

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 12, Number 37

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

Thurs., Sept. 10, 2015

New FCC ruling puts Highlands in the Internet business

The window allowing municipalities to become broadband providers has opened and closed a few times over the last decade. Now with a 3-2 vote by the FCC Commission, the window has opened again.

At the August Town Board meeting, with a nod from Town Attorney J.K. Coward, commissioners agreed to make The Mountain Learning & Retreat Center on NC 106 its first broadband customer.

“Sitting half way between Highlands and Scaly Mountain, The Mountain is at the end of the service line from both directions,” said Highlands MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler. “Consequently, they have a fraction of the service peo-

ple have at their homes.”

IT Director at The Mountain, Matt Belker said they have had to tell presenters to download their presentations prior to coming because they don't have a way to

•See INTERNET page 14

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Macon educators seek support in opposition to state's budget scenarios

Public education took the forefront of the Macon County Board of Commissioners meeting as about 30 educators packed the board room in hopes of getting written support from commissioners opposing the state's budget proposals that could have devastating implications for Macon County.

“I think everyone in this room is way past the R [Republican] or the D [Democrat],” said Franklin High School teacher John deVile. DeVile is also the Legislative Director for the WNC chapter of the NCAE.

“We are all Maconians here with a proud heritage of going the extra mile for public education and it is with this sentiment in mind that we respectfully ask for you to pass a resolution this evening to make our voices heard in the closing hours of this year's budget negotiations in the hope that these voices from the mountains continue to echo for months to come as to where we stand as a

community,” he said.

DeVile provided the bulk of the information to commissioners Tuesday night through a power point presentation highlighting the difference between the North Carolina Senate and House budget proposals on education.

According to deVile, the problems and points of crisis surrounding the current budget proposal include larger class sizes, less one-on-one attention, especially K-3 with increased testing burden, textbook and materials shortages, reduction of the talent pool for future administrators, elimination of public funding for Driver's Education, and elimination of teacher and state employee retirement and health benefit programs.

Since 2008, the state's per pupil funding has dropped from \$5,897 to \$5,183 in 2013 when adjusted for inflation. Since 2008, there are also 43,000 more students in schools in North Carolina while classroom teachers have

•See EDUCATORS page 18



Northern portion of Phase 2 of K-H Founders Park – Founders Square.

Work begins on Phase 2 of K-H Park

Under the guidance of the newly formed 501.3c, Friends of Founders Park, work has begun on the first part of Phase 2 of the

park – Founders Square.

Founders Square is the southern portion of the Sossomon property tract which borders Oak

Street and Pine Alley. This will serve as a Town Square and will be a place for nonprofit functions as

•See PHASE 2 page 15

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

A world away



Mayor Pat Taylor

I am on a vacation of sorts, visiting children and grandchildren in Miami. Highlands certainly is miles apart from Miami.

Several years ago my son and his better half purchased a bungalow in a North Miami neighborhood just off Biscayne Drive. They bought right after the housing crash and found a great deal. When I first visited the neighborhood and surrounding business area, everything looked run down and depressed. Oh, what a few years and a good economy can do. Their neighborhood is now thriving. A telltale sign, all the front yards are manicured.

A few years ago there was an empty, deserted, shell of a motel on Biscayne next to the street where my son lives. I am staying this week at the same newly restored, Miami hip, motel. It is as if you are back in the 1950s.

I am writing this piece beside the motel pool. On the other side is the pool bar replete with stainless steel bar stools. Inflatable pink flamingos and large beach

balls are afloat in the pool. It's Sunday morning, and I am taking a rest from grandchildren by relaxing in lounge chairs, baking and sweating in the sun while drinking copious amounts of lime water.

My only criticism is that I am lounging on hot AstroTurf instead of grass. Miami should pass an ordinance banning artificial grass! Well, there is one other. If some folks in Highlands get upset about noise and music on Saturday nights, well Miami is in a sound league of their own. If their police were mandated to enforce a noise ordinance, that's the only thing they could do.

The motel and its cool poolside bar is a place to be. My room is on the second floor just above where the DJ is playing music every night until 11. I can look out my window and see the party. The men are dressed in those colorful Miami shirts and gold jewelry. The women are decked out in stilettos and half dresses at best. Our son says folks from all over come to the poolside parties. They too can hear the music from their house several blocks away.

Now I am reluctant to go down to the party. I don't have hip clothes. My mountain casual attire just doesn't fit. And I would be the only 60-something, and the bouncer would probably ask me to leave. Next time I come to Miami I'm asking some retired Miami policemen living in Highlands to be my advance and security crew. Surely, they could arrange everything for the Highlands mayor and his entourage of one.

Just imagine, it is January in Highlands with a little Miami-like oasis. Our enclosed pool will have 88-degree water. Put a few tropical plants around the sides, and we can all pretend to be wintering in Miami for an hour or so. I am bringing back the pink, plastic pool flamingos for our pool. Or should I get floating bears?

• FORUM •

A boy in our midst



**Kim Lewicki
Publisher**

Our daughter Rachel has returned to Highlands with her son and so our family in residence has grown once again to four.

We don't live under the same roof, but our home is a home away from home complete with toys, clothes, Hudson-sized dishes, cups, utensils, etc.

Despite the changes in our routines, numerous times during the day we are happily reminded of how blessed we are to be involved and experience the life stages of our grandson. And it's safe to say he is the center of our universe.

He is often away living his life with his mom and dad, but even then he is with us.

I see him when I trip over The Hulk, arms splayed, lying face down on the laundry room floor as if he's the one who just finished doing five loads of laundry.

Or when I go to turn on or off the lamp on the end table by the sofa where it is immediately evident I have disturbed the four Ninja Turtles who are hanging on the lamp stand ready to drop on an unsuspecting villain.

The other day I had to stop short on US. 64 east by Little Bear Pen and Superman flew over my shoulder and landed on the dashboard saying, "I am the Man of Steel. Time to Fly!"

On one of Jim's early morning weekly treks to Hendersonville to pick up the paper for delivery, he was stopped at a traffic checkpoint – which is almost a weekly occurrence in the vicinity of Rosman, Brevard and Hendersonville. The officer recognized him and while checking his license and registration moved on to other topics, which Jim, already moving on in his mind to the pick-up in Hendersonville, neglected to follow.

"I'm sorry," he said. "What were you saying?"

It's then he realized the officer was peer-

ing into the back seat area of the pickup.

"Nothing ... go on," he said amicably.

Prior to pulling away, Jim looked in the rear view mirror and noticed ninjas Michelangelo and Raphael posed to do battle on the clothes rod he keeps fastened above the back seat.

Our 4 1/2 year old grandson has a bevy of super heroes in toy bins, hanging out with traditional tub toys or on the floor of the shower. There are always a pair or two in a vehicle which can scare the bejesus out of you – when activated by motion, they call out a war cry.

