USFS seeking feedback about Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests plan revisions

The U.S. Forest Service National Forests in North Carolina is seeking public input in the Nantahala and Pisgah Forest Plan revision. The Forest Service is evaluating lands that might be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, which is a required part of the plan revision process. Also, part of this process is identifying rivers that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Health Dept. programs may end due to budgetary issues

Women, Infants & Children
In May, the Macon County Health Department's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program lost a nutritionist. In September, a second employed nutritionist left the program, leaving health department staff forced to contract with Greenville, NC based Nutrition Plus to fill the position. In one month, the county spent $7,500 for the contracted services, which are a requirement for operating the WIC program. By December, if the contract continues, Macon County will not have enough funds available to continue the contract, which leaves the fate of the program in jeopardy.

The county has been advertising for a full-time staff nutritionist.

HS Varsity Soccer wins Smoky Mountain Conference on Senior Night at home

During Senior Night at Highlands School on Friday, Oct 30, Highlands played Blue Ridge and won, which placed them with 10-0 in the Smoky Mountain Conference. The team went on to play the first round of State on Wednesday, Nov 4, at North Stanly and won. They progressed to the second State round and due to field conditions and weather had to play Highland Tech at Brevard rather than home on Monday night, Nov 9. Unfortunately, they lost 0-3.

Highlands’ Blakely Moore is 1A NC State Cross Country Champ

In the photo above, 16-year-old Blakely Moore approaches the finish line as she outruns 131 other girls from all over the state. Blakely edged out Robbinsville’s Shawnda Martin by two seconds.

Blakely has run cross country for Highlands School for three years and this was the first high school race she has ever won.

Her dedication to hard work and determination to excel was rewarded with a victory on a sloppy, muddy course in Kernes-

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Writing this column every Monday has become a ritual for me. When I ran for office I promised to communicate and keep citizens informed about town government. To my surprise this column has been a good way to communicate with constituents. The Ask the Mayor radio program has also been effective. Each week I write a column on Monday and record a radio program Friday. I receive substantial feedback in the form of suggestions, questions and different perspectives. My challenge here in November, especially after being laid up with my knee surgery, is that for now I have no pressing issues to write about. Town government is at a lull with the conclusion of a very robust autumn season. So let me share just a few random thoughts here at midpoint in my term as mayor. I am just speculating and looking down the road.

I believe there are several national and world trends that will directly impact Highlands. At the risks of beating a dead horse, new technology and changes in the environment will alter our lifestyle, just as they have and will for everyone on the planet.

I will probably buy a new car after Christmas. I like to purchase a vehicle and drive it for at least 100,000 miles, or for 10 years or more. That strategy may be obsolete. Cars will be very different well before that 10-year cycle. I’m reading about hands-free driving, and driverless vehicles. Some folks contend that technology is far away, but I am not so sure. It may be around the corner. Also the mileage we get with current fuel systems could radically change.

Toyota is about to invest billions of dollars on artificial intelligence technology. The assumption is that it will be applied to their vehicles, but Toyota intends to go beyond just vehicles to developing robots capable of an array of functions. For instance, scientists are close to building robots that assist handicapped and senior citizens in living independently. Being hobbled myself for over a month, I really appreciate the potential of such technol-

MileStone

Bolivian exchange student earns ‘letter’

Marcelo, 18, this year’s exchange student from the foster home in Bolivia which is part of Highlands’ and Dr. John Baumrucker’s Bolivia Mission is shown with his athletic letter earned at his school in Olympia, WA. He will return to Bolivia in June. Though Rotary in NC doesn’t have a convention with Bolivia, the Highlands Bolivia Mission supports the student exchange. Currently, Marcello is a senior at John Paul II private Catholic School in Washington. Last year Pablo and Eluterio were in Highlands. Next year the mission hopes to once again host another student from the Bolivia Foster Home here in Highlands.
“We are looking for information you may have about these areas that can inform the evaluations. No decisions have been made, and we are not at the stage of making recommendations,” said James Melonas, acting Forest Supervisor. This evaluation is the second step of a multi-step process. Evaluating these areas does not indicate the areas will be managed a certain way in the forest plan.

There are two ways to review and submit information. Maps of these areas along with the evaluation forms are available on the website at Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluations. A public meeting is scheduled November 16 where maps and evaluation forms will be available for review and submission.

The meeting will be on Nov. 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. Mountain View Room in the Wilma M. Sherrill Center & Kimmel Arena, University of North Carolina Asheville.

