

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, March 5, 2020

PRIMARY 2020 Q & A: PART 8

And the Super Tuesday winners are...

By Brittney Lofthouse

Just shy of 10,000 voters in Macon County went to the polls to cast their ballots in the Primary Election. Only 37 percent of the

county's 25,702 registered voters participated in the election.

According to MC Board of Elections Deputy Director Gary Tallent, that's pretty good for Ma-

con County.

"In 2016 about the same number of voters turned out and the state reported that Macon

• See **PRIMARY 2020** page 17

Town Board agenda was varied

Last Thursday's Town Board meeting touched on a number of topics – Dogwood Trust Foundation, Highlands Motoring Festival request, Coalition for non-native invasive plants request, an update from the Greenway Trail committee, the request to schedule public hearings for UDO amendments, the Comprehensive Plan RFP, and the hiring of the construction manager for the new fire department.

First up was Sam Lupas with the Dogwood Trust Foundation, previously on the HC Hospital Board, about his new role at Dogwood as well as an update about its mission.

Prior to his Dogwood role, Lupas helped navigate the sale of Mission to Hospital Corporation of America (HCA). Now he is on Dogwood's 14-member

• See **TOWN BOARD** page 8



From left are Highlands AIG students Nicole Taylor and Tate Wilson working the hex-robot maze station during STEM Night and the Science Fair last Thursday at Highlands School.

Students present scientific findings at STEM Night & Science Fair

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Highlands School was a gathering of scientific-student minds on Thursday for Highlands School's STEM Night and Science Fair.

STEM Night entailed activity

stations throughout the old gym focused on scientific principles used in the book Mouse House Tales, presented by students from Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) classes. Each page of the story was the focus of a sci-

• See **STEM** page 16

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SINCE THE HCA/MISSION MERGER: PART 4

Lack of services and transport issues are on the minds of citizens

By Brittney Lofthouse and Kim Lewicki

Healthcare in Macon County has experienced significant changes over the last several years.

First the surgical unit at HC Hospital was closed which meant patients had to go to either Angel Medical Center in Franklin, Harris Regional in Sylva, or Mission in Asheville for surgical procedures.

Then Angel Medical Center's Labor and Delivery Unit (L&D) closed. Now, surgical options at Angel have allegedly been decreased, too, which means patients are sent to Mission or can choose to go to Harris Regional.

Though there are two hospitals in Macon County, since they no longer offer services of the past – both when they were part of Mission and now HCA – the need for patients to travel out of Macon County for healthcare has

continued to grow – and that often means a ride in an ambulance.

Shortly after L&D closed in Franklin, Mission Health Systems sold out to the for-profit company, HCA Healthcare. With that transition, came additional changes to rural healthcare – complaints Gibbins Advisors, the independent monitoring firm hired to oversee the transition, heard at town meetings recently held across the region.

During Gibbins' meeting in Franklin, residents shared their concerns over the loss of specialized care at the Franklin and Highlands hospitals as part of the acquisition.

Surgical services were a specific topic of conversation as local residents shared horror stories of simple procedures such as an appendectomy not being able to

• See **HCA** page 9

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Preparing for upcoming retreat

The annual town budget retreat is today, at Coleman Hall of First Presbyterian Church. As always, I want to thank the church for sharing with the town this great meeting facility. The retreat will begin at 9 am. It will run through mid-afternoon.

The first part of the retreat will be reports from the Town Manager and department heads. These presentations will identify the budget needs and priorities of each department.

As usual, the big budget items will come from the public works department, which includes water and sewer, the electric, road and sanitation departments. A preview of needs in this area suggests significant spending.

For instance, a garbage truck will need to be replaced. The constant operation of these vehicles impacts their serviceability. A garbage truck can cost around \$200,000. We will also be addressing several upgrades and maintenance items in the water department, including replacing old water lines. I anticipate



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

pate a substantial list of paving projects from our Public Works Director and engineer, Lamar Nix. Paving roads should be a top priority for this upcoming budget.

In the parks and recreation area, I don't see any large, immediate items. Nevertheless, I think it is time to initiate plans to replace the old Houston House on Foreman Road. It currently serves as an after-school center for children.

I don't foresee major expenditures in the Police Department except for one. The state is encouraging all law enforcement agencies to convert to the Viper radio system which is currently used by the state patrol. This system provides better coverage and connects all agencies under one seamless system. Our police department needs this upgrade.

We will also be looking at Fire Department Capital needs. This review will be in concert with the new fire station that is under design.

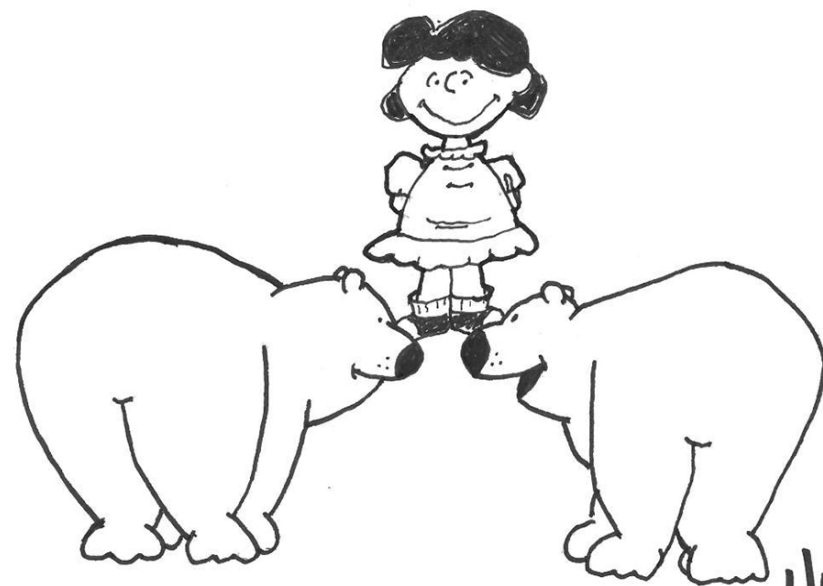
After the staff and commissioners finish their box lunches, we will hear two reports from local groups. At around 1pm, Kaye McHan of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce will provide an update of chamber plans and activities. I believe it is important to work with the chamber in addressing community issues such as downtown aesthetics and appearance.

At about 1:30pm, Cindy Trevathan of the Performing Arts Center will give the board an update on the building of the new theater venue that will house both PAC and Playhouse events. The arts have a tremendous impact on the economic vitality of a community.

After these two presentations, the Town Board will go into closed session to consult with our attorney concerning the contract with WideOpen Networks to lease dark fiber and operate board band services from the town's new fiber optic system. I anticipate the board coming out of closed session to consider approval of the contract. Upon the signing of the contract, WideOpen will setup operations of the network as the fiber optic network nears completion sometime in May or June.

FYI: A town staff representative attended a county health and emergency response meeting concerning implementation plans if a corona virus outbreak occurs.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Oh good grief."

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Hic

• OBITUARY •

Alice Marie Gadilhe

Alice Marie Gadilhe, 92, of Oxford Georgia formerly of Highlands, NC passed away Thursday, February 27, 2020. Alice was born March 10, 1927 in Anniston, Alabama to the late Albert Joseph Gadilhe and Alice Marie Jenkins Gadilhe. She graduated from Springhill College and worked as an accountant for Anesthesia Services in Mobile, Alabama for 30 years. She had a passion for woodworking, was a great cook, enjoyed traveling, and loved her 7 nieces and her pets. Alice was a member of the Highlands Presbyterian Church and attended an hour early every Sunday when she was available to attend.

• See OBITUARY page 5

• WEATHER •

Thu, 5-Mar	Fri, 6-Mar	Sat, 7-Mar	Sun, 8-Mar
44°F 33°F	41°F 24°F	51°F 24°F	56°F 29°F
Periods of rain	Mostly sunny and cold	Sunny	Partly sunny
RealFeel® High: 44° Low: 37°	RealFeel® High: 35° Low: 20°	RealFeel® High: 57° Low: 19°	RealFeel® High: 60° Low: 27°

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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.

