

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 36

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

Thurs., Sept. 4, 2014

Thurs., Sept. 4

• At ...on the Verandah, Well Strung in the lounge.

• The Highlands Male Chorus at PAC at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 526-9047. Also available at the door.

Sat., Sept. 6

• Beginner's bird walk will explore Turtle Pond Road in Highlands. Meet in the parking lot behind the Highlands Town Hall at 7:30 am.

• Highlands Nature Center is looking for children ages 9 to 14 for a student volunteer docent program on some Saturdays during the fall season. Students will learn about regional plants and wildlife and the Nature Center's related exhibits, and to communicate this information to visitors as a museum interpretive guide. Come w/ parent to the Nature Center for a meeting 1-3 pm. To enroll, call 828-526-2623.

Sun.-Wed., Sept 7-10

• Shortoff Baptist Church Community Crusade/Revival 7PM each night. Everyone is welcome. Shortoff Baptist Church is at the corner of US 64 and Buck Creek Rd.

Sun., Sept. 7

• Bel Canto performance at PAC at 4p. followed by dinner at HCC. Doors open at 3:30p.

Mon., Sept. 8

• Dr. Barbara Ballentine, of WCU at 7 pm a Hudson Library presenting "Animal Communication:Tales of Sex and Violence from the Swamp." Free. Call 828-743-9670.

• The Highlands Christian Chorale rehearsals for the annual Christmas concerts begin in the sanctuary of Highlands First Baptist Church. Rehearsals are 5:30-7p

The **SALE!** (See pg 16)
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Highlands property revs almost finished

By Brittany Burns

Late last month, Macon County Tax Administrator Richard Lightner updated the Macon County Board of Commissioners on the progress of the property

tax revaluation. While Lightner and his staff have been working on the revaluation process for the last couple of years, they are now finishing up assessments in the Highlands area.

"Highlands and Franklin are the two most diverse and valuable districts so we spend a considerable amount of time in both," he said. "This project did not just

• See REVALS page 16

It appears Highlands School students like school!



Highlands School 3rd grade teacher Jamye Christy on the first day of school last week with her enthusiastic students who are raring to go.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Parker Meadows Rec Park price tag increases

By Brittany Burns

Macon County Commissioners got an estimate on how much the redesign for the Parker Meadow

ows Recreation Complex was going to cost them last month.

After uncovering what is believed to be a tooth and a Native

American gravesite, county officials made the decision to shift the design plans for the baseball

• See INCREASES page 14



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Town ready to fight for broadband

Back in May 2011 a pro-Internet Service Provider, anti-municipal broadband law went into effect in North Carolina – an act said to "protect jobs and investment by regulating local government competition with private business."

Then governor Bev Perdue neither signed nor vetoed the controversial bill because due to the Republican majority in North Carolina's state legislature, getting a veto sustained would be a challenge, she said.

Perdue's inaction made House Bill 129 a done deal and North Carolina joined some 20 other states who prevent municipalities from engaging in the business of selling broadband.

In Perdue's public statement on the issue she said she believes every school, household and business in North Carolina — no matter where they are — should have access to efficient

• See BROADBAND page 9

Fun for the whole family!



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

•MAYOR ON DUTY•

Navigating Highlands' road system

Some folks have asked me about roads in Highlands. Most questions relate directly to the North Carolina centralized system of highways and secondary roads. Federal and state highways such as US 64, also called the Franklin Road, and NC 106, the Dillard Road, are major arteries to Highlands.



Surprisingly, North Carolina has no county roads, and county road departments. Neighboring states like Georgia have county road systems.

Nevertheless, within Highlands there are street signs with the name of a road followed by the letters SR and a number. For instance, the Cobb Road sign has the label SR 1681. Cobb Road is a state road that is designated as "Secondary Road 1681." The state department of transportation is responsible for all secondary road paving, maintenance and speed limits, as with Cobb Road. SR designated roads are not streets under local control.

But there are two other kinds of streets or roads in the town.

Oak and Pine Streets are town roads. Many of our town streets were initially identified on the Kelsey-Hutchinson map when the town was laid out. Others like Pinecrest, the street I live on, became a town road when a subdivision was developed, or soon thereafter. These town streets are maintained by our town street department, which does regular maintenance like filling pot holes. Periodically, a contractor is hired by the town to pave these roads. For example, a contractor will repave Oak Street this fall. The town engineer maintains a schedule for repaving town streets and tracks road conditions. Highlands' taxpayers pay for paving town streets through appropriations by the Town Board. Speed limits on town streets are determined by road studies and recommendations by the town engineer. Final designations are approved by the state.

The other type of road in Highlands is the private road. Property owners on these streets are responsible for their upkeep. If these roads are not gated or posted, they are considered public vehicular access areas, just like private shopping center parking lots. The town cannot enforce infractions like speeding on these

roads, but misdemeanor violations, such as DWI and reckless driving, can be enforced.

The town does not do major maintenance on private roads, even if they are within town limits. Nevertheless, garbage trucks and public safety vehicles use private roads to provide town services to residents, so limited, minor repairs are made to assure these services can be administered. Residents of a private road can petition to have a private road become a town road. The state has a set of criteria for the petition process and it has final approval.

So, road maintenance and paving in Highlands is not so simple. Some local officials would like the state to decentralize the highway and road system somewhat. Their position is that local governments should be allocated state funds and make decisions about paving their secondary roads. Following this line of thinking, maybe Raleigh doesn't always know what is best for folks out here in the mountains.

Telephone books minus phone numbers

Dear Editor,

When I read the letter written by Alice Nelson in the Aug. 21 edition of Highlands Newspaper entitled "Where is the service in our phone service?" I agreed with her and was bothered by the fact that we have a land line phone which costs us a pretty penny and we could not find our number or anyone's residential number in the phone book delivered in May 2014. To say that this phone book is practically useless to us is an understatement.

