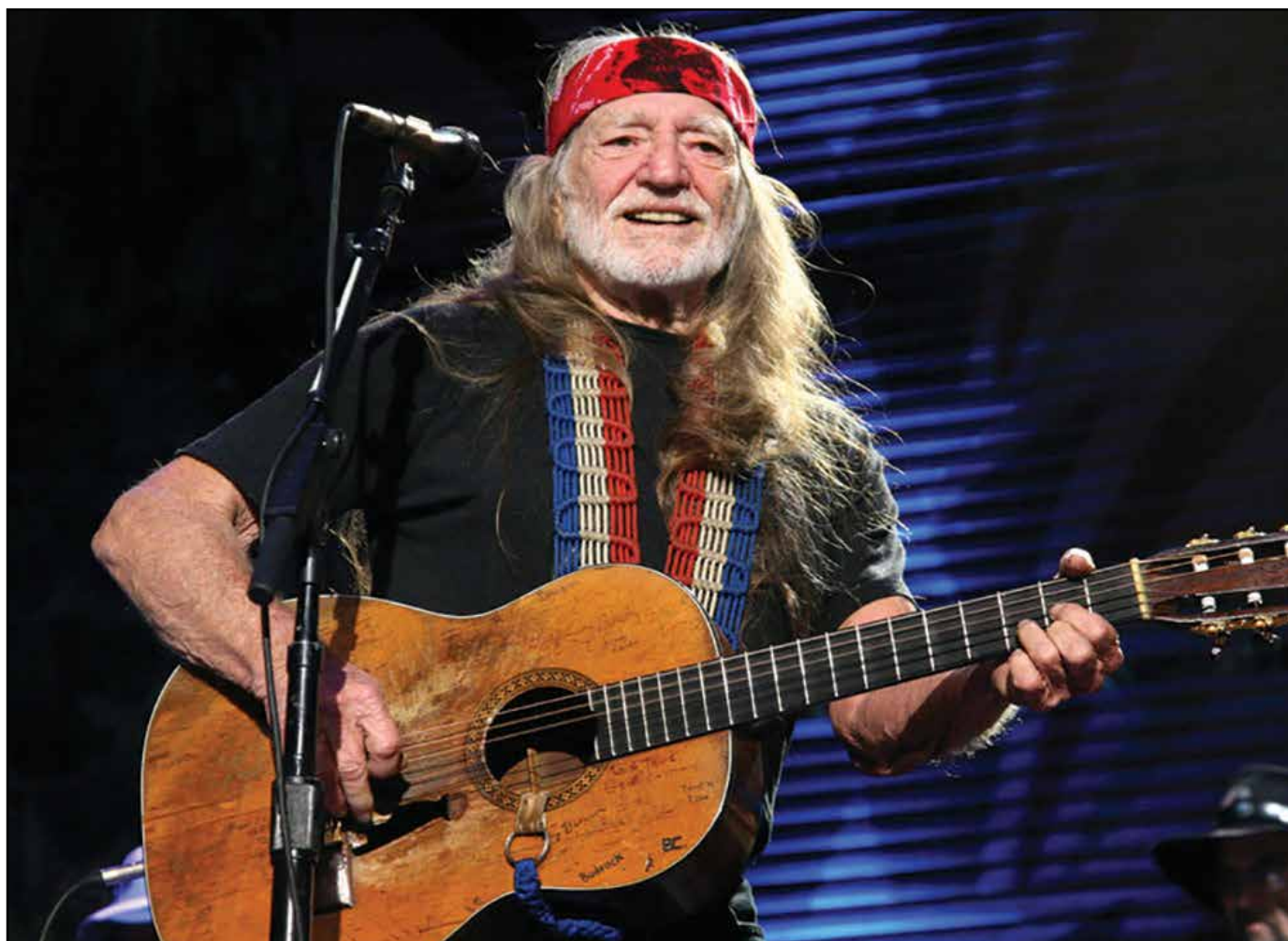
First, Willie's ugly. While this might seem offensive, even socially incorrect to many, I'm not sure Willie knows or that it matters to him. In Willie's case, what you see is what you get, no funeral parlor tans, no combed over hair, no Botox, no stylist, and assuredly not a dresser. In a Kardashian reality world dominated by Foxy news anchors and scruffy Brad Pitt look-alikes, Willie comes across as a timeless back cover for Easy Riders or Billy Bob Thornton's better-looking relative.

