Update on town projects presented at TB meeting

Pool enclosure project is behind schedule; pool may open later than planned

The pool project generated the most discussion at last week's Town Board meeting.

According to Town Manager Bob Frye, the materials needed to construct the glass enclosure on site were ordered late – 12 weeks late – and so now won't be delivered until sometime in May. Estimations ranged from mid-May to the end of May with four to five weeks needed to construct the enclosure once all the pieces are on site.

Initially, Frye suggested opening the pool by July 4 but that notion was shot down. Commissioner Amy Patterson said even though the pool may open later than planned, that was better than it could have been.

MC School Board laments over calendar

Thanks to inclement weather this year, Macon County Schools has only a one-hour cushion before it falls below the state-mandated 1,025 hours of instructional time.

With the possibility of inclement weather still looming, this has administrators concerned.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said the two schools likely to be affected are Highlands and Nantahala.

The county's predicament exemplifies the need for local control over school calendars – something Macon County Schools superintendents have been striving for since 2004.

Since 2004, the state has regulated when public schools could open and end the school year with leeway only available through waivers – the granting of which has been a slow process. The board generally greets an opportunity for a waiver with trepidation.

March 30, National Doctors' Day, is a time to recognize and celebrate the hard work of physicians – all of the many medical specialties make up a remarkable community, coming together as one to help and heal patients. The observance dates back to 1933 and was officially established by Congress in 1990. Now the North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) is beginning a new, homegrown tradition with North Carolina Doctors’ Day. To mark the event, NCMS is sponsoring the 2015 North Carolina Doctor of the Year Award, allowing patients and the public to honor our state's physicians who are: Passionate about keeping patients happy and healthy. Experts in using life-changing treatments to give patients the best care. And making a positive impact in the community.

Why Dr. Heffington was nominated: His working history

Heffington nominated for NC Doctor of the Year

Vote for him through March 27 at www.ncdoctorsday.org

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Almost daily, I use my tablet to read articles posted on the Flipboard and Pulse Apps. Several have recently caught my attention.

Nancy Cook wrote an article entitled “Americans Prefer Their Solutions Locally Sourced.” The writer “shocked” me with an opening declaration that average Americans are fed up with Washington politics. Say what? Indeed, according to the Heartland Monitor Poll conducted by Allstate and the National Journal, citizens are looking to community organizations, small businesses and local governments to solve community problems. No surprise to me, Highlanders have done this for years.

While Washington Beltway Boys scored about 10% to 14% in citizens’ confidence, poll respondents rated local business investments, non-profit organizations and local and state government programs in the 80% range to solve problems that benefit local areas.

Cook goes on to note that focus on local efforts gives folks a greater sense of “their own agency” in solving problems. Put another way, citizens prefer grassroots actions and solutions.

A piece posted in the Atlantic by Terrence Ross also caught my attention. It was titled “When Students Can’t Go Online.” Ross states that 99% of American schools are now connected to the internet because of the Federal E Rate program begun in 1998. The author asserts that just being connected is not enough. The average school has connectivity bandwidth equal to an average home. But schools have a lot more users, so many of them are forced to ration student internet time. Ross states that not only do students need fast and abundant bandwidth in the classroom, they also need strong home connectivity.

Now where am I going with these observations? Highlands, as well as all of Western Carolina, must build a broadband and internet network that will support education, business, medical access and needs of private citizens. And, I don’t mean a decade from now. We must begin now, or we will be passed by and miss the future.

At the time of this writing, I will have attended a meeting of the board of the Southwestern Planning Commission. The commission has been working with the state leadership to build a major billion dollar road through the northern counties of the region. Named Corridor K, it will be completed in fifteen years. My message to my commission colleagues is that while it may be important to build a super highway, if the super information highway is not built in the region ASAP, that expensive road might lead to nowhere.

Last month the Town of Highlands sent a representative to a FCC hearing in Washington. Along with several other municipalities, we were contesting the NC statute prohibiting small towns from serving

Open Letter To Macon County commissioners:

I would like to give you my two cents worth regarding the pending redo of the Highlands High School track and field. Improving the curb appeal is a nice objective but there are many other issues that need to be considered.

Have you ever seen a high school track with a softball field in the infield? Highlands has the only one I have ever seen in over 57 years of running track. Neither the softball field nor the track are of regulation size.

Information about the proposed redo of the track seems to be a closely held secret. For awhile I thought the plan was to just repave the existing track. Then I heard the plan is to make it a 5 lap to the mile track. A recent article said it will be four lanes without specifying any length. Any of these choices would present all kinds of problems.

Please ask yourself, what is the purpose of having a track at the school? If it is to be a track where official school meets will be held, it will be a nightmare to lay
Robert Stanley McCall, age 69 of Cullowhee NC died Friday, March 20, 2015. Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Robert Lewis McCall and Barbara Kell Hummel. Stan worked for Freeman Gas for over 15 years; was a member of Franklin Church of God, enjoyed hunting and fishing and was an avid outdoorsman. Stan was known for being able to fix anything.

He is survived by two children, Brandie Thompson and husband Jamie of Elizabethtown, NC and Stephen Hummel and wife Tiffany of Franklin; granddaughter, Hannah Thompson; mother of his children, Patricia Hummel; companion, Teresa Hollingsworth and her son, Nathaniel and his daughter, Natalie; and many cousins and good friends and his beloved dog, Max.

Funeral Service were held at 11 am Monday, March 23, at Franklin Church of God. Rev. Philip Cochran, Rev. Steve Reeves, Rev. Hank Conner and Rev. Michael Stephens officiated. Burial was in the Mount Zion Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Stephen Hummel, Mike Kell, Morris Cook, Zac Cook, Brian Southard, James Greenwood, Jared Greenwood and Brent Vinson.

Honorary Pallbearers were Bob Simpson, David Autrey, Parker Southard, Nathaniel Hollingsworth and Dylan Southard.

Memorial donations can be made to Cartoogechaye Church of God Building Fund, PO Box 438, Franklin, NC 28744.

Macon Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com

Clifton Randall McCall, age 69 of Cullowhee NC died Friday, March 20, 2015. Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late W. Jerry and Mattie Beck McCall. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a grandson, Austin McCall Conner; two sisters, Flora Mae and Cornelia McCall. He was of the Baptist faith, the retired owner of McCall's Odds-N-Ends. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Ginnivee Underwood McCall; one daughter, Teresa McCall of Franklin, NC; one son, Clifton McCall of Salem, SC; three grandchildren, Nick McCall & wife Whitney of Franklin, NC, Justin McCall of Savannah, GA and DeAnna McCall of Cashiers, NC; one great-granddaughter Lainey McCall of Franklin, NC; three sisters, Marie Alexander & husband McCager of Starr, SC, Rebecca Binder & husband Bill of Hendersonville, NC, Christine Lusk & husband Shelley of Brevard, NC; one brother Ernest McCall & wife Madge of Pendleton, SC.