Then the next week Ms. Urbanski wrote taking issue with Ms. Nelson's letter. So I went back and looked in the phone book thinking I had missed something — that those residential numbers were hidden somewhere in the book. But, no, they are not there. What Frontier has done is published the residential numbers in yet ANOTHER phone book which has to be ordered. Ms Urbanski published the number

in her letter. I called the number and spoke with an agent with the company who answered (not Frontier) and was told that they would send me one by mail. It should arrive in three weeks. She also told me that the residential books are By Request Only.

I am not upset or angry, just annoyed to have to go through this process. Hope we get an "all in one" phone book next year just like the good old days. Probably this would save Frontier Communications a good bit of money.

Glenda Bell
Highlands

Fred answers his own question

Dear Editor

At the end of his letter to the editor published in the August 28 edition entitled "What if?" Fred Woolridge poses a hypothesis. His letter confirms his hypothesis.

Brian Renfro
Highlands

Fred's perspective on life is ... inspiring (NOT)

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to Fred Wooldridge's column in the Aug. 28 edition entitled "Holy Guano, Batman, where's all the ammo?"

Mr. Fred is a true humanitarian. What a positive message of inspiration, triumph and belief in the human spirit.

Keep it up, Fred. Your perspective makes the world a brighter, more loving and peaceful home for all of us, the children of God.

You're article gave me pause - made me stop and reflect what it is to really love thy neighbor. I'm sure the angels are singing and Jesus is smiling. (See translation. Sarcasm)

Mary-Allyson Chauvin
Greenville, SC

No harm meant

Dear Editor,

First, let me thank Ms. Ann Anderson Urbanski for providing a telephone number that will apparently enable me to procure a

• See LETTERS page 6

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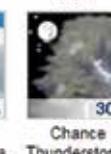
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

THURSDAY



Chance Thunderstorms
High: 75 °F

THURSDAY NIGHT



Chance Thunderstorms
Low: 62 °F

FRIDAY



Chance Thunderstorms
High: 76 °F

FRIDAY NIGHT



Chance Thunderstorms
Low: 62 °F

SATURDAY



Chance Thunderstorms
High: 77 °F

SATURDAY NIGHT



Chance Thunderstorms
Low: 61 °F

SUNDAY



Thunderstorms
Likely
High: 75 °F

• OBITUARIES •

C. N. "Pearly" Munger

C. N. "Pearly" Munger, 85, of Franklin, died Saturday, August 23, 2014.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late James S. Munger and Nancy Jones Munger. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Alene Gregory Munger. Pearly was a member of Pine Grove Baptist Church; service station owner; enjoyed gardening, hunting, fishing, golfing and baseball.

He is survived by three sons, Ronnie Munger of Texas, Keith Munger of Savannah, GA and Tony Munger and wife Brenda of Franklin; two grandchildren, Jennifer Munger and Cody Munger and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, August 26, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Alton Dendy officiated. Burial was in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Butch Deal, Jackie Gregory, Harold Huscusson, Glenn Holland, Mike Dills and Landy Holland.

Bubba West

Bubba West, 68, of Franklin, NC, died late Saturday afternoon, August 23, 2014 at his home of lung cancer.

He is survived by his wife and friend Denise West and four children, Max West and his wife Amy and their daughter Penelope and Suzanne West, Eric West and Katharine East.

No services are planned.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Franklin VFW Post 7339, C/O Neil Riendeau, 1155 North Skeenah Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com

• THANKS •

Thanks to HCC

This summer marks my fifth season working at the beautiful Highlands Country Club. I have been blessed with the ability to return from college each summer to work and save to pay for my school expenses.

It has been my routine to leave Highlands at the close of summer break to go back to school, however, unlike in years past, I will not be returning to Chapel Hill. Instead, this fall I will be pursuing Graduate education at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. While it is an exciting prospect to begin this major step in my life, this summer will likely be my last, working at Highlands Country Club as it is customary for students in the Master of Divinity program to do field education the summer after their first year. Therefore, it is with mixed emotions that I once again leave the Highlands area.

I write this letter to express my gratitude toward the members and administrative staff of Highlands Country Club for the wonderful employment opportunity I was granted these last five summers. Greg Crawford, General Manager, Ken Mattis, Head Golf Professional, and Patrick Tomlinson, the cart barn manager, have been a joy to work for. Their leadership created a relaxed and fun working



Highlands Aerial Park

says

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• See THANKS page 8

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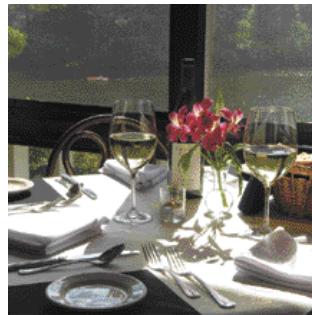
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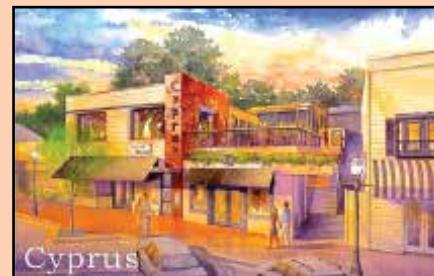
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...LETTERS continued from page 2

local residential phone book. I will certainly call it and hope for the best and am grateful for the information.

Second, in this often dog-eat-dog world, let me congratulate Ms. Urbansi for living an

enviably sheltered life. If she believes that my letter of August 21st to this newspaper "slammed" my telephone carrier, Frontier, well, how can I get a key to her ivory tower? I am not being facetious. My letter

was a benign statement of fact, no more, no less, and I am sorry if I offended her sensibilities. I hate it if I offend somebody unintentionally when it is so easy to do it deliberately. It's such a waste.

So, I sincerely apologize to Ms. Urbanski and thank her again for the telephone number.

**Alice Nelson
Highlands**

• See LETTERS page 8

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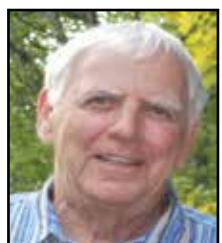
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•THE FREDSTER•

Pop and smell

Most real estate agents will tell you the smell of your home is most important when showing it to prospective buyers. For example, if you're having a septic tank problem by all means get it fixed before the sign goes in the front yard. And get rid of that musty smell in that back bedroom.