As the process progresses, there will be additional opportunities to provide input on the wilderness and wild and scenic river evaluations.

**Forest Service offers $1,500 for information on vandalism at the Nantahala River launch site**

Vandals destroyed the restroom doors at the U.S. Forest Service Nantahala River Launch Site on State Rd. 1310 in Macon County on the Nantahala Ranger District. Additional damage was discovered to fixtures in the restrooms. The damages are estimated at $4,500.

The restrooms were closed and winterized with signage on the door directing people to an alternative vault toilet. “It is sad that a few spoiled and selfish individuals think that it is acceptable to destroy the public’s property, because they have to walk 50 feet and use another toilet,” said Mike Wilkins, U.S. Forest Service District Ranger, Nantahala Ranger District.

The vandalism took place between the afternoon of Monday, Nov. 2 and Tuesday morning, Nov. 3. The Penalty for Damage to Government Property, under 18 USC 1361, is a fine up to $100,000 and imprisonment up to 10 years. A $1,500 reward is being offered for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of those involved.

Anyone wishing to provide information should contact, Brian Southard, Special Agent at 828-200-4049.

**Prescribed Burns Across all Four National Forests in the coming months**

Over the next several months, the U.S. Forest Service will conduct prescribed burns across all four national forests.
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...USFS continued from page 3

Forest Service will be conducting several prescribed burns across the four National Forests in North Carolina -- Croatan, Uwharrie, Nantahala and Pisgah. The agency will notify the public when the decision is made to conduct prescribed burns in their area. The Forest Service may close area trails and roads the day before the prescribed burn.

“The safety of the public and firefighters is the number one priority,” said Riva Duncan, Fire Management Officer with the National Forests in North Carolina. “The public is asked to heed signs posted at trailheads and roads and to stay away from burn areas and closed roads and trails.”

Prescribed burning is an important and versatile forest management tool that can mimic historically natural fire disturbances, reduce hazardous fuels buildup, and improve habitat for a variety of wildlife. Prescribed burns promote the growth of herbaceous plants that provide food, such as fruit, for wildlife including important game animals such as deer and turkey. Prescribed fire is an essential ecological process for restoration and maintenance of longleaf pine ecosystems.

All prescribed burns are analyzed by a team of specialists to ensure the wild life, fisheries, rare plants and historic sites are not harmed. Burning days are fluid because the proper weather conditions are needed to achieve desired results. Prescribed burning will only occur when environmental conditions permit; wind and relative humidity are key factors in fire behavior, safety and smoke control. The Forest Service is required to meet state air quality requirements and will conduct smoke modeling to reduce the possible effects of smoke emissions. The proper personnel and equipment will be on site during the prescribed burn.

...HEALTH DEPT. continued from page 1

ogy. There are prototypes of four-legged robots with gaits steadier than horses!

Telemedicine, robotic surgery and automated pharmacies are on the way. Many positions in the service sectors are on the verge of replacement by artificial intelligence. These disruptive technologies will change the way we live and work. Painful changes are ahead, yet at the same time wonderful opportunities will emerge.

Another challenge facing Highlands is the changing climate. Highlands plateau is a sensitive temperate rainforest ecosystem with a yearly average of 98 inches of precipitation and winters with below zero temperatures. Whether one believes in global temperature change or not, Highlands, possibility due to extensive regional development, has seen significant shifts in temperature patterns in recent decades. How this climate change will impact the plateau is still an unknown.

With these impending changes, smart planning and sustainable growth will be essential. Community cultural and social institutions will also be affected by these developments.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

...WIC is federally funded and is administered by NC Health and Human Services. The program provides food and nutrition education to low income, pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding mothers as well as infants and children under the age of five years old.

“We cannot operate our WIC department without a nutritionist. Clients can’t just come in and get food vouchers, they have to have the nutrition education,” Baker said at the last Board of Health meeting. “We are going to run out of money eventually, and that is all the money we could find in our budget to contract out for these services.”

To date, the WIC program has been self-sustaining year after year due to federal funds. The program has never been subsidized by county dollars, but without being able to fill the current vacancies, that might change. When funds expire, the health department will either have to go to the county to ask for money to increase the salaries for these positions in the hopes of attracting candidates for the jobs, or identify other areas in the health department to take money from to increase the salaries.

By law, the program is required to have either a nutritionist or nurse on staff to provide nutrition education to its clients. Without applicants to fill the open positions, Macon County’s contract with...
Forgetful? Who me?