Several nieces and nephews also survive.

The family will receive friends March 28, 2015 from 2-4 PM at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Franklin, NC.

The family will hold a private memorial at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Shriners Children's Hospital Oasis Shrine Temple, 604 Doug Mayes Place, Charlotte, NC 28262

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

as internet utility providers. As I have said before, private corporations capable of building high capacity networks have been unwilling to invest in this area beyond the very minimal. The FCC voted in favor of municipalities and against the state prohibition. Now, will Raleigh allow these grassroots initiatives to move forward by permitting towns to be providers of last resort? The stakes for this region are enormous. Hopefully, we can embrace our own “local agency” in solving this problem.
Golden China

Listed in ‘100 Top Chinese Restaurants in USA’

Lunch Buffet

LUNCHE:
11-2:30, M-TH $7.25
Friday: Seafood Buffet $8.25
Open 7 days a week
11a to 9:30p
Menu available, too
Wine & Beer • No MSG

In-town delivery w/$15 order
Highlands Plaza • 526-5525

Cyprus International Cuisine

Lunch: 3-station lunch buffet – $13.95.
Fri., Sat., Sun., 11a-4p
Dinner: 7 nights a week 5-9p
For reservations call: 526-4429

The Pizza Place

Hand-tossed - thick, thin, pan
Gluten-free & Whole Wheat, too

6”•10”•14”•16”•20” pies
Specialty Sandwiches, Hot Dogs & Salads,
Domestic & Imported Beers
Open 7 days a week from 11 a.m.
365 Main Street • 526-5660

Asia House

Japanese • Asian • Thai • Hibachi Cuisine

Open Year Round
Mon., Tues., Thurs., 11a to 10p
Fri., & Sat., 11a to 11p
Sun., noon to 10p
CLOSED WEDNESDAY
828-787-1680 or 828-787-1900
We Cater!
151 Helen’s Barn Avenue

Catering Available
828-526-4035

Wild Thyme Gourmet Restaurant

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round.
Gourmet Foods, Full Service Bar
NEW LOCATION in Town Square at 343-D Main St.

Serving Lunch Daily
11a to 4p
Serving Dinner at 5:30p
Monday-Saturday
CLOSED Wednesdays

Coffee • Espresso Drinks
Smoothies • Hot Soup
Paninis • Baked Goods
On Main Street
7 days a week • 7a to 6p • 526-0020

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would be open year long half the summer would be over and she wanted the pool available for families while students were out of school.

Recreation Director Lester Norris said though the town would only lose about $2,000, not opening the pool would affect the 100 people a day who traditionally use it during the summer months.

In the end the board agreed that if the materials to build the enclosure aren’t delivered by May 15 then the company will be instructed to hold on to them until after Labor Day. At that point, the pool will be closed for the four weeks it will take to build the enclosure. If the materials are delivered, a June 12 opening day is expected.

Sidewalk Repairs
There are 18 segments of sidewalks around town out and actually have a meet there. A regulation track has 8 lanes with the inside lane measuring 400 meters for one lap. The standard distance events in high school are 1600 meters and 3200 meters. Maybe the track designed is actually 5 laps for 1600 meters. That would mean each lap is about 320 meters. That would be easy enough to figure out. These races would be 5 laps and 10 laps.

Now think about the shorter races. The straight would be about 80 meters so an extension of 20 meters would be required to accommodate a 100 meter race. The extension would have to be long enough for the 100 meter race and a stopping area before running into a fence or the street. Other problems will be encountered with races of different distances like the 200 meter race, the 400 meter race and the 800 meter races.

On a regulation 400 meter track, a person running one lap in lane 8 would run much further than a person running in lane 1. To make the distance the same they put stagger marks in each lane. Lane 2’s stagger mark is a little ahead of lane 1. Lane 3’s stagger mark is a little ahead of lane 2 stagger mark and so on out to lane 8. There are formulas for determining the placement of the stagger marks depending on the radius of the curves and the width of the lanes. I suggest that you get the designers of the track to show you a drawing of where the stagger marks will be for the planned track.

Track meets usually have relays of varying distances. Many high school meets have 400 meter relays, 800 meter relays, and 1600 meter relays. On a regulation track the exchange zones are easy to determine as they are either ¼ of a lap each, ½ of a lap each or 1 lap each. The designers of the new track should also include marking for the exchange zones that will be used for these relay races. Swain County High School has a non regulation track. It has been called “God’s Gift to Ridiculousness.” It is a 375m, 5-lane track. The 1600 meter race is 4 1/4 laps. The 3200 meter race is 8 1/2 laps. Relays are said to be a nightmare. Before you consider a non standard track, it might be worth getting some input from the Swain coaches. Regardless of the size of a non standard track give consideration to where each and every event will start and finish on your track. Marking up a drawing should give you an indication of how difficult holding a track meet on a non-standard track is.

If the purpose of having a track at the Highlands School will be for practice, you are just asking for injuries. Consistently practicing on a track with curves with a short radius puts extra pressure on knees and over time is sure to cause injuries.

Please consider not redoing the track. Just dig it up. Use the extra space to maybe fit in a regulation softball field or at least one with measurements closer to standard.

Currently the track runners at Highlands are at a competitive disadvantage. They have no track on which to practice and certainly no home track where meets can be held.

I hope you will consider alternative locations for a regulation track. The soccer field at Zachery Field could be reconfigured so that a regulation track could be placed around it. This location would be within easy reach of the Highlanders Track Team and would put them on a more even footing with other schools in the region.

I believe proper due diligence would include getting input from someone with experience building tracks. I have heard nobody mention the material for the surface. Rubberized materials and some specialty materials are available that would lessen the impact of those running on the track.

I think Highlands deserves a regulation sized track. Please make that a priority. A dirt track of regulation size would be better than the plans I have heard. If you can’t provide a regulation sized track, the best plan would be to have no track at all.

Morris Williams
Highlands NC
The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, March 30
5:30pm in the Chapel

Tuesday, March 31
5:30pm in the Chapel

Wednesday, April 1
5:30pm in the Chapel

Thursday, April 2
7 p.m. Maundy Thursday in the Chapel

Good Friday, April 3
Noon Community Stations of the Cross beginning at the Catholic Church followed by
1:30pm Good Friday Liturgy In the Chapel

Easter Sunday, April 5
Holy Eucharist Rite II 9am & 11am In the Nave
*No Sunday School

On the list are: 4th Street at Hickory, Chestnut, Foreman, Laurel toward Spruce, at First Citizens Bank, at the Rec Park entrance, at Spruce, and at John Cleaveland Realty.