Fred Wooldridge

aroma onto the street. From there, Mother Nature's cool Highlands' breeze sent the smell down through most all of Main St. It smelled awesome. Hey, who doesn't like popcorn?

Customers were drawn into his store by the smell of the delicious popcorn. The sign on the popcorn machine said it all.

"Free popcorn with every purchase." Otherwise a small bag was only ten cents. And while in the store munching, a woman would spot that beautiful lace blouse hanging nearby on the rack. Of course, if she touched the blouse and didn't buy it, it would hang there stained with popcorn oil but these are the hazards of the sales world.

Not only am I hooked on the smell of popcorn, but the aroma of cedar lights up my nostrils. I would love to own a shop with nothing but cedar products. I'd call it the Cedar Chest and, like the popcorn merchant, a small fan would blow the smell of cedar onto the street, luring in customers.

But since I don't own a colorful old

• See FREDSTER page 22

Coming soon to Macon County...

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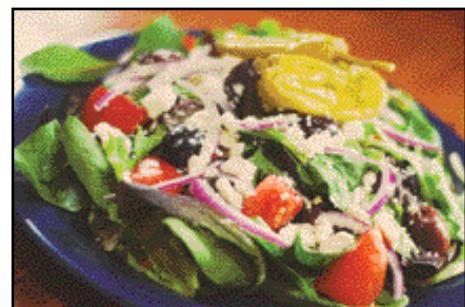


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Cranberry, Sicilian, Buffalo Chicken and
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A Variety of Salads



House Specialties Calzone & Lasagna



...LETTERS continued from page 6**Community Coffee ... Thank Your Mayor**

Dear Editor,

Attending several of the Community Coffee hours at the Hudson Library on the last Friday of each month (11 a.m. to 12 noon) has been a very re-

warding experience for us. Not only do we get a chance to hear the ins and outs of what is happening in Highlands via the presentations by Mayor Patrick Taylor, we also get to meet and listen to

our community leaders discussing their areas of expertise. This month, it was Mayor Taylor and our Chief of Police, W.E. Harrell sharing all the ABCs of police issues concerning all of us. There were so many tidbits of information given, we left with a greater knowledge of this important service in our community.

Last month, Mayor Taylor and the town manager, Bob Frye gave us a thorough look at all the projects being planned for Highlands over the next several months. We were able to ask questions freely and left with lots of answers and a sense that much is happening in this town!

Thanks to the Mayor, all of his invitees and the Hudson Library for giving us a great venue to learn about our community! See ya at the next meeting - 11 a.m. to noon on the last Friday of each month in the library meeting room.

**Marleen and Al Salo
Highlands, NC**

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...THANKS from page 3

environment which ultimately stressed professionalism and responsibility. I am also indebted to the HCC membership. It is not every day that one gets to work for such kind, successful, and generous individuals who truly care about my goals and aspirations. Not only has the HCC membership been generous enough to contribute financially to my education, but I have gained so many intangible rewards simply by witnessing their example and conduct. They are truly first-hand models of hard work.

I believe God works through events and situations in order to mold each and every one of us to fit his perfect plan, and He has undoubtedly shaped me through my time at Highlands Country Club. Though I was an employee, the members and staff treated me like family. For that, Highlands Country Club will always hold a special place in my heart.

Brice Jenkins

THE LITERACY COUNCIL OF HIGHLANDS

Wishes to thank the following who made our Randall Atcheson weekend such a huge success!

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and affordable broadband services and said though there is a need to establish rules to prevent cities and towns from having an unfair advantage over providers in the private sector, her concerns are that HB 129 restrictions imposed on cities and towns who want to offer broadband services may have the effect of decreasing the number of choices available to their citizens.

And this is exactly the town of Highlands' stance on the issue.

At the August 21 Town Board meeting, MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler presented commissioners with a letter to the FCC basically requesting that it step in so municipalities like Highlands that don't have private companies who want to offer customers sufficient upload capabilities, could do it themselves.

"The Town of Highlands has suffered

from the ban of municipal broadband. Our town is made up of many second-homeowners who come from Atlanta, GA and other large cities and are accustomed to having Gigabit broadband," wrote Shuler. "They can only have short stays in Highlands because in most areas the broadband speeds will not support their needs. This causes our businesses to lose sales, and our town to lose sales tax revenue."

He also said there are telecommuters who love the Highlands area, but choose to move elsewhere, because they cannot telecommute from Highlands.

"There is no residential service in the Highlands area where more than 2 Mbps upload speed can be achieved. Many companies boast of high speeds, but they are only referring to download speeds which

• See **BROADBAND** page 18



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•HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

Mondays

- Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tuesdays

- Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

Tues. & Thurs.

- Aerobics at the Rec Park with Tina Rogers 5:15. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
- Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5.

1st Wednesdays

- Family Movies at the Hudson Library at

3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

- General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

- Storytimes with Miss Carol at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.
- Highlands Writer's Group meets every Thursday from 1-3:30 pm at Hudson Library. Writers of all genres welcome. For info call 526-8009 or 526-2295.

- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555 Last Fri. of each month.

- Free wine tastings from 5-7p at MountainTop Wine Shoppe.

Thursdays

- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental

Illness) offers a peer support group for individuals that are dealing with depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members or friends of loved ones dealing with these challenges. Join us in a safe, confidential environment to share concerns and gain insight. Join us for our Weekly Support Group from 7 – 8:15 pm @ 14 West Palmer Street in Franklin NC, email dcwithnami@yahoo.com, Donita (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

- Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.

Fri.-Sun.

- Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

Fri. & Sat.

- The Historical Society Museum is open.

Saturdays

- The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park. Organic vegetables, eggs, honey, cheeses, home-made food and hand-made items. For information call 482-0555 Maxine Daviddoff.

- Cashiers Local Farmers tailgate market through October at the Anglican Church Parking Lot Hwy 64 E next to Macon Bank.

- Free wine tastings at MountainTop Wine Shoppe from 1-3p.