A photograph of two young girls and a dog walking away on a dirt path through a forest. The girl on the left is wearing a bright blue dress, and the girl on the right is wearing a blue and white floral dress. A large, light brown dog is walking ahead of them on the left side of the path. The path is surrounded by dense green foliage and trees.

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...OBITUARIES from page 2

Alice is survived by her Sister-in-law, Nell Gadilhe; 7 nieces, Genie Blough, Renee Childers, Michelle Sims, Cherie McElwrath, Alisa Gadilhe-Pfloege, Nanette Watson and Barbara Fowler. In addition to her parents, Alice is preceded in death by her two brothers, Brooks Gadilhe and Gene Gadilhe and his wife, Elizabeth; and best friends, Fern and Fred Reuter.

A funeral service was held at the Highlands Presbyterian Church with the Dr. Curtis Fussell and the Rev. Emily Wilmarth officiated. Burial will follow at the Highlands Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to the Highlands Presbyterian Church 471 Main St. Highlands, NC 28741.

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



Adell Jones

Adell Jones, beloved resident of Highlands, NC, for the past 30 years, died February 13, 2020, at Care Partners hospice in Asheville after a brave year-long battle against cancer. Ms. Jones was born on March 27, 1947, in Rome, Georgia and was 72 years old. Raised in Dallas, Georgia, she is survived by her long-time companion, Brian L. Buckley, of Highlands, a sister, Jean Jones, and a niece, Dr. Wendy B. Cates, both of Dallas. She was predeceased by her father, Marvin F. "Red" Jones, her mother, Lawanna Jones, and twin brothers who passed away shortly after birth.

Adell graduated from Dallas High School and then from Tift College where she double-majored in Music and English. She then used her skills to teach music and English for 14 years at Paulding County High School.

Adell later relocated to Highlands, North Carolina. She played the organ and was the choir director at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands for 11 years. A fitness buff, she also owned and operated a highly successful personal fitness business, Good Bodies. She also loved the auction business and kept involved in that both in Highlands and throughout the Southeast over many years.

Adell's father owned and operated car dealerships and this inspired in her a lifetime enthusiasm for sports cars. He eventually sold his last business to Charles Hardy, who then established Hardy Chevrolet.

At home, Adell was an avid reader and a steady patron of the local arts and theater community.

Always ready with an encouraging word to her friends and acquaintances, Adell was quiet, but steady; reserved,



but strong of character; patient, but no push-over; and content in life, with an inner strength of belief in God and service to community.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up." From 1 Thessalonians, this was her favorite advice.

Over time, she came to know almost everyone in Highlands and was loved in return. Her life will be celebrated in a memorial service to be held on Saturday, March 7, at 2:00 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands. Reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands.

Richard Douglas Miller

Richard Douglas Miller, 86 of Scaly Mountain passed away Friday, February 28, 2020.

Richard was the son of the late Jessie and Minnie Ethel Carpenter Miller. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Jeanette McConnell; a sister, Ruby Vinson; two brothers, Edwin Miller and Everette Miller and a granddaughter, Patricia Ann Miller.



•See OBITUARIES page 7



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Monday: No Movies

Tue, Wed & Thurs: 1, 4 & 7 p.m.

•WORD MATTER•

Welcome to the Sausage Factory

I write this knowing there likely won't be much clarity on the part of contesting Democrats until all the results are in from the Super Tuesday primaries on March 3rd. I'd like to share a few thoughts on this absolutely ridiculous process the two major parties gleefully engage in every four years. First, though, some numbers.

In 2016, seventeen Republican candidates, including Donald Trump, entered the contest for their party's nomination. Six Democrats, including ultimate nominee Hillary Clinton, also got into the race.

It would be easy to forget that, in addition to the candidates of the major parties, fully 24 others, including Libertarian Gary Johnson and Green Party candidate Jill Stein, muddled things up by tapping into relatively small but passionate constituencies on the right and left fringes of the major parties.

For 2020, depending on when you counted, up to thirty-seven different candidates entered the race to win the Democratic nomination for President. Six different candidates flirted with challenging incumbent Donald Trump at one time or

another, but the Republican Party, which Trump has remade in his own image, put a stop to any such nonsense.

There are fifty states in our great nation. That means fifty different paths for a candidate to obtain what's called ballot access. The reason only the major parties, plus a couple of other well-organized minor parties, qualify for access to ballots in all fifty states has to do with a candidate's financial means and campaign organization. Running for president is expensive and complicated. We're told that's why parties exist. So-called "third party" candidates, such as the Reform Party's H. Ross Perot in 1996, and the Green Party's Ralph Nader in 2000, influenced popular vote outcomes in both elections but had little, if any influence on electoral vote outcomes. They do, however, complicate



Bud Katz

the conversation for voters and take money out of the system for major candidates.

Election season, every four years, begins virtually the day after the previous presidential election. So-called "exploratory committees" are formed to assess a wannabe candidate's market appeal. Fund raising begins. Public appearances occur, in early, overly influential locales, such as Iowa and New Hampshire

and South Carolina, so candidates and parties can figure out who has a chance and who doesn't. Policy ideas are tested, polled, considered and discarded.

And then there's the money.

In 2016, almost \$2.4 BILLION was spent on just the presidential election. Another \$4.1 BILLION was spent on congressional elections, including about a third of the Senate. Elections are very big business in the United States.

And then there's the Electoral College, which, since 1824, has five times produced a presidency in which the popular vote-winning candidate actually lost the election. The last two of those instances were in 2000, when George W. Bush won the electoral vote (contested in Florida), and in 2016, when Donald Trump won the electoral vote (uncontested). Both lost the popular vote. There's an ongoing debate, mostly along party lines, regarding the appropriateness of a candidate prevailing by

winning the electoral vote but not the popular vote. This, of course, could be resolved by either eliminating the electoral college, or requiring a candidate to win BOTH the electoral college and popular votes, but don't expect action on either of those sensible notions. It's politics.

The primary election process during a presidential election year is one of the ugliest facets of how we elect our presidents in the U.S.A. Currently, between February 3rd and June 7th, every state plus a handful of territories will hold either a primary or a caucus to decide who, among participating candidates on the respective ballot, gets how many of that state's or territory's delegates at the parties conventions in Milwaukee and Charlotte later this year. Trust me on this: there will be no contested convention for the Republicans in Charlotte, unless, that is, the President does something to merit his party's apocalypse. With Mr. Trump, one never knows. Because of the makeup of the Democratic field, it's entirely possible a nominee will not emerge through the primary/caucus process. I have no predictions for you on this; these, after all, are Democrats, right? Who knows who'll survive this mind-numbing process?

Looking down the road, we will definitely have an election this coming November 3rd. We likely will have a President-elect on November 4th, and, we'll have an inauguration on January 20, 2021.

The, my bleary-eyed fellow voters, we'll start the whole ridiculous cycle all over again. Yay!

•HS SPORTS•

with Kedra McCall

Lady Highlanders finish awesome season

Lady Highlander's basketball advanced all the way to the third round of state playoffs.

In the second round they faced Langtree Charter, finishing on top with an 83-61 win. They then planned to travel to Allegheny High School to play the number 2 seed.

After the weather postponed the game, they traveled on Monday, March 2nd. After a long, tough battle they fell short by 4 points.

Lady Highlander's finished their season as both regular season conference champs and conference tournament champs, as well as contenders in the Sweet Sixteen.

Boys high school golf has started practicing for their season. High school and middle school girls soccer have also begun their practices for their season and prepare for their first games.





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QTR: Quality Time Remaining

Three years ago, clients and friends introduced me to their acronym: QTR which stands for "Quality Time Remaining." This acronym becomes increasingly important as the years go on here on The Plateau.

Each year, I meet dear clients who become friends. They are very conscious of how they want to spend their QTR with family, friends and activities. It is our job as real estate brokers to help newcomers decide if this area is the best place for them to spend their QTR. Here are the reasons that convince many folks to make this their home:

1. Weather. The cool summers and moderate winters allow us to enjoy the outdoors twelve months a year;
2. Natural Beauty. The lush landscape and dramatic views continue to marvel us on a daily basis.
3. Social Network. The diverse and interesting backgrounds of the people attracted to this area are truly amazing.
4. Cultural Amenities. For an area so sparsely populated on a year-round ba-



Jody Lovell
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sis, the lively and vibrant opportunities for cultural enjoyment are enormous.