Also on the list are NC 28 from South to 3rd streets, 3rd Street from Main toward Spring streets, NC 106 to Highlands Plaza, US 64 from Oak to 1st streets, Oak Street at 2nd Street, Maple at Oak Street, Maple Street, Main Street at the Hutchinson House, Main Street at Highland Hiker, Pierson Drive from Smallwood Ave. to the Peggy Crosby Center, and Main Street at Wright Square at Highlands Pharmacy.

Thursday night, the board voted unanimously to amend the budget and to allocate the funds for the sidewalk repair job that will begin immediately.

Other budget amendments

Left out of this year’s budget were the aluminum bleachers at the ball field and a protective floor covering for the new gym floor at the Rec Park.

The board OK’d making a general fund balance appropriation of $25,864 to cover the two items.

Lake Sequoyah Dam Repair and Intake Valve Project

In his report Town Manager Frye said that rain has put the projects behind – one inch of rain equals 4-5 feet of water.

However, the 30” check valve at the plug in the dam will be completed by the end of May. The rock coffer dam is 90% complete as is the wet well. Weather has also hampered completion of the 5th Street Culvert job which was supposed to be completed March 26, but it’s moving along.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Pat Taylor said Jackson County is considering making fire districts and charging a fire tax comparable to what Highlands charges. A public hearing is required on Jackson County’s part but the mayor suggested Highlands draw up a resolution of support. He commended MC Commissioner Jim Tate for bringing all the parties together.

The fire tax is just part of the money requested by Macon County. County Manager Derek Roland requested funds to compensate the county for additional services it supplies Jackson County residents.

The Sales Tax bill about allocating sales tax monies collected based on the year round per capita base has been withdrawn only to be replaced by another using a similar formula.

The League of Municipalities and the NCACC are keeping towns abreast of the situation.

– Kim Lewicki
**Mountain Fresh Grocery**

**Cooking for Highlands**

**Breakfast**
Full breakfast made to order every morning until 10:30.
Fresh eggs, waffles, French toast, bacon, sausage, ham, biscuits, muffins, croissants espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

**Lunch and Dinner**
Grill
Every day from 11:00 to close.
Fresh Angus burgers, fresh natural chicken breasts, fish chicken tenders, cooked to order, hand cut fries, salads, homemade soups, daily specials.

**Deli**
Serving all day.
Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli salads, panini, melts, homemade potato chips, daily soup specials.

**Wood Fire Pizza Oven**
Every day from 11:00 to close.
Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from scratch fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed tomatoes homemade Italian sausage, pancetta, and daily specials.

**Sunday Skillet Fried Chicken**
Every Sunday from 11:00 AM until we sell out. Fresh organic hand cut, hand breaded chicken cooked in a cast iron skillet. Served with green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy with a warm honey biscuit...$8.95

**Prepared Foods**
A large selection of take-away items fully prepared, ready to take home including grilled pork loins, home made mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, herb rubbed chicken, made in house BBQ, chicken salad deli salads & much more.

**Dinner To Go**
A different full dinner every night. Serves four serving Monday through Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out - call ahead to reserve.

**Monday:** Choose either:
Four chicken and four cheese enchiladas, refried beans, Monterey rice, homemade tortilla chips, salsa, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream or...
24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries
$19.95 serves four.

**Tuesday:** Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad
$19.95 serves four.

**Wednesday:** Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad
$19.95 serves four.

**Thursday:** Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad
$19.95 serves four.

**Friday:** Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies and coleslaw
$22.95 serves four.

**Saturday:** In-house smoked BBQ, coleslaw, apple and bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls
$19.95 serves four.

**Weekday Pizza Special:**
16" New York style pizza with up to five toppings and a large house salad $19.99 or baked pasta, with garlic bread and salad for 19.95 pasta, tomato sauce, and cheese with a choice of Italian sausage, meat balls or crispy chicken. Available Monday through Thursday 4:30 to close.

**Wine Market**
An excellent, comprehensive selection of wine with the best prices in town, and run by a knowledgeable staff. Beer and wine available by the glass while you shop and dine.

**Butcher**
We sell only 100% premium Angus beef, hand cut in house. Stock up for the weekend every Thursday with 35% all steaks and ground beef. Then stop by the take out case to complete your dinner with twice baked potatoes, fresh salads and more.

**Artisan Oil and Vinegar**
Over 40 extra virgin olive oils and vinegars to choose from - all available to sample.

**Specialty Cheeses**
Dozens of cheeses, tapenades, olives and specialty items to choose from including our made in house crackers.

Mountain Fresh Grocery
Store hours: 7AM-8PM Mon - Thurs, Fri & Sat 7AM-9PM, 8AM-6PM Sunday

Corner of Fifth & Main, Highlands NC • 828.526.2400 • www.mfgro.com
Ongoing

- Church of the Incarnation and the First Presbyterian Church are collecting food items for the Highlands Emergency Council and the Food Pantry. Drop off boxes are in the Ravenel Room at First Presbyterian and in the downstairs lobby at the Church of the Incarnation. Monetary donations also accepted. Make checks out to Highlands MountainTop Rotary.
- The Cub and Boy Scouts of America have three drop offs for worn and tattered flags. They properly retire them. Drop offs at Highlands Doors and Windows 2242 Dillard Road, the Highlands Fire Station or Highlands United Methodist Church office. Contact Phil Potts for more information 828 526-3719

Thurs.-Sun.
- Movies at the Playhouse: Thurs-Sunday. 2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.

Monday
- 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.

First Tuesdays
- FAMILY and Caregiver Support Group Meets: for Individuals that have a friend, family member or loved one living with mental illness. Learn how peers deal with stress and emotional overload. First Tuesday of Every Month 7-8 pm. Call Ann for more info (828) 369-7385
- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
  - OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524
  - READIng Paws dog “Beebles” will be at Hudson Library every Tuesday at 3:30pm. Please call (828)526-3031 to register.
  - Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.
  - Zumba at the Rec Park at 8:05a. $5.

Starting Tues., Feb. 24
- 12-week NAMI Program to educate families dealing with mental illness, 6:30 to 8:30p. The course has the dual focus of education, and understanding the experience of living with mental illness. Confidentiality is maintained. Class size is limited and pre-registration required. Contact: Ann 369-7385 or Linda 369-9838

Mon., Wed., Fri.
- Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am
- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
- Zumba at the Rec Park at 9.05a. $5

1st Wednesdays
- Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:15pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

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

Thursdays
- Yoga at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m.$6 per class.
- Storytimes with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.
- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555.
- NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays
- Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.