There are times I’d prefer to remain ignorant. That was my reaction when I read the WSJ article, Does Being Stressed Out Make You Forgetful? It rang all too true for me. Does it seem to you that the more you have going on, the more forgetful you are? Or perhaps it depends on the type of stress in your life.

Dr. Sinha, a Yale professor, explains there are two kinds of stress—controllable and uncontrollable—and both leave marks on the brain.

Controllable stress at work could be not making time to rehearse before a presentation. In that case, your “mind will remember that experience, and you will allow for more time…” to prepare before you make your next presentation. I’d consider that a beneficial mark on the brain. Less beneficial are uncontrollable stresses, like the death of a loved one or the loss of a job, which also leave marks on the brain.

Dr. Sinha shares this example:

“The brain grasps an uncontrollable threat very quickly and can retrieve relevant information immediately when presented with the same acute stress again... When you are out alone on a street at night, your stress response might help keep you alert the next time you are alone and feel in danger. ‘That experience sharpens the mind and encodes an impression,’ she says.”

Now that example doesn’t seem too threatening to me, but the link between stress and memory sure does. Studies show that “multiple simultaneous stresses...lead to poor memory retrieval.”

That would certainly explain why last year was such a struggle for me. When my Mom’s health was deteriorating (uncontrollable stress) and I was running back and forth to doctors’ appointments, talking to my sister daily about what to do next, and contacting EAP and eventually hospice—all the while working a pretty demanding job—I forgot plenty of important things. I failed to include my usual meticulous documentation when I sent the tax paperwork to our accountant; I missed paying at least one bill, and I backed into the garage door one morning because I flat-out forgot to hit the garage door opener like I routinely do before even getting in the car.

Dr. Sinha believes we can come back from those kinds of stress-related memory losses, but the most disturbing bit in the article was the relationship between stress and dementia. That’s the part I’d just as soon not know:

“Recent studies have shown the risk for dementia and other memory-related illnesses rises significantly the more people encounter uncontrollable stress. Dr. Sinha says studies using brain scans show that loss of a significant other or witnessing violence does take a toll. ‘Research has shown that whole branches of brain cells can shrink and start to disappear,’ she says. ‘That doesn’t mean that if you get divorced, you’ll get dementia. But the risks are there.’”

The brain can heal itself in many cases, but studies have not yet determined which types of memory loss are reversible. We can’t avoid controllable and uncontrollable stress, but we can manage stress by doing all the things we read about regularly: eat right, get plenty of sleep, exercise and limit our multi-tasking. How many times have we heard these health and stress-reduction tips? It’s not that we forget them—we just choose to ignore them. Well, now I’m inspired. I already follow every one of those tips except the piece about avoiding multitasking. Ohmmmm....Do you hear me chanting, “One thing at a time, one thing at a time?”

**Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs, GA, resident who works in corporate America and writes for the Dunwoody Crier. Read more of her musings at TheInkPenn.blogspot.com.**
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See our website for more info.

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Or...
24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries.
$20.95 serves four.

**Tuesday:** Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.
$20.95 serves four

**Wednesday:** Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.
$20.95 serves four

**Thursday:** Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.
$20.95 serves four

**Friday:** Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw.
$23.95 serves four

**Saturday:** In-house smoked BBQ, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls.
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**Weeknight Pizza Special:**
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...HEALTH DEPT. continued from page 6

Nutrition Plus was set up to fill the void.

The contract was set not to exceed $36,000, which is the amount generated in the health department’s budget from back unpaid WIC salaries. Baker noted that by January, that money will have all been spent and additional funds would be needed to continue to contract with nutritionists or Macon County will not be able to continue providing WIC services in the health department.

Baker informed members of the Board of Health that the positions being advertised have not been able to be filled because the salaries are not competitive when compared to nearby counties. In Jackson County, a Nutritionist I starts at $40,000 compared to $29,268 in Macon. A Nutritionist II in Jackson starts at $48,808 compared to $33,881 in Macon.

**Denture Program**

In 2012, the Macon County Department of Public Health decided to begin providing denture services at the county’s dental clinic.

In the program’s first year, the dental clinic saw 49 patients for dentures, which came at a cost of $14,000. The following year, the program nearly doubled, seeing 73 patients at a cost of $20,000 in lab fees. Last year, although the number of patients seen for dentures decreased to 68, the lab costs increased to a program high of $26,000. Jimmy Villiard, personal health section administrator for the health department presented the numbers to members of the board of health during the October meeting and cautioned against the program’s sustainability.

