

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., March 26, 2015

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 need-

ed 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

•See **PROJECTS** page 5

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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

•See **CALENDAR** page 14



Heffington nominated for NC Doctor of the Year

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

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

•See **HEFFINGTON** page 14

E-Rate funds to upgrade schools' connectivity

Consumers will be glad to know that one fee on their phone bill is being put to good use.

At Monday night's Macon County School Board meeting held in Highlands, the board voted unanimously to accept \$600,000 in E-Rate Funding.

The funds – collected from the FTRLD-USF surcharge fee on phone bills – will be used to upgrade the school system's wireless network system which will increase connectivity and speed – at no cost to the school system.

Through the E-Rate program, the state of North Carolina is upgrading 73 school districts and has contracted with three different contractors to upgrade three components: the wireless system, the wiring, and the configuration.

“Through rewiring and re-

•See **E-RATE** page 16

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Highlands needs to be connected



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

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 statue prohibiting small towns from serving

• See MAYOR page 3

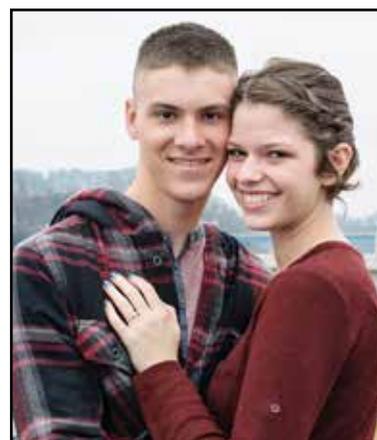
• MILESTONE •

Bound for New York City's Carnegie Hall



John and Cindy Gaston and Larry and Mary Ann Ray will be singing in a chorus on March 30th in Carnegie Hall in New York City. The performance will be part of the Masterworks Festival Chorus. The chorus will sing the "Gospel Mass" by Robert Ray, a Negro composer from the Mid-west. The Guest Conductor for the performance will be Anton Armstrong, director of choral music at St Olaf's College in Minn. Music will be performed by members of the New York Chamber Orchestra and the performance will be presented at Carnegie Hall. The two couples are members of the Choir of the Highlands Methodist Church. Both couples had previously sung for the leader - the Gastons in Florida and the Rays in Texas

• ENGAGED •



"We are in love, the ring is lovely and we are getting married!"

PFC Matthew Lynn Daniel Long, son of Lynn and Valerie Long, and Victoria Bethany Clark, daughter of Gary and Cathy Clark are planning a small wedding in May with their families.

• LETTER •

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

• See LETTERS page 5

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.



• OBITUARIES •

Robert Stanley 'Stan' Hummel

Robert Stanley "Stan" Hummel, 56, of Franklin died Friday, March 20, 2015.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Robert Lewis Hummel 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

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 prohi-

bition. 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.



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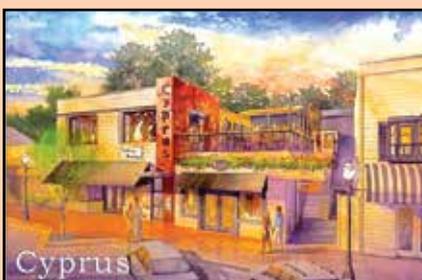
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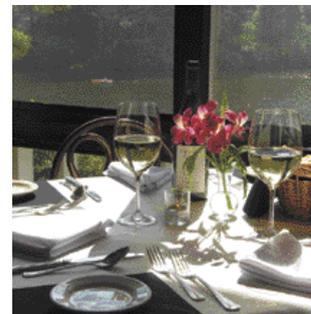
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...PROJECTS continued from page 1

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

...LETTER continued from page 2

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 over 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 the 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

whose needed repairs have been designated by white arrow marks on the sidewalks.

Since the Chowan Road project came in under budget, there is \$75,000 left in this year's budget that can be used for road and sidewalk repairs not previously budgeted for 2014-'15.

The cost to repair the 18 segments of sidewalk is \$131,000. In addition to the \$75,000 There is \$50,000 left in the sidewalk repair budget for 2014-'15 and the balance of the money – about \$6,000 – will be taken from the un-designated fund balance.

