MC Commissioners are asked to support ‘more wilderness’

While there are still two or more years left before the federal government decides on a final management plan for the Pisgah-Nantahala National Forest, at last week’s MC Commission meeting, 13 groups in favor of additional wilderness areas, asked commissioners to reconsider a resolution against more wilderness areas which they passed in 2014.

“We aren’t asking you to say you oppose or support additional wilderness areas,” said Nantahala Hiking Club’s Bill Vanhorn. “Instead, we would like you to consider passing a resolution showing your support of the U.S. Forest Service’s public input process and support any wilderness recommendations they may make after that two-year-long public input period.”

Across Macon County, there are 152,000 acres designated as National Forest lands, which amounts to about 46 percent of the land in Macon County. In 2015, the plan revision process included public meetings and milestones looking at a collaborative effort to determine if the county would take a close look and support any recommendations made.

Finally, some snow!

Though there were swirling flurries the Sunday before, on Sunday, Jan. 17, everyone woke up to a lightly snow covered Highlands. The first real snow in 2016. It wasn’t deep enough to do anything, but it verified that winter is here. Forecast says more snow is on the way.

1st Baptist seeks B1-C Zone

Like the Methodist church down the block, First Baptist has begun the process of having its property bordered by Main, Second and Oak streets rezoned B1 Conditional.

The reason is basically the same; it too, is expanding and wants to build a Fellowship Hall on its property between the current Fellowship building and Jim Tate’s building on Oak Street without having to satisfy parking

Security at MC Courthouse to be evaluated; concealed gun permit discussed

Citing December’s San Bernardino, CA shooting, Macon County Commissioner Paul Higdon asked his fellow commissioners if the county would take a close look at courthouse security and the county’s policy on concealed carrying options.

“It concerns me as the Board of Commissioners, one of our main roles is to provide a safe work environment for our employees, and a safe environment for citizens to utilize our services,” said Commissioner Higdon. “I don’t think we’re doing that in the courthouse. It’s nobody’s fault, it’s certainly not courthouse security, they do an excellent job, but they’ve got the courtroom to take care of. You come in the front door, it says ‘secure building’ yet you can walk anywhere in here. The crazy folks are coming to Macon County, they’re here now.”

Higdon said Macon County is unlike other rural courthouse buildings because there are four entrances used by members of the community, while in neighboring Jackson County, there is one entrance with security and metal detectors.

Macon County courthouse security staff is positioned in front of courtrooms, but according to Sheriff Robert Holland, the staffing logistics of that can sometimes be difficult.

When multiple courts are in session, on multiple floors of the courthouse, Sheriff Holland says security is spread out and when transferring inmates to and from courts, extra sheriff office staff is needed to make it work. Holland agreed that one entrance would centralize the access points and reduce required staffing.

During his tenure as Sheriff, Holland said the state has conducted two courthouse evaluations and recommendations have been made. The last report was conducted more than five years ago, so Holland is considering passing a resolution showing your support of the U.S. Forest Service’s public input process and support any wilderness recommendations they may make after that two-year-long public input period.”

Across Macon County, there are 152,000 acres designated as National Forest lands, which amounts to about 46 percent of the land in Macon County. In 2015, the plan revision process included public meetings and milestones looking at a collaborative effort to determine if the county would take a close look and support any recommendations made.

Finally, some snow!

Though there were swirling flurries the Sunday before, on Sunday, Jan. 17, everyone woke up to a lightly snow covered Highlands. The first real snow in 2016. It wasn’t deep enough to do anything, but it verified that winter is here. Forecast says more snow is on the way.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

1st Baptist seeks B1-C Zone

Like the Methodist church down the block, First Baptist has begun the process of having its property bordered by Main, Second and Oak streets rezoned B1 Conditional.

The reason is basically the same; it too, is expanding and wants to build a Fellowship Hall on its property between the current Fellowship building and Jim Tate’s building on Oak Street without having to satisfy parking

Security at MC Courthouse to be evaluated; concealed gun permit discussed

Citing December’s San Bernardino, CA shooting, Macon County Commissioner Paul Higdon asked his fellow commissioners if the county would take a close look at courthouse security and the county’s policy on concealed carrying options.

“It concerns me as the Board of Commissioners, one of our main roles is to provide a safe work environment for our employees, and a safe environment for citizens to utilize our services,” said Commissioner Higdon. “I don’t think we’re doing that in the courthouse. It’s nobody’s fault, it’s certainly not courthouse security, they do an excellent job, but they’ve got the courtroom to take care of. You come in the front door, it says ‘secure building’ yet you can walk anywhere in here. The crazy folks are coming to Macon County, they’re here now.”