“Our recommendations are that since we are not breaking even and are taking time away from other patients and procedures that we cut the denture program,” said Villiard. “The only other option is to ask the county for more money to fund it.”

In Macon County, there are no private practices in operation that accept medicaid for dentures. Those seeking such services have to go to Asheville, which because of the distance, is not always easy, which is part of the reason the program was established to begin with.

When the program was presented to commissioners for consideration in 2012, it was thought that a denture program would not be a cost generating program, but instead would allow Macon County Health Department to break-even while providing the needed services. With a growing demand and waiting list for dentures, last year, the program did not break-even and ended up costing $3,600 more than it generated.

To avoid the same thing from happened again this fiscal year, the health department put a cap on the amount of money to be spent on denture-related lab costs. Lab costs from dentures are not just the initial procedures to fit someone with dentures, but as the health department has realized in the years since inception, lab costs continue to grow due to maintaining dentures and additional fittings and repairs. Villiard explained that as it stands right now, there is a pile of more than 40 applications for people wanting dentures, and without having supplemental money for the program, outfitting the demand for dentures would eventually make the county’s entire dental program unable to be profitable and continue.

Bruckner said the time it takes to fit patients with dentures ties up the staff’s time. As it stands, there is not currently a wait for patients wanting services at the dental clinic aside from dentures. In fact, there are actually gaps in the schedule, which Bruckner believes is because people are forgetting that the county has a full dental clinic rather than just a denture clinic. Before dentures were offered in Macon County, Bruckner said the county’s dental clinic was steady and rarely had open appointments.

Understanding that in the event Macon County’s denture program no longer operates, Bruckner said an emphasis should be placed on connecting patients with service options in Asheville. He informed the board of health that Macon County Transit makes regular trips to and from Asheville and could help with transportation problems patients may experience. He also said that the county’s denture program is actually hindering patients from getting denture services in a timely manner because while they wait for approval from Macon County in a pool of more than 40 applicants, patients could be going to Asheville for the same services, much quicker.

Macon County will continue providing denture services through the end of the year, operating until the predetermined $15,000 cap is reached. When budget discussions are started for the next fiscal year, the board is expected to reevaluate the denture program and make a final decision then.
MC Dept. of Social Services now taking applications for LIEAP and CIP
Low-income home energy assistance program to take applications

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) provides for a one-time payment to heating vendors to help income eligible households pay their heating bills. Priority is given to low-income households with a family member 60 years and older or families in which a member is a disabled adult receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Starting December 1st income eligible households must have EITHER:
• an elderly person age 60 or over living in the home; OR
• a disabled person receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)

Starting January 1st (if LIHEAP funds are still available) applications will be accepted for all low-income individuals and families.

Crisis Intervention Program (CIP)
The Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) provides assistance for heating low-income households that are in immediate and life-threatening crisis. If assistance is approved, the crisis must be able to be alleviated. Households may be eligible to receive assistance more than once until their yearly cap is reached. Heating assistance includes: electricity, wood, fuel oil, kerosene, or LP gas only.

Other criteria include but are not limited to:
• one member of the household must be a US Citizen; AND
• you must have 10% or less LP gas in your tank; OR
• 15 inches or less of fuel oil or Kerosene; OR
• less than 1 cord of wood (stacked 4 feet high x 8 feet long x 4 feet deep); OR
• a disconnect notice from Duke Energy or Haywood Electric Company.

Applications taken Monday- Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Macon County Department of Social Services
1832 Lakeside Dr. Franklin, NC
No appointments will be made for LIHEAP or CIP

The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee is now Mainspring Conservation Trust

The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT) is pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2016 it will become Mainspring Conservation Trust. The new name is the result of a multi-year process, and was formally adopted by the board of directors at its June 2015 retreat.

“The need for a new name is a positive one: we have outgrown the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee, both in project area and mission,” says Executive Director Sharon Taylor. “Mainspring Conservation Trust is the name that will carry us into the future. Mainspring is an ideal word because it defines what we have become — the chief or most powerful motive, agent or cause” for conservation in the heart of the Southern Blue Ridge.”

The term mainspring describes the principal spring that keeps a mechanism, specifically a watch, moving. Another definition is more relevant to LTLT’s work: a mainspring is “something that plays a principal part in motivating or maintaining a movement, process, or activity,” a driving force, a prime mover, a reason, a generator, an impetus.

Originally founded as the Nikwasi Land Trust in 1997, the organization became the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee in 1999. In the years since it has expanded its project area beyond the Little Tennessee River watershed into the Tuckasegee and Hiwassee watersheds. LTLT now works in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties in North Carolina, and in the northern portion of Rabun County, Georgia.