Many repairs include a pebbled handicap ramp, as well as the sidewalk and curb and gutter.

• See PROJECTS page 6

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 1/4 of a lap each, 1/2 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



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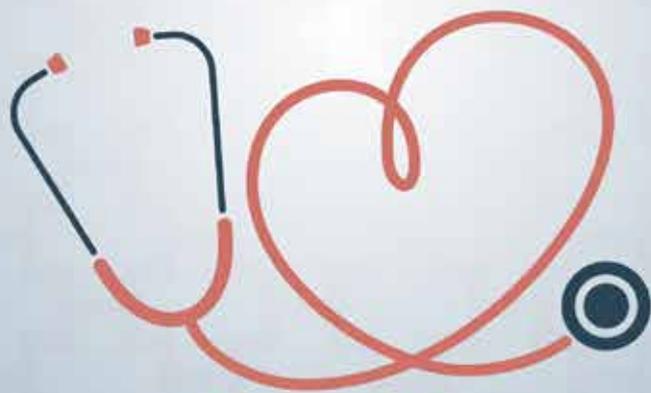
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Dr. Charles Thomas
Dr. Laura Verde
Richard Wayne, PA
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**HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS**
HOSPITAL

...PROJECTS continued from page 5

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 Cleveland 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



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

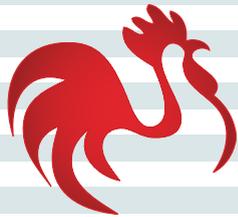
Noon Community Stations of the Cross beginning at the Catholic Church followed by

1:30pm Good Friday Liturgy In the Chapel

Easter Sunday, April 5

Holy Eucharist Rite II 9am & 11am In the Nave

*No Sunday School



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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 Mountain Top 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 Tuesdays

• 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.

3rd 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.

Fri., March 27

• Community Coffee at The Hudson Library with Mayor Pat Taylor and Recreation Director Lester Norris from 11a 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

Thru Hiker Chow Down for hikers on the Appalachian Trail, serving chili dogs and sweets from 11 am – 2 pm 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 NHC 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.

Live in HD at PAC - 'A View from the Bridge'



At the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Saturday, March 28, 7pm The National Theatre of London's Live in HD A View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller. Don't miss a stellar cast led by Mark Strong (The Imitation Game; Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy) in the Young Vic's 'magnetic, electrifying, astonishingly bold' production of A View from the Bridge – the Evening Standard, Guardian and Independent's top theatre pick of 2014. The great Arthur Miller confronts the American dream in this dark and passionate tale. In Brooklyn, longshoreman Eddie Carbone welcomes his Sicilian cousins to the land of freedom. But when one of them falls for his beautiful niece, they discover that freedom comes at a price. Eddie's jealous mistrust exposes a deep, unspeakable secret – one that drives him to commit the ultimate betrayal. The visionary Ivo van Hove directs this stunning production of Miller's tragic masterpiece, broadcast from London's West End by National Theatre Live. Tickets: Adult \$18 Members \$15.30 are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

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.

Free Von Trapp concert at Episcopal church March 29



The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will present Elisabeth Von Trapp on Sunday, March 29 at 4pm 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.

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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

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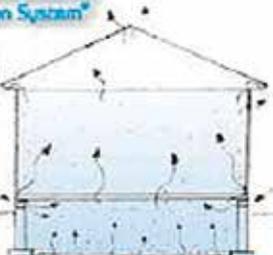
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Spring Home Improvement

How to Keep Tabs on What's Happening in Your Home



(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.

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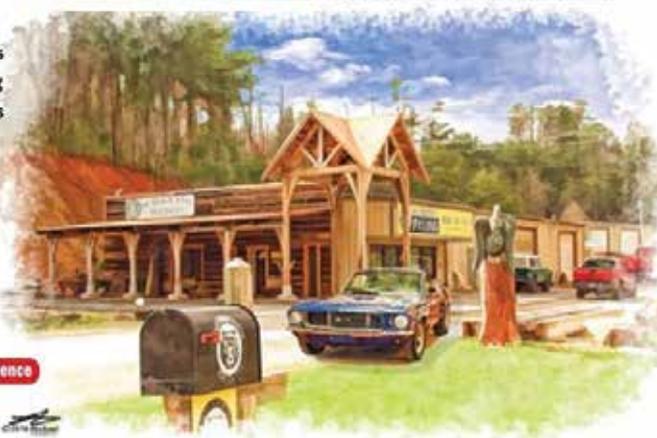
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Spring Home Improvement

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 chip-

ping, 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.