Higdon said Macon County is unlike other rural courthouse buildings because there are four entrances used by members of the community, while in neighboring Jackson County, there is one entrance with security and metal detectors.

Macon County courthouse security staff is positioned in front of courtrooms, but according to Sheriff Robert Holland, the staffing logistics of that can sometimes be difficult.

When multiple courts are in session, on multiple floors of the courthouse, Sheriff Holland says security is spread out and when transferring inmates to and from courts, extra sheriff office staff is needed to make it work. Holland agreed that one entrance would centralize the access points and reduce required staffing.

During his tenure as Sheriff, Holland said the state has conducted two courthouse evaluations and recommendations have been made. The last report was conducted more than five years ago, so Holland is considering passing a resolution showing your support of the U.S. Forest Service’s public input process and support any wilderness recommendations they may make after that two-year-long public input period.”

Across Macon County, there are 152,000 acres designated as National Forest lands, which amounts to about 46 percent of the land in Macon County. In 2015, the plan revision process included public meetings and milestones looking at a collaborative effort to determine if the county would take a close look and support any recommendations made.

Finally, some snow!

Though there were swirling flurries the Sunday before, on Sunday, Jan. 17, everyone woke up to a lightly snow covered Highlands. The first real snow in 2016. It wasn’t deep enough to do anything, but it verified that winter is here. Forecast says more snow is on the way.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

1st Baptist seeks B1-C Zone

Like the Methodist church down the block, First Baptist has begun the process of having its property bordered by Main, Second and Oak streets rezoned B1 Conditional.

The reason is basically the same; it too, is expanding and wants to build a Fellowship Hall on its property between the current Fellowship building and Jim Tate’s building on Oak Street without having to satisfy parking

Security at MC Courthouse to be evaluated; concealed gun permit discussed

Citing December’s San Bernardino, CA shooting, Macon County Commissioner Paul Higdon asked his fellow commissioners if the county would take a close look at courthouse security and the county’s policy on concealed carrying options.

“It concerns me as the Board of Commissioners, one of our main roles is to provide a safe work environment for our employees, and a safe environment for citizens to utilize our services,” said Commissioner Higdon. “I don’t think we’re doing that in the courthouse. It’s nobody’s fault, it’s certainly not courthouse security, they do an excellent job, but they’ve got the courtroom to take care of. You come in the front door, it says ‘secure building’ yet you can walk anywhere in here. The crazy folks are coming to Macon County, they’re here now.”

Higdon said Macon County is unlike other rural courthouse buildings because there are four entrances used by members of the community, while in neighboring Jackson County, there is one entrance with security and metal detectors.

Macon County courthouse security staff is positioned in front of courtrooms, but according to Sheriff Robert Holland, the staffing logistics of that can sometimes be difficult.

When multiple courts are in session, on multiple floors of the courthouse, Sheriff Holland says security is spread out and when transferring inmates to and from courts, extra sheriff office staff is needed to make it work. Holland agreed that one entrance would centralize the access points and reduce required staffing.

During his tenure as Sheriff, Holland said the state has conducted two courthouse evaluations and recommendations have been made. The last report was conducted more than five years ago, so Holland is considering passing a resolution showing your support of the U.S. Forest Service’s public input process and support any wilderness recommendations they may make after that two-year-long public input period.”

Across Macon County, there are 152,000 acres designated as National Forest lands, which amounts to about 46 percent of the land in Macon County. In 2015, the plan revision process included public meetings and milestones looking at a collaborative effort to determine if the county would take a close look and support any recommendations made.

Finally, some snow!

Though there were swirling flurries the Sunday before, on Sunday, Jan. 17, everyone woke up to a lightly snow covered Highlands. The first real snow in 2016. It wasn’t deep enough to do anything, but it verified that winter is here. Forecast says more snow is on the way.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

1st Baptist seeks B1-C Zone

Like the Methodist church down the block, First Baptist has begun the process of having its property bordered by Main, Second and Oak streets rezoned B1 Conditional.