The organization’s work has also broadened beyond traditional land trust projects, to include sustainable forest management and land and water restoration. When LTLT merged with the Little Tennessee Watershed Association in 2012, its work expanded further to include programs related to water, education and research.

“It gives me hope to see the organization strengthening as a regional conservation leader,” says Founding Director Paul Carlson. “Part of that is embracing a new name that is as relevant in the valleys of the Tuckasegee and Hiwassee as in the Little Tennessee.”

Though the name is changing, the mission remains the same. Mainspring Conservation Trust will continue to be dedicated to conserving the waters, forests, farms and heritage of the Southern Blue Ridge. The 18-year-old nonprofit will continue with the wise strategic planning and visionary thinking that grew LTLT out of its own name, and into Mainspring Conservation Trust.

For more information or to view a short video about the new name, visit www.ltlt.org. The new name will go into effect on January 1, 2016.
Operation North State (ONS) is accepting the names of 1,500 North Carolina deployed troops to receive its 2015 NCCARES Christmas Boxes - utilizing North Carolina’s People, Places, Products and Pride.

Currently, we have received requests for 600 boxes; we kicked off major media support and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) a few weeks ago but we still have a long way to go.

This “All Volunteer” Project is your care package North Carolina – please join us. We still need to receive recipients’ names, cash donations to help cover shipping costs and holiday messages written to the troops. You still have three weeks to host a collection party of NC items – give us a call and we can provide you a list of needed items.

Considered one of the state’s most popular Christmas gift box projects, this year’s gift box will feature a minimum of 36 North Carolina products and messages. This is our 6th Anniversary of the project! Last year’s gift boxes included premier North Carolina goodies and special messages from Governor McCrory, Senator Kay Hagan, Senator Richard Burr, “The King” Richard Petty and thousands of messages from children and seniors from around the state.

Operation North State is one of the fastest growing military support services organizations in the state. The NCCARES Christmas Box Project is the #1 NC-themed Christmas gift box project in the state. And, our Top Shelf Fishin’ Festivals whereby we take wounded warriors and disabled veterans fishing throughout the state utilizing six different venues is nationally recognized. All these projects are featured in photo albums on Facebook: Operation North State.

There are numerous ways that you, friends, family-members, coworkers and fellow club-members can provide your assistance.

- Help spread the word about the NCCARES Christmas Box Project.
- Host a fundraiser/pass-the-hat; ONS is in need of cash donations to assist with shipping expenses and a few items in the box.
- Collect NC goodies to go in the NCCARES Christmas Boxes - the donation doesn’t have to be 1500 items, a dozen here - a dozen there - they all add up. Popular items are 3 oz. bottles of Texas Pete Hot Sauce, bags of Hampton Farms Salted/Roasted in the Shell Peanuts and any Lance Cracker peanut snack products. All products can be purchased at your local grocery stores.
- Encourage North Carolinians of all ages to write Christmas messages to NC’s deployed troops. ONS can provide suggestions as to the messages to write and furnish a message template if needed.
- Sponsor a Toiletry Drive; all items collected will be used in the NCCARES Gift Boxes as well as be distributed to veterans living in North Carolina’s Veterans Homes (there are 4 facilities around the state - a total of 400 beds). Contact ONS for the Toiletry Drive logo and popular toiletry items to collect.
- We need volunteers to address customs forms and labels as well as write simple thank you notes - postage and thank you notes will be provided by ONS.
- AND, submit names of deployed North Carolinians to receive the NCCARES Christmas Box. They are FREE to the first 1500 names received. Church prayer lists are a great source for names as well as ask folks at your work, within your clubs and in the community if they know a troop that won’t be in North Carolina for the Christmas Holidays. Note: As for the NCCARES Christmas Boxes recipients, the deployed troops do not have to be in harms-way to receive a gift box; he or she must call North Carolina home and will not be in the home-state this Christmas with their respective families and loved-ones.

ONS needs your support with the NCCARES Christmas Box Project in a big way! ONS is very fortunate to have 90% of all the items within the NCCARES Christmas Boxes donated from companies around the state. Plus, companies and service orgs like Piedmont Natural Gas, the American Legion - Dept of NC, CVMA Chapter 15-5, Patriot Charities, Well Fargo Foundation and dozens of individuals have already donated $17,000 in cash to help fund the project. What we really need at this point is cash to help pay for the shipping costs and printing of the t-shirts. We still need to raise $14,000 between now and Christmas. Help any way you can – it all adds up!!!