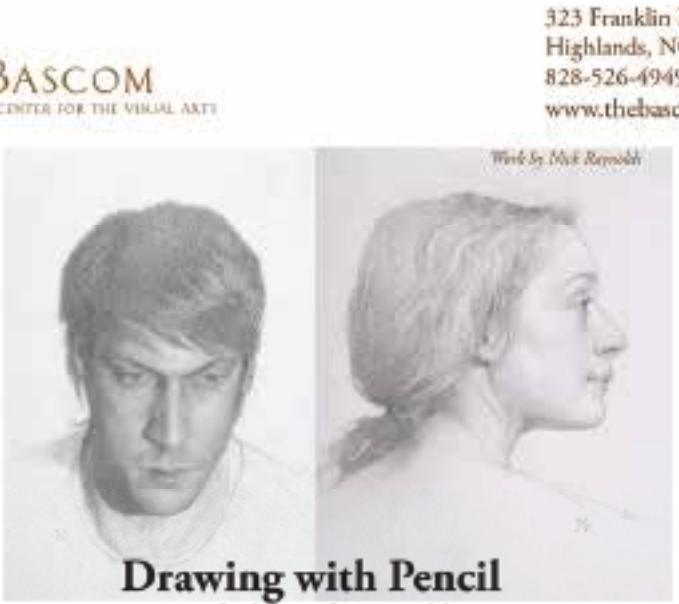
Thurs., Sept. 4

- Macon County Public Health presents "The Bedroom Project" 10a and 6:30p at the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin's Tartan Hall. Adults only, must be 18 or older. Call 349-2426.

- At ...on the Verandah, Well Strung in the lounge.

- The Highlands Male Chorus will perform at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. The chorus will perform songs from The Mu-

• See EVENTS page 11



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HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

sic Man, Man of LaMancha and Oklahoma. It will also take the audience back to the 50s and 60s with a variety of songs. Advance tickets are \$15. Call PAC at 828-526-9047. They are also available at the door.

Sat., Sept. 6

- This beginner's bird walk will explore Turtle Pond Road in Highlands. Meet in the parking lot behind the Highlands Town Hall near the public restrooms off Highway 64 at 7:30 am to carpool. The Franklin Bird Club will be joining HPAS and will meet at Bi-Lo parking area at 7:30 am to carpool from Franklin. Binoculars will be available. For more information, visit www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org.

- Highlands Nature Center is looking for children ages 9 to 14 to participate in a student volunteer docent program on some Saturdays during the fall season. Students will learn about regional plants and wildlife and the Nature Center's related exhibits, and to communicate this information to visitors as a museum interpretive guide. Interested students (with parent) should come to the Nature Center for an orientation meeting 1-3 pm for further details. To enroll, call Patrick Brannon at 828-526-2623.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy almost level one-mile hike around the lake at BLACK ROCK MT. STATE PARK in GA, then drive up the mtn. to the Visitors Center for a nice view over Clayton. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center in Otto at 9:30 a.m., drive 26 miles round trip, share \$3.00 parking fee. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820 for reservations. Visitors welcome, no pets please.

Sun.-Wed., Sept 7-10

- Shortoff Baptist Church Community Crusade/Revival 7PM each night. Everyone is welcome, so come out to Shortoff Baptist Church at the intersection of Highway 64 and Buck Creek Road and worship and fellowship with us.

Sun., Sept. 7

- The High Mountain Squares will host their 12th Annual "Greenway Dance", Sunday afternoon, from 2 to 4:30 PM. Jim Duncan from Otto NC will be the caller. It will be at the Macon County Rec Park Pavilion on Allman Dr, off GA Rd (441 South), Franklin NC. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome.

- Bel Canto performance at PAC followed by dinner at Highlands Country Club. Opera 4 p.m., doors open at 3:30p.

Mon., Sept. 8

- The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly luncheon meeting at 11:30 on Sept 8, 2014 in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are wel-

come. For further information, please contact 369-3136 or 524-2673.

- Highlands Plateau Audubon Society in cooperation with the Hudson Library will present a program by Dr. Barbara Ballentine, of WCU at 7 pm a Hudson Library. The program is entitled: "Animal Communication: Tales of Sex and Violence from the Swamp." This is free and open to the public. For more information, call 828-743-9670.

- The Highlands Christian Chorale will begin rehearsals for the annual Christmas concerts in the sanctuary of Highlands First Baptist Church. Rehearsals are from 5:30-7p. Everyone is welcome.

Tues., Sept 9

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4.5-mile moderate hike with elevation change of 2200 ft. up SILER BALD to view the full moon. Bring head-lamp, something to sit on, hiking poles (for the woods walk back), beverage and snack. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 6 p.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no pets please.

Wed., Sept. 10

- At PAC, the Live in HD Series featuring an Encore MET performance of *Othello*. Call 828.526.9047 for info and tickets.

Thurs., Sept. 11

- HCLT's Box Canyon Eco Tour 9:30a to 3p. Easy to moderate walk with a picnic lunch. Reservation required. \$10 for Land Trust members and \$35 for others. Call 828-526-1111.

- The League of Women Voters of Macon County will host a forum for Jim Davis (R) and Jane Hipp(D), candidates for NC Senate District 50. The forum will be held in Tartan Hall in Franklin at noon. The public is invited and attendees will have an opportunity to question and speak with candidates. The LWV is a non-partisan organization.

- Rotary Bingo will benefit the Highlands Historical Society. Bingo will be from 6:30-8:30p at the Community building beside the ballfield.

Fri., Sept 12

- Lunch and Learn at the H-C Hospital. "Estate Planning and Health Care Directives" 11:30a to 1p. Registration is at 11:30a in the ELC Conference Room. Lunch and presentation is at noon in the ELC activities room. Please RSVP Pamela Harris at 828-526-1325.

Sat., Sept. 13

- Land of Sky Chorus presents Kings of the Road at PAC on Chestnut Street at 7:30p. Tickets are \$17. Call 828-526-9047.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike with elevation change of 900 ft. on HOLLY SPRINGS RIDGE. Meet in the old Walmart parking lot at 9:30 a.m., drive 3 miles round trip. Call leader Kathy Ratcliff, 349-3380, for reservations. Friendly dogs on leash o.k.