Willie's also ageless. In fact, he's like Brad Pitt's body double in *The Curious Life of Benjamin Button* only he was born old and stayed that way. Willie once hitchhiked cross-country to Portland, Oregon, but, unlike Brad Pitt in *Thelma and Louise*, no one picked him up. A kind-hearted trucker finally bought him a meal and a ticket to Portland. Along the way, Willie began a lifetime habit of sleeping at rest stops and in ditches, surely part of the inspiration for his song and life, *On the Road Again*.

Like many of us, Willie's worked every job imaginable and some worse to make ends meet. He once trimmed both trees in west Texas, got beat up at a local roadhouse where he worked as a bouncer and also picked a tune or two, sang, and danced with too many floozy ladies for quarters, sold auto parts he cannibalized from junkyards, made saddles with uneven stirrups, worked in Texas but not Louisiana oilfields, hawked vacuum cleaners he couldn't work and Bibles he did read, sold some of his best hits like *Hello Walls* and *Crazy* for a song, about \$25 in his day, and became one of the most successful outlaws of all time although he little cared.

Willie possesses one of the best everyday, homespun voices imaginable, one that allows him to sing duets with everyone from Dolly Parton to Ray Charles. He made all sound better except me when I tried as a voiceover. He once belted out a duet with Rosalynn Carter in the White House and, afterward, studied Bible verses with her husband, President Jimmy Carter. A playful yet probably invented story had Willie offering the President a joint if he would explain what Revelations meant.

Years ago I briefly met Willie Nelson in Pasadena, Texas, introduced by



my cousin, Smokey Stover, a disk jockey and country and western singer who led an equally immoderate life. Cousin Smokey called Willie an "Injun," curious to me since Willie had red hair, a few freckles, and knew only two words of "Injun," Kemo Sabe. In the end, Cousin Smokey never left Pasadena for greater fame while Willie made it all the way to the Austin city limits with his Indian headband. He still wears it.

Today Willie spends his time on his hardscrabble Texas ranch or else at his self-sustaining community in Hawaii with fellow Texans and neighbors Kris Kristofferson, Woody Harrelson, and Owen Wilson. They have great block parties. Willie still plucks his guitar, Trigger, rides his favorite horse called Giddy up, and drives his old VW convertible, Buggy, the one you see in commercials, on

his own biodiesel fuel. Like his brand of "Willie's Reserve," it has a secret power

ingredient.

Like many of us, Willie's had trouble with tax collectors, the IRS, relationships, children, and figuring out life and women, all the stuff of country and western tunes.

If he has an ego, he likely left it in a ditch somewhere on the road, probably around Austin. If critics pan his acting ability, he simply appears in more favorite if forgettable movies like *Honeysuckle Rose* or *The Red Headed Stranger* or in sitcoms like *The Dukes of Hazzard*. Willie's also been in a lot of late-night shows, always early for him, particularly with Stephen Colbert and David Letterman. When he retired, I think Letterman tried to adopt Willie's gritty, bearded, homeless look. Willie wears it better.

Why all this about Willie Nelson? You will find Willie's wherever you live, some equally ageless, adventurous and

charitable, even teaching Sunday-school and sometimes as better-looking counterparts only their lives might be less in Technicolor and more in sepia tones. We should love and treasure all the eccentric old Willies among us.

• *Milton Ready, Professor Emeritus of History at UNC Asheville, lives and writes amidst the beauty of western North Carolina. Author of regional histories, fiction, and essays, Milton attended both Rice and the University of Houston before earning a PhD from the University of Georgia. His work is informed by a childhood spent in rural, rough knuckle Texas, a stint in the Army, and a love for the history of humble places.*

Haywood Community College joins WCU for university direct-entry admission program

Western Carolina University and Haywood Community College made a significant step toward a more seamless transition for students seeking additional higher education opportunities through the establishment of a direct-entry admission program.