It’s our goal with this project to make 1,500 of North Carolina’s deployed troops feel a little closer to home this Christmas and to let them know how much they and their military service are appreciated.

Secondly, the project is called the NCCARES Christmas Box for a reason. Operation North State wants to give every North Carolinian (individual, organization, company) the opportunity to get involved in the project and express their gratitude to North Carolina’s finest.

The program, now in its sixth year, is making a difference; the deployed troops and their respective families are most grateful for the generosity and support of ONS’ volunteers, supporters and the contributors from around the state.

To provide recipients’ names, go to http://www.operationnorthstate.com and fill out the Request Form or send an email to mailbox@operationnorthstate.com. The project is funded by donations; again, there is no charge to submit names - the boxes are FREE! Go to Facebook: Operation North State “Photos” to review the products, messages, packing parties and thank you notes associated with 2013’s successful project.

Contact Operation North State to offer your assistance; donations are needed and greatly appreciated. Call 336.764.5967 or visit the website: http://www.operationnorthstate.com or Facebook: Operation North State.
**Winter Pool Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LAP SWIM – ADULTS ONLY</strong></td>
<td>Monday thru Friday</td>
<td>7 – 10 am, 6 lanes AND Monday thru Thursday 5 – 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC SWIM</strong></td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 3 – 5 pm &amp; 6 – 8 pm</td>
<td>Wednesday 3 – 5 pm Saturday 11 am – 6 pm Sunday 1 – 5 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the National Theatre of London’s Live in HD production of The Beaux Stratagem on Saturday, November 14 at 1pm. Simon Godwin (Man and Superman) directs George Farquhar’s wild comedy of love and cash. The ‘Beaux’: Mr Aimwell and Mr Archer, two charming, dissolute young men who have blown their fortunes in giddy London. Shamed and debt-ridden, they flee to provincial Lichfield. Their ‘Stratagem’: to marry for money. Lodged at the local inn, posing as master and servant, they encounter a teeming variety of human obstacles: a crooked landlord, a fearsome highwayman, a fervent French Count, a maid on the make, a drunken husband, a furious butler, a natural healer and a strange, turbulent priest. But their greatest obstacle is love. When the Beaux meet their match in Dorinda and Mrs Sul-en they are most at risk, for in love they might be truly discovered. Tickets are available online: highlandsrep.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.
Local Volunteers Join Samaritan's Purse to Collect 20,000 Shoebox Gifts for Children in Poverty Overseas

This month, Holly Springs Baptist Church will again serve as the Collection Center for Operation Christmas Child in Western North Carolina (which represents: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties)—the world’s largest Christmas project of its kind. The annual Samaritan’s Purse project is a favorite of many Macon County residents, families, churches and groups who spread joy to millions of children around the world by filling shoeboxes with a “Wow!” item—like a doll or soccer ball—other fun toys, school supplies, hygiene items and notes of encouragement.

“Through the simple act of filling a shoebox, someone in Macon County can make a tangible difference in the life of a child halfway around the world. Anyone can participate and bring joy to a child facing difficult circumstances,” said OCC volunteer Brenda Hackett, who has participated in Operation Christmas Child for over 15 years.

During National Collection Week, Nov. 16 – 23, Western North Carolina residents hope to contribute more than 20,000 gift-filled shoeboxes to the 2015 global goal of reaching 11 million children in need.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to more than 124 million children in more than 150 countries and territories. For many of these children, a gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

For more information about how to participate in Operation Christmas Child e-mail: wncocc@yahoo.com. With a computer or mobile device, anyone can conveniently pack a personalized Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift on the Samaritan’s Purse website. Go to samaritanspurse.org/occ to select toys and gift items, write a note of encouragement and “pack” them in a shoebox. Using special tracking technology, participants can follow their box to discover where in the world their gift is delivered by using the donation form found at samaritanspurse.org/occ. These gifts of hope will go to children in some of the hardest-to-reach countries.
The Highlands Police log entries from October 18. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Oct. 18
- At 8:40 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 near Cullasaja Drive and Pinecrest Road.
- At 8:50 p.m., Lawrence Johnson, 74, of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, was arrested for DWI when he made an unsafe movement in his vehicle at Pinecrest Road and Cullasaja Drive at the site of an accident.

Oct. 23
- At 3:59 p.m., officers responded to a shoplifting incident where a patron consumed food without paying for it.