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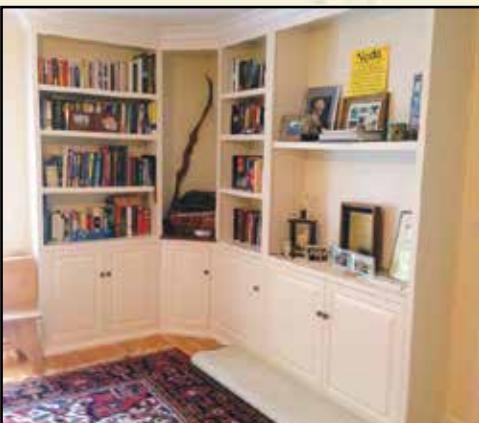
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Fall Home Improvement

Family-Friendly Carpet and Tile that Work for Your Home

(StatePoint) Your home's flooring matters. Not only can it affect property value, but it's also a fundamental element of design and style. With so many choices available, it can be difficult choosing what's right for your family and home.

Here are some guidelines that can help you make smart decisions that meet your budget and lifestyle.

Choosing Tile

"Tiling your home can be a great home improvement to easily add value," says Keesha Hargis, a home décor specialist.

Easy to maintain, tile flooring tends to be very resistant to moisture, fading and scratches. Tile allows you to create a variety of looks in your home from Tuscan to modern with the

use of stone, such as slate, travertine, marble, concrete and linen.

Natural stone floors are beautiful and elegant, but they are not always ideal for families. However, today's engineered products are changing that. For example, PurSTONE, a pre-engineered tile flooring available through Flooring America, can be installed quickly with or without grout on any level of a home. Unlike natural stone that needs to be stained and maintained, this alternative can look better longer with minimal maintenance.

Choosing Carpet

There is a vast selection of styles, colors, and fibers to choose from in today's marketplace, but a simple checklist can help.

"The activity level of



the home should be considered first," says Hargis. "For example, a traditional, patterned wool carpet may not be the right choice for a busy family with toddlers and pets."

Nylon fibers will hold up well to foot traffic, but may not offer the stain resistance a well-used room may need. Carpets manufactured in today's polyester and polypropylene fibers resist staining and can be found in vibrant colors

and sharp multi-toned patterns, but may not last through years of heavy wear.

Newer fibers, however, are allowing for softness and durability to co-exist. For example, the Innova Touch Collection has built-in stain and soil protection. Backed by a 20-year warranty, it can offer the resilience a carpet in a well-used room needs.

Some homeowners may want professional help in making their decisions. Think about consulting a qualified flooring specialist.

Design tips, home improvement advice and information about innovations in flooring are available at www.FlooringAmerica.com.

Flooring is a long-term investment, so consider factors like maintenance and usage before making a final decision.

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Fall Home Improvement

Is Your Home Ready for Winter?

(StatePoint) It's time to start preparing your home to make sure it can efficiently handle colder weather.

"There are many small, low-hassle items you can complete to 'winterize' your home," says David Andreozzi, principal of Andreozzi Architects and the American Institute of Architect's (AIA) National Chair of CRAN, the AIA's Custom Residential Architects Network. "Prepping your home for the season ensures you aren't dealing with major issues when they are harder to tackle, and can prevent costly repairs come springtime."

To help homeowners prepare, Andreozzi offers the following advice.

Check Chimneys and Gutters

Regular checks of your chimneys and gutters are both safety-smart and wallet-friendly. Fireplace dampers should be closed and functioning properly to protect against drafts and keep heating costs down. Leaving a damper open or using a broken one is the equivalent to leaving a window open when the air conditioner is



running.

While sometimes not as noticeable as a chimney draft, ice is another danger. It can build up in gutters quickly if there is debris there from previous seasons. In order for ice to melt and drain properly, drains must be clear. Clean your gutters when it's warm to prevent clogs and costly replacements.

Remember Watering Systems

This is especially important for new home buyers who may not think to look for this. Water trapped in an outdoor faucet, spigot or irrigation system can cause a pipe to burst if ice settles inside. Make it part

of your winterizing routine to ensure that outdoor plumbing and pipes are clear before temperatures drop.

Designing for Weather

In the design process of your home, it is important that your home is sealed correctly to account for local weather. An architect can advise on how to prevent unwanted drafts. If you have an older home or apartment, use self-adhesive weather stripping to seal cracks in windows and doors, too.

Create a Timetable

The change of seasons means maintenance. Create a checklist of tasks with a

timetable so you are never scrambling at the last minute. Small items that often slip between the cracks can be taken care of in a timely fashion -- like changing batteries in smoke detectors or cleaning the pilots of the heating system.

Andreozzi recommends using a professional twice a year to help tick off some of the trickier items, such as sealing windows. To ensure that you're hitting all of the pain points, an architect can help you formulate a full checklist to make the most out of your prep work.

By preparing now, you can save time and money later.



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...INCREASES from page 1

fields by about 80 feet. The re-design, which is estimated to add an additional \$262,000 on to the project's cost, re-positioned the clover leaf ballfields to allow the burial site to fall between two fields, rather than in the outfield where it was discovered.

Despite the setback, County Manager Derek Roland told commissioners that the project remains on schedule and is still anticipating a summer 2015 open date.

The county has worked with both the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians and the state's archeologist office to ensure that the remains that were uncovered are handled properly.

"In working along with the Eastern Band to preserve that grave site, we have been able to rotate those fields," said Roland. "At the end of the day, we're going to have the same eight-field recreation facility that was promised to the citizens of Macon County."

Additional grading on the

• See INCREASES page 15

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Land of the Sky Barbershop Chorus
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Live in HD Series starts up in September at PAC

The Live in HD Series featuring broadcasts from the MET Opera, the National Theatre, London and the Bolshoi Ballet will begin Wednesday, September 10 with an Encore MET performance of *Otello*; Tuesday, September 16, National Theatre's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*; Wednesday, September 17 Encore MET performance of: *The Enchanted Island*; Friday, September 19, National Theatre's production of *Medea*; Saturday(s) October 11 & 18 the MET Opera begins its 2014-15 Season with *Macbeth* (Verdi) and *Le Noxxe Di Figaro* (Mozart).