WCU Chancellor Kelli R. Brown and HCC president Barbara Parker signed a memorandum of understanding establishing the Catamount Navigator Program during a ceremony Thursday, Dec. 19, in the board room of H.F. Robinson Administration Building on the WCU campus.

The agreement builds upon the existing North Carolina Comprehensive Articulation Agreement governing the transfer of credits between the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina System. In addition, the NC Promise tuition plan, which

reduces the cost of in-state tuition to \$500 per semester at WCU and two other UNC System institutions, has resulted in a significant increase in the number of students transferring to WCU from community colleges and other four-year schools.

"We want to encourage and help students who graduate from our community college partners and are looking to further their education as Catamounts," said Brown. "This memorandum of understanding with Haywood Community College is another step toward a more seamless process for that to happen, and it further strengthens our regional connections."

The signing follows similar WCU agreements with Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Southwest Community College and Blue Ridge Community College made earlier this year.

"We appreciate everything that Western Carolina University has done and is doing for our students. This is a milestone in our longstanding and beneficial partnership," said Parker, a Haywood County native who will retire at the end of this year. HCC's incoming president, Shelley White, also attended the ceremony.

Haywood Community College, located in nearby Clyde, was founded in 1965 and is known for its professional crafts and natural resources curriculum. The fish and wildlife management associate degree, accredited by the North American Wildlife Technology Association, is the only one offered statewide. HCC offers two-year college transfer degrees with options available in associate degree in arts, associate degree in science and associate degree in engineering.

To participate in the Catamount Nav-

igator Program, qualifying students must meet several conditions, including:

- Be a currently enrolled student at HCC in a degree-seeking capacity.
- Submit WCU application for admission and records by the university deadline.
- Submit application fee or waiver and fulfill all commitment action steps.
- Be in good standing at the community college and other institutions attended.
- Demonstrate good citizenship and conduct.
- Earn and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 at HCC and a minimum GPA of 2.20 in the most recently completed academic term.
- Earn an associate degree from HCC in a college transfer program or in an applied program for which an articulation agreement exists.
- Enroll at WCU within one academic year (within the next two regular terms or fall/spring semesters) of completion of the associate degree.

Although the program guarantees admission to WCU for those graduates who meet the requirements, it does not guarantee admission into a specific degree program. Some programs of study at WCU have their own programmatic admission criteria, standards, policies, processes and deadlines.

For more information about how to transfer to WCU, visit the website transfer.wcu.edu. For more information about applying to HCC, visit www.haywood.edu/admissions.

...FINANCIAL MATTERS continued from page 14

good stewards our tax dollars is dubious at best. At the same time, we also know there is no such thing as "free" healthcare and doctors and hospitals are often forced to overcharge insurance companies (i.e. us) to make up for a lack of Medicare reimbursements. But most people I know don't hate their Medicare either.

As an advisor since 1999, I've been both employed and self-employed, so I've lived this. During the years I've been self-employed, obtaining reasonably priced health insurance has been a massive struggle. While I'm fortunate to be able to afford the cost, the fact that my premiums and deductibles are larger than most middle-class mortgages, is a tough pill to swallow (pun intended).

Unless you qualify for a subsidy, the Affordable Care Act has made private insurance anything but affordable. In all fairness though, it has provided people like me "access" to private health insurance. But private insurance premiums have skyrocketed and for many having access to something you can't afford doesn't help.

My current COBRA coverage ends this May and I'm girding myself for what's coming. As an example, the individual Florida Blue policy I purchased in 2014, (the first year I was able with pre-existing conditions under the ACA), the premium was \$1666/month for me and my wife. This was an "all co-pay" plan meaning af-

ter paying a co-pay everything was covered 100%. It seemed expensive at the time but looking back it was a great policy and if nothing else, it made the expense of health care predictable. That same policy in 2020 is \$4300/month.

Another example is my son and his wife. He has returned to school and she is a second-grade teacher. Health insurance for her is paid for by the county, but if she added him and their 9-month-old, her premium would increase to 50% of her take home pay.