Entryway

Your home's entryway should be welcoming, beautiful and energy-efficient.

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.

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Spring Home Improvement

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.



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..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

that there would be no calendar legislation heard during the 2015-2016 session.

“I was told it’s because a lot of students are needed to run summer camps,” he said.

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 oth-

er 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

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is all about free medical clinics because his focus is the patient’s care. He understands the challenges his patients face: being uninsured; not being able to work; unable to have reliable transportation or phones; living in a foreign country and not speaking the language; and being from another culture that views health care in a much different manner. In 2014, Dr. Heffington was the recipient of the Don Lucey Award given by the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics. He is known for being calm and taking the challenges of a free clinic in stride – offering a smile, a joke, or saying “that’s just the way it is.” He is just as comfortable with the migrant farmer with whom he fluently converses in Spanish as he is with the very educated family provider who has just lost his job, his health insurance – and most likely his dignity. Dr. Heffington deeply understands the challenges and emotional difficulties that patients face.

Called a generous physician, committed to patient treatment at free clinics throughout the state Dr. Mark Heffington practices as a contract physician at MERCI Clinic, a free clinic in New Bern, NC. He is also a contract physician for QTC Medical Services, providing disability determination examinations for military veterans. Previously he practiced family medicine in Cashiers, NC for 27 years. He earned his M.D. at the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences in Memphis, TN. Dr.

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 MERCI Clinic, 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

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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.



Jeannie Chambers
828-526-3717

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 upsize: 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 guests 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 have lived in the same home they did a year ago, and 45% of those people moved here from another state. The 1990’s 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

• See INVESTING page 19

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...E-RATE continued from page 1

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 reauthorization of the Telecommunications Act. It was decided that E-Rate would be funded through the USF, a mandatory contribution from interstate telecom provid-

ers - 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

Live in HD Series

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March 28
7pm

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE
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To register, please contact Anna Alig, Education Registrar, at aalig@thebascom.org or 828.787.2865.

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

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

HCCDC celebrates 10 years!



Hunter and Trudie Coleman

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.

• *The Highlands Community Child Development Center is a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to provide affordable, high-quality preschool child care and early childhood education to promote optimal cognitive, physical, emotional, and social development in a safe and loving environment to young children and their families regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, or financial status.*

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 Gehrish, 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.

EASTER WEEKEND @ COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH



"THE MERCY SEAT"

*An Evening of Worship
and Scripture Highlighting
Jesus Christ the Sacrificial Lamb.*

GOOD FRIDAY @ 6 PM
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*CBC Choir & Special Message
by Pastor Gary Hewins*

EASTER SUNDAY @ 10:45 AM
(SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS)



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

On a Journey toward Joy!**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 agenda than to share the love that God has purposed for us and provide a forum for the enjoyment of our common life.

I truly believe that in all this, we will be sustained in our journeys. As we continue to pray for one another, engaging each other in healthy and meaningful ways, supporting one another in love and charity, our community will prosper.

As we pass through Lent and live into the Easter promise of new life, my hope is that as a blessed people we will live more fully into the knowledge of our common heritage. As we honor God and honor one another we will more surely experience the joy that our Lord intends for all of us.

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy

Communion

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 9:15a Christian Education at Buck's Coffee Cashiers

Crossroads; 10:30a Faithful, Family Service w/ Music &

Communion.

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10:45am: Worship Service

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

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Sundays: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy

Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16**HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**

Hwy 107N. • Glensville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

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

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9741

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

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Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

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Rev. Douglas E. Remer

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

...INVESTING continued from page 15

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

• 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.