5. Family and Friends. Moving from Atlanta, for example, the quick two-hour commute allows us to stay connected to our children, grandchildren and old friends while providing us an opportunity to meet new friends from all over the world.

6. Medical Facilities. For a community this size, we are fortunate to have a hospital with excellent doctors and emergency care facilities.

7. Air and Water Quality. Water is the new "gold" with many parts of the country continually in drought. The pristine mountain water with an average of 90 inches of rain per year should never be taken for granted. The EPA evaluates areas by the Air Quality Index (AQI). This index is on a scale of 500-0 with 0 being the best air quality. This area is rated 39 which is in the very top range of good air quality.

8. Safety and Crime. When the most common incident in the police reports is "barking dog reported," you know that you are living in one of the safest spots in this

crazy world.

9. Traffic. Driving behind a slow driver in the season is annoying, but getting "stuck" in traffic and wasting years of your life just does not happen here.

10. Investors like YOU. The commitment of homeowners to support the community with its five-star restaurants, the art scene and the fabulous shops that we have supports the economy and vibrancy of this bucolic paradise.

May we all grow old together while enjoying our QTR in one of the most special places on Earth.

• Jody and Wood Lovell, owners of Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, are celebrating their twentieth year anniversary as a market leader on the Plateau. Their team of 30 brokers are leading the pack as the top producers in Highlands for the last six years as well as 2020 per information from the Highlands/Cashiers Multiple Listing Service. With offices at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64 and at the gate of Cullasaja Club, their experienced and full-time brokers are ready to serve all of your real estate needs. Call them at (828) 526-4104.

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...OBITUARIES continued from page 5

Richard was a lifelong resident of Scaly Mountain and was a member of Scaly Mountain Church of God, VFW Post # 7339 and the Scaly Mountain Community Association. Richard was a Sgt. E-5 in the Army and served in the National Guard. He proudly served his country in both the Korean Conflict and Desert Storm. Richard was an electrician for Wilson Electric.

He is survived by his children, Charles Dale Miller (Lisa), Donald Eugene "Blue" Miller (Tammy), Teresa Arlene Miller Holbrooks, all of Scaly Mountain and Sheila Gail Miller Kinsey (Deed) of Cashiers. In addition to his children, he is survived by one sister, Elizabeth McConnell of Scaly Mountain; six grandchildren, James Miller, Steven Miller, Mary Beth Burrell, Jessica Brooks, Brandon Kinsey and Cassandra Connor; twelve great grandchildren; two great-

great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 11:00 am at Scaly Mountain Church of God. Rev. Don Bates and Rev. Steven Miller will officiate. Mr. Miller will lie in state one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in Scaly Mountain Methodist Church cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 pm Wednesday, March 4th at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Scaly Mountain Church of God, 278 Buck Knob Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com

• See OBITUARIES page 8

Pat and Bee Gleeson
welcome

Chris Duffy

to

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Patrick Gleeson, Broker-In-Charge

The Plateau's Trusted Voice

...OBITUARIES continued from page 7

David Warren Warth

Mr. David Warren Warth, 49, passed away Saturday, February 29, 2020 in Highlands, NC. David was born April 2, 1970 in Michigan. David owned and operated Warth Construction in Highlands. He loved to work seven days a week; he loved car racing, working on cars, and was an avid car collector. He loved playing golf and fishing on Lake Burton, GA. He always loved making jokes and laughing up until the very end of his life.

Survivors include his wife, Danielle Warth of the home; a niece, Molly Mendez; and his father and mother-in-law, James "Jake" and Donna Jacobson of



Scaly Mountain, NC.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 11 a.m. at the Highlands First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Randy Lucas and Rev. Paul Christy officiating. The family will receive friends following the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers the family ask the all memorial donations go towards any Republican Party in your local town.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Warth family.

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...TOWN BOARD from page 1

board that is preparing to oversee the granting of the \$1.5 billion the foundation will soon have for agencies in the 18-county area of Western Carolina as well as the Cherokee Nation.

As with the Highlands Health Foundation, which also distributes money to programs and agencies concerned with social deterrents of health, Dogwood's criteria for funding involves access to health care, education, food insecurities and more.

Wrapping up his discussion, he suggested the community support HCA "because it is the largest health provider in North Carolina now."

He said he was aware of the press HCA was getting but suggested it inherited a lot of problems when it acquired Mission and requested patience from citizens.

Highlands Motoring Festival

Steve Ham with the Highlands Motoring Festival (HMF) requested a two-day event Saturday and Sunday, June 13-14, in K-H Founders Park. For the

Saturday event, Fifth Street will be used as it was last year. It would be closed with barricades at Carolina Way and Oak Street 6am to 4pm on June 13

For the past three years, HMF has had a second less formal car show at various places in town – Main Street and also in Wright Square. This year, the second show will be in the park only on Sunday, 7am to 2pm.

Ham said having an extra day will help bolster the show in case there is inclement weather like last year.

This year the Bank of America isn't allowing the motoring festival to use the parking lot which accounted for 33 of the 123 car spots. So due to both increased interest and a smaller show field, HMF is now an invitational show with the goal of increasing quality with fewer cars, said Ham.

Over the past years 13 years, HMF has donated money to area nonprofits. In 2018 it was \$40,000 and in 2019 it was \$43,000 – despite five inches of rain.

Recipients this year will be the same as last year – R.E.A.C.H., the MC Community Care Clinic and the Literacy Council of Highlands. Expected are 3,500 specta-

tors which Ham said would positively impact the local economy.

The Town Board granted the requests.

Coalition for Non-Native Invasive Plants

Representatives from the coalition requested \$2,000 to match a grant from the Laurel Garden Club. The money will be used to continue its 3-year eradication plan of Japanese Knotweed growing in the town's rights-of-way.

Commissioner agreed to match the grant for \$2,000.

Greenway Trail Committee

Sonya Carpenter of the Greenway Trail Committee updated the board on the work being done on the trail on Oak Street across from the First Baptist Church. The trail was started last year to entice people to enter the Greenway at that spot rather than walking to the gazebo along Oak Street that doesn't have a sidewalk.

Carpenter said the entrance to the new trail spur will include numerous native plants, a walkway and signage.

Planning Issues

Michael Mathis, assistant planning director, requested three amendments to the UDO be scheduled for a public hearing at the March 19 Town Board meeting – subdivision street paving; internally illuminated signs; and citation issuance.

In the past months, commissioner suggested requiring street paving in private subdivision for any grade over 5%. However, they recently changed their minds saying all streets be paved with a hard surface regardless of grade. Commissioners agreed that this would eliminate requests from homeowners to later grade and fix their streets when rain events erode them away onto adjoining property and public streets.

Except for restaurant message boards and real estate listings in commercial windows, the Planning Board has recommended that the UDO be amended to disallow internally illuminated signs in the future. As the ordinance is now written, such signage is allowed.

In the past staff could only
• See TOWN BOARD page 16



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The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

...HCA continued from page 1

be performed in Macon County due to the lack of a full-time surgeon at AMC – which is where Highlands and Cashiers patients were typically sent. This means patients must wait hours and travel the long distance to Mission in Asheville. Citizens claim wait time and travel delays often caused emergencies such as burst appendix and other severe complications.

Claims regarding reduced surgical staff at Angel are being investigated by HCA's Healthcare Public and Media Relations Director Nancy Lindell but comment wasn't available by press time.

Transports can initiate at a person's residence when a 9-1-1 call is made, or from the site of accidents – motor vehicle and others.

According to MC Emergency Services Director Warren Cabe, patients are transported to the closest most appropriate facility, which means the transport may be directly to Highlands, Franklin, or Asheville depending on the circumstances.

"This means many times we bypass several smaller hospitals to get someone to a specialty center," said Todd Doster with Macon EMS.