Older entrepreneurs are (and probably should be) reluctant to start a business because what if they get sick? How much could be added to our GDP and tax revenue if a person could start a business without worrying about being ruined by medical bills, and as a business owner, every dollar I spend on my health insurance is a dollar I could use to pay an employee. It also makes hiring difficult because the benefit packages small businesses can offer can't compete because of the cost.

If your employer is willing and able to pay a portion of your premiums, you're probably ok, but the lack of economic security and mobility for the working poor and self-employed has a chilling effect on our overall economy.

I'm a free market guy and I believe in honest capitalism, but in my opinion the system, as it stands right now, is unsustainable. One solution I'm starting to like is

giving people like me the option of buying into Medicare. Don't raise my taxes, just let me simply buy in prior to age 65. Despite my pre-existing conditions, I'm probably healthier than most people on Medicare and would help "bend the cost curve" so to speak. I'm not sure that's the solution, but if the government offered that to me right now, along with a supplement and the right price, I'd be all over it.

• The opinions expressed in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. Investment advice and financial planning services offered through Crossover Point Advisors, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor.





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12:55pm RT: 2 hours
Pre-Opera Discussion @ 12:30pm



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Adults: \$26 PAC or MET Members: \$22

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



The O'Neill family. From left, Finn, 12, Scott, Lottie, 10, Christy and Sam, 4.

New Pastor of Family Ministries at First Baptist Church Highlands

First Baptist Church in Highlands is excited about the O'Neill family joining them in their labors for reaching out to our community and making a difference in people's lives.

Scott's role at First Baptist Church as Pastor of Family Ministries is to develop a strong devotional life and discipleship for the congregation. His ministry will focus on strengthening the individual families and singles in their walk with the Lord. But it will also emphasize the organic nature of the church as a family, building strong relationships from cradle to end of life and our mutual responsibility of care and encouragement within the Body as a whole.

Unlike other traditional approaches of segmented ministry to generational groups within the church, his work will promote an organic understanding and intergenerational spirit of mutual support and ministry to each other as a family.

Scott O'Neill was born and raised in the Philadelphia, PA area in 1969. In the first 30 years of his life he will tell you that he never heard the Gospel. Not until he moved to central Illinois did he first encounter the Truth of the Gospel.

He would receive the gift of salvation in February of 2012, trusting the Lord Jesus Christ alone for his salvation and joyfully gave his life to Him.

Scott worked with Caterpillar, Inc., Peoria, Ill. in Project Management, training, & implementation of the CAT Global Minestar Mining Technology.

Affirmed in his call to preach Christ during this time, Scott was led to pursue seminary studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with graduation this Fall with a M.A. in Theology.

Scott is married to Christy, his wife of 15 years, and is blessed with three beautiful children. Finn is 12, Lottie is 10 (adopted from China), and Sam is 4 (adopted from Arizona).

Christy is a gifted Sunday School teacher and passionate about building relationships founded in Christ. She is also a public accountant.

The O'Neill's share a common heart for adoption as they continue to serve the Lord.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Wes Sharpe, Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

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Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service; Mon. 6p Bible

Study & Supper in homes

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447,

Pastor Gary Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

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

Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wed: Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: 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

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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Worship/Communion: 10:30; Early-Bird Christmas Eve service of

Lessons and Carols, Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:30 am.

All are welcome.

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

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at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Mass: Thurs. 12:10; Fri. 9am; Sun: 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Thurs. 9am, Fri., 11am; Sun. 9am

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Nov. 26. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Nov. 26

• At 1:07 p.m., officers received a report of violation of a valid protective order and cyberstalking at a residence in Highlands Mountain Club.

Dec. 1

• At 4 p.m., officers received a report of burglary/breaking & entering/destruction of property at a residence on N. 5th Street where a window was broken to make entry into the house

Dec. 11

• At 4:30 p.m., officers received a report of damage to government property on Biscuit Rock Road.

Dec. 12

• At 11:30 p.m., officers received a report of someone with drug equipment violations and outstanding warrants from other jurisdictions on NC 106.