November brings *Frankenstein* (National Theatre), *Carmen* (MET), *Legend of Love* (Bolshoi Ballet), *Skylight* (National Theatre), *Barber of Seville* (MET), and *Pharaoh's Daughter* (Bolshoi Ballet). Please check www.hIGHLANDSPAC.ORG for a complete listing or call 828.526.9047.

...INCREASES from page 14

remaining ballfields could turn up more artifacts, but Roland believes that is unlikely because testing done in 2012 on the next area to be graded showed nothing,

"I'm in no way trying to circumvent any regulation that we're governed by on this project," said Roland. "What I'm asking is that we acknowledge that this professional has gone out there and tests indicate no artifacts. I'm asking for us to do it monitored, rather than an inch at a time for the area of 120 square feet by 40 square feet."

After the Native American remains were uncovered, the project moved forward an inch at a time, which cost the county time and money. Commissioners approved \$37,555 for the TRC engineering firm to cover the costs of the additional field work, data recovery, and analysis associated with the burial findings. If the same practice was done on the remaining area needing to be graded, the county could expect a similar price tag. The \$37,555 approved during August's meeting will be paid for out of the project's

contingency fund, which has already been budgeted.

Despite Roland's recommendation to move forward with minimal monitoring, Paul Webb with TRC, recommended against it.

"I'm wary of this situation because finding graves the right way is sensitive enough — finding graves during construction is worse," said Webb. "If we could look at it ahead of time, see what was there, and have the potential to back out or make recommendations — it's certainly the safest approach."

Webb noted that although the study found that a test trip revealed no artifacts, if you move a couple of inches outside that test trip, artifacts may be found.

Despite Webb's recommendation, the county unanimously voted to allow Roland the authority to move the project forward with minimal monitoring. Roland said he hopes to have all the grading completed by the end of September, allowing for buildings and landscaping to begin in October.



Upcoming

MET Opera Encore: Wednesday, September 10 7pm *Otello*

National Theatre: Tuesday, September 16 7pm *A Streetcar Named Desire*

MET Opera Encore: Wednesday, September 17 7pm *The Enchanted Island*

National Theatre: Friday, September 19 7pm *Medea*

MET Opera Encore: \$15 National Theatre: \$18

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...REVAL continued from page 1

start; it in fact got into high gear in early 2012, with that said we have been in Highlands many days over a long period of time."

Macon County commissioners, along with other neighboring counties, made the decision a couple of years ago to delay the revaluation to give the housing market time to recover from the recession. Lightner believes

that decision was the right one to make.

"The decision two years ago was good for citizens because it allowed the market to rebound and stabilize," he said. "At the same time, the economy is improving in the markets where our part-time residents live and this has enabled property owners the resources to reinvest in Macon County."

According to Lightner, he and his team have been in Highlands working since early summer and are in the process of finishing up the final revaluations in the area.

The appraisal process involves Lightner and his office collecting and reviewing sales, routing the 369 county maps, mapping property sales from 2013 and 2014, analyzing construction

costs, developing land pricing models, developing a schedule of values, applying the schedule of values to properties, visiting properties and reviewing sales to comparable properties. They then identify areas of concern and make corrections before sending Notices of Value to property owners. An appeals review process is also established.

Lightner told commission-

ers his early predictions of the tax revaluations are still accurate. While overall, home values have declined by around 25 - 30 percent, Lightner stands by his February prediction that vacant land values have declined the most with a 50 percent or more decrease and the revaluation is expected to reflect a total taxable value decrease of \$2,000,000.

Earlier this year, Lightner projected that if the county expects its revenues and expenditures to stay as they are in the current budget year (2013-14), the revenue neutral tax rate for the county would be around 38 cents per \$100. That is around a 10-cent increase from the county's current tax rate of 27.9 cents. Macon County's current tax rate is the lowest in the state, with Jackson County coming in next at 28 cents.

After spending months in Highlands, Lightner found the property assessments to be similar to that of other areas in the county.

"Like all areas, large tracts of land have seen the largest decrease of value, Highlands has seen similar decreases in remote tracts of land," said Lightner. "Also, substandard housing is depreciating at a faster pace since most of those homeowners are not in a financial position to make repairs and upkeep. The past two years have given new life to the Highlands' city limits and country clubs. We are seeing commercial properties changing hands and money being invested in the town -- OEI projects, motels on main, townhouses in and around town, new housing in the clubs, etc. -- This helps with stabilization and establishes a rebounding real estate market."

Plans are to send out the new property evaluations in January, but Lightner and his office still have some work to do. They need to finish final reviews, complete new construction reviews for 2014, finalize transfers for new owners through December 31, 2014, and complete error reports. After that is completed, property owners will be informed of the new property evaluations, he said.

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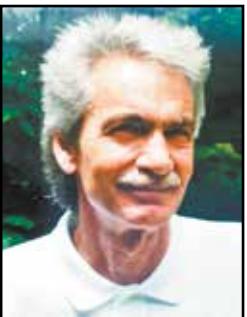
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The Christian life doesn't work



By Pastor Dan Robinson

Highlands Central Baptist Church

Of course it does, but for many it seems that it doesn't. Insanity has been defined as doing the same thing the same way and expecting different results. This would certainly characterize some Christians (I think they've been in some of my churches!) Yet...they continue doing the same thing...predictable and rote. The Christian life is no different for them today than it was ten years ago.

Clearly, Jesus has something else in mind when He calls us to follow Him. So, what do we make of this? Simply said, the Christian life doesn't seem to be working for some Christians because they're looking for/expecting something which isn't there. For them there must always be perpetual miracles, emotional ecstasy, affluence and prosperity, trouble-free living and more. They've never connected the power of the Holy Spirit with everyday living. For them the Christian life must always be spectacular or sensational. To add insult to injury, there are self-proclaimed preachers who promote these ideas. So the bottom line is simple: "If my Christian life isn't spectacular, then it isn't working."