Last Fri. of each month
- Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Sundays
- At the Mountain Laurel Tennis Club at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship.
- Community Coffee at The Hudson Library with Mayor Pat Taylor and Recreation Director Lester Norris from 11 a to noon. Refreshments provided.
- Senior Dinner Friday at noon. The menu is Pulled Pork, potato wedges, collard greens, baked beans, salad and roll. Dessert will be Apple Cobbler.

Sat., March 28
- At PAC, The National Theatre of London’s Live in HD “A View from the Bridge” by Arthur Miller. Tickets: Adult $18 Members $15.30 are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

Satolah Fire & Rescue Annual Spring Benefit. Food and Bluegrass music. BBQ pork and chicken plates. Food starts at 5 p.m. and music begins at 6 p.m. Auction and raffle, too. For whole Boston Butts or Whole Chickens call 828-371-0722.

At the Lost Hiker at 9 p.m., Dustin Martin.
- Bethel United Methodist Church is hosting an Easter Party beginning at 10 am. There will be lots of games, an Easter egg hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny. All are welcome.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will hold the 1st Annual Raffle at the Lost Hiker. For whole Boston Butts or Whole Chickens call 828-371-0722.

Thru Hiker Chow Down for hikers on the Appalachian Trail, serving chili dogs and sweets from 11 a.m – 2 p.m at the Lazy Hiker. If you would like to help prepare food call David Sapin, 828-369-2628.

Sun., March 29
- The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation presents Elisabeth Von Trapp at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. Elisabeth is the granddaughter of Maria and Baron Von Trapp who inspired the Sound of Music. The concert is free but a love donation will be taken.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike, elevation change 200 ft., on the Rufus Morgan Falls Trail to a beautiful waterfall named for the founder of the Nantahala Hiking Club. Wildflowers should be blooming. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 pm, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Jean Hunicutt, 524-5234, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Mon., March 30
- Macon County Public Health is currently conducting a series of public listening sessions to gain public input on a variety of vulnerable health populations who live in Macon County. A listening session to learn more about the issues affecting those living with a Mental Illness in Macon County will be held at 6p. Dinner will be provided. The meeting will be held at the Sunset Restaurant, 498 Harrison Ave. in Franklin.

Tues., March 31
- Book Club at the Hudson Library. at 10:30 a.m. We Are Not Ourselves by Matthew Thomas.

Wed., April 14
- Movie at the Hudson Library, at 3:15 p.m.,

Friday, April 3
- Stations of the Cross begins at noon at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church.
- The annual Easter egg hunt at the Fidelia Eckerd Center at 2:30 p.m.

Sat., April 4
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, at 11am at the Recreation Department. For ages 0-9 years old.
- The Fifth Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Cashiers resident Sharon James will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday for children 10 years old and under. Activities will also include a free hot dog lunch and visit with the Easter Bunny at The Village Green Commons. An Easter bonnet contest for girls concludes this egg-citing event. Bonnets will be judged on creativity and presentation.
- At the Lost Hiker at 9 p.m., Mangas Colorado.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will meet at the clubhouse in Franklin to prepare Easter bags for hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Meet at the NH Clubhouse at 9:00 am to help make the bags. Contact Elena Marsh at 369-8915.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike to Standing Indian Mtn.
from Deep Gap north on the Appalachian Trail with elevation change of 1100 ft. Meet at West Gate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 44 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will have a booth with information about the Club at the Nantahala Outdoor Center Festival in Wesser NC. Call Olga Pader; 369-2457.

**Sun., April 5**
- Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at the Highlands’ Biological Center Amphitheater.
- Easter Sunday. Cashiers area churches will conduct the Community Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. Sunday, April 5 at the Gazebo and Lawn of The Village Green

**Sat., April 11**
- At the Lost Hiker at 9 p.m., Sidecar Honey
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 10-mile hike with elevation change of 2000 ft. on Standing Indian Loop from the Backcountry parking area, up Kimsey Creek to Deep Gap, lunch on Standing Indian Mtn., returning on Lower Ridge Trail. Wildflowers should be beautiful. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 8 am, drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Don O’Neal, 828-586-5723, for reservations.

**Sun., April 12**
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5-mile hike, elevation gain 500 ft., on Wayah Bald Loop with 360 degree views from Wayah Bald. Wildflowers may be blooming. Hopefully we will find some wildflowers. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 pm, drive 25 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

- The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will present Elisabeth Von Trapp on Sunday, March 29 at 4 pm in the sanctuary. Born and raised in Vermont, Elisabeth is the granddaughter of the legendary Maria and Baron Von Trapp, whose story inspired The Sound of Music. Singing professionally since childhood, Elisabeth has enthralled audiences from European cathedrals to Washington D.C.’s Kennedy Center. For more information call: 828.526.2968 Admission is free, a Love Offering will be accepted.

### Quilt Raffle to benefit Emergency Council

The quilt being raffled is hanging in Macon Bank. Raffle tickets to help fund the Emergency Council’s fuel program are available at Macon Bank and the Emergency Council on Popular Street. Tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5.
Spring Home Improvement

What to Know Before You Replace Your Home’s Siding

(StatePoint) Whether you’re building a home from scratch or contemplating an upgrade, when choosing siding, there’s a lot more to consider beyond color. The type of material you use can impact durability, beauty and even energy efficiency.

Since siding is a long-term investment, you’ll want to make a decision from an informed place, especially with more options now available in the marketplace. With that in mind, here are some things to consider about different siding materials:

**Weather**
Extreme weather events, including high winds and hot and cold temperatures can damage or destroy siding. Look for a product that is certified to withstand these conditions. No matter where you live, this should be an important consideration, as weather patterns have become more unpredictable across the country.

**Rot**
Fiber-based materials (such as fiber cement planks) absorb water, which over time can make siding more prone to rot, decay and even disintegration. At the store, ask to see siding options made of polymer-based materials, which are impervious to moisture.

**Environmental Impact**
For improved energy efficiency, choose insulated siding, which will prevent undue loss of warm air in winter and cool air in summer. Where environmental impact is concerned, vinyl is a good bet, as it complies with environmental standards known as LEED and ICC 700 National Green Building standards.

**Maintenance**
A certain amount of upkeep will be required to keep your siding looking great. However, vinyl siding requires only occasional soap and water, whereas fiber cement requires re-caulking and repainting to maintain color and help prevent moisture absorption.

First introduced in the 1960s, vinyl siding is the most popular home siding material today, due to its overall low cost, easy installation, durability and minimal maintenance. New products are particularly versatile, and easy to install and maintain, such as Heartland Siding by ProVia. Their super polymer vinyl siding comes in a number of styles, colors and price points. Additionally, the energy efficiency of the company’s CedarMAX line can help you save money down the line. Visit www.proviaproducts.com/vs for more information.