March 16

• 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 21

• 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 22

• 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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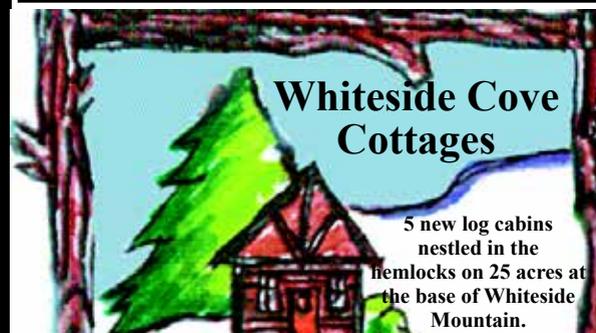
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The show must go on ... and it did!

By Lee Lyons

The show must go on and indeed it did in spite of unexpected 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 fortunately or unfortunately, depending on how you look at it, the snow postponed the back surgery and she was able to dash in for 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.



THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS

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

Delinquent Utility Accounts

Larry Chadwell	\$898.34	Due 08/15/2011	Randall Peterson	\$272.73	Due 12/15/13
Larry Chadwell	\$260.28	Due 08/15/2011	Connie Smith	\$86.81	Due 01/15/14
Greg Ewald	\$303.18	Due 04/15/2012	Cory Allen Talbot	\$814.06	Due 06/16/14
Carla Gates	\$1,198.39	Due 01/15/2012	Stuart Thompson	\$190.92	Due 03/15/13
Gate's Nursery	\$6,426.23	Due 06/15/2012	Timothy Vos	\$455.09	Due 08/15/14
Gate's Nursery	\$1,344.72	Due 06/15/2012	Charles Weatherly	\$597.00	Due 05/15/14
Aaron Goldstein	\$581.27	Due 03/15/2012	Charles Weatherly	\$207.41	Due 05/15/14
Jeremy Skipper	\$888.99	Due 06/15/2012	Mills Byce, Jr.	\$181.61	Due 09/15/14
Creighton Sossomon	\$13,735.34	Due 07/15/2012	Mike Chatlos	\$283.90	Due 08/15/14
Zeke Sossomon	\$2,614.47	Due 03/15/2012	Jeannette Chidsey	\$336.00	Due 11/15/14
Zeke Sossomon	\$1,278.88	Due 07/15/2012	John Clyatt	\$1,792.38	Due 12/15/14
Claudia Thompson	\$237.12	Due 10/15/2011	Melba Egan	\$350.54	Due 11/15/14
Sampson Wilson	\$421.08	Due 08/15/2011	Leydi Gomez Garcia	\$90.47	Due 11/15/14
Jeff Andresen	\$714.67	Due 02/15/2013	James M. Johnson	\$3.46	Due 09/15/14
Carlton Barker	\$1,295.71	Due 10/15/2012	Sheila & Sharon Keen	\$16.76	Due 09/15/14
Robert Carlton	\$664.51	Due 02/15/2013	Pamela Lomba	\$510.10	Due 12/15/14
Kristina Crosby	\$118.66	Due 12/15/2012	Pamela Lomba	\$60.79	Due 12/15/14
Sarah Freeman	\$60.40	Due 10/15/2012	Charles Tolliver	\$206.19	Due 11/15/14
Randall Hawks	\$649.76	Due 11/15/2012	Jason Williams	\$242.24	Due 10/15/14
William Horne	\$5,302.10	Due 01/15/2013			
Robert Moreno	\$247.61	Due 11/15/2012			
Elisa Espinosa Parra	\$762.20	Due 07/15/2013			
Andrew Quintero & Fiorella Moscoso	\$721.10	Due 01/15/2013			
Krysti Rogers	\$336.33	Due 11/15/2013			
Bob Stephenson	\$595.26	Due 11/15/2012			
Suzi's on Spring	\$47.95	Due 12/15/12			
Claudia Thompson	\$1,929.26	Due 12/15/12			
To the Nine's	\$2,238.28	Due 01/15/13			
Valentine's Photo Studio	\$133.67	Due 02/15/13			
Ellen Agee	\$307.40	Due 06/16/14			
Thomas Batson	\$90.76	Due 01/15/14			
Binder Biomedical	\$362.30	Due 05/15/14			
Khyle & Carolina					
Bonczkowski	\$5.74	Due 09/15/13			
Spencer Ford	\$418.38	Due 03/17/14			
Dennis Franklin	\$693.93	Due 08/15/14			
Melanie Griffin	\$447.45	Due 05/15/14			
Highlands Quick Mart	\$2,660.84	Due 05/15/14			
L K Partners	\$910.31	Due 05/15/13			
John Mutter	\$41.71	Due 11/15/13			