Away from all this error the Bible points us unflinchingly to Jesus. The Christian life IS Jesus. He is not the addendum to our lives. He is rather the epicenter of our lives. We revolve around Him. Not vice-versa. Since the Christian life is Jesus...the Chief Shepherd...then it is His business regarding the pastures to which He takes us. Sometimes there are pastures of triumph. At other times we graze in the pasture of trouble. Remember the song, "Like A River Glorious?" The third stanza reads: "Every joy or trial falleth from above, traced upon our dial by the

• See SPIRITUALLY page 22



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Proverbs 3:5

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John 3:16

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Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

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6:15: Adult choir (nursery provided) Thurs: 12:30:
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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg: 7 p.m.

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...BROADBAND continued from page 9

do not meet the needs of the telecommuters," he said. "With potential homeowners turning to other locations, our city and county loses tax dollars as vacant lots remain empty, builders go unemployed, and building suppliers lose sales ...if the FCC will lift the ban on municipal broadband, Highlands, which owns its power utility, can pull fiber throughout the city, and offer Gigabit speeds to our residents," states the letter.

In 2011, having expressed her concerns, Perdue said she would do nothing, but expected others to take action instead.

Now that time has come.

Recently, with claims that municipalities are fed up with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) who face little competition while offering slow speeds for high prices, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has promised to overturn the states' power to regulate who sells bandwidth.

"I believe that it is in the best interests of consumers and competition that the FCC exercises its power to preempt state laws that ban or restrict competition from community broadband. Given the opportunity, we will do so," he said.

But according to Kate Cox of Consumerist, although Wheeler strongly indicates that he believes the FCC has the

authority to override these state laws preventing competition, certain legislators disagree and are likely to be as obstructionist as possible should the FCC, a regulatory agency, actually attempt to regulate anything.

At the Aug. 21 Town Board meeting, Shuler said the cities of Wilson, NC and Chattanooga, TN have petitioned the FCC to remove state laws that restrict municipalities from providing Internet to their residents and asked that Highlands follow suit.

He said the FCC has opened two proceedings: one for North Carolina and one for Tennessee. These proceedings allow comments about allowing municipal-owned broadband to be uploaded to a specific site. He asked for permission to submit the letter he drafted supporting municipal-owned internet to the site.

Commissioners were for the letter, but asked that it be stronger.

"No one is interested with us so we have to do it ourselves," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "It's not that we want to compete with the private companies, but no one wants to give us the uploading speed. We have to make it clear that we are trying to be in the 21st century

• See BROADBAND page 19

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...BROADBAND from page 18

but we can't unless the private companies do it for us and they won't because we are basically a small area. In your letter make it clear that their rules are keeping us from being able to compete in the 21st century."

Mayor Pat Taylor said increasing broadband capabilities isn't just for people who are coming to Highlands but for those who live here all the time. "Connectivity and availability of bandwidth is essential," he said.

Meanwhile the broadband issue is a part of the updated Comprehensive Plan being discussed by the Planning Board.

The town has fiber installed in various areas around town and could potentially install more to connect the loop which may entice private providers to offer more or better services or, if the FCC lifts the ban, enable the town to get into the broadband business.

To submit a filing, go to <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/proceeding/view?name=14-115>.

— Kim Lewicki

September at CLE

Thursday, Sept. 4, 10-12: Dr. Robert Ivarie presents recent advances in technology that have made the goal of providing our own genome DNA sequence for a thousand dollars or less a reality. Cost \$25/\$35. Tuesday, Sept. 9, 10-12: in his talk "Living Off the Grid in the North Carolina Mountains" Bill Dykes, a retired federal banker will give his personal account of using a micro hydro electrical generating system to power his home. Cost \$15/\$20

Free, Monday, Sept. 8, 5:30-7: "I'm Right! You're Wrong...Is that So?" This includes suggestions for how to deal with difficult one-on-one interactions in the workplace and in your personal life.

Free, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 6 pm: "The Middle East and American Security" with Middle East expert Sandra Mackey at the Highlands Playhouse.

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 6-8 pm, Nigel Sixsmith will be teaching classes on iPad basics, advanced as well as photo editing and we have added classes on the new operating system "Yosemite." Cost \$35/\$50

Monday, Sept. 15, 10:30-1:30: cooking classes with Holly Roberts owner of The Kitchen Carryaway & Catering, Cost \$40/\$50 and Tuesday, Sept. 16, 1-3, Mark Ellis of New Mountain Events will show how to do a dinner party with five ingredients or less, Cost \$85/\$95. Also, lunch On The Verandah with Andrew Figel, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 12-2 Cost \$45/\$55

Visit our website www.clehighlands.com, or call 828-526-8811.

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police Log entries from Aug. 15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 15

• At 12:40 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hickory Street.

Aug. 18

• At 2:18 p.m., Miguel Angel Arellano-Romero, 42, of Franklin, was arrested for traffic offenses on Main Street.

Aug. 21

• At 3 p.m., an incident of fraud was reported by a resident concerning a Mega Millions representative.

Aug. 22

• At 7:45 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

Aug. 23

• At 10:54 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in Wright Square.

Aug. 24

• At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Highlands Smoke-

house parking lot.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Aug. 20

Aug. 27

• At 3:14 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Aug. 28

• At 11:34 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly Mount FD.

• At 9:36 p.m., the dept. stood by for MAMA at the hospital.

Aug. 29

• At 8:01 p.m., the dept. was responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Church Street.

• At 12:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

Aug. 30

• At 2:08 a.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 2:47 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Walkingstick Road.

• At 9:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Cherry Tree Lane.

Aug. 31

• At 4:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Lower Brushy Face Road.

• At 8:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wahoo Trial.

Sept. 1

• At 6:06 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Oak Street.

• At 5:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire on S. 4th St.

• At 10:23 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falls Drive West.

• At 9:03 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Church Street.

• At 5:22 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Main Street.

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MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY is accepting applications for full-time positions as a coffee/barista server. Contact Don or JT at 828.526.2400. (9/11)

THE BISTRO AT MAIN STREET INN is hiring cooks, servers, food runners, bussers. Stop by to apply or call 526-2590, or or email at info@mainsstreet-inn.com.