For cases such as the appendectomy, which a resident discussed during the Gibbins' community meetings, EMS transported to Mission rather than Angel, because there wasn't a surgeon available in Franklin. So, though Mission may now be the best option, it's because of unavailable services.

Transporting patients to and from healthcare facilities in Macon County and also to Asheville and Sylva is the responsibility of the Macon County Emergency Services. It tracks ambulance services of the county's three ambulance bases in Franklin, Highlands and Nantahala and to which hospital patients are transported.

Cabe said those "double runs" – first to Highlands, then either Franklin or Asheville or Sylva – are included in the receiving facility numbers which are tracked annually.

"It would be two different runs," he said. "One to the original facility (Angel or Highlands-Cashiers) and one to the next level of facility out-of-town.

In 2016, Macon County EMS transported 2,844 patients to Angel Medical Center. For the same year, Macon EMS transported 25 patients to Harris Regional Hospital, 266 to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and 508 to Mission Hospital campuses.

In 2017, Macon County EMS transported 2,757 patients to Angel Medical Center. 48 patients to Harris Regional Hos-

pital, 279 to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and 313 to Mission Hospital campuses.

In 2018, Macon County EMS transported 2,812 patients to Angel Medical Center. 87 patients to Harris Regional Hospital, 211 to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and 320 to Mission Hospital campuses.

In 2019, Macon County EMS transported 2,749 patients to Angel Medical Center. 151 patients to Harris Regional Hospital, 251 to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and 369 to Mission Hospital campuses.

Looking at where patients were transferred, the numbers for Angel Medical Center, Highlands-Cashiers, and Mission stay fairly consistent, with an obvious increase to Harris Regional beginning in 2017, which coincides with the closing of Labor and Delivery in Franklin.

A close look at the numbers, however, shows that the point patients are sent to various hospitals has shifted over the years.

In 2016, 485 of patients transported to Mission were interfacility transports while just 23 patients were recorded as "other" meaning from the scene of an accident or other emergency response.

In 2017, 285 patients to Mission were interfacility and 28 were "other."

In 2018, those numbers were 282 and 38, respectively.

In 2019, the year HCA bought Mission, the interfacility transfers to Mission were 328 while 41 were listed as "other."

Based on the numbers recorded by MC Emergency Services, more patients are being taken directly to Mission Hospital now compared to a few years ago.

Despite the shift in numbers, with double the number of patients being taken directly to Mission in 2019 compared to 2016, Cabe said over the years his department has made the necessary changes to keep up with the case load.

"We increased our staffing from four, 24-hour staffed ambulances and one, 12-hour staffed ambulance to five, 24-hour staffed ambulances in 2014. We also initiated an Integrated Healthcare model in 2014-2015 with our Community Paramedic program to address high utilizers of the system and preventative care to decrease the workload on our transport trucks," said Cabe. "This program usually is available Monday through Friday.

"In 2016 we implemented a Paramedic Supervisor Program where an EMS Supervisor in a fully paramedic-level equipped SUV is available to respond 24 hours a day to assist the transport trucks and manage

some patient calls, instead of using a transport truck. We also have generated a sixth transport truck with either EMS office staff called in part-time, EMS staff, the Community Medic, Fire Department members, or the career Fire Services crew of which two are Paramedics.

In addition, Cabe said they also coordinate inter-facility transfers with Mission Hospital Regional Transport Services (ambulances) and Glenville-Cashiers EMS. Each transport is classified based on its urgency and assigned to the most appropriate transport agency.

"We also utilize air transportation when necessary including the Mission helicopter fleet and other air ambulances," he said.

Transporting to, from and across Macon County, Jackson County and Buncombe County – a huge geographical area, is done with just 10 ambulances, which explains the wait-time patients are experiencing.

Cabe said MC EMS has five front-line ambulances (Paramedic level), one EMS Supervisor SUV (Paramedic level), one Community Medic SUV (Paramedic Level) and

• See HCA page 15



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Forms for HS Kindergarten Registration are due March 12

Highlands School Kindergarten Registration for the 2020-2021 is on March 11. Children who reach the age of 5 on or before August 31, 2020 are eligible for admission into the Class of 2033. For parents, registration begins at 10 a.m. in the school's media center. To make the transition from preschool to Kindergarten as fun and positive as possible, we offer new students a taste of great things to come by providing transportation to and from Highlands School for registration. At approximately 10:30am Highlands' school bus driver, Nathan Smathers, will pick up eligible students from Highlands United Methodist Church and the Highlands Community Child Development Center aboard one of our activity buses, and bring them to school to meet their parents. Students not enrolled in a day care center may meet before 10:30 am at the Highlands Community Child Development Center, Inc. located at 89 Church Street, Highlands, to catch the bus. Riding the "school bus" is an exciting experience for the students. Please encourage your child to ride to school on the bus that day.

The bus will be returning students to the day care centers.

PTO will provide complimentary lunch for all students and their parents in the school cafeteria as part of Kindergarten registration.

Registration packets can be picked up at Highlands School or at Highlands Community Child Development Center. All forms in the registration packet (except the Health Assessment Transmittal Form), will need to be completed and returned on March 12th. The Health Assessment Transmittal Form should be completed and turned in to the school by August 1, 2020.

In addition to the registration documents, the following items should be presented at registration on March 11th for photocopying:

1. Certificate of Immunizations (School must have within 30 days from the start of school). Students without a complete Certificate of Immunizations presented within 30 days from the start of school will be placed on administrative suspension until in compliance.

2. Certified Birth Certificate (must present original, certified birth certificate. No copies or "uncertified" birth certificates will be accepted.

3. Proof of Residency.

4. If you are not the biological parent of the child enrolling, and/or there is a custody agreement in place, please provide any legal documents you have giving you authority to enroll the child (i.e., custody papers, name change documentation, adoption papers or educational domicile affidavits).

The faculty and staff look forward to meeting you and your child. Please feel free to call us at 526-2147 should you have any questions.

Kindergarten Registration Itinerary Wed., March 11

10-10-10: Parents arrive, turn in registration documents, and meet in Media Center

10-10-10:50: Overview and Orientation

1. Brian Jetter, Principal—School Information
2. Sarah Holbrooks, Assistant Principal—School Information
3. Nicole Lui, Guidance Counselor
4. Terry Stamey, Media Specialist—Library & Computers
5. Mary Tyson, School Nurse—Health Information
6. Annette Jenkins, Administrative Assistant—Child Nutrition
7. Andrea Smith, PTO President—PTO information

10:30-10:50: Buses Pick up Students at Pre-Ks

10:50-10:55: Parents meet up with children

10:55-11:15: Parents and children eat lunch

11:15-11:35: Parents and children tour school

11:35-11:40: Children to buses and Parents to Media Center

11:40-12:00: Complete registration forms and pick up goodies

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

• New Guided Botanical Garden Tours: A Garden in Every Season. 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Meet at the Highlands Nature Center Free, All ages welcome.

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

Mondays

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

Mon.-Wed.

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

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Mon. & Fri.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

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

Tuesdays

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

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

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

Third Tuesday

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

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

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

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

First Wednesdays

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

3rd Wednesdays

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

Wed. & Fri.

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

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays

• 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

• American Legion Post 370 meets in the 9:09 Chapel of the First Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in Highlands for Breakfast at 9AM followed by the meeting at 10AM.

• 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.

Fridays

• Knee High Naturalists at the Nature Center 10a - 11a. Free, children of all abilities welcome.

Fri., March 6

• The High Mountain Squares will host its "Black and White Dance," Friday night at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin, NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Mr Richard Smith from Gainesville, GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call: 828-787-2324, 828-332-0001, 706-746-5426, 727-599-1440.

Sat., March 7

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile rambling hike, elevation change 500 ft., around Wallace Branch, up the Bartram Trail, crossing a stream to a lovely trail through the pines, returning on a Forest Service Road. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 10 a.m. Drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Irene Brewi, 772-263-3478, for reservations.

Sun., March 8

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 2-mile hike, elevation change 400 ft., on White-side Mountain Loop between Highlands and Cashiers with spectacular views of the Chattooga River Valley

• See EVENTS page 14

• REFLECTIONS FROM LORD BANJO •

Ask Lord Banjo

For all my fans who've been submitting questions, here are the answers. I hope you enjoy 'em.