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StatePoint) Ignorance is not always bliss, as parents, pet owners and homeowners know all too well. Whether you’re away on vacation and unsure if you left the lights on, at work and worried about the kids, or even sitting on your couch wondering what mischief the dog is up to in the yard, knowing what’s going on inside your entire home is crucial for peace of mind.

Instead of worrying, be proactive. Several strategies, new and old, can help put your mind at ease.

Tried and True

Trusted neighbors can serve as a second set of eyes when you’re not around. You can even take it one step further and make them their own set of keys. If they’re friendly enough, your neighbors may even be willing to feed pets or help you out in other ways.

You can also rely on your kids for regular status reports (if they’re old enough). Have them call you when they get home safely and consider giving them some responsibilities, such as making sure the house is in order and your pets are safe and sound.

Technology

Innovative technologies are providing consumers with new ways to keep an eye on their homes. Such products have evolved and are now easier to use and more affordable for the average family.

Indeed, brands like Panasonic are leading the charge. Their new Home Monitoring System offers four distinct kits, each of which bundles different surveillance products together.

Depending on your budget and required level of monitoring, you can outfit your home with tools like motion sensors, outdoor cameras and indoor cameras to monitor your baby or pet.

Keeping tabs on your home from near or far is easy, as the footage can be viewed on your computer monitor, smartphone or tablet.

In addition to surveillance, Panasonic’s technology may prove particularly advantageous to those away from home, as it allows for remote control of home features like lighting and other appliances.

Professional Services

Even when you’re home to keep track of things, it’s tough to handle everything on your own. In certain cases, you may want to use professionals to help keep everything humming along.

If doors jam and fail to latch or you notice cracks in your walls or floors, you may want to call a structural engineer to assess the strength of your foundation. Weeds encroaching on your prized tomato patch? Hire a gardener to fight off intruders or invasive species.

A professional heating and cooling service can assess the condition of your air conditioning and heating systems, including inside vents and ducts where you can’t see. The health of your home is important, and sometimes it’s better to go with the hired hand.

From trustworthy friends and cutting edge technology to knowledgeable professionals, the tools at your disposal can keep your finger on the pulse of your home.
Spring Home Improvement

Top Home Upgrades that Offer Long-Term Value

(StatePoint) It’s no secret that home upgrades cost time and money. But certain projects can actually save you money in key areas and improve the resale value of your home, while making it more beautiful and livable now.

When it’s time to replace worn-out roofing, doors and trim, ensure you’re getting good value on your investment. Here are some guidelines for making durable, long-lasting upgrades.

Roofing

The roof is an integral part of a house’s curb appeal. It’s also a vital protective layer between the elements and your family. Roofing should be impact-, fire- and severe weather-resistant, as well as beautiful -- especially as extreme weather events are growing more common and severe across America.

A new roof can pay off, according to “Remodeling” magazine, which cites a 71.6 percent recoup of costs in their 2015 Cost vs. Value study.

Skip over bargain-basement priced roofs, even if you’re on a budget. What’s important is finding a roof that will be virtually maintenance free for years to come. You may pay more out of pocket now, but you’ll save big on repairs, inspection and maintenance in the long run.

Natural slate and shake roofing materials evoke images of traditional charm and long-standing durability. However they have an inherent tendency to degrade as they age.

Check out manmade materials, such as polymer slate and shake roofing tiles, which offer the authentic look of natural materials but are more resistant to chipping, flaking and splintering over time. For example, DaVinci Roofscapes offers 50 colors, which can help you focus on your home’s ‘top down’ curb appeal in order to create a cohesive exterior.

And some polymer roofing options can even help you get a break on homeowner’s insurance.

Trim

Boost curb appeal, as well as interior style, with millwork, moulding and trim. While these elements don’t always serve a functional purpose other than to add beauty and value to your home, it’s important that they resist humidity, moisture and insects all the same, so you don’t experience warping or decay.

Manufacturers such as Fypon are turning to polyurethane to create varying textures for millwork, from smooth to stone to wood-grain. These design pieces can help emphasize your house’s architecture, reflecting the style of your home and furnishings.

To better insulate against cold and heat, and improve long-term performance, consider upgrading to a fiberglass door. It’s a cost-effective home improvement project with true value. Indeed the “Remodeling” magazine study finds a 72 percent cost recouped rate for new fiberglass doors and a solid fiberglass door can be up to four times more energy efficient than solid wood.

Brands like Therma-Tru carry ENERGYSTAR-qualified options to help you save on utilities, and offer decorative features, such as privacy glass that is triple-paned to create an exceptional thermal and acoustical barrier. A new app available for Android and Apple, entitled DoorWays, can help you visualize your new entryway before making any purchases.

If you’re going to the trouble of making home upgrades, opt for projects with lasting value that can improve your comfort and safety.
Top to Bottom Tips to Boost Your Home’s Curb Appeal

(StatePoint) Boosting your home’s curb appeal can help it stand out. Whether your goal is to personalize the exterior for your own enjoyment or you have plans to sell and want to improve resale value, there is great worth in this pursuit.

To get started, take a logical top to bottom approach, and keep in mind the importance of texture, which can add personality and style to a home.

Roofing
You don’t need to say goodbye to the authentic look of real slate or wood shake in order to have a durable roof that’s resistant to the elements. Check out polymer slate and shake roofing tiles, which are resistant to hail, high winds, fire and other nasty conditions.

Brands like DaVinci Roofscapes are making it easier to get the right “top” accent for your home using these materials, as the company offers 50 different colors -- from dark autumn to light green -- and provides opportunities to create custom colors.

“Color personalizes every aspect of our lifestyles,” says Kate Smith, president and chief color maven of Sensational Color. “It makes complete sense for homeowners wanting to express themselves through the color of their roof.”

According to Smith, the color gray is expected to be a popular color choice this year for roofing, due in large part to its refined elegance.

Trim
Here are a few projects to consider in order to trim out your home with smooth or textured millwork:
• Trim windows with crossheads over them and moulding on the sides and below.
• Use faux beams arranged lengthwise or in a criss-cross pattern to add dimension to porch ceilings.
• Add decorative columns in fluted square, serpentine, flat square or plain panel square shapes.
• Install a woodgrain trellis system to top off a garage door.

On these elements, as well as on other millwork such as shutters, porch rails and pilasters, use a variety of surface finishes to get a textured look that’s appealing. Different textured millwork pieces are available ready-made from such brands as Fypon, which produces thousands of pieces of polyurethane millwork, moulding and trim in eight different textures like Sandstone, Tahoe Style Beams, Classic Woodgrain and Standard Woodgrain.

Entryway

“Adding a confident color to a front door can update any home scheme and create a joyful feeling every time someone comes through your entryway,” says Smith, who suggests selecting a paintable fiberglass door.