• At 11:30 a.m., Kari Huskey Conard, 42, of Franklin, was arrested for drug equipment violations, and two warrants for offenses committed in another jurisdiction. She was issued a \$15,000 secured bond. Her trial date was Jan. 2.

Dec. 13

• At 10:29 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at the Shell Station on

Laurel Street.

Dec. 15

• At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at US 64 east and Sherwood forest Drive

Dec. 16

• At 3:24 p.m., officers received a report of an assault on a female at the Dog Park at the Highlands Civic Center.

• At 4:15 p.m., Nicholas James Keith, 29, of Highlands, was arrested for simple assault on a female. He was issued a secured bond. His trial date is Jan. 29.

Dec. 20

• At 2:30 p.m., officers received a

report of larceny at a residence on Big Bearpen Road where a \$25 gift card was stolen.

• At 4 p.m., officers received a report of embezzlement larceny by an employee at the Fourth Street Market where \$31,800 in \$20 bills was taken.

Dec. 21

• At 11:22 p.m., Guillermo Pablo Sanchez, 49, of Highlands, was arrested for making an unsafe movement, driving under the influence and weapon violations. He was issued a \$650 unsecured bond. His trial date was Jan. 8.

• See POLICE & FIRE page 20

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA General Court of Justice Forty Third Prosecutorial District

ASHLEY HORNSBY WELCH
District Attorney

On Monday, December 30, 2019, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte published a list of several clergy the diocese found to have been "credibly accused" of child sexual abuse since the diocese's creation in 1972. Of these clergy members, two worked in the 43rd Prosecutorial District in the 1970s and 1980s.

According to the diocese, Adelbert "Del" Holmes was "credibly accused" of committing child molestation against three minors in Murphy, North Carolina, in 1976 while he was a clergy member.

The Catholic church became aware of the allegations against Holmes in 1988. Holmes was removed from the ministry in 1991. He died in 2013. Holmes was a clergy member at the St. William Catholic Church in Murphy and the Immaculate Conception Catholic Mission in Hayesville. There is no recorded documentation that the Catholic church notified local law enforcement nor the District Attorney's Office of these allegations when the church was notified in 1988.

Unfortunately, the lack of notification by the Catholic church to law enforcement authorities during that time period is not surprising. Holmes died in 2013, and his death prevents the District Attorney's Office from being able to prosecute him for

crimes he is alleged to have committed in 1976.

Clergy member Al Behm was "credibly accused" of child sexual offenses in Kentucky during the 1970s. Behm went on to serve as the first campus minister at Western Carolina University in the 1980s. According to the diocese, Behm has not been accused of committing crimes while at Western Carolina. Behm left the ministry in 1993.

There is not a statute of limitations for felonies in North Carolina. If you have been a victim of child sexual abuse, wish to make a report, and explore the possibility of prosecution, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

Last year, the District Attorney's Office successfully prosecuted a former Episcopal priest for crimes he committed on children in Waynesville over 20 years ago.

"If you have been a victim of child sexual abuse, we are committed to seeking justice for you. North Carolina does not have a statute of limitations on these atrocious crimes which means we are able to prosecute individuals when there is probable cause even decades after the crime."

— District Attorney
Ashley Hornsby Welch

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...POLICE & FIRE continued from page 19

Dec. 22

• At 1:58 p.m., officers received a report of a B&E felony, damage to real property and larceny at a resident on Big Bearpen Road where \$600 in household goods were taken and \$3,000 damage was done to two sets of French doors.

Dec. 23

• At 10:23 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at US 64 west and Holt Road.

Dec. 27

• At 9:33 a.m., officers received a report of larceny of \$500 of firewood from Mitchell's Lodge.

• At 1 p.m., officers received a report of trespassing and littering at a residence on Big Bearpen Road.

Dec. 29

• At 3 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at US 64 east and Little Bearpen Road.