Having raised two girls, all this action hero stuff is rather foreign. Rachel and Megan were acquainted with the Ninja Turtles, but their action figures were Beanie Babies and Barbies – neither of which talked.

Boys approach many things in life differently than girls – like stepping on the beautiful mushroom I kneel down to point out, or marveling over a baby snake while I prepare to run, stomping in every single puddle of water, entwining himself in the laurels and rhododendrons at the house or along the Greenway, jumping from rock to rock in the river, rolling around and around and around on the floor with his dog Summer, sharing his ice cream cone with her lick for lick, walking on top of every wall or anything that resembles a wall and expending boundless energy from the moment he wakes up until he finally closes his eyes at night.

Exhausting, exhilarating, fun.

The moral of the story? Though the "story" of life may not proceed as planned, the chapters are full of wonder; keep your eyes open and enjoy.

• LETTERS •

A safe and welcoming community

Dear Editor,

I read with dismay – in the Sept. 3 edition of Highlands Newspaper – that there are some people in our community who ap-

Highlands Newspaper

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Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

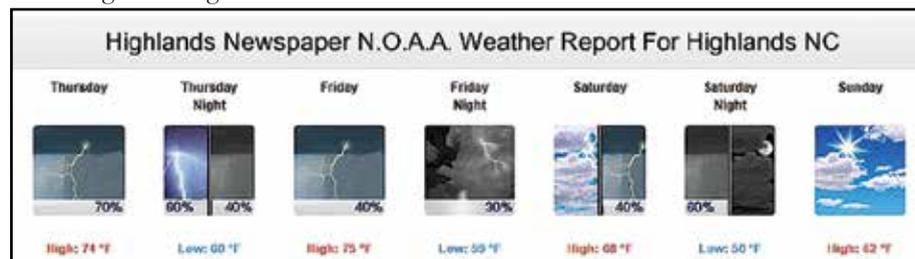
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Letter Policy:

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.



• OBITUARY •

Avery Lee Hall Miller



Avery Lee Hall Miller, 75, of Highlands, passed away Wednesday, September 2, 2015.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Aaron Miller and Lillie Tilson Miller. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Ivan and David Miller. AveryLee enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a member and deacon of Buck Creek Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Dorothy "Dot" Dowdle Miller; two sons, Jeff Miller and wife Monica and Buddy Miller and wife Melanie both of Highlands; one sister, Bonnie Bryson of Highlands;

five grandchildren, Austin, Benjamin, Jacob, Jonathan and Abbi and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Service will be held Saturday, September 5th at Buck Creek Baptist Church. Rev. Andy Cloer and Rev. Jamie Passmore officiated. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Austin, Benjamin, Jacob and Jonathan Miller, Stuart Foster and Dickie McCall.

Macon Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com

...LETTERS continued from page 2

pear to object with the concept, or frequency, of traffic checks being performed by town and regional police officers. Further, for some reason they feel the need to chastise the Town of Highlands Mayor that he should do something about the "problem."

Rather than immersing myself in the issue, I would rather simply extend a note of gratitude to Mayor Taylor, Chief Harrell, and each police officer who serves our community by participating in actions deemed necessary to protect the citizens of Highlands, as well as those who travel within and through our area.

Although such actions may disrupt our citizens for brief periods, all one has to do is read the Police and Fire Reports that are provided in the Highlands Newspaper. Included therein are many DWI arrests, simply proving the point that unfortunately in this day and age of "public awareness" those of us who travel roadways are not safe in doing so when impaired and distracted drivers insist that they ignore the law, and common sense, by placing others in harms' way.

As I attempt to transition into retirement after serving in a career spanning work assignments in 17 states, let me simply comment that "there is no place like home and no place like Highlands." Although I live just outside the Highlands town limits, for nine years I have called the Town of Highlands my home.

Highlands is definitely unique, increasingly progressive, yet retains the charm of a small mountain village. But, it's not the house in which I reside that makes Highlands home for me; it's about the spirit of our residents who embrace our beautiful community.

Although I live a life more as a hermit than a socializer, I have watched this unique community grow and prosper in much appreciated ways. We have a Mayor who communicates frequently and eloquently, as well as elected town officials, police officers, emergency fire and rescue personnel, and town employees who also serve our community with distinction and purpose.

Despite the many, many places I have resided and worked – beautiful and otherwise – the most critical of the many attributes that makes our Highlands community so enriching is the fact that we as purposeful beings continue to share a safe living and working environment.

So, Mayor Taylor and Chief Harrell, I would like to think that many – hopefully all – residents in our community advocate the following opinion: Any official representative of this town, county, or state is welcome to stop me at any time or place, for any reason, if doing so is in the best interests of ensuring a safe community for our residents.

Bruce Kibler
Highlands

How much for a parking space on Main?

Dear Editor,

I did not know that an individual could have a permanent personal parking space on



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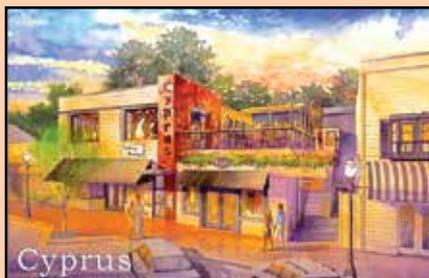
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UPCOMING EVENTS

"A curious mind knows no bounds"

CLE ANNUAL PARTY: Monday, September 14, 5-7p on the porch of the Peggy Crosby Center

IPHOTO FOR APPLE COMPUTERS: Tue., Sept. 15, from 10:30a-3:30p. Cost is \$70/\$80 This class will teach you how to edit, organize and manage all of your photos on your Mac computer using the new iPhoto. Taught by Nigel Sixsmith.

WINE AND DINE AT...ON THE VERANDAH: Wed., Sept. 16 from 12-2p. Cost is \$50/\$60. Chef Andrew Figel is going to prepare a wonderful lunch of appetizers, entrees, desserts and wine pairings for you to enjoy on beautiful of Lake Sequoyah.

NATIVE PLANTS OF THE HIGHLANDS PLATEAU: Thur., Sept. 17 from 2-4p. Don't miss husband and wife team Canty Worley and Sonya Carpenter as they discuss the history of native plants and which ones are best to enhance your own garden setting. Sonya is a trained forest ecologist and Director of the Highlands Biological Station. Canty is a certified arborist, organic gardener and professional landscaper.

THE SUBLIMITY OF A SHORELESS OCEAN: Thomas Cole's The Oxbow and the Anglo-American Culture Wars, Fri., Sept. 18 from 4-5p. Cost is \$10 in the CLE lecture hall. Seth McCormick, Assistant Professor in the School of Art and Design at WCU will talk on the concept of the sublime and its influence on Thomas Cole and other Hudson River School artists. Lecture is in conjunction with the Bascom.

**The cost for all lectures is \$25 members/\$35 non-members For more about classes at The Center for Life Enrichment stop by our office in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center at 348 S. 5th Street, call 828-526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com*

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...LETTERS from page 3

Main St. What an interesting idea. Diving up or down Main St. a minus 5 MPH, you see a lot of things you might not otherwise see.