The reason is basically the same; it too, is expanding and wants to build a Fellowship Hall on its property between the current Fellowship building and Jim Tate’s building on Oak Street without having to satisfy parking

Security at MC Courthouse to be evaluated; concealed gun permit discussed

Citing December’s San Bernardino, CA shooting, Macon County Commissioner Paul Higdon asked his fellow commissioners if the county would take a close look at courthouse security and the county’s policy on concealed carrying options.

“It concerns me as the Board of Commissioners, one of our main roles is to provide a safe work environment for our employees, and a safe environment for citizens to utilize our services,” said Commissioner Higdon. “I don’t think we’re doing that in the courthouse. It’s nobody’s fault, it’s certainly not courthouse security, they do an excellent job, but they’ve got the courtroom to take care of. You come in the front door, it says ‘secure building’ yet you can walk anywhere in here. The crazy folks are coming to Macon County, they’re here now.”

Higdon said Macon County is unlike other rural courthouse buildings because there are four entrances used by members of the community, while in neighboring Jackson County, there is one entrance with security and metal detectors.

Macon County courthouse security staff is positioned in front of courtrooms, but according to Sheriff Robert Holland, the staffing logistics of that can sometimes be difficult.

When multiple courts are in session, on multiple floors of the courthouse, Sheriff Holland says security is spread out and when transferring inmates to and from courts, extra sheriff office staff is needed to make it work. Holland agreed that one entrance would centralize the access points and reduce required staffing.

During his tenure as Sheriff, Holland said the state has conducted two courthouse evaluations and recommendations have been made. The last report was conducted more than five years ago, so Holland is considering passing a resolution showing your support of the U.S. Forest Service’s public input process and support any wilderness recommendations they may make after that two-year-long public input period.”

Across Macon County, there are 152,000 acres designated as National Forest lands, which amounts to about 46 percent of the land in Macon County. In 2015, the plan revision process included public meetings and milestones looking at a collaborative effort to determine if the county would take a close look and support any recommendations made.
Mayor Pat Taylor

The board will set the budget planning schedule and meeting dates for the next months at this board meeting. The first date will be for the town retreat that usually occurs sometime in early March. The retreat is followed by several budget workshops that are dialogues between the town staff and commissioners concerning budget priorities. Finally, the town manager will present a draft of a balanced town budget in May, followed by modifications and final approval at the June town board meeting.

Another item on the agenda will be an update by Matt Shuler on the Altitude Broadband initiative. Matt will brief us about the implementation of the network, a process that started this month. I anticipate Matt giving the town board a number of updates in the coming months.

He will also provide an update on the Big Bear Pen cell tower upgrade. Last year the board approved a 20-foot addition to the tower for a Verizon cell phone antenna. This project has not happened, and Matt will present possible options.

I want to invite everyone to the Coffee with the Mayor program which will be tomorrow (Friday), starting 11 pm at the Hudson Library. As I stated in my last column, the topic for our discussion will be the problem of trash and litter on the Highlands Plateau. Come Talk Trash with the Mayor.” I am very interested in everyone working together to develop ways to mitigate this growing problem. Trash and litter are akin to sin, they will never go totally away, but each of us should fight the good fight to contain and control this horrible blight on our community.

See everybody tonight, and hopefully again on Friday morning for good discussion, coffee and refreshments provided by the Highlands B.E.A.R. Task Force.

Signage and penalties would be a start

Dear Editor,

I am saddened and angered by the Mayor's Forum last week on the trash ing of Highlands. I have always felt but could never prove that it is not the summer folks that do most of the trash ing. So, Highlanders, draw your own conclusions.

Years ago, way back in the forties, signs entering and leaving Upton, KY. read “Drive slow and see our town - Trash our town and see our jail.” The signs didn't help much but made folks aware of the penalties involved if caught.

Fred Wooldridge
Highlands and North Palm Beach

Southern root reference not appropriate

Dear Editor,


On re-reading Mr. Bell’s letter, I found no “fear stoking” or implication that all Muslims intend to harm us, but rather, some honest questions regarding the reluctance, or better yet, absence, of non-violent Muslims protesting against the Jihadist minority.

Ms. Maxwell attempts a lengthy discussion suggesting that Mr. Bell’s Southern roots, and now “Ivory Tower” in Highlands, somehow provide him with inferior motives for questioning non-violent Muslims, even though Ms. Maxwell writes, “Mr. Bell calls for non-violent Muslims to call out, stand up to, and take action against violent extremist, a proposition with which I am in agreement...”

Confused? I am.

But I’m from Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas, and thankfully my “Ivory Towers” have been shipped to Highlands.