When shopping for a new door, look for clean lines and crisp angles that are ideal for painting, such as those from Therma-Tru Classic Craft Canvas Collection and Pulse. Their fiberglass doors are practical, attractive and energy-efficient. Add texture by opting for a doorlite and sidelites flanking the door.

For more style tips for your home’s exterior, you can download the free FRESH Home Exterior Colors Guide, authored by Kate Smith and available at www.sensationalcolor.com.
CALENDAR continued from page 1

of which is always ‘iffy.’

The legislation against local calendar control has always been heavily supported by the tourism industry and at Monday night’s meeting Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said even though 39 bills for local control have been filed he just learned

Baldwin said even though 39 bills for local control have been filed he just learned

however, Superintendent Baldwin also said that Senator Jim Davis asked the

school system to tag on to a bill that’s being filed that says if a district can’t meet the 1,025 instructional hours, it only has to make up the maximum of time made up in the previous four to five years.

But board members said this isn’t just about making the cut so Raleigh doesn’t come down on the district, it’s about quality instructional time.

For instance, moving the last day from June 11 to June 12 adds an additional six hours of instructional time to make up a deficit, but everyone knows there won’t be any worthwhile instruction going on that last day of school.

“Our students fall behind and yet our teachers are still compared to other school districts,” said Baldwin. “We can make up hours but there won’t be any real instruction going on.”

This is why school systems and the NC School Boards Association have included school calendar flexibility in their 2015-’16 legislative agendas.

The state mandates 185 days of school or 171 days with six hours.

Macon County Schools has six hours of instruction per day and 180 days of school which makes 1,080 hours – 55 hours more than the state requires, like many other districts in the state.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said the reason the district is concerned about how many instructional hours its schools have is three-fold: obviously the state has set a minimum that the district must meet; teachers’ results are being measured against every other teacher in the state in each grade level or subject area through EVAAS Standard 6; and perhaps most importantly, students need the instructional time to master the curriculum mandated by the state.

Even though the district has logged 55 hours over the state minimum, it missed 66 hours and has to make up 11 hours.

By making March 27 a regular student day rather than a teacher workday the district gains six hours and moving the last day to June 12 is another six hours. This gives the district a one-hour cushion.

Meanwhile, Monday night the board worked out the 2015-’16 calendar based on a six-hour day, while planning for make-up days and potential hours missed by designating teacher workdays as regular student days or optional annual leave days for teachers.

Kim Lewicki

...HEFFINGTON continued from page 1

Heffington completed a Family Medicine residency at Roanoke Memorial Hospitals in Roanoke, VA.

In Dr. Heffington’s own words:

“What does being a doctor mean to you? Being able to help people in a significant way and at the same time, doing something interesting and challenging and fun.”

Can you tell us about your community involvement or volunteer work? In 2001, I co-founded and served as a physician (volunteer and then contractor) for Vecinos, Inc. Farmworker Health Program from 2001 to 2013 – providing free mobile medical services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. In 2005, I founded the Community Care Clinic in Highlands, NC. I started volunteering at the MERCI Clinic in 2009 and then when they needed someone full-time, they brought me on as the on-site doctor. I also volunteer at Hope Clinic (Pamlico County) and Broad Street Clinic (Carteret County).”

How would you use the $5,000 award money? I’d split it 5 ways between MERCIClinic, Hope Clinic, Broad Street Clinic, Community Care Clinic and Vecinos Migrant Health in Jackson County. These places can use every dollar they can get from their neighbors.”

Vote through March 27 at www.ncdoctorsday.org
Are YOU ready for The Home?

No, not THAT home, the one ‘in between’. Two thirds of retirees say they’re living in the best home of their lives; their homes are comfortable, in a safe community, and a great place to connect with family – some of the same reasons people relocate to this area.

During the next decade, homeowners aged 65+ will account for nearly all household growth because 1) the Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) are either already retired or headed that way, and 2) increased longevity is leading to longer retirements. As people enter their 50s and 60s, they begin to cross what the Age Wave study called the ‘Freedom Threshold’, meaning the majority by age 61 say they feel free to choose where they most want to live. The 28741 zip code has a median age of 55, and the age group 55-70 was the largest according to the last census.

One surprise of the study was ‘Downsizing’. Many people assume they will downsize, but half of retirees did NOT downsize and three in ten UPSIZED to a larger home. Some of the reasons for an upsiz: allow multiple generations under one roof (one in six retirees had ‘Boomerang children’ – those that left the nest and returned- either alone, or with their families). Another reason for a larger home: allow room for children, grandchildren, other family and friends to VISIT, allowing them optimal space for everyone’s enjoyment.

Of the people that retired in 2013, 83% chose to remain in their own state. One in six relocated to a different state. The South Atlantic Region was the second highest area for relocations. The states in the South Atlantic Region are: Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and DC. The Mountain Region was first, and third was the Pacific region. Probably not a surprise that the three bottom regions were the Northeastern states and the Heartland – no more shoveling snow.

Among the PRE-retirees, the South Atlantic region was the clear winner. In the 28741 zip code, 90% of the people who have lived in the same home they did a year ago, and 45% of those people moved here from another state. The 1990s saw a 28% increase in the 28741 population, yet we still have a very low population density of 42 people per square mile. My guess is that 28741 will always have a much lower than ‘normal’ population density. We have a large amount of forest service lands and people here have donated properties to the Highlands Land Trust. Starting in 1883 as the Highlands Improvement Association, the Land Trust continues to help preserve mountain properties so that everyone can enjoy the unspoiled beauty in perpetuity.

There are two phases of retirement living; the first can span fifteen to twenty years or more. Retirees are healthier and living longer, thus giving them more freedom and new choices. This is the phase where most people become more involved with their communities, volunteer, attend life enrichment activities, etc. The second phase usually starts in the 80’s, when health becomes the big factor, and many retirees decide to move closer to their children and/or closer to health care facilities. The average age of someone moving into assisted living is 85.

What we find in our realty and vacation rental business is that people pre-buy their retirement homes in order to use them like a vacation spot until they retire. While not using their homes, most choose to offer their home as a vacation rental. For those that can ‘share’ their home, it’s a win-win situation.

Assisted living is NOT THE HOME. There are more options here than ever before. While some need a lot of assistance, others may not. There are new creative models, such as the ‘Village’ that allow people to live in organized groups with centralized services giving them more years of ‘freedom’. Some people choose to co-house with other retirees. There are retirement communities like Chestnut Hill, which offer meals, activities, and transportation, all giving retirees more options.

As you or a loved one prepares for ‘the next step’ of retirement, there are several things to consider: 1) Live in your desired area for awhile- you may want to try short term rentals. We suggest spanning at least two seasons. You can’t judge Highlands by being here in the winter no more than you can if you were here only in July. 2) Don’t assume you will automatically downsize when you retire. If you know your family and friends will visit (and you WANT them to), consider upsizing. The room number may not be that much different, but larger room sizes can make your home more enjoyable.