For example, I've noticed a black Jeep convertible permanently parked on Main Street down around the Sports Page. As far as I can tell, it's been there a couple of months, so I can only assume that it owns that spot.

I'd be curious as to how I can get a spot of my own, somewhere closer to the Stone Lantern. I like that intersection. Is there a fee involved, or maybe a special use permit? By the look of that Jeep, which is rather shabby and open to the rain, I don't supposed the fee can be too high, so I feel confident that I could probably afford it; after all, I'd only need the space during the summer months when parking is at a premium.

Just think how convenient to have your own personal, guaranteed parking space smack dab in the middle of Main

St., and not have to cruise around endlessly at minus 5 MPH looking for one. Count me in.

Alice Nelson
Highlands

The Good Ol' Days

Dear Editor,

From time to time we hear people say they want Highlands the way it used to be during "The Good Ol' Days." I can certainly understand. There are many of us who remember our towns and cities back in the '40s, '50s and early '60s. We can talk to our friends from Atlanta, Savannah (my home town), Macon, Memphis and on and on and on. These places are no longer the same.

I spent every summer back in the middle 40's and early 50's with my grandparents in Swainsboro, GA. Swains-

• See LETTERS page 7

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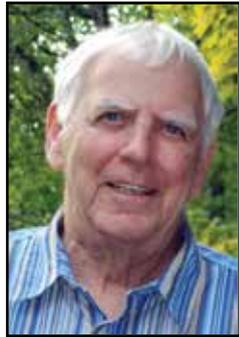
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• THE FREDSTER •

Meet Doctor Poop



Fred Wooldridge

You probably think by the title of this column that this is another of my tacky spoofs on a serious topic. Well, if you're thinkin' that way, you would be absolutely right. And it all happened at an upscale community that will remain nameless.

On this particular evening a small but very talented group of professionals gathered at a secret place to have a serious discussion on poop.....not just any poop but pig poop. This select group consisted of an attorney, an engineer, an accountant, a poop specialist and..... well, li'l ole me. Wives were invited 'cause someone would have to drive us all home.

It goes without saying I will not....cannot....mention the names of these specialists. This is top secret stuff and the minutes of this meeting will go into my private server stored in a large mayonnaise jar on Funk and Wag-nall's back porch. That porch is not even near our meeting place so don't even try to find it.

The meeting started with Dr. Poop's wife pouring the wine for those who would participate. Ha, everyone participated except for the engineer, Mr. Tough Guy, who drinks the hard stuff. I thought it might be a great ice breaker if I brought up the topic of peters. One of my many bridge partners had recently brought up this topic but without a solution. Could I make this up? After much muttering and grumbling, the topic was tabled for a later

...LETTERS from page 6

boro had a beautiful courthouse and very nice Mom and Pop stores on the square. It was easy to find about anything that was needed. There were also 2 wonderful pharmacies with soda fountains. We went almost every day for milkshakes. Today, all of it is gone, including the courthouse. However, Swainsboro does have one big Walmart on the edge of town.

"The American Soda Fountains" started way back around 1850. At one time there were thousands and thousands of local owned pharmacies with soda fountains. Stop in every day after school, have a milkshake or sundae with your friends - special, special days. The soda fountains in America had a complete collapse by 1970.

I have very fond memories of the 5 and 10 cent stores. F. W. Woodworth opened their first store in 1879 in Lancaster, PA. They grew to over 800 stores. They went out of business in 1997. S.H. Kress 5 and 10 cent stores opened their first store in 1896 in Nanticoke, PA. They grew to 264 stores. They went out of business 1981.

I also miss Morrison's Cafeterias. Their first store opened in 1929 in Mobile, Alabama. At one time they had 151 locations in 13 states. They finally went out of business in 1996 after a long hard struggle to survive.

Change is inevitable. Most places we remember have not changed for the better. However, I feel Highlands, NC has been moving forward in a very positive way. We are still like a "Town of Yesteryear." To live in Highlands is a blessing indeed.

Kenny Youmans
Highlands

time and I was admonished for not talking about pig poop. Bad Fred.

Then it happened. Dr. Poop, after much persuasion by the group, presented his dissertation on the topic of pig poop. It was his thesis which has made him so well respected at a college that will also remain nameless. His dissertation came in book form and must have weighed 10 pounds. Remember, the heavier the dissertation, the higher the grade.

It was at this time that the meeting turned very, very serious. Everyone sat their drink down in order to be able to handle the heavy book as it was passed around the conference

table. I was extra careful not to get mustard on the book. The bottom line on this serious matter is that pig poop happens. Ya better write that down! But it is the control, gathering and distribution of pig poop that made Dr. Poop famous.

I was the weenie at this meeting. I don't have an important title and my education is limited. For this reason, I just knew I would not be called on for my dissertation. Then Dr. Poop announced that I would be giving my presentation next and he was looking forward to it. Then Dr. Poop said, "Fred, you've had quite an interesting life. What do you have to present to our group?" I pulled out a single sheet of paper which read, "Kill them before they kill you!!" The group was stunned. Then I said, "If anyone has a connection in Washington, you might inform them of that."

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Ricki and the Flash

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It was easy for me to nod off at the table as Dr. Poop explained how pig poop specialists are hated by the Muslims. My li'l missus had to keep punching me to keep me awake. I had gone to this meeting without any sleep the night before because I invited a serious virus into my computer and had worked on deleting it all night....but that's another story.

The meeting broke late....well, late for Highlands. Are you sitting down? It was after 8:30 before my head hit the pillow.

Looking back, I'm a better man for knowing Dr. Poop. He is truly a great talent and Highlands should be proud to have such a man living in this tony upscale community. He has become one of my favorite persons to poke fun of because of his great sense of humor. Remember folks, most folks wrap their garbage in yesterday's newspapers. If everyone had his sense of humor, the world would be a better place.