HIGHLANDS PLAYHOUSE is now hiring part-time help for our winter movie season. Must have strong customer service and math skills. Call 828-526-2695 or come by the office at 362 Oak Street, Highlands. (st. 8/28)

EXPERIENCED HORSE/DOG HOUSE SITTER. Please call Nicole @ 252-637-2255 (st. 8/21)

WHOLE LIFE MARKET & NECTAR JUICE BAR

are now accepting applications for full and part time employment. Must have an interest in health and wellness, retail experience is required. Stop by Whole Life Market located at 680 N. 4th St. for an application or email your resume to wholelife@frontier.com. (st. 8/21)

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FUN AND ENERGETIC HELP IN A BUSY SALON. 3 days a week, 10a to 3p. Call Rita at 828-526-3742. (st. 8/14)

WAITSTAFF NEEDED AT TOKYO RESTAURANT. Call Jimmy at 828-526-8800. (st. 7/31)

LEAD LINE COOK & DISHWASHER needed at casual fine dining, up to \$13/hour or salary B.O.E. jasoncancilla2012@gmail.com (st. 6/19)

PART TIME SEASONAL OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE. Prior wait staff experience required. 20 - 30 hours with weekend availability. Call 803-389-0199. (st. 6/12)

CNA, NURSES, CAREGIVERS needed for Home Care Agency serving Older Adults in Macon, Jackson and Transylvania counties. Call 828-200-9000. (st. 5/15)

WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT is looking for experienced servers and a part-time host/hostess. Please call Robbie at 828.526.3807. (st. 5/15)

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SPACIOUS 2 BEDROOM HOUSE for rent on private corner of farm. Potter's kiln & studio. 7 miles south of Highlands. Hwy 28. \$850/mth plus utilities (706) 490-7036. (st. 8/21)

ROOM FOR RENT. Share house with one or two other renters. \$250 per month plus utilities. 6 miles south of Highlands. Call 706-490-7036. (st. 8/21)

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GREAT LOCATION ON CAROLINA WAY between 64E and 5th St across from Bank of America. ±1480 sqft. Office or retail. \$1500/month. Call Tom Clark(404)210-7979 or (828)526-4646. (st. 9/19/13)

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38 ACRES 3 miles north of Glendale, NC. \$205,000. (706) 865-9312. (8/21 pd)

FOR SALE BY OWNER — 3 building lots in the gated community of Rustic Falls. Macon County tax records value at \$51,000 each. Must sell due to health reasons. Asking \$15,000 each. Call owner at 803-640-6004. (St. 5/1)

MUST SELL 6+ acres at Lake Glendale. Lake and mountain views. \$130,000 or Best Offer. Call 706-348-3208. (st. 2/20)

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Homesite is cleared for Camper or Cabin. Driveway in, 1000 gal Septic/Drainfield in, Well permit in hand. Scaly Mountain area near Highlands. No Restrictions and Very Beautiful. \$35,000 850-363-1436. (st. 8/28)

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Approximately 300 square feet of 3/4" wormy chestnut wainscot milled and finished. Board length 36"; width varies from 4" to 8". \$2800 lot price. 404-944-5298 (st. 3/20)

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2014 Bel Canto SOLD OUT

Tickets needed for waiting list

On Sept., 7, Bel Canto will hold its 22nd annual recital at the Highlands Performing Arts Center and it is sold out. If you have purchased tickets but can't attend, please call Stell Huie at 828-526-3312; there is a waiting list.

This year there are four exceptional artists from the world of opera who will perform in a program filled with gorgeous and fun music from opera to Broadway favorites. Pianist, Stephen Dubberly will return as the concert's accompanist and will also perform a solo piano piece. The concert will be followed by a gala dinner held at Highlands Country Club.

Bel Canto supports the Bascom Permanent Collection, Highlands School music program, Highlands Community Child Development Center, and the Gordon Center. In the last ten years, Bel Canto has donated over \$300,000 thanks to the overwhelming generosity of benefactors.

This year's artists include: Elizabeth Beers Kataria, Victoria Livengood, Clay Hillyer, and Mark Rucker.

...SPIRITUALLY from page 7

Sun of Love."

We should take comfort and gain great strength by remembering that our Father does everything for our good. There are no exceptions to that truth (Romans 8:28-29). He uses both the most tragic heartache along with the most sublime joy for our good. I hope you will rest in this strong truth. The Christian life does indeed work. It works perfectly in imperfect people and powerfully in weak people. I qualify. And you?

...FREDSTER from page 7

fashioned popcorn machine or a store to pop it in and since I'll never have a store called the Cedar Chest, I'm left with buying those small blocks of cedar at craft fairs. I place them in my clothes drawers and eat microwave popcorn while watching TV.

Hey, life is about compromises, right? So why not pop up a batch of corn, settle in on your couch and read my mystery/thriller titled Deceived on your e reader. Just make sure you don't get popcorn oil on your e reader screen.

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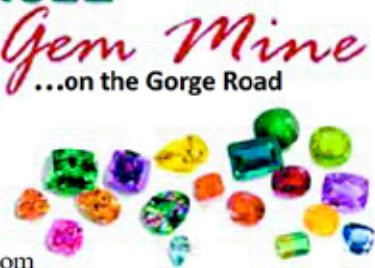
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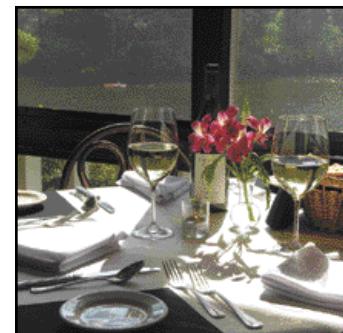
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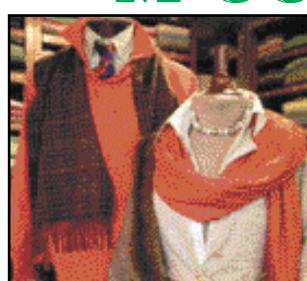
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