Q: Why is it you're black, but real Great Pyrenees are white?

A: First, I am a real GP; it's just that I'm mixed with other breeds. My DNA results showed a few Golden Retrievers and one Australian Shepherd along with my GP Great-Grandfather. I think I got my black color from the Aussie. Please note that I may be black with a bit of white, but I am a handsome boy!

Q: Do you have a girlfriend?

A: No, I wish I did. There's one beauty in my neighborhood who looks like Tinker, my adopted older sister. Her name is Bella, and she's stunning. She's beginning to go grey, just like I am, and

I think we'd make a handsome couple.

Q: I'd like to send you some tennis balls; what color would you like?

A: Oh; that is very sweet of you, but I don't care for tennis balls or any other kind of ball. They're just not my thing. I have two favorite colors, in case you want to send me a bandana:

red and purple. Funny, those are Mum's favorites too.

Q: Do the Royal Parents ever shave you in the summer?

A: They tried that once and learned their lesson. It seems I have really thin hair near my tail,



The Royal Pooch
Lord Banjo

and it takes forever for it to fill in after I'm shaved. I had an embarrassing bald spot for months, and I made Mum promise never to shave me again.

Q: Why do you let the cat sleep on your beds? Shouldn't she sleep on hers—not yours?

A: Why not let her sleep on my big beds? At last count, I had five, and I can only sleep on one at a time. Plus she looks awfully darned cute curled up in the middle of them. She has one official bed on the couch, and she sleeps in it every once in a while. You can also find

her asleep in one of the baskets in the living room or in Mum's file drawer or on Mum and Dad's bed.

Q: What's on your bucket list?

A: A trip to France is still #1 on my list, but I'm not sure I'll ever make it. Next would be a month or two anyplace where it snows every day.

Q: Are you going to be on a diet for life?

A: Probably. Unfortunately for me, Mum read that even though we GPs are big dogs, we don't need lots of food. And, I have to admit, I have more spring in my step when I keep my weight down.

Q: What's the last really bad thing you did?

A: First, I'm good almost all of the time, but like two-legged kids, I sometimes get in trouble.

The last bad thing? I gobbled half a sub sandwich. Mum and Dad were watching a football game on TV, and Mum put her plate on the table by her chair and walked off. When I realized there was a sub sandwich in easy reach, I just had to have some of it. I might have gotten all of it if Mum hadn't walked back in.

Look for my next column, Ask Lord Banjo #2, for more fun facts about me and a few about my feline sister Puddin'. Meanwhile, Happy Tails to You!

• Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his Mum, Kathy Manos Penn. Find more stories in his book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," available on Amazon and locally at Highland Mountain Paws. To contact him, please email inkpenn119@gmail.com.



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An Open Letter to Our Community

Over the past few weeks, we have heard heartfelt concerns from members of our community and our own team about the present and future of Mission Health and its transition to HCA Healthcare.

I want to assure you that our commitment to our patients across western North Carolina remains steadfast and at the forefront of all we do.

Mission Health and HCA Healthcare understand the enormous trust placed in us to serve this community through the provision of excellent healthcare, and we take our responsibility very seriously. We've listened to the passionate feedback shared by our team members and the community we serve, and we welcome this opportunity to share with you some important reflections on the first year of our new partnership and to address the comments we have heard.

We knew this transition would be challenging at times and, as with any healthcare system acquisition, change would be inevitable. It's helpful to remember that **Mission Health selected HCA Healthcare as a partner because it offered the financial stability to help preserve and expand the high-quality healthcare our friends and families have come to expect from Mission Health.** The promises we agreed to at the time of the sale were critical to this decision, and our mutual commitment to them is unwavering.

This past year has been one of intensive learning from each other as we have worked collaboratively through many changes and challenges. We know we can create more opportunities to hear from our community and our teams while keeping these important stakeholders more informed about what we are doing and why. Improving our communication with our communities and our team members is critical to our ongoing success.

In that spirit, I'd like to share with you more details about some of what we've experienced at Mission Health since last February:

- With our more favorable patient financial assistance policies, we provided approximately \$252 million in charity care, uninsured discounts and other financial assistance in our first full year of operation. This represents approximately \$100 million more under the new HCA Healthcare policy than under Mission Health's prior policy. You can find out more about our financial assistance programs, which we've recently made more accessible, via the main page of our website, missionhealth.org.
- Across the 18 counties we serve, we've recruited more than 100 new providers (47 new physicians and 66 new advanced practice providers) over the past year, including some hard-to-fill positions in our regional hospitals serving the more rural areas of our community. Among these is a full-time primary care physician starting in May 2020 to serve the Cashiers community.
- At Mission Hospital in Asheville, we've seen both our inpatient admissions and emergency room visits grow by more than 10% in 2019. To meet this significant growth, we have hired hundreds of RNs, as well as other bedside caregivers and support team members. This includes staffing our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to a higher level to ensure the most critically ill newborns have the care they need.
- Because of this rapid growth, we've also brought in a number of traveling nurses to meet the volume growth demand while we are diligently recruiting more full-time nursing staff.

- We recently adjusted our approach to deploying Health Unit Coordinators (HUC) and Patient Care Technicians (CNAs) to better support our RNs on the nursing units.
- In October, we completed and opened the Mission Hospital North Tower, the culmination of more than eight years of planning and construction. While this beautiful new state-of-the-art facility means we've brought most of our inpatient services under one roof, integrating it into our staffing and processes meant a very complex transition for our staff to navigate.
- The new facility has also increased the need for environmental services (housekeeping) team members at Mission Hospital; we've filled 35 open positions on that team since January and are currently hiring for additional positions to meet the increased demand.
- To help recruit and retain our team members, we increased the minimum wage across Mission Health to \$12.50/hour last fall. Additionally, we recently provided further targeted market adjustments to raise the pay of hundreds of people in critical roles that help support excellent care at the bedside.
- We've added ways to reward our staff. In 2019, we implemented HCA Healthcare's student loan repayment program. To date, the program has contributed nearly \$700,000 to our eligible team members. And, we've recently implemented HCA Healthcare's tuition reimbursement program, through which full- and part-time team members can qualify for up to \$5,250 per calendar year - that's double Mission Health's prior program - in tax-free reimbursement for applicable higher education courses, including tuition, books and course-related fees.
- We know there have been concerns about our initial decision to close the CarePartners Wheelchair Seating Clinic because of its heavy dependence on grants that we are no longer able to accept. As we reconsidered this decision, we realized we may have moved quickly without having an alternative option readily available to patients. The clinic has continued to serve those patients with the highest needs during a transition

period. And now, we are delighted that another community provider has agreed to assume operations of the clinic; we expect to have a more detailed announcement about this very soon.

- We have invested \$280 million in capital funding to support the delivery of care through state-of-the-art technology.
- We paid \$8.9 million in new property taxes for 2019, providing resources that were previously unavailable to our communities that now help fund vital services and infrastructure needs throughout western North Carolina.
- During the past year, we've helped western North Carolina welcome more than 4,000 new babies and have stood side-by-side with family members and friends as we delivered lifesaving care with advanced technology.

It's certain there will be more challenges to come as we continue this journey together. What's even more certain is our commitment to working with you to preserve and advance the quality of care, and to navigate the changing needs of our western North Carolina communities. That's been our commitment for more than 134 years, and it continues to guide our decisions today.

We commit to being open as we respond to feedback, to continue listening to our community and to do a better job of providing updates about our health system. We are *all* Mission Health, and I hope you will join me in continuing to support this vital community resource as we continue to grow and improve for you.