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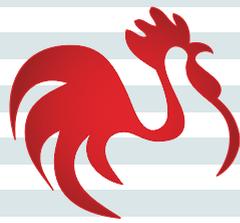
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TUESDAY - OVEN OFF NIGHT
TWO NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS GRILLED WITH OUR TUSCAN HERB INFUSED OLIVE OIL, SERVED ON A BED OF GREENS WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICED PECANS, OUR EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL AND BALSAMIC VINEGAR ON THE SIDE WITH TWO CUPS OF HOMEMADE GAZPACHO AND A BAGUETTE FROM OUR BAKERY. **\$23.95 SERVES TWO**

WEDNESDAY - PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES AND SALAD. PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS. TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD. **\$33.95 SERVES TWO**

THURSDAY - TWO RACKS OF BABY BACK RIBS - COOKED UNTIL FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND POTATO SALAD. **\$25.95 SERVES TWO**

FRIDAY - WILD CAUGHT SHRIMP: FRIED OR STEAMED. WILD CAUGHT NORTH CAROLINA SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. **\$26.95 SERVES TWO**

SATURDAY - IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ. HAND RUBBED PORK BUTT, PIT-SMOKED OVER NIGHT AND HAND PULLED TO ORDER. COMES WITH COLESLAW, APPLE BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS **\$22.95 SERVES TWO**

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Thursday, Sept. 10

- The WNC Woodturners meeting at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville, N.C.
- Dahlia Festival Patron Party. 6:30 p.m. at the Hudson House, Highlands Country Club. Mexican Fiesta with Live Mariachi Band. Tickets \$125. For more details, go to www.highlandshistory.com or call the Highlands Historical Society at (828) 787-1050. Proceeds raised by the Festival underwrite the upkeep of the Prince House, the oldest home within the town of Highlands.
- The Third Annual "Taize on the Mountain" outdoor gathering in K-H Founders Park at 6 p.m. This is an ecumenical, contemplative service with live music of sweet simple songs of praise, scripture, prayer, silence and the lighting of candles. It is a free gift to the community. Bring your lawn chair and join us! All are welcome!

- The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Riverview Street. Special guest speaker will be Jennifer Stuart, Coordinator of Mountain Coalition for Healthcare Decisions in Asheville. Learn how to complete Living Wills, Healthcare Power of Attorney, and other advance care documents. Advance care planning is not just about old age. At any age, a medical crisis could leave someone too ill to make his or her own healthcare decisions. There will be a \$50 door prize and light refreshments. Anyone may attend.

- Rotary Craft Beer Night at The Farm from 7-11 p.m. at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn. Local and Regional Craft Breweries, and Lite Bites from area restaurants. Great rockin' country music by Timeless Highway with Tommy Dodd. \$50 per person, or sponsor a table! Tickets are available on line at rotarycraftbeer.com.

or email rotarycraftbeer@yahoo.com for details. All proceeds benefit the projects and programs of The Rotary Club of Highlands.

Sat., Sept. 12

- Highlands' 5th Annual Dahlia Festival.

1- 5 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park & Civic Center. All dahlia enthusiasts are urged to join in the competition. Prizes will be presented in multiple categories. It is to celebrate the beauty and enjoyment of these gorgeous flowers

• See **EVENTS** page 10



Will the Circle Be Unbroken

 John McEuen with John Carter Cash	Live in HD  Everyman Starring Chiwetel Ejiofor
Saturday, September 19 8 pm Presented by Ray & Diane McPhail	Sunday, September 20 1 pm
Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling: 828.526.9047	

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that grow so well in our beautiful mountains. Come and bring your blooms to share with the other dahlia lovers. Public admission \$5 at the door.. Exhibitor fee \$10. Live Music 2 – 3:30 p.m. Refreshments and Actors in Period Costumes at the Highland Historical Museum.

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will host the annual Charlie Davis Memorial Blue Ridge Parkway Outing as we search for migrating warblers, vireos, thrushes and raptors on the Blue Ridge Parkway. We leave at **7 a.m.** from K-H Founders Park in Highlands. Pack a light lunch. Bring water and your camera. Please contact Romney Bathurst (828-526-1939) or Brock Hutchins (828-787-1387) to sign up.

Sun., Sept. 13

- The 23rd Annual Bel Canto Recital will again present a quartet of renowned singers from the world of opera – Jennifer Black, Audrey Babcock, mezzo-soprano, Jonathan Burton, tenor, and Mark Walters, baritone. Don't miss this year's performance 4p at PAC. If you have any questions, please call us at 828 526 5213 or email at highlandsbelcanto@gmail.com.

Mon., Sept. 14

- Jamie Harrelson, current Highlands Plateau Audubon Society grant recipient for her Master's research underway at Western Carolina Univ., will present her results on the threatened Golden-winged Warbler. We meet at the Hudson Library in Highlands at 7 p.m. for conversation and refreshments with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please enter through the back door of the Library.

- The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the

American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 on Monday in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For Further information, please call 828-524-2673.

- The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will meet at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers on Monday at 6 p.m.. The speaker will be J.B.E. Hall, a fly fishing instructor and guide in Western North Carolina and East Tennessee. A raffle will be held after the presentation with a chance to win the grand prize of a day's fishing on the private waters of the Davidson River Outfitters. Call Doug at 828-787-1230 or John at 678-353-4313 with your questions.

Tues., Sept. 15

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will host a "Birds & Beer" social at the Ugly Dog Pub in Highlands. Enjoy a favorite beverage, "Pub Grub" and bird talk with Audubon members and guests. We start at 5:30 p.m.

Wed., Sept. 16

- Pool Volleyball at Highlands Pool Complex from 6-7:30p. Bring a friend and come out and enjoy the pool and fellowship

Thursday, Sept. 17

- Eco Tour: "Bald Rock." Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust on this special access hike to the summit of "Old Bald" through Camp Merrie-Woode. Learn about a number of rare plants from your botanist guide and be rewarded with a grand view from above. \$35 new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust! HCLT members: \$10.

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STUDIO BARN

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9 AM 12 PM AND 1 - 4 PM



Alex Matisse



Trey Hill



Shadow May

...EVENTS continued from page 10

Reservations required: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net, 526-1111. Together we are saving mountains: www.hicashlt.org.

Sept. 19 - 25:

• Reserve these dates for one or more Hawk Watches with Brock Hutchins of the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. on Whiteside Mountain. These outings are highly weather dependent, so those interested must contact Brock so that last minute plans can be conveyed: 828-787-1387

Sat., Sept. 19

• At PAC, John McEuen with John Carter Cash at 8 p.m. Sponsored by Ray & Diane McPhail. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

Sun., Sept. 20

• Live in HD at PAC, "Everyman" at 1 p.m. For tickets call 828-526-9047.

Starting Sept. 22

• NAMI Appalachian South, the local affiliate of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), is offering a free 10-week course on recovery and wellness for adults challenged with a mental illness in Franklin on Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30p.m., Class size is limited. Registration is required. Contact Donita (828) 526-9510.

Tues., Sept. 22

• Eco Tour: "HCLT's Annual Elk Excursion". Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust on this enchanting journey that has become an annual tradition. We will travel to Cataloochee Valley at the peak of the rut. \$35 new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust! HCLT members: \$10. Reservations required: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net, 526-1111. Together we are saving mountains: www.hicashlt.org.

Fri., Sept. 25

• **Beatlemania Celebration at The Bascom 6-10 p.m. Music beings at 7 p.m. \$50 per person Heavy Hors D'oeuvres and Black Bird Cash Bar. For tickets call 828-526-4949.**

Sat., Sept. 26

• Scaly Mountain Fun Day, 10a to 4p at the Sky Valley-Scaly Mtn Fire House on Hale Ridge Road in Scaly. Pancake breakfast in the Old Scaly School House from 7:30-10:30a.; Indoor Yard Sale Call 526-8525 to reserve a space to sell your wares; Fire House Open House with firetruck rides and tours from noon to 2p.m.; Facepainting, Chili Cookoff - Call 526-8528 to enter; Bake Sale and the filling of a time capsule to be opened in 2025.