3) Consider making modifications to your present home, or one you buy to ensure you can live there as long as you want. One threshold, meaning the majority by age 61 say they feel free to choose where they most want to live. The 28741 zip code has a median age of 55, and the age group 55-70 was the largest according to the last census.

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3) Consider making modifications to your present home, or one you buy to ensure you can live there as long as you want. One
configuration, all our schools will have high density, high speed wireless networks,” said Tim Burrell, NC Schools Technology Director.

E-Rate funds can only be used for telecommunications/phone service, Internet connections, internal connections and internal connection maintenance and can’t be used to purchase technology products or funneled to other programs.

For Macon County students and teachers it means a high speed, high density wireless access point for every classroom in each of its 11 schools. This means at least 20 devices can be used at the same time in each classroom. If there are more than 20 devices, the system automatically switches to accommodate usage.

The $600,000 coming to the school system will be 80% funded by the federal government’s E-Rate Program and 20% funded from the balance of the state’s Race to the Top funds.

The upgrade must be completed by August 15, 2015, because that’s when the time to use the Race to the Top funds runs out.

What is E-Rate? The E-Rate program provides libraries and elementary/secondary schools with discounts that support affordable telecommunications/Internet connectivity.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) oversees the E-Rate program. It was created as part of the 1996 re-authorization of the Telecommunications Act. It was decided that E-Rate would be funded through the USF, a mandatory contribution from interstate telecom providers – which is a surcharge on everyone’s monthly phone bill.

E-Rate discounts vary from 20 percent to 90 percent, with the deepest discounts going to communities with the greatest need as demonstrated by eligibility for the National School Lunch Program. Macon County Schools is eligible for an 80% discounted rate.

E-Rate provides just under $2.5 billion in discounts each year for advanced, affordable connectivity. As designed, the promise of E-Rate is to ensure that all Americans, regardless of income or geography, can participate in and benefit from new information technologies, including distance learning, online assessment, and enriched curriculum.

–Kim Lewicki

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands
Holy Week 2015

Sunday, March 29, 2015
11:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday
A service leading to the Passion of our Lord from the Gospel of John
With guest musician Franklin Keel, cellist, choir, and congregational singing.

Thursday, April 2, 2015
6:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Service
Come for a light dinner followed by a communion service in Coleman Hall.

Friday, April 3, 2015
12:00 noon
Stations of the Cross
Sponsored by the churches of Highlands.
Meet at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church.

Sunday, April 5, 2015
7:00 a.m.
Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service
Sponsored by the churches of Highlands.
Service held at the Highlands’ Biological Center Amphitheater.
11:00 a.m.
Easter Sunday Communion Service
With guest musicians Brian Bumgarner & Alec Neal, trumpeters.

Call 828-526-3175 for more information.

471 Main Street
PO Box 548
Highlands, NC 28741

Rev. Curtis Fussell & Rev. Emily Wilmarth, Pastors
On February 13th, the Child Development Center of Highlands held an open house to celebrate its 10 year anniversary in its 89 Church Street location. The Center originally opened for business with Pat Hedden at the helm on February 14, 2005. Members of the community were invited to drop in from 10 - 3 to take a tour and view what goes on in a typical day at the Center. About 30 business owners, parents, and other interested residents came by during the day. They enjoyed tours of the center, pictures of activities at the center since its inception, and refreshments.

Among the many guests were Rev. J. Hunter Coleman and his wife Trudie, retired pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, who was instrumental in the vision and completion of the current Center. The Center, which is open year-round, is licensed by the state of North Carolina to serve 66 preschool children, ages 3 months to 5 years, whose parents work or attend school in Macon and Jackson counties.

For more information, contact Pat Hedden, Executive Director, at 828-526-8905 or visit the Center at 89 Church Street.

HFCC works with Audubon Society

This winter the maintenance crew of Highlands Falls Golf Course partnered with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society on a community-wide experiment to determine if offering identical bird boxes, but with larger and smaller diameter entrance holes, may increase nesting success for native as well as returning bird species in our area. The staff purchased enough supplies to build 50 nesting boxes to be placed around the Highlands/Cashiers area this Spring.

The project was kicked off last Fall with Audubon offering to supply and place pairs of nest boxes to its members, schools and community green areas, if each would agree to periodically monitor their boxes for signs of habitation. These initial 100 boxes were built and given at cost to Audubon by the Eastern Blue Bird Rescue Group located in Warrenton. Highlands Falls CC purchased seven sets of boxes and agreed to place them around strategic parts of its golf course.

With the additional pairs of houses built by HFCC this winter, Audubon will be able to fulfill its backlog of requests from the community to participate in the project. The cavity nesting research project hopes to attract not only the Eastern Bluebird, but also Carolina Chickadee, Tree Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren and other small cavity nesting birds. The data collected will assist in better understanding of the needs of our local birds and enable better conservation of these species.

According to Fred Gehrisch, Golf Course Superintendent and HFCC's leader of this project, “the boxes are a small gift from the members of Highlands Falls Country Club.” The club does at least one community service project every year. To participate in the project, contact Michelle Styring at Msty30005@aol.com.

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**Father Bruce Walker**

**Episcopal Church of the Incarnation**

The observance of Lent is likened to a journey which leads us on paths of penitence and reconciliation. Most of our effort is placed on meditating and reflecting on our lives and the lives of those with whom we share life. The Lenten season calls us to take responsibility for the ways we have alienated ourselves from one another and from God. The hope being that after a faithful journey we can and will be reconciled with one another and the world.

The hope is that with the arrival of Easter we can live into this reality of realizing that we are all one and knowing that we are all created and loved by God, who knows no separation. In an effort to make real what we know to be true about our relationship with God and one another, we are preparing several opportunities for our community to come together. Some are worship opportunities and others are more focused on the joy of simply being in each other’s company.

In conversation with and support of other clergy in town, we are once again planning our ecumenical Stations of the Cross. As in other years we will begin at noon on Good Friday, March 27th, at Our Lady of the Mountain and make our way through town, ending our journey at Highlands Methodist Church. On Easter Sunday our plan is to meet at the amphitheater at Highlands Biological Station for a sunrise service beginning at 7am. You do not have to be a member of any particular church to attend. In fact, some come who have no affiliation and they are welcome. This is truly a time to honor God and set all differences aside.