Sincerely,



Greg Lowe
President
North Carolina Division



...EVENTS continued from page 10

2100' below. Peregrine falcons may soar by. Meet at Bi-Lo parking lot in Franklin at 1pm, drive 38 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations. Visitors welcome. Meet at Bi-Lo parking lot in Franklin at 2 pm, drive 38 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352 for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sun., Mon., March 8-9

• Beat the late winter/early spring "blahs!" Come out and audition or volunteer your help for Highlands Cashiers Players spring production, Agatha Christie's The Unexpected Guest. This is a two act stage play to be held at the Performing Arts Center. There are parts for 3 or 4 women and 4 men and a teenage boy. The performance dates are Thurs. May 21 through Sunday May 24 and Thurs. May 28 through Sunday May 31. Auditions will be held at PAC Sunday March 8 starting at 3:30 with "call backs" on Monday March 9 at 5. Scripts are available to

read at both the Highlands and Cashiers libraries.

Wed., March 11

• Kindergarten registration for Highlands School at 10 a.m.

Sat., March 14

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 7-mile hike, elevation change 950 ft., on Ridge Trail at Coweeta Hydrological Lab, starting behind the wet lab and hiking to Dyke Gap, with views of Albert Mountain fire tower. Descend on the old Gage Trail to Shope Fork and return to the office complex. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sun., March 15

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike with very little elevation change in the woods at the west end of the Macon County Library in Franklin, following the bicycle path to the Greenway, walking along Cartoogechaye Creek

to the Community Garden and returning. Meet at the library at 2 pm. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352 for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Tues. March 17

• Catch up on all the spring buzz! Join the Highlands Nature Center as we get to know our native bees a little better. Through a short introduction and a walk around campus, we'll find out what "weeds" are actually perfect for pollinators and discover some tricks for being bee-friendly. To participate in this free event. from 1-2 p.m., meet at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Rd. The event is weather dependent. The Highlands Biological Station is a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University. For more information, please call (828) 526-2623.

Fri., March 20

• Senior Dinner at the Highlands Civic Center at noon. Senior Dinners are the third Friday of each month November through April.

Sat., March 21

• 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 area, hiking up Long Branch to the Appalachian Trail at Glassmine Gap, then north to Rock Gap, returning by the Forest Service Road. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 11:00 am, drive 32 miles round trip. Call leader Katharine Brown, 421-4178, for reservations. Visitors welcome, also dogs on leash.

Sun., March 22

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to Mud Creek Falls, despite its name, a beautiful waterfall in Sky Valley, GA. Follow an old logging road with a small incline along Mud Creek to a picnic area at the falls. Meet at Smoky Mountain Visitors Center at 2 pm, drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Kathy Ratcliff, 526-6480, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sat., March 28

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, el-

elevation change 400 ft., from Jones Gap to White Rock on the NC Bartram Trail, a leisurely hike with interpretive signs along the way and spectacular views from White Rock of the Nantahala Mountains and Tennesse Valley. Meet at Bi-Lo parking lot in Franklin at 9 am, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

• Chefs in the House dinner with Bill Smith and Justin Burdett of Crooks Corner at Half Mile Farm, 6:30 cocktails, 7:15 dinner. Eat and stay at Half-mile Farm. \$155 per person, plus tax and gratuity. For reservations, call Call: 828-787-2635.

Fri., May 1

• Chefs in the House Mini Rosé Dinner with Chadwick Boyd. 6:30 pm, cocktails and 7:15 pm Dinner. Chadwick is the host of "Reel Food," the first food entertainment series in movie theaters nationwide. \$145 per person, plus tax and gratuity. For reservations, call Call: 828-787-2635.

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Kenter medals at NC State swim championship

Chase Kenter, 5th Grader at Highlands School, represented the Highlands Hurricanes at the 2020 NC State Age Group Swimming Championship in Greensboro, NC February 14-16. Representing the Hurricanes by himself he was still able to score 25 points placing the Hurricanes 33rd out of 41 teams.

Kenter qualified for 11 events. Each swimmer is only allowed to swim nine events. In his nine swims Kenter had 5 PRs (personal records) scoring 16th in the 200 yard Individual Medley (IM),

winning an 8th place medal in the 100-yard breaststroke, and a 6th place medal in the 50-yard breaststroke. In the 50 breast, Kenter beat the 7th place swimmer by 0.01 seconds and lost to the 5th place swimmer also by 0.01 seconds.

Next, Kenter is scheduled to represent the Hurricanes at the USA swimming sectional meet held in the 1996 Olympic Pool on the Georgia Tech campus in Atlanta March 12-15. This is a 7-state meet (NC, SC, GA, VA, WV, AL, and Miss). Kenter has qualified for

nine events. Each swimmer is allowed to swim only eight events.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool in the evenings and on Saturday mornings. All practices are optional. The only requirement to join the team is that you be able to swim one length of the pool (25 yards) unassisted. For further information please call Steve Hott, Head Coach of the Highlands Hurricanes at 828.421.4121.

...HCA continued from page 9

five backup ambulances (Paramedic level).

Highlands and Nantahala EMS bases have a front-line truck and a back-up truck stationed there 24/7 and Franklin has three frontline trucks and three back-up trucks stationed there.

"If the truck in Highlands is taken out of service for routine maintenance or repairs, the duty crew switches to the back-up truck and another back-up truck from Franklin is moved to Highlands so there are always two trucks in the building," he said. "Basically, every staffed ambulance has a fully equipped spare back-up. For example, right now, we have a truck down for an engine rebuild so that leaves us five in Franklin, two in Highlands and two in Nantahala. Without that number of vehicles, we could easily become hampered for transports if we didn't manage an inventory of fully equipped backup trucks."

Staffing is divided into three ambulance crews in Franklin, one in Highlands, one in Nantahala, which is based on call number and call locations.

"We have a minimum staffing of in-county ambulances -- two ambulances in Franklin, one in Highlands, and one in Nantahala. Ambulance crews are rotated to different areas to maintain that level. For instance, if the duty truck in Highlands takes a transport out of county, a truck from Franklin rotates to Highlands to back-fill the area."

MC EMS has 41 full-time staff positions with 36 assigned to ambulances, four assigned to the QRV/SUV, and one assigned for coordination.

"All can attend to patients," said Cabe. "We have 25 Part-time As-Needed employees and all can attend to patients."

Those transportation costs trickle down to Macon County taxpayers.

Unlike Jackson County's Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva, which has its own ambulance service, Macon County's EMS is part of the county budget. While pa-

tients are billed for those services, vehicle upkeep and other expenses are part of the EMS' operating budget, which is funded by taxpayers.

Another issue regarding transportation discussed at the Gibbins' meeting was how patients get back to Macon County when transferred to Mission.

One Macon County resident said patients with no family or means to get back to Macon were left without transportation back to the county of origin since HCA took over, and the only way to get back to Macon is to pay an extra fee, which was quoted as several hundred dollars.

However according to Lindell that claim about return transportation is not true.

"Mission Health has not changed its process regarding patients who are discharged from Mission Hospital -- our process remains as it was prior to Mission becoming part of HCA Healthcare. The Mission Care Management Team works with patients to ensure they are able to return home safely, which may include ambulance or wheelchair transport as needed," she said.

Lindell said she wasn't sure about the fee issue but is checking it out.

Since MC EMS has been adjusting over the years, Cabe said the HCA/Mission merger hasn't taxed their capabilities.

"The only difference we have seen recently is a few more transports to facilities out-of-county for orthopedic coverage and that is not much. So, there has been no significant difference or changes for us," he said.

Of course, heart issues have been dealt with at Mission for years but since surgery issues have changed dramatically over the past year, facilities' ability to service Macon County residents in Macon County has significantly changed.

• To read the first three parts of the "Since the HCA/Mission Merger" series go to www.highlandsinfo.com, click on Local News and open issues Feb. 13,



PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular Board of Commissioners' meeting of February 20, 2014, the Town Board voted to list all Town of Highlands Delinquent Accounts in the newspaper every 6 months. The following accounts are over 60 days past due.