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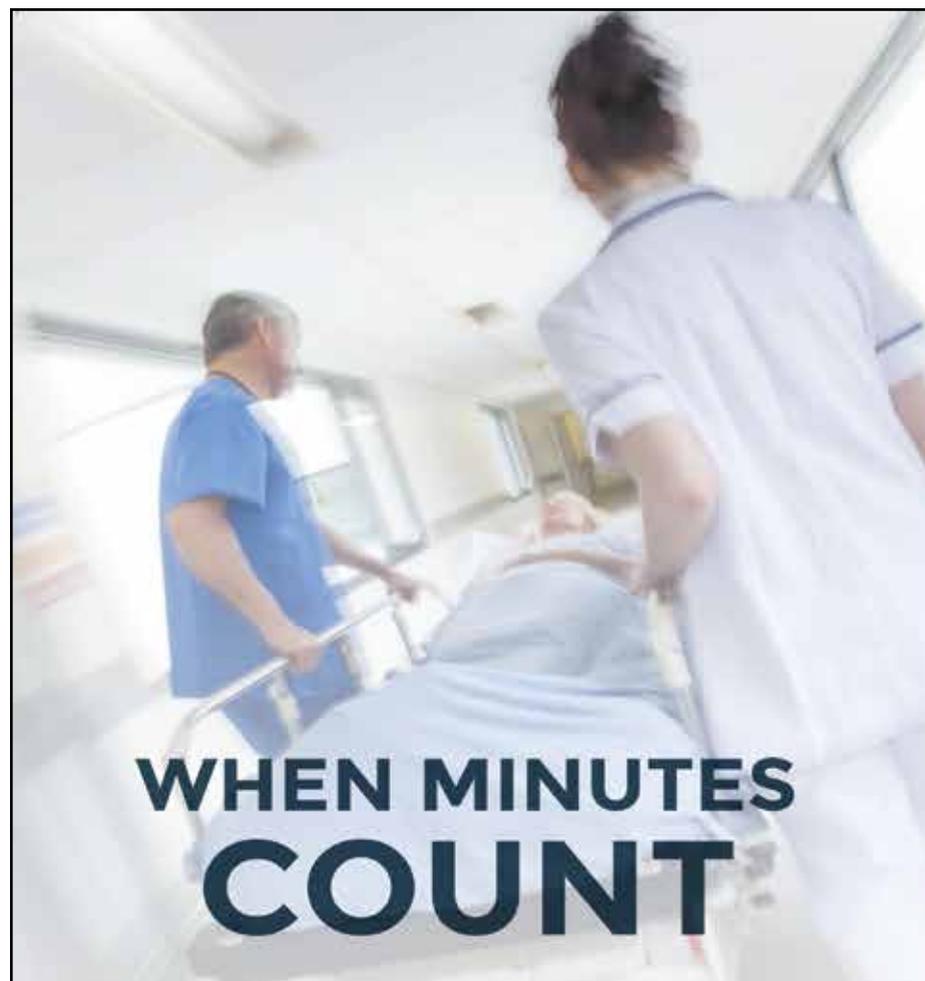
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Fall Home Improvement

Top Home Improvements that Help Sell Your Home

(StatePoint) While certain home upgrades provide obvious aesthetic enhancements, it's important to ensure the projects are worth the expense.

The following three home improvements provide especially impressive returns on their respective investments, making them excellent choices to consider with an eye on selling your home.

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Bath and Kitchen

Bathroom and kitchen renovations are great bets, according to the National Association of Realtors. However, ripping out these rooms and building them completely anew is an extreme expense that might not give you an immediate investment return.

Wash Your Windows

Instead, check out refinishing services, whose work can provide more value than a full replacement. Newly washed windows can make a huge impression on potential homebuyers.

“The difference in the light streaming in, and the overall impression of the home after a professional window cleaning, is amazing,” says Rik Nonelle, president of Window Genie, a well-known window cleaning and window tinting franchise.

Reaching those upper level windows for a good exterior cleaning can be tricky and dangerous to DIY, however. For a more detailed and precise job, consider using a professional service; it's an affordable way to give your home a facelift.

New Floors

New floors, particularly the latest in engineered flooring, are high in demand among potential home buyers. It's no wonder; since engineered flooring is comprised of wood layers stacked cross-grain and bonded together under heat and pressure -- a process that makes them stain resistant and more durable where pets' claws and children's toys are concerned

“Today's engineered floors have the beauty and durability of wood, and are available in every color and style you



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RELINING

Fall Home Improvement

can walk upon," says Tom Wood, president of the popular mobile franchise concept, Floor Coverings International.

"Investing in new flooring can dramatically increase the resale value of your home."

When updating your home for sale, neutral tones, such as pale gray or a dark walnut stain will make the home-selling process easier.

Home improvement experts and cleaning services are worth the investment for those planning to sell their homes in the near future; consider each project's return on investment is important when choosing which home upgrades to make.

Modern Design Tips to Set Your Home Apart

(StatePoint) If it's time for a remodel -- or even just a refresh of your home's dated décor -- it may be time to think modern.

Innovations in technology and design can offer your home efficiency, luxury and sophistication, and even improve your home's resale value. Here are a few trends to consider.

New Kitchen

Whatever purpose your kitchen serves, be it simply a workplace for meal prep or the hub of the home, you can give the room a clean modern look while retaining its functionality and aesthetic appeal.

Stainless steel appliances and hardware coupled with butcher block countertops harmonize nicely and are beautiful design elements that lend themselves to both modern form and function.

Modern design is all about streamlined simplicity, so

use this opportunity to rid your kitchen of clunky, clutter-causing gadgets you don't use -- especially those that don't match your updated look.

The Fireplace

The hearth has been, and continues to be, the heart of the home. While fireplaces may no longer serve as the primary way people heat their homes, they continue to be a focal point, both aesthetically and as a gathering place for family and friends, even in spaces characterized by modern design.

New gas fireplace designs are focusing on clean lines, sometimes replacing logs with materials like crushed glass, and the traditional masonry look with metallic fronts. For a high-end look, the MEZZO unit features a modern, see-through front.

Also consider incorporating a fireplace into your kitchen, bathroom, master bedroom or anywhere you want to create ambiance with a stunning focal point.

From a resale perspective, a fireplace adds \$3,600 on average to the value of a home, and creates a design focal point that sets it apart from the rest of the inventory on the market.

Hidden Storage

For a modern look, the more devoid your space is of clutter, the better. And this goal in minimalism is informing many homeowners' design decisions. Look for spaces that can serve as hidden, unique storage solutions, like carve outs or drawers that extend from under the staircase or storage spaces built between rooms. These modern twists on traditional storage will allow you to keep those items you need, but don't want displayed, out of sight but not out of mind.