Oct. 25
- At 2:21 a.m., officers received a call about damage to personal property when a statue of a deer was knocked over which caused an antler to break off at Corey James Gallery on S. 3rd Street.

Oct. 28
- At 2:10 a.m., officers received a call about a bear entering a vehicle and tearing up the interior at a residence on Chestnut Walk.

Oct. 29
- At 8 a.m., officers received a call about a larceny at a residence on Raoul Road where an Edge Programmer was taken from the vehicle.

Nov. 1
- At 1:41 a.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.
- At 8:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

Nov. 2
- At 2:24 p.m., the dept. provided traffic control at US 64 west and Mirror Lake Road.
- At 2:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Big Bear Pen Road.
- At 8:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.
- At 8:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

Nov. 3
- At 11:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

Nov. 4
- At 9:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road that came in due to a medical alert but there were no problems.

Nov. 5
- At 11:01 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sequoyah Ridge Road.
- At 12:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pierson Drive.

Nov. 6
- At 3 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Carolina Way.
- At 4:19 p.m., the dept. was called to a residence on Highgate Road to investigate the source of smoke.

Nov. 7
- At 4:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Church Street.

Nov. 8
- At 10:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

Nov. 9
- At 11 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

Nov. 10
- At 12:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lake Court.
Halloween in Highlands

Ghost, goblins, witches and warlocks descended on Highlands for the Chamber of Commerce sponsored traditional All Hallows Eve celebration. Super heroes and ninja warriors competed with tinkerbells, ladybugs, and colorful peacocks for festive treats generously provided by Highlands’ merchants. Rumor is that even the Donald was seen among the record breaking gathering at this year’s event. Children and parents danced to the music and Highland’s two Rotary Clubs cheerfully fed a long line of ravenous trick or treaters. Mysteriously, from darkness emerged a kilted bagpiper who played beautifully for an appreciative audience. When community comes together all things are possible. On this night the entire Highlands community deserves our gratitude for closing their streets and opening their hearts to the area’s children and providing them with a safe and festive place to gather. Thank you to all that made this a memorable night.

Bob Kieltyka
Executive Director
Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce

Photos by Kim and Jim Lewicki
**Business/Organization News**

**Rotary Exchange Student describes year away**

From left: Youth Exchange Chair Bob Henritze, Highlands School Senior Chance Gilbert and Christy Kelly, President.

Of the Rotary Club of Highlands. Gilbert described his transformational year in Switzerland as a Rotary Exchange Student. After living with three different families, and experiencing Swiss life in the city, suburbs and country, Gilbert made friends from all over the world and praised International Rotary Clubs for giving him this life changing opportunity.

**Dr. Travis Petricek to see patients at HC Hospital**

Travis Petricek, MD, will begin providing surgical consults and performing minor office procedures at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on Nov. 16. Dr. Petricek earned his medical degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, Texas. He completed his residency at University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Petricek is board certified in surgery and has been practicing at Angel Surgical Associates since 2009. Dr. Petricek will see patients on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital campus in Suite 304 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic, 209 Hospital Drive. The office number is (828) 526-5045.

**Rotary hears about the Greenway**

Recently, Ron Shaffner gave an overall report on the Highlands Plateau Greenway Trails, which have been placed on the National Trails Listing by the Secretary of the Interior. The trails are now connecting and have been made safe and easy to navigate as well as beautiful. This outstanding job has been accomplished by the hard work and donations of local groups, individuals and hikers from as far away as Florida and the west coast. The Greenway trails are now a thing of beauty of which we can all be proud.

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**Kids' Night Out**

Friday, November 13, 2015
6:00pm-9:00pm

Highlands United Methodist Church
315 Main Street ~ 526.3376

Send your parents out for the evening and join us for dinner, games, crafts, a movie and fun!

For kids up to fourth grade
Cost is $10 per child

Additional donations will be gladly accepted.
All monies collected will go directly to help the Highlands School Fifth Grade Charleston Trip.
Activities and supervision will be provided by Highlands School fifth grade students and parents.

Reserve your spot now!
Email Margie Potts at humcmargie@icloud.com
or call the HUMC office at 526.3376
Ellis McIntyre, Zack Claxton, Rotary President Christy Kelly and Bill Staples.

Bill Staples, retired Mortgage Banker and Duke graduate, gave an in depth update and Power Point tour of the newly refurbished center.

Bill has worked very hard to pull this whole project together. Also, he has gotten the Center reclassified as 501C3. This is a feat in itself.