Delinquent Utility Accounts

Richard Bezemer	\$215.91	Devonta "Ladarius" Wilson	\$495.02
Manual Chico	\$1,344.76	William John Araujo	\$58.39
Denise Cook	\$210.20	Connor Brubaker	\$41.18
Cyprus	\$2,826.14	Ed Jared	\$8.83
Margaret Foreman	\$113.55	Steven Merlino	\$948.07
Pat Griffin/Bartlett Griffin	\$1,784.22	Movie Stop	\$1,373.62
Angela Nagel	\$2,713.50	Richard Read	\$605.24
Ann Tillery	\$162.47	Karen Reese	\$188.93
Kim Wilson	\$58.89	Roto-Rooter Plumbers	\$1,479.02
Sarah Anderson	\$216.40	Brendon Rowland	\$733.43
Kristen Araujo	\$2,767.95	Schmitt Bldg Cont, Inc.	\$4,305.77
Athens Leasing Company	\$13,969.70	The Lost Hiker	\$2,989.82
Samuel Austin	\$1.60	Jeffrey Zerilli	\$245.74
Roberto Jose Barbosa	\$462.21	John Bauman	\$739.26
Adil Bouazzaoui	\$315.19	James Christopher Billak	\$252.63
Brick Oven	\$715.47	Grayson & Caryllnn Coblentz	\$541.71
Mike Chatlos	\$987.22	Nicholas Figel	\$1,023.14
TL Coffeen	\$1,809.83	Chris Flowers	\$1,720.07
Michael & Maxine Davidoff	\$261.13	Medea Galligan	\$101.20
Michael Hammond	\$1,094.94	Tesa Glass	\$535.55
The Highlands BBQ Company	\$5,715.82	Gabriel Murray	\$213.13
Michelle Jaffe	\$121.54	Jeremy Robinson II	\$384.46
Thomas Littlejohn	\$103.06	Peggy Seawright	\$138.83
Joshua Mendenhall	\$232.52	James Carlton	\$3,351.04
Michael Morrone	\$224.54	Frank Cassiano	\$7,251.75
Prudential MC Realtors	\$134.86	Michael Harris	\$2,611.56
Schmitt Bldg Cont, Inc..	\$253.58	Pidcock Property	\$178.04
Tonya Wales	\$537.31	Bob Reese	\$1,439.74
Devonta "Ladarius" Wilson	\$446.11	Ross & Deborah Young	\$13,313.86

Delinquent Accounts Receivable Accounts

Highlands BBQ	False Alarms	\$600.00
Aliaksandr Kikoin	Sewer Connection	\$2,500.00
Roto Rooter Plumbers	Sludge	\$8,425.00
Williams & Williams	Sewer Connection	\$2,500.00

Payments may be made to: Town of Highlands, PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741 to bring accounts to a current status to avoid further collection processes and public notice.

Published this 5th day of March 2020. Town of Highlands

...TOWN BOARD from page 8

cite offenders for sign standards and tree protection – any other zoning violation had to go to the Town Board to be discussed in closed session which usually took at least 30 days to wrap up.

The recommended amendment to the UDO would give the Planning Department the right to issue citations for all zoning infractions, except soil erosion. This decreases the time the issue is put to bed and doesn't encumber the Town Board with the task. Any offender who feels the Planning Department's judgement was incorrect could still appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Mathis also recommended commissioners approve the RFP needed to request quotes from planning firms to assist with the completion of a Comprehensive Plan.

Recently, the state ruled that local governments must have a comprehensive plan as a condition of adopting and applying zoning regulations. This must be completed by July 1, 2022.

Though a comprehensive plan was started in Highlands voluntarily some years ago, it was never completed. Now it is a re-

quirement and administration believes it will be expedited with the help of a professional planning firm.

The RFP was drafted using examples from other towns. Commissioners approved the RFP.

Fire Department

The architect for the new fire department, Randy Baker, advertised for qualifications for a construction manager to oversee the project. Three large North Carolina construction companies applied.

Staff and the public safety committee reviewed the submissions and compared their recent experience with fire department construction. One of the three hadn't built a fire department since 2008. The other two had constructed fire department within the last three years.

However, D.R. Reynolds stood out because it had built several fire department within the three years and their final pricing was lower than the other company.

In addition, D.R. Reynolds came recommended by two other fire chiefs.

– Kim Lewicki

...STEM continued from page 1

entific activity presented by AIG students with a STEM (scientific, technology, engineering, and mathematics) theme.

Middle School Teacher Stephanie Smathers said the students and STEM Coordinator for Macon County Schools Jennifer Love did a fantastic job.

"I thought the projects were great this year, and Jennifer Love did a great job with STEM, and she was able to incorporate literacy into the subject," said Smathers. "Science and STEM allow students to get involved in learning with their hands. They learn to problem solve and create solutions with different approaches. It combines critical thinking and application."

Sixth-grader Lucas Deppe said his AIG class used electricity to connect receptors that light up when connected to the corresponding answer to a scientific question. For example, the receptors would light up when connected to the word "leg" and the leg of a spider in a diagram. The receptors were connected with strips of aluminum that transferred the electrical current.

"I thought it was awesome,"

said Deppe. "I had never heard of that before or done anything like that."

Tate Wilson helped operate the hex bug maze station using small robots to navigate mazes. She said nights like Thursday are fun because you get to see what other AIG classes have been working on.

"I like this because it gives you a chance to show what you've learned in AIG," said Wilson. "Then, when you interact with other students you learn new things because of what they've been working on. It's amazing what scientists are discovering nowadays and what they are doing with that."

In conjunction with STEM Night was this year's Science Fair; which included projects, inventions, and experiments presented by students K-8th grade.

Harrison Gates and JD Head tackled the question of which toilet paper was the most effective based on absorption. By submerging multiple brands of toilet paper in a set volume of water, the duo was able to determine the most efficient brand is Charmin.

"Our conclusion pretty much supported our hypothesis, so we were right in our thinking," said Gates. "It was time consuming though."

Head said while the experiment was a time commitment, the work wasn't too "torturous."

"It wasn't bad doing it, the hardest part was choosing what to do," said Head. "Thinking about how hard it would be, how long it would take, and what happens if you mess up in the middle."

Nicole Taylor studied the growth of mold on organic versus nonorganic foods.

"We didn't grow up eating organic foods, but now we do, so we wanted to know the difference," said Taylor.

Taylor's data suggests mold grows faster on organic foods, which Taylor attributes to a lack of preservatives and pesticides.

"Having a STEM Night is awesome," said Taylor. "A lot of schools don't participate in things like this, and we dedicate a whole night to it. I wouldn't have known that about organic food if we didn't do the experiment. It's so fun."

Margaret Cole partnered with Cayden Pierson on an experiment appropriately titled, "Will it Burn." Cole said they wanted to focus on a timed experiment when choosing a topic and given this project's parameters had to set up in a controlled environment.

"We had to use an old microwave because we didn't want to stink up the house," said Cole. "Our possible topics focused on races, and what would happen fastest, that's how we landed on this. It was really fun because you're learning new things that you didn't know before."

•BIZ/ORG NEWS•

Franklin's 4th Annual Mardi Gras on Feb. 25 benefitted R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County.

The mission of R.E.A.C.H. is to eradicate domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking crimes in both Macon and Jackson Counties, through prevention, intervention and educational services.

This year's King and Queen award went to Vanessa Moore and Craig Berry who raised nearly \$6,000 individually, with the whole king and queen group raising over \$14,000.

Craig is a Broker with Highlands Sotheby's International Realty. His office is located at 114 N. 4th Street.



King and Queen Vanessa Moore and Craig Berry

I knew they did it from the start, but no one listens to the cat!

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LIMITED TIME!**

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MYSTERY SERIES**

-Christie

... PRIMARY 2020 continued from page 1

County's turnout for early voting was better than most other counties," he said.

The only Macon County specific race on the ballot was for Macon County Board of Commissioners District II, with the Republican winner being Josh Young with 2,482 votes and the Democrat winner being Betty Cloer Wallace with 1,768 votes. Young and Wallace will face off against each other this November.

Macon County native Kevin Corbin received nearly 88 percent of the votes cast for Senate District 50 in Macon County and won the entire district by 78 percent (19,991) against challenger, Sarah Conway. Macon County voters cast 1,901 votes for Kaleb Wingate in the District Court judge race – Wingate won the entire district with over 10,000, or 40 percent, of the votes.