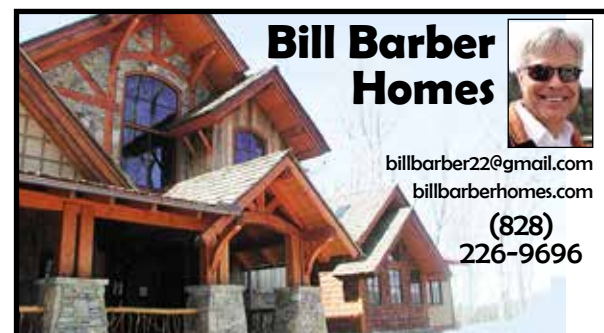
• At 3 a.m., David Matthew Covington, 42, of Marietta, GA, was arrested for exceeding a safe speed and

driving under the influence at US 64 east and Sherwood Forest Road. He was issued a \$500 secured bond. His trial date is Jan. 29.

Dec. 31

• At 11:09 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

• See POLICE & FIRE page 22



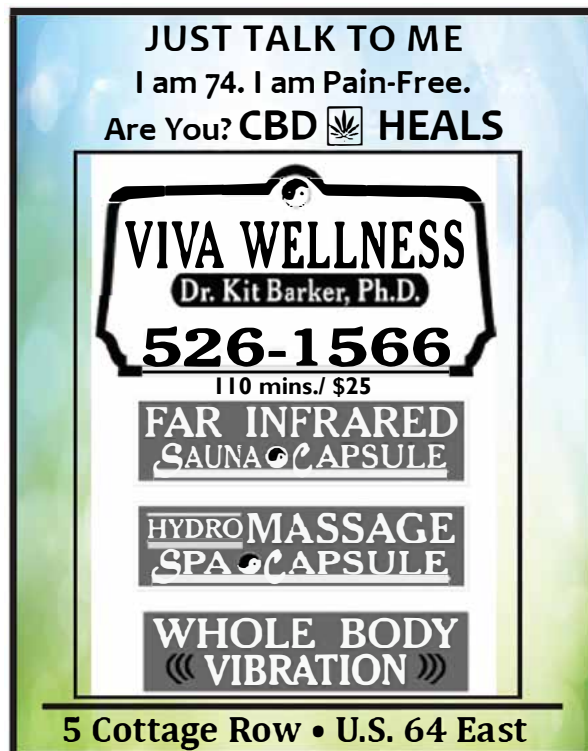
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FULL-TIME TEMPORARY MARKETING POSITION. OEI is seeking a marketing professional and graphic designer experienced in page layout and ad creation for both print and digital to fill a six-month position between approximately March 1 and September 31, 2020. At least two years of professional layout and design required. This position designs billboards, newspaper and magazine ads, digital ads and more for a high-end luxury brand. Some experience in website updating—or ability to learn—required (content management, not coding). Must have high integrity, sense of humor, consistently positive nature, interpersonal skills and work well as part of a close team. Position is 100% onsite in Highlands, NC, no exceptions. There is a possibility that this position could become permanent. Please provide cover letter, resume and samples. References will be required.

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...POLICE & FIRE continued from page 20

Jan. 1

• At 1:28 p.m., officers received a report of someone in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at the PAC Center.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Dec. 10.

Dec. 10

• At 7:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Memorial Drive.

Dec. 12

• At 12:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on E. Wingina Place.

• At 1:21 p.m., the dept. was

first-responders to a location on Pierson Drive.

Dec. 15

• At 12:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

Dec. 16

• At 5:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

Dec. 18

• At 6:44 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Painted Turtle Lane.

Dec. 20

• At 5:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a loca-

tion on Main Street.

• At 6:17 p.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Dixon Drive.

• At 6:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Centennial Lane.

Dec. 21

• At 9:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a LP gas leak at a location on Church Street.

• At 3:52 p.m., the dept. helped locate a missing hiker along Buck Creed Road who was injured. He refused medical treatment.

Dec. 24

• At 8:38 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Ashwood Circle.

Dec. 25

• At 2:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a medical alarm call at a residence on Shortoff Road.

• At 5:01 p.m., the dept. was called to help search for someone in the Shortoff Road area, but the call was cancelled.

• At 6:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Biscuit Rock Road.

Dec. 26

• At 5:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on

N. 4th Street.

Dec. 28

• At 12:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm and was first-responders to a residence on Upper Lake Road.

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