Modern design can set your home apart, offering sophistication and efficiency without compromising comfort.

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...INTERNET continued from page 1

stream them.

This past spring, the FCC released its previous order preempting Tennessee and North Carolina municipal broadband restrictions which is why Highlands can now get into the internet business.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and Commissioners Mignon L. Clyburn and Jessica Rosenworcel voted in favor of lifting the ban; Commissioner Ajit Pai and Michael O'Rielly voted against lifting it.

"Basically, the FCC ruled that municipalities can be broadband providers," said Shuler. "Before the vote, North Carolina HB 129 hindered municipalities' ability to provide broadband service."

Shuler said it was a "state thing" focused around the free marketplace having to compete with government.

And that's precisely why Commissioner O'Rielly voted no.

"Let me start by expressing my profound opposition to the offering of broadband or any communications service by a government entity, in this case a municipality. This issue goes to the core of more important principles: the foundations of the U.S. economy and free enterprise," he said.

Currently, Highlands is serviced by Northland Communications, Dnet, Frontier, Verizon, HughsNet and Highlands Cable Group as well as satellite options. But according to the town officials, coverage is

still lacking in areas.

Chairman Wheeler mentioned Shuler in his statement saying "Matt Shuler from Highlands, North Carolina, can tell you how local leaders see the Internet as a way to bring economic opportunity to their isolated town of 1,000 residents. But the red tape of the state law stopped them from doing so."

Since the window whereby municipalities could offer broadband as a service to its citizens has opened and closed before, commissioners wanted to be sure there weren't any problems with The Mountain being its first customer.

Attorney Coward said the town is in the clear for now.

Furthermore, now with one customer, the town would likely be grandfathered in should the window once again close.

Commissioners agreed to charge The Mountain \$100 a month to provide bandwidth for wi-fi internet with the understanding that the price is temporary because the town's fee schedule and coverage options haven't been finalized.

The town's wi-fi mechanism shoots a signal from one point to the next – in this case from the pole on Satulah to the top of The Mountain's mountain – a straight shot.

"The fiber to Satulah is nearly complete so setting this up for The Mountain

• See INTERNET page 17



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...PHASE 2 continued from page 1

well as the place for the ice rink November through February or March.

Armed with \$250,000 donated so far for the expansion of the park, contracts have been signed between the "Friends," Tate Landscaping and Schmitt Builders who will both make the plan designed by Ross Landscape Architecture a reality.

Rock walls will define the perimeter enclosing stone, brick and pavers in patterns designed to mimic a flowing stream. Shrubs, trees and grass will also line the perimeter. Twelve to 14 new trees will be planted to replace the seven trees taken down to expand the park.

The part of the Sossomon property adjacent to the current park and Pine Street will eventually house a large circular fountain with waterfall spouts into which blocks of stone will be situated. A fireplace and chimney duplicating the original Kelsey fireplace and chimney which is behind the Falls on Main, will be built on this northern portion of the tract, too.

"The plan is to have the first part of Phase 2 completed by

the Thanksgiving weekend," said Friends of Founders Park Chairman Nick Bazan. "Work has already begun."

Once Phase 2 is complete – both the southern section now under construction and the northern section that borders the current park and Pine Street – the park will have netted 12 additional parking places. There will be three parallel

spaces on Oak Street Alley, three parallel on Pine Alley and six more diagonal spots on Pine Street.

Parallel parking was decided upon for Oak Street Alley and Pine Alley because diagonal spots would have cut into the park property itself, "and we wanted to use all of that for the park," said Hank Ross of Ross Landscape Architect

• See PHASE 2 page 18

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Divine Wine: 'Worth Reading If You Are Down'

By Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

Most people have something in their lives that they are really interested in. Some people are really into wine; wine tasting and being a wine aficionado of sorts. I get that and I respect that. There is a lot about wine that I remain clueless about. I have sort of figured some things out by overhearing people talk about wine as they order it or discuss it amongst themselves. I figure some people are really knowledgeable, some really want to learn more and some are just "posers". Whatever the case, I can see that there are many things to learn about fragrance, sweetness, dryness, bitterness, soil, climate, rain, and grapes, etc. It's pretty interesting actually.

In the Bible, wine is associated with gladness and blessings. He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts. (Psalm 104:14-15).

In the gospel of John, "the disciple Jesus loved" writes about Christ as the "Gardener or Vine-dresser". What's the lesson? Well, John chapter 15 is rich in life lessons, but I would like to gently lay something before you that may prompt you to appreciate and reflect upon the love, the tenderness, the gentleness and the nearness of the "Vine-dresser" near you.

Jesus has a thing for turning water into wine. He did it is an instant in Cana at a wedding where the wine supply had dwindled down to nothing. (John 2). He also does it in John 15. Rain falls from the sky, it gets absorbed by the roots of a grape vine and later on—wine! That too, is a miracle of sorts, but it's more of a process. There is another way Christ makes wine from water. Few are aware of this one—perhaps you are in a place where this would be good to know:

In the nighttime, in your panic, when you feel the most alone and afraid, sometimes you weep. We all weep in the darkness or we soon will. —some of us weep from our eyes—some of us weep from inside our frightened, chaotic hearts and some weep from both. It is in our fear or our sorrow when we are most alone that the Divine Vine-dresser or Gardener begins to harvest our despair. When you are hurting most—completely apart from your awareness—The Vine-dresser gently places a bottle to your cheek. Slowly he captures each salty tear, careful not to miss even one. Night after night—valley after valley there is the Ever-Present Gardener doing what he always does—collecting what you most want to be rid of, your deep worrisome sadness. Your fear travels down your cheeks into His bottle. As each bottle fills the Gardener does what is only in the Gardeners nature to do. As if our tears were necessary ingredients he turns your salty water into a sweet fragrant wine. In exchange for your sorrow—even because of your sorrow—he collects and alters your tears into a wine of gladness for the display of His goodness. Just when you sense he is the furthest away—he is nearest to you. His loving word reminds us of his loving faithfulness to tend and to mend our saddened hearts. The psalmists wrote it this way:

You have seen me tossing and turning through the night. You have collected all my tears and preserved them in your bottle! You have recorded every one in your book. Psalm 56:8

If you see Christ in a different light—I am sorry, but this is who he is. I want to encourage you to invite him into your heart where his love, forgiveness and interest in you will gently turn your saddened heart to a gladdened heart. After all he is your Vine-dresser.

Oh Lord—clothe me in a garment of praise, when I Lord, am burdened with a spirit of heaviness. Oh Lord turn my water to wine that I and those around me may be gladdened as we celebrate you our loving Vine-dresser. Amen

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

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

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

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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 Kerhoulas • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays —Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

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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EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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Sundays: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m.

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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: 8:30a and 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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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);

7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

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

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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from Aug. 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 20

• At 11 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Church Street.