Rep. Mark Meadows' United States House of Representative District 11 seat resulted in a runoff between Haywood County Republican Lynda Bennett and Henderson County Republican Madison Cawthorn. Despite receiving the endorsement of Congressman Mark Meadows, Bennett was unable to secure 30 percent of the overall vote required to avoid a runoff election. Bennett and Cawthorn were

separated by around 2,000 votes. Bennett got 20,510 votes; Cawthorne got 18,418 votes.

The runoff election will take place on May 12 with the winner appearing on the November ballot against Democrat Moe Davis who won his party's nomination with nearly 50 percent of the votes.

Although Macon County native Jim Davis received just under 3,000 votes in his home county, he trailed Cawthorn by over 1,000 votes in the final tally. Statewide he got 17,400 votes.

Macon County Democrats cast 1,437 votes for Joe Biden in the Presidential race, followed by 735 for Bernie Sanders and 454 for Mike Bloomberg. Statewide Democrats cast 568,578 votes for Biden to be one of the nine states he won March 3 during the 16-state Super Tuesday race. By press time Biden had won Massachusetts, Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Texas.

Macon County Republicans backed President Donald Trump casting 94 percent of votes in his favor.

Canvassing day will be held on Friday, March 13 at which point all results will be considered final.

•BIZ/ORG NEWS•

Eckerd Living Center receives 5-star rating

Eckerd Living Center at H-C Hospital, a part of Mission Health, has earned a 5-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Eckerd Living Center (ELC) is an 80-bed skilled nursing facility physically attached to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, so emergency and acute care are just a few steps away.

ELC uses an interdisciplinary team approach to ensure administrators, physicians, nurse managers, social workers, dietitians, along with therapists and special consultants work together to provide the highest level of care for each member of our Living Center family.

"This recognition is truly a testament to the hard work and selflessness of our wonderful staff," said Ava Ammons, Eckerd Living Center Administrator.

CMS creates the overall star rating for nursing homes from three parts: 1) health inspections 2) quality of resident care measures and 3) staffing. Star ratings for each part and for the overall rating range from 1 star to 5 stars, with more stars indicating better quality. To view, go to the Nursing Home Compare on the CMS website.

The Nursing Home Compare and the star rating system enables consumers to search for nursing homes that provide the quality of care they desire. All of the data found on Nursing Home Compare is provided as a service to the public.

The information on Nursing Home Compare comes from three key sources: the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) health inspection database, a national database of resident clinical data known as the Minimum Data Set (MDS) and Medicare claims data.

CMS currently calculates a health inspection score for a nursing home on citations identified in each nursing home's three most recent health inspections and on citations identified from the most recent two years of complaint and facility reported incident inspections.

The staffing rating is based on two measures: registered nurse (RN) hours per resident per day; and total staffing hours per resident per day.

CMS combines the values of 16 quality measures (QMs) (a subset of the 24 QMs listed on Nursing Home Compare) to create the quality of resident care rating.



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Sweet and Smokey Baby Back Ribs

Ingredients from The Spice & Tea Exchange:
Backwoods Hickory Spice Blend
Bourbon Black Walnut Sugar

Ingredients from grocer:
One rack of spare ribs
Favorite BBQ Sauce



Directions:

1. Prep ribs by removing the membrane.
2. Rub both sides of the ribs with Backwoods Hickory Spice Blend.
3. Wrap the ribs around the perimeter of the crock pot.
4. Cook on low for 7-8 hours, or 4-5 hours on high.
5. With 20 minutes left of cooking, add your favorite BBQ Sauce.
6. Remove ribs from the crock pot and sprinkle with Bourbon Black Walnut Sugar, and Broil for 6-7 minutes, just enough for the ribs to crisp up and the sugar to caramelize.



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



**Now is the
time to clean
the rooms of
our hearts
and minds**

Rev. W. Bentley Manning
Episcopal Church of the
Incarnation

At the end of this month a group of around 25 parishioners from our church will be traveling to the Holy Land. I imagine the reasons and motivations for making such a pilgrimage are as varied and diverse as the individuals that make up our group. Some look forward to seeing old things - artifacts which tell of a rich and complicated past. Others are going out of a desire to grow and deepen their understanding of Holy Scripture. Some in our group might be traveling to Israel simply because they like travel and all the experiences it affords. And still others might be making this journey as an act of prayer.

All of this has caused me to do some thinking about why people go on pilgrimage - to think about why Christians have, over the centuries, decided to travel long distances, often making great sacrifices, in order to spend time in Jerusalem.

Rowan Williams, the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, says that Christians go to the Holy Land because "we are aware...that our faith has roots in a particular time and a particular place. This soil, these stones, have been touched by the reality that has made us alive and set us on fire. We go to the Holy Land, partly to reconnect with what has brought us alive in a particular way. The events that brought us alive happened here; we go there because of that. And we go there in the hope and the prayer that that life will be renewed in us."

However, our small group are not the only ones participating in a pilgrimage this month. Throughout the church's history, Lent has always been understood as a sort of pilgrimage - as a journey toward the Paschal Mystery. The mark of ashes we receive on our foreheads at the beginning of this season of fasting, penitence, and prayer is a reminder of our starting point and origin - an out-

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Looking for a church home?

Wayfarers Unity Chapel is a non denominational, inclusive church located at 182 Wayfarer Lane, off Highway 246 in Dillard, GA, just 1.7 miles from Highway 441

Social time begins at 9:30 and services begin at 10 a.m. on Sundays

Visit our website www.wayfarersunity.org for more information, or call 706-746-3303

Proverbs 3:5

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

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

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 SKYVALLEY

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

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

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

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

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.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

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

1448 Highway 107 S., Office: 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

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.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Feb. 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Feb. 12

• At 11:27 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

Feb. 14

• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106 and Stoney Creek,

Feb. 21

• At 10:55 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106 and Holt Road,

Feb. 23

• A little past midnight, officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at US 64 east and Pinecrest,

Feb. 24

• At 8:06 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at NC 28 and S. 4th St.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log

from Feb. 26

Feb. 26

• A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Lucerne Drive.

• At 8:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

Feb. 28

• At 3:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location in Highlands Plaza,

Feb. 29

• At 10:48 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Potters Lane.

• At 9:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Nall Farm Road.

• At 11:08 p.m., the dept. was first-re-

sponders to a residence on Stoneybridge Lane.

• At 11:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

March 1

• At 9:42 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 9:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a rescue on US 64 west.

• At 6:57 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Carriage Lane.

March 2

• At 4:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

• BIZ / ORG NEWS •



Pictured from left: Rotary President Sherry Holt, Hendy Rios Ruiz (7th grade), Assistant Principal Sarah Holbrooks, Kendra McCall (Senior), Carlos May Gomez (Senior), Jackson Fairchild (1st grade)

The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the most recent Highlands School Students of the Month at their meeting on February 25.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

ward and visible sign that we are dust and to dust we shall return. And yet, as Pope Francis has said, we are “dust in the loving hands of God, who has breathed his Spirit of life into each one of us – and still wants to do so.”

So, the season of Lent is not a time for aimless wondering through the desert. No, our journey during these next forty days has a clear focus and direction. Ours is a pilgrimage towards truth, towards

healing, towards life - towards Easter. Now is the time to clean the rooms of our hearts and minds. Now is the time to journey towards Christ so that God might find space to come alive at Easter in those parts of us that can only be understood as dry, barren, cold, and dead.

May the gift of this Lenten pilgrimage be a time of blessing and renewal, a time of healing and conversion, a time of patience and truth.

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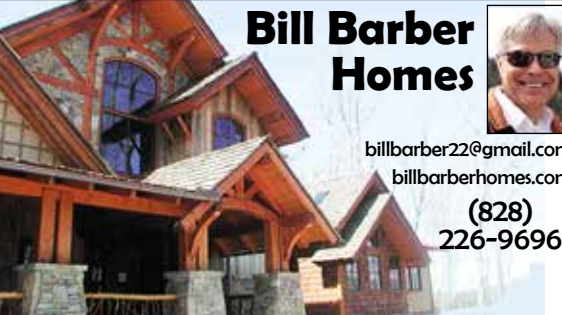
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