The Center offers reasonable rent to non-profit organizations. At present the center is 90% non-profit. It houses such major agencies as the Land Trust, Literacy Council of Highlands, Gillian Promise, CLE and more.

This Center is a asset to the Highlands Community. Many Rotarians give their time, spirit and support to these organizations. “Service Above Self” is the Rotary motto and this is a prime example of Rotary in action.

From left: Carter Davis, Dinah Davis, Helen Davis and Ren Davis.

Authors Ren and Helen Davis gave an informative and historic program on the CCC and the profound impact it had on our nation and this area of NC in particular. Part of Roosevelt’s New Deal, it not only provided much needed jobs and training for young men, but created 700 parks, cleared trails, built dams and planted over 3 billion trees, all in just 9 years prior to WWII. Ren and Helen have written several books on the subject and these are a must read.

On Thursday, Nov.5, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with Highlands Bolivian Mission to sponsor Bingo night at the Community Building. All net proceeds benefitted the Bolivian Mission. Above is the final Super Bingo game winner Lori Wasco (center) with Bingo table winners and Dr. John Baumrucker.
Thanksgiving and Community

By Fr. Bruce Walker
Church of the Incarnation

It happens on the mountain week after week. They mostly come on Sundays, but some show up on Wednesday, Friday or Saturday evenings as well. The people of God in Highlands make their way to various places of worship to pray and give thanks to God.

Some arrive at small buildings, made beautiful in their simplicity. Some people find themselves in places filled with stained-glass windows and old creaking pews. Others enjoy concert type seating with a full array of electronic instruments and technology at their disposal. Still others worship to the melody of bluegrass and good ole Gospel tunes!

Wherever, whenever and however we come together, it is our hope that we will experience a kind of community not easily found anywhere else outside the worshiping community.

We have a creative blend of worship styles linked together by a common history of living on the mountain. In all our various ways and places of worship, we also share a common hope that God will come and be with us.

With this said, God is mostly pleased to dwell with us, when we move out of our comfortable surroundings. God is mostly pleased with us when we reach out our hands in love and service to those we share life with. True worship is to care for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.

In reality we honor God when we honor each other. We have just such an occasion coming up this month of November.

On Tuesday, November 24th, the Highlands community of churches will sponsor a Community Thanksgiving Meal.

As in past years, some will come to the Recreation Center to enjoy a meal together. Others will have the benefit of being hosted in their home. Volunteers are lining up to cook, serve and deliver meals to shut-ins and others who are unable to attend the gathering.

I am glad to see all this coming together and grateful to those who are involved in the planning, implementation and delivery of this annual event. The evening is meant to build community among us, while serving the needs of those who might, by no fault of their own, be unable to attend in person.

So, on behalf of all, I invite you to come out on November 24th to our annual Community Thanksgiving Meal. Come and enjoy one another’s company and find home in God’s ever-present spirit of hospitality. Come and enjoy true worship that is found in service to God and neighbor. May God be with us!

Proverbs 3:5

Buck Creek Baptist Church
828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11 am

Chapel of Sky Valley
Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 am Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m.; Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion

Christ Anglican Church
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
Sun.: 8:30a Traditional ( Quiet) 1928 Prayer Book Service;
9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

Christ Church of the Valley, Cashiers
Pastor Steve Kerhoula • 743-5470
Sun.10:45am, S.S 9:30am; Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

Clear Creek Baptist Church
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7p.m.
Wednesdays –Supper at 6 p.m.

Community Bible Church
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
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 University

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968
Sundays: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m.
Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,
Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30
Wednesdays: Worship –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: 8:30a and 11 a.m.; School: 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m.; Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

Goldmine Baptist Church
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am
Bible Study: 6 pm

Grace Community Church of Cashiers
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

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, Pastor828-421-9172 • 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: 6p.
Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p.; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

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 );
7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Holy Family Lutheran Church: ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;
Worship/Communion:10:30

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:11; Choir:6 p.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.; 7 p.m.

Mountain Synagogue
at St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-524-9463

Mountain Bible Church
743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun:10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Wed: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church
Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418
Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

Scaly Mountain Baptist Church
Rev. Marty Kilby
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. 7 p.m.

Scaly Mountain Church of God
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212
Sun.: School:10 a.m.; Worship:10:45 a.; Worship: 6 p.m.

Shortoff Baptist Church
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

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
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THE HIGHLANDS BBQ CO. Is seeking Servers, Hosts, Bartenders and Line Cooks. If Interested, Please call 828-200-1500 or send a Resume to HighlandsBBQCompany@gmail.com (st. 7/2)
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See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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