To help prepare us for the joy to come, I would like to invite the entire community to a special concert we are hosting at the Church of the Incarnation on Palm Sunday, March 29th at 4pm. Elisabeth Von Trapp will perform an array of sacred music along with some of the popular songs made famous by the inspiration of her family in the Sound of Music. Elisabeth is the granddaughter of Maria and Baron Von Trapp. Please know that there is no other Sound of Music. Elisabeth is the granddaughter of Maria and Baron Von Trapp. Please know that there is no other

---

**Proverbs 3:5**

**Hamburg Baptist Church**

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

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


**Highlands Assembly of God**

Randy Reed, Pastor828-421-9712 • 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 10:45 a.m., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.m.

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

**Highlands United Methodist Church**

Pastor Paul Christy 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 );

7:00pm 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

**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 Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

Wednesday: Prayer Mtg.:7 p.m.

**Scalpy Mountain Church of God**

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212

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

Wednesday: Choir:6 p.m.

**Shortoff Baptist Church**

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesday: Prayer & Bible Study

**The Church of the Good Shepherd**

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Douglas E. Remer

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

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 • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

**Whiteside Presbyterian Church**

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service:11 am
thing we've seen more of in recent years is home elevators, modified bathrooms, and outdoor ramps. If you have a home in Highlands you aren't quite ready to give up, consider all the options. 4) When downsizing, there are people in Highlands that will help with estate sales if you can't find a home for your treasured possessions.

Some of the information for this article was taken in part from a study called: Home in Retirement: More Freedom, New Choices, a 2014 Merrill Lynch study conducted in partnership with Age Wave (www.agewave.com), other information from 28741 City Data, and the rest, well...I made it up.

Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals in Highlands. We're here year round to help you with the next step in real estate. 828-526-3717 getit@chambersagency.net Twitter: @ChambersAgency and Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChambersAgency

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**Police Report**

The Highlands Police log entries from March 5. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

**March 5**
- At 5:15 p.m., officers were contacted about a woman receiving a harassing phone call at her place of employment.

**March 9**
- At 9:05 a.m., officers responded to a vehicle accident on Moorewood Road.
- At 10 p.m., Amber Lynn Bates, 24, of Otto, was arrested for failure to appear in court. Her trial date is April 21.

**March 16**
- At 1:20 p.m., officers received a 911 call about a dispute/simple physical assault at a residence on 488 Carolina Way where the female resident had been punched in the arm.  
- At 3:20 p.m., officers responded to a call about shoplifting at Potpourri 2 on Main Street where a pair of $300 sunglasses were taken.

**March 21**
- At 2:45 p.m., Selena Marle Kempton, 43 of Franklin, was arrested for DWI and possession of less than 1/2 oz. of marijuana and drug equipment paraphernalia, when she was pulled over at US 64 west and Mirror Lake Road. Her trial date is April 15.

---

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Martha Betz 828-200-1411
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betzrealtor@gmail.com

800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222
The show must go on ... and it did!

By Lee Lyons

The show must go on and indeed it did in spite of unexplained weather and medical emergencies. Recently, Highlands Cashiers Players produced a mystery dinner theatre, Murder Not Prohibited. Veteran actress and director Virginia Talbot directed. Anyone with less experience (or fortitude) probably would have thrown in the towel and cancelled the show.

The original cast was Ken Knight, Steve Hott, Michelle Hott, Ronnie Spilton. David Spivey and Megan Potts. Out of that original cast, five (or their spouses) had medical emergencies. Things began running amuck soon after practice began and Virginia's cast changed daily.

Megan Potts, playing Hope Sober, the militant WCTU character, had to withdraw when her mother was hospitalized. Virginia Talbot took over her role. Fortunately, she had played the part back in 1996.

Ronnie Spilton was cast as Trixie. Unfortunately, she unexpectedly had to take her husband to the hospital for tests that resulted in a back procedure being scheduled in Atlanta right before opening night. This left her part completely up in the air and unfortunately, depending on how you look at it, the snow postponed the opening weekend. However, as the snow continued to fall, she couldn't get down her steep, icy road. Fortunately, Laura Zepeda was able to step in, save that night and Ronnie slid in for the other performances.

Ken Knight, who was cast as the mobster Cal Capone, was notified of his shoulder surgery that could not be delayed. Dean Zuch was then persuaded to play Cal but unfortunately, he could only do the first weekend because he was scheduled for a knee replacement that could not be delayed either as he could hardly walk. Wayne Coleman then agreed to take over the second weekend but his wife, Annette, became seriously ill. Fortunately, Ken's shoulder healed enough so that he could come back and take over for Wayne. Whew! What a roller coaster ride of fortunately and unfortunately. If this is confusing, imagine how the director felt!

The “behind the scenes” was chaos as well. Dinner was being catered but no one knew if the food would make it up the mountain and several volunteer servers could not make it either. Plus, no one knew if an audience would show up at all.

As Rick Siegel can attest, the winter show can have problems due to inclement weather. When he directed both The Dixie Swim Club and Winter Week-end, mounds of snow seriously put a damper on rehearsals and building the sets. Still, the cast and crew worked down to the wire.

Live theatre is full of Murphy’s Laws. Whatever could go wrong, did and yet the HCP board, talented cast, and hardworking volunteers were able to produce another good play-well done. The show went on and possibly, with the help of cabin fever, loyal supporters and theatre lovers showed up in good form and by all accounts had a wonderful time.

Hats off to HCP and I wish everyone a speedy recovery.

The next show, Welcome to Mitford, begins May 21. No telling what will happen but at least the roads will be clear.

Delinquent Accounts Receivable Accounts

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<td>460, Highlands, NC 28741</td>
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Published this 26th day of March, 2015.
**HELP WANTED**

**NEW HIGHLANDS RESTAURANT** hiring all positions - sous chef, line cooks, dish, servers, server assistants, host/hostess logcabinrestaurant2015@gmail.com

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**RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE**

**IN-TOWN 1ST FLOOR 2BD/2BA CONDO FOR SALE.** N. 5th Street, $239,000. See zillow.com or leave a message at 828-526-5622.

**TWO LAND PARCELS JOINED.** NC tract consists of 25.75 acres and a farm house. GA parcel consists of 54. 18 acres, 3 bed/2 bath, full basement, two car garage, 2 barns and 2 outbuildings. Land has pasture, agricultural forestry and 2 creeks. Located in Clear Creek area. $925,000. For more information contact Fran Wilson at 304-615-3553. (st. 3/5)

**LARGE, SPACIOUS HOME** on 2+ acres within city limits on Cook Road. Price negotiable. Call 828-526-2720. (2/26)

**CABINS FOR SALE/Rent.** Located on Sawmill Road in Clear Creek. 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (2/26)

**2BED/2BATH 1.20 AC.** Fantastic views & Privacy $88,999. Call 482.2050 706.782.9728. Cypresslanesale@facebook.com. (st. 8/7)

**SECLUDED, BUT JUST MINUTES TO TOWN.** Adorable two bedroom home with great views and outdoor living spaces. Call 828-421-4681. (st. 5/29)