Chip Wisdom
Highlands

I don’t understand the comparison

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to the letter of Sabin Maxwell of January 14th in which she agrees with me. That is, Muslims should “call out, stand up to and take action against violent extremists.” Nevertheless, Ms. Maxwell uses a 14 line analogy about not hearing any news about “secessionists” who were plentiful 154 years ago. Not understanding the comparison, I will neither congratulate nor criticize. Her point, however, is that my questions about no news of nonviolent Muslim efforts stokes fear in non Muslims. How so?

There was no intent on my part, no
Clarence Clyde Clark

Clarence Clyde Clark, 68, of Franklin died suddenly on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in an Asheville hospital. Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Clyde William and Katherine Ray Clark. He was a general contractor and loved fishing, nurturing and feeding wildlife and golf. He was former president of the Franklin Jaycees, serving during the 1970’s, and was a member of The Shriners and a perpetual member of the Taveres, FL Lodge #234.

Mr. Clark was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Lucy Clark; two daughters, Areti Clark (Beau) of Lakeland, FL and Kristi Clark Davis (Mark) of Tampa, FL; one son, Chris Clark (Maris) of Lakeland, FL; four grandchildren, Marisa Clark, Mariah Clark, Kira Davis and Matthew Clark Davis; one sister, Jacqueline Clark Linscott Barnes (Graham) of Titusville, FL and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his infant brother, John Clark.

A funeral service was held Sunday, January 17, 2016 at Snow Hill United Methodist Church with Rev. Timothy Howard and Rev. Wayne Sheffield officiating. Junaluskee Masonic Lodge #145 conducted Masonic Rites. Burial was in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were James Collins, Dustin Collins, Paul Collins, Boyd Winchester, and Benjamin Collins. Paul Daniel Collins, honorary pallbearer.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, 950 West Faris Rd., Greenville, SC 29605 or Snow Hill United Methodist Church, 330 Snow Hill Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

“If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart, I'll stay there forever.”

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Clark family. Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Col. William DeFord Bathurst

Col. William DeFord Bathurst died peacefully at home after a long period of declining health. His beloved wife, Romney, and children, Dana Lee and Bill Jr., were with him. He was a man loved by many, and dedicated his life to service to others, his community and in defense of his country.

The son of Army Col. Charles and Hildegarde Bathurst, Bill was born in Duluth, MN, in 1931. Bill spent his youth on bases at West Point, NY, Ft. Leavenworth, KS and his favorite - Schofield Barracks at Pearl Harbor. He attended the local Japanese school and enjoyed the tropical paradise, spearfishing, horses and polo. After the attack, he and his mother and brother were shipped stateside in a “blacked out” ship.

He graduated from St. Andrews School, Middletown, DE, and upon graduation from the US Military Academy at West Point, he joined the US Air Force. He excelled at and enjoyed his military career, and was the youngest Colonel in the Air Force at the time of his commission. His assignments spanned a wide range, including photo-mapping the Iberian Peninsula, systems analysis in Vietnam, and three tours of duty at the Pentagon. A severe heart attack forced his retirement to Delray Beach, FL in 1976. His last position was as Deputy Comptroller of the US Air Force Budget. He was always ready for the adventure, challenge and rigorous demands of a military career.

Upon retirement, he walked his way back to good health and returned to work as a broker with Merrill Lynch in the Delray Beach office, where he met and fell in love with his second wife, Romney. They moved to the mountains of Western NC in 1982, living in Cashiers for 16 years, before moving to Highlands. Bill loved his mountain homes and enjoyed long walks with his dogs and visits here from his family. He and Romney had 22 years of holidays in their cottage in the Scottish Highlands, an area which was close to their hearts.

He was active in many community organizations, ranging from the founding days of the (then) Cashiers Humane Society to the Jackson Co. Homebuilders Assn. Bill loved assisting with the Special Operations Adventure Race, and supported the Special Ops Warrior Foundation in any way he could. He served as a Vestryman and Senior Warden at the Church of the Good Shepherd, founding President of

MOUNTAIN TOP
WINESHOPPE

Free Wine Tasting
Saturday 1-3p.m.
Join us as we pour some fantastic Winter wine values!

SPECIAL EVENT
Matt Meyer – Winemaker
Meyer Family Cellars
The First Family of Silver Oak!
Tuesday, January 26, 4-6 p.m.

Winter Inventory Sale
Best prices of the year on many items!