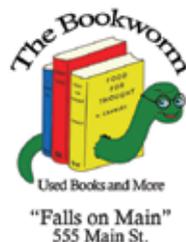
Delinquent Sewer Connection Agreement Accounts

Peggy Hopes		
Mirror Lake Sewer Project	\$2,400	Due 03/31/2013
Aliaksandr Kikoin		
Harris Lake Sewer Project	\$2,500	Due 12/31/2011
Williams & Williams Inc.		
Harris Lake Sewer Project	\$2,500	Due 12/31/2011

Delinquent Accounts Receivable Accounts

Bates Septic Tank & Concrete Product Sludge	\$385	Due 12/31/2013
Mountain Septic Service Sludge	\$1,295	Due 12/31/2013

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



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FRI. AND SAT. MARCH 27 & 28. Antiques galore! Furniture, Fine Art, Books, Tools and many odd finds for the bargain hunter. 468 Main Street. Unit 2. Have fun and make offers! Its all got to go!

HELP WANTED

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

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY is hiring full-time positions for coffee/ barista service and cashiers. Contact Don at 828-526-2400 (4/9)

THE BUSINESS SPOT is looking for a part time to almost full time employee. Must be people-oriented, organized, have computer knowledge and some understanding of software programs. Hours are negotiable. Please email your response and a resume to: businessspot537@gmail.com (st. 3.26)

SCALY MOUNTAIN NURSERY now hiring for landscape division. Call 526-9269 or Matt at 371-2474. (4/9)

CHEF NEEDED FOR CREEK-SIDE RESTAURANT IN HIGHLANDS. Experience, creativity and enthusiasm are necessary. Call Bob for an interview, 828-526-9822. (st. 2/26)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY is accepting applications for full-time positions as a coffee/ barista server. Contact Don at 828-526-2400.

MANAGER & SALES ASSOCIATES NEEDED FOR BARDO, a retail furniture and home accessory store. Full and part time positions in our Cashiers & Highlands locations are available. Send resume Bardo49nc@gmail.com (828) 482-2410. (st. 2/12)

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LOCAL CHURCH SEEKS FINANCIAL MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER - Community Bible Church is hiring a full-time financial manager and bookkeeper. Interested parties can submit resumes to: CBCFinanceResumes@gmail.com Job responsibilities will include accounts payable and receivable, budget tracking, payroll, financial reports, banking, insurance management, and asset tracking. Full and working knowledge of QuickBooks and Excel is required. Awareness of specific accounting and reporting requirements for churches is a plus. Salary determined by level of experience. (st. 2/15)

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HOME FOR RENT: Three Bedroom home, 3 miles from town. Beautiful terrace and yard, pond and mountain views. Available seasonally or year round. Call 828-421-4681 (st. 2/29)

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LOTS/LAND FOR SALE

LAND FOR SALE IN CLEAR CREEK: 2.18 acre parcel has road frontage on Mack Wilson Rd. \$17,000. Any reasonable offers will be considered. Call 828-526-2874. (st. 10/23)

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)