Aug. 23

• At 8 p.m., officers responded to a call about sign taken from Sherwood Forest sub-division.

Aug. 25

• At 10:30 a.m., a breaking and entering was reported at Shakespeare & Company.

• At 5 p.m., Jeremy G. Gould, 24, of Highlands, was arrested for breaking and entering. At 6 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on Helen's Barn ave.

Aug. 27

• At 9 a.m., officers responded to a call about an cast iron planter being taken from a porch at a residence on Spruce Street.

• At 2 p.m., the vandalism of a sign on Cherokee Drive was reported.

• At 6 p.m., a breaking and entering with larceny was reported at a residence on Holt Circle where \$11,500 worth of valuables were taken.

Aug. 28

• At 1:25 p.m., officers responded to a call about a workers behavior in a home on South Drive.

• At 2:40 p.m., a shoplifting incident was reported at Julianna's on Main Street where a donation container for the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society was taken.

• At 3:45 p.m., criminal damage to property was reported at a business in Highlands

...INTERNET from page 14

will cost us a few hundred dollars which we will recoup in three months," said Mayor Pat Taylor. "But this does two things - officially gets us one customer so we can say we started the business during this FCC opportunity period. Second, it gives our staff a chance to test the system free of the possibility of numerous complaints."

He said hopefully within a couple of months, the town will roll out the same option to everyone in town.

"Maybe within two months folks can sign up for wi-fi internet. We would put an antenna in their house," he said.

Since Wi-fi isn't a straight shot for everyone fiber, at least in town, would also be an option.

"Wi-fi is a stop-gap on the way to fiber," said Taylor. "We are designing the system for everyone, everywhere and it will include fiber and wi-fi options."

- Kim Lewicki

Plaza were a front door was broken along with the window.

• At 5:33 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 5:45 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Oak Street.

Aug. 29

• At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Aug. 26.

Aug. 27

• At 10:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Aug. 28

• At 5:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west at Mirror Lake Road.

Aug. 29

• At 10:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• At 12:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lake Court.

• At 5:45 p.m., the dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the hospital.

• At 10:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Road.

• At 11:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Skyline Lodge.

Aug. 30

• A little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cowee Ridge.

• At 8:45 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 8:57 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Horse Cove road.

• At 12:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Aug. 31

• At 1:47 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Holly Tree Lane.

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...EDUCATORS continued from page 1

been cut by 3.5 percent or 2,471 positions. Teacher assistants have decreased by 22.9 percent with 7,150 teacher assistants being lost since 2013 alone. Central office staff has also experienced a reduction of 22 percent while support personnel and assistant principals have been reduced by 8.8 and 18.9 percent, respectively.

In addition, deVille said the economic downturn has a double impact on public education as it hit personnel pay in the form of freezes and benefit cuts, created reductions in essential classroom personnel while reducing textbooks and classroom supplies and it had a tremendous impact on the students across the state who fell below the poverty line during the downturn, placing more stress on them and their families. In 2006, the poverty rate in North Carolina was 19.3 percent and in 2013, of the 4,736 students in Macon County, 27.9 percent are below the poverty line.

DeVilleville's facts and figures were backed

up by Macon County educators who have true accounts of how the cuts have impacted their classrooms. Former Macon County Teacher of the Year Melissa Faetz spoke to commissioners about how she is unable to read to her students individually in her classroom of 20 students at South Macon Elementary, or give them individualized instruction like they need because she has no assistant.

Rena Sutton, a school counselor in Macon County asked commissioners to consider the safety implications of having fewer personnel and how there is a lower adult-to-student ratio making things like bathroom breaks for teachers difficult. Sutton also spoke on behalf of her husband, Macon County Driver's Education instructor on how cuts to the program will result in higher insurance costs across the state.

The education rally was intended to ask commissioners to pass a resolution asking state leaders to side with the House budget,

which differs greatly from the Senate budget. According to deVilleville's PowerPoint presentation, the House budget keeps 8,500 teacher assistants while the Senate's cuts 8,500 over the next two years. The House budget proposes to fund textbooks at \$48.3 million, the Senate's version allocates \$29 million for textbooks. The House budget keeps driver's education, the Senate's eliminates it. The House budget keeps teacher & state employee pensions and health benefits, the Senate budget eliminates them.

Commissioners decided to talk to the Macon County Board of Education before

...PHASE 2 continued from page 15

ture.

The "Friends" are busy soliciting donations to complete both parts of Phase 2 as well as possibly purchasing a Christmas Tree which will likely be planted somewhere on the Macon Bank side of the park.

Another \$450,000 is needed and name plaques in honor of, in memory of, or in the name of a family or corporation will be used to raise those monies. The plaques come with a hefty price tag - \$100,000 to \$250,000 depending on the structure or part of the part they are affixed to.

passing a resolution to get its take on the current situation, but in the meantime, offered the group of supporters their verbal support.

Macon County Commission Chair Kevin Corbin told the group that locally, the commissioners have allocated nearly \$9 million a year to public education, a large percentage of the county's overall budget. Corbin also noted that the board shares the same concerns on Driver's Education, textbooks, and teacher assistants and hopes the state will fully fund those initiatives.

By the end of the month the Friends of Founders Park will turn Phase 2 over to the town who will then own the entire K-H Founders Park.

Bazan said "Friends" will act as a liaison between the citizens and the town and will be a sounding board for anything about the park.

To make donations or to request more information about donations associated with plaques, call Bazan at 828-371-2653 or email him at Nicholas.Bazan@gmail.com.

- Kim Lewicki

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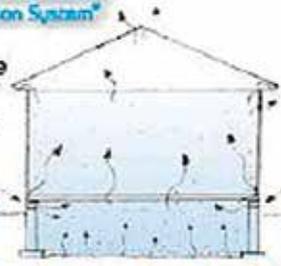
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Performs complex professional and administrative work directing the activities of the Planning & Development Dept.; facilitates the meetings of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board; and works closely with the Town's Land Use Committee, under the direct supervision of the Town Manager. Responsible for planning, zoning, watershed, floodplain, code enforcement, and all other related development and land use programs for the Town.

Job requirements are: Thorough knowledge of North Carolina's General Statutes and Planning Law; graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Planning or closely related field with a Master's Degree being a plus; currently certified or has the ability to obtain certification by the NC Association of Zoning Officials; 6 to 9 years of experience in planning, zoning, and code enforcement, or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities; must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel software; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with Town employees, elected and appointed officials, other agencies, and the general public.