Open Tuesday - Saturday
269 Oak Street
Across from Reeves Hardware
(828) 526-4080

Your local wineshoppe
with over 750 hand-selected wines and the
best prices in town!

www.mountaintopwinishoppe.com
Like us on Facebook
Facebook.com/mountaintopwinishoppe

*See OBITUARIES page 4
...OBITUARIES continued from page 3

the Cashiers Rotary, a member of the Foundation Board of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, a Mentor with the Georgia Liver Transplant Foundation and Director of the NC Cardio-pulmonary Rehabilitation Association. His involvement with Cardiac Rehab continued until the end of his life, with volunteer service at Healthtracks, and his appreciation for excellent healthcare given by his doctors, nurses and care-givers was endless. He supported the Highlands-Cashiers Audubon Society, referring to himself as a “Birder by Marriage,” and was a member of the Highlands Falls Country Club.

Bill always encouraged his family and friends to be the best at whatever they were doing. He will continue to be loved and missed by his family, daughter Dana Lee Bathurst, son Bill Bathurst, Jr and his wife, Debra, and two grandsons, William III and Ian, of Delray Beach, FL and by his niece, Jill J. Bathurst, and her children Jimmy and Kelly of Lasne, Belgium. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Stephen and Ruth Willson, and his nieces, Lauren Lawson and Romney Beebe. Their husbands and children were dearly loved and very much a part of his life.

As a mentor and inspiration, Bill was a part of many lives, always encouraging education, advancement and improvement. He mentored many young people and touched many lives.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, at 2PM at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Highway 107 S., Cashiers. A reception will follow in Hines Hall. His ashes will be interred at the US Military Academy Cadet Cemetery in a private service later this year. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, Tampa, FL, Four Seasons Hospice, or the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Association.

As long as our friends and loved ones live on in our hearts, they will never die. Grip Hands.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Bathurst

•See OBITUARIES page 5
...OBITUARIES continued from page 4

Mary Regina Paoletti

Mary Regina Paoletti, a long-time Highlands resident and business owner passed on to be with our Lord on Monday, January 18th after a lengthy illness. She was surrounded by family and her dear friend, Stella White, when she passed very peacefully.

‘Gina’ as she was affectionately known, was a parishioner of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church where she was a proud Eucharistic Minister.

She was born in South Bend, IN on May 2nd, 1935 the second of two daughters. Upon graduating St. Mary’s Academy in South Bend she moved to Miami, FL and attended Barry College, where she was the Editor-in-Chief of the Barry Gazette and earned a degree in English. In 1952 she met Louis Francis Paoletti. They married in 1956 and had six children.

She learned the restaurant business from Louis and together they had two restaurants in the greater Miami area. At their Coral Gables location she was instrumental in obtaining the city’s first liquor license given to a restaurant. In 1975 Louis and Gina relocated to Delray Beach where they promptly opened another Paoletti’s. The seasonal winter business of Delray led her to explore a tip from a fellow former parishioner, Leo Blair, to consider Highlands for a second ‘summer’ location. Having no fear of the unknown Gina made her way to Highlands and found a cheese shop on Main Street that she converted into a restaurant. With every penny they could borrow, Paoletti’s on Main Street opened on July 8th 1984 with the help of sons, Arthur, John and Kevin.

An avid animal lover and member of the Humane Society & ASPCA, Gina especially loved dogs and always had one at her side. She was also a lover and benefactor of the Arts, especially the opera and symphony.

She is survived by her eldest daughter, Regina Paoletti Moller, her son, Arthur Paoletti and wife Meg, Louis Paoletti and wife Julie, daughter, Rita Paoletti, son John Paoletti and wife Ingrid, son Kevin Paoletti and fiancé, Kim Brennan. Five grandchildren, Arthur Moller IV, Adriana Moller, Louie Paoletti, Jr., Joseph Paoletti and Nicole Paoletti, also survive her. She was predeceased by her husband Louis in 1978.

Gina will be greatly missed by her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many friends. Her memory will live on through her at Paoletti’s Restaurant on Main Street, where ‘Mrs. P’ is a legend in her own rite and was known to have said ‘They put it all on me!’

A viewing will be held on Friday January 22, 2016 from 6-8 p.m. at Macon Funeral Home in Franklin, North Carolina. Mass of a Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at noon at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Highlands, NC. A reception will follow the service at the Old Edwards Inn on Main Street.

Memorial donations can be made to Hospice House Foundation, PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744; local ASPCA or local humane society.