ITEMS FOR SALE

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WORMY CHESTNUT FOR SALE: 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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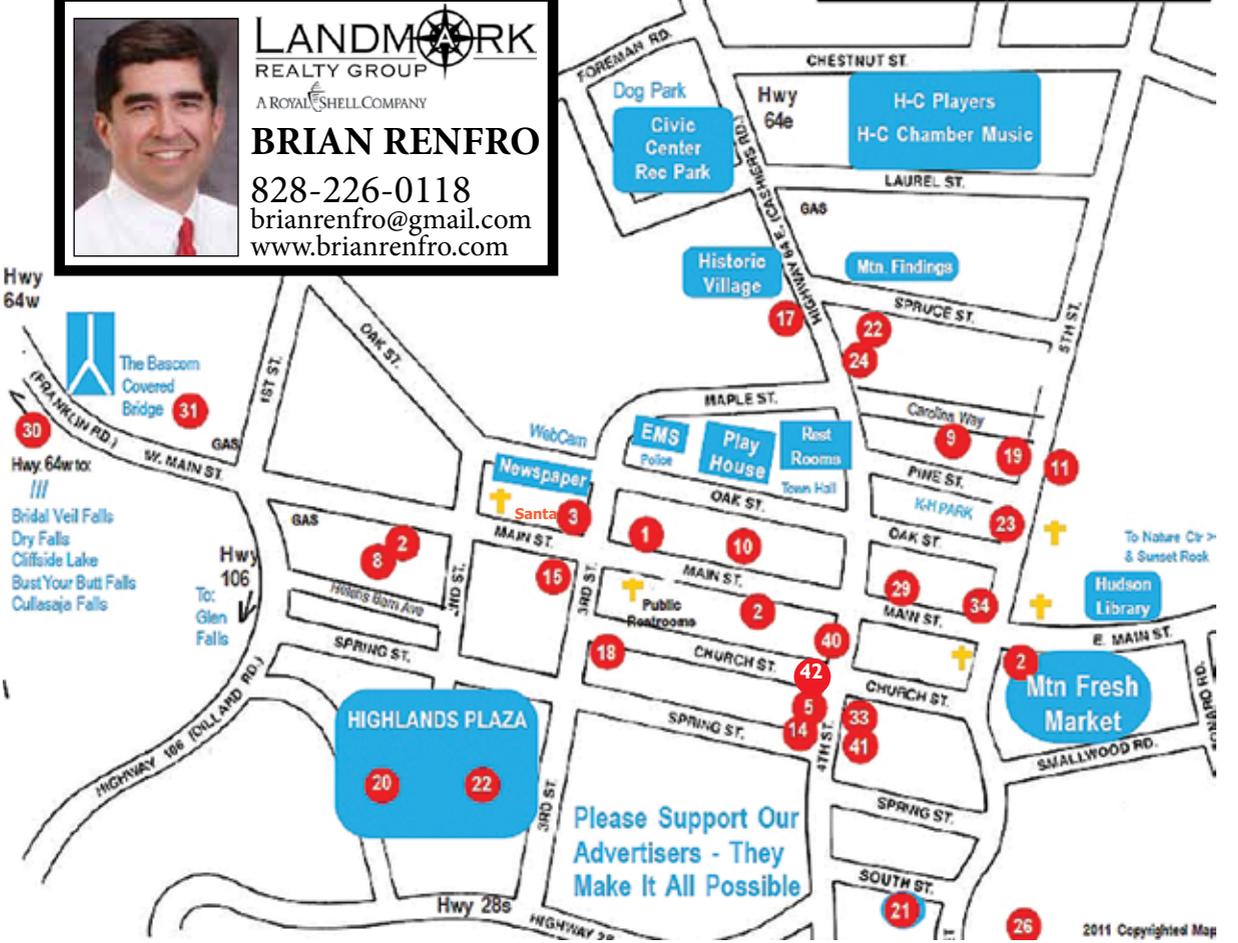
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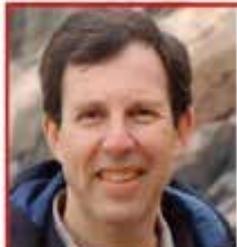


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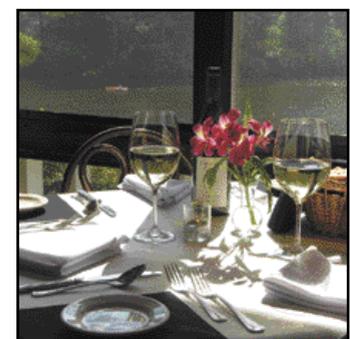
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