Open until filled. Applications and complete job description are available at the Town Hall or on our website at www.highlandsc.org. Resumes are accepted in addition to a completed application. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer.(9/24)

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Shinrin-Yoku Redux

It's been two years since I first wrote about Shinrin-Yoku, or forest bathing, and while the principle hasn't changed, my belief in it has - it's gotten stronger. It was John Muir that wrote: "Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home." We hear over and over again from our real estate clients and renters that being in Highlands is therapeutic. Here are the scientifically proven benefits of Shinrin-yoku: Boosted function of the immune system, Reduced blood pressure, Reduced stress, Improved mood, Increased ability to focus, even in children with ADHD, Accelerated recovery from surgery or illness, Increased energy level, Improved sleep, Increased appetite, and Ability to spot and purchase home bargains. (OK, OK, well I made up the last two, or did I?)

There seems to be somewhat of a resurgence of 'going into the forest'. The new movie release of *A Walk In The Woods*, based on the book of the same name written by travel writer, Bill Bryson, has sparked a flame for many people, myself included.

Tucker and I have grown fond of a phrase that fits Highlands to a T (that's T as in TREE of course). The term is 'linger longer.' Highlands is a place where you just want to linger around a little bit longer. What's the best way to be able to linger longer? Well, to buy property here, of course. Why not practice a little Shinrin Yoku during your next lingering trip to Highlands. (If you already have property here, learn to enjoy it more, and remember you can always increase your Highlands holdings.)

The principles of Shinrin-Yoku are Breathe. Relax. Wander. Touch. Listen. Heal. Those same principles can relate to a home for sale. It's all about being grounded. Breathe: take your time when looking; it shouldn't take more than 10-15 minutes to really see a home for the first time. Relax: Enter the home

as if you were being invited by a friend. Wander: take your time and look at everything the home has to offer. Look past the furnishings whether it's being offered furnished or unfurnished. Touch: go ahead, open the back door, walk onto the porches and decks, don't just peer out the window. Take at least two minutes and sit down. Be aware of your surroundings. Listen: to your Broker. Whether it's their listing or not, they can tell you things about the home and the area. Heal: You should be able to find something about each home you visit that can make it yours; whether it's enough to warrant making an offer depends on you. Your new home itself may not be a healing instrument, but you inside your new home can be a healing process.

At this time there are more



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than 1,483 properties* offered through the Highlands-Cashiers Multiple Listing Service. (*Homes, condominiums and town homes, NOT including vacant land or

commercial). Of the 450+/- properties listed in the Highlands Township alone, there are listing prices all over the place, ranging from a 2BR/1BA seasonal condo for \$53,900 to a property with a home and guest house on over 20 acres listed for \$6,500,000.

There are other homes that are available that are not counted because they're not listed with the MLS. These are the FSBO listings. There are also sellers who are waiting on the market to pick up more before listing. Sellers still have to sharpen their pencils and market their homes below the tax appraisal, and many are listing below their own purchase price (especially if they've bought in the last 5-7 years).

Properties ARE selling. Since January of this year, there are 175

properties that have either sold or are in the process of selling -- again, just in the Highlands Township.

If you want to take a walk in the woods -- your very own woods now is a good time to invest in Highlands. Real estate is still one of the best investments you will ever make. What other investment can you use like a home? Shinrin-Yoku yourself and feel the healing properties of your property.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers believe in the healing properties of 'taking a walk in the woods', and will share their knowledge of selling, buying and renting with you at their office located at 401 N. Fifth Street. www.chambers-realty.com or getit@chambersagency.net.

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JEWELRY POUCH lost in Wildwood Mtn. subdivision Monday, Aug. 24. \$1,000 reward. Call 270-952-2499.

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SKYLINE LODGE needs a housekeeper. Drop by or call Janet at 828-526-2121 (st. 8/13.)

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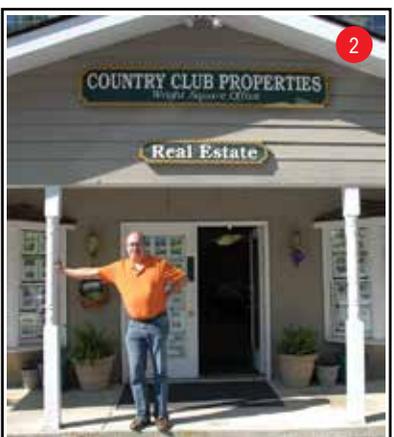
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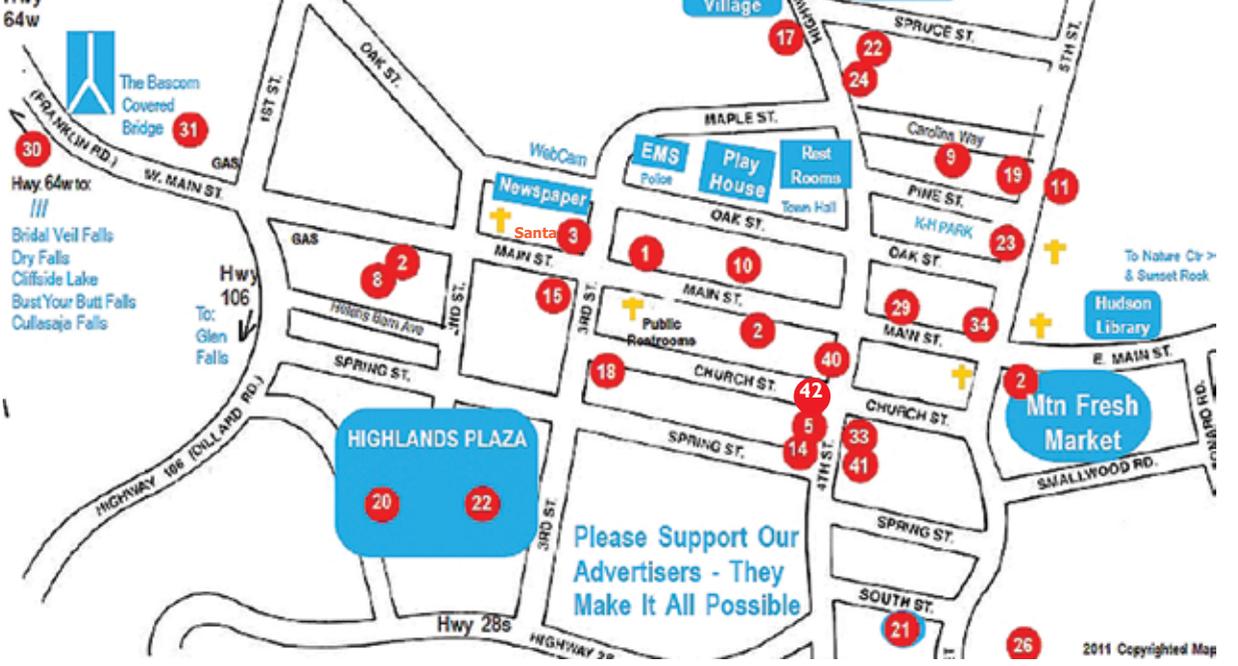
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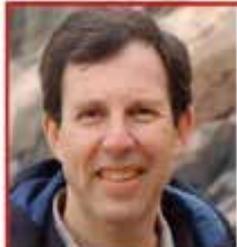


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