MLK, Jr. Event Honors Boy Choir

Choir to perform at the Episcopal Church on Sunday, May 22 at 5 p.m.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service held last week at Georgia’s State Capitol in Atlanta honored Maestro Fletcher Wolfe and The Atlanta Boy Choir for their long time service to the Civil Rights Movement.

Maestro Wolfe, friend of Coretta Scott King for many years, was responsible for the first time integrating the Arts in Georgia. Along with his acceptance of all races into the Atlanta Boy Choir, his Atlanta Chamber Opera Co. was the first to present Black and White performers together. His Magic Flute performance many years ago cast Donna Angel, a white girl from Mississippi who later founded the Capitol City Opera Co., and Lawrence Weaver, a black tenor who continued his opera career throughout the world.

Coretta Scott King praised Maestro Wolfe’s efforts and became one of his ardent supporters. Mrs. King invited Maestro Wolfe’s choir to be seated and sing on the very first float from The King Center taking part in the initial Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. Later on, during their close cooperation on several projects Maestro Wolfe invited Mrs. King to preside at the occasion of Italy’s First Lady, Maria Pia Fanfani’s visit to the Atlanta Boy Choir whom she regarded as her “Godchildren.”

Last week’s event honoring Maestro Wolfe and The Choir took place in The Capitol Rotunda with the King Family present along with members of Georgia’s General Assembly and Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle. Maestro Wolfe and The Choir are well known in Highlands due to Maestro’s long tenure as Choir Director at Highland’s Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Dr. Robert Henry, Maestro Wolfe’s protégé and assistant director, is now Music Director at Incarnation and was present for this event along with Jeff Akana, tenor soloist from Incarnation.

The Atlanta Boy Choir appears each Spring in concert at Highland’s Episcopal Church and this year’s concert will take place on Sunday, May 22nd at 5pm. You may receive more information concerning this concert by calling 404.378.0064 or by emailing info@atlantaboychoir.org.
BREAKFAST

Full breakfast made to order every morning until 11:00 am
Cage-free eggs, waffles, french toast, sausage, ham, homemade biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

LUNCH & DINNER

Grill
Every day from 11:00am - close
Fresh angus burgers, fresh
Natural chicken breasts, fish or chicken tenders, cooked to order, hand-cut fries, salads, homemade soups, daily specials.
See our website for more info.

Pizza
Every day from 11:00 am - close
Authentic Neapolitan and NY deck oven pizzas made from scratch. Pasta bowls, daily specials and weeknight dinner specials.
See our website for more info.

Soup & Salad Bar
Mon-Sat 11:00am - close
Fresh salads, homemade dressings, soups, chili and more.
$9.99 each (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

Weekday Lunch Special
Monday – Friday 11am to 2pm
Pizza, pasta, soup and salad bar
Continuous fresh pizza from our pizza ovens, pastas, fresh breads from our bakery, plus the entire soup and salad bar... $9.99 each (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR
Every Sunday from 11am – 3pm
Skillet fried chicken, country angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire soup & salad bar.
$11.99 (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

PREPARED FOODS
A large selection of take-away items fully prepared, ready to take home including grilled pork loins, homemade mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, herb-rubbed chicken, made-in-house bbq, chicken salad deli salads & much more!

DINNER TO GO
A different full dinner every night.
Serves four serving Monday through Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out – Call ahead to reserve.

Monday: choose either:
Four chicken and four cheese enchiladas, refried beans, monterey rice, homemade tortilla chips, salsa, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream.
Or...
24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries.
$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.
$20.95 serves four

Weeknight Pizza Special:
Monday through Thursday 4:30 to close
16 inch New York style pizza with up to 5 toppings or baked pasta with either italian sausage or chicken. Both come with garlic bread and salad. Serves four for $20.95

WINE MARKET
Browse our Wine Spectator award-winning selection of wines w' the best pricing in town. Run by a friendly & knowledgeable staff. Beer & wine available by the glass while you dine & shop.

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

SPECIALTY CHEESES
Dozens of cheeses, tapenades, olives and specialty items to choose from including our made in-house crackers.

Bakery
Fresh loaves, baguettes, pastries, pies, layer and specialty cakes. Everything made from scratch.
...ROOF continued from page 1

a remedy to the situation will only be done if handled by the county and school board.

During the December meeting of the board of education, Bell noted that to replace the roof it would cost anywhere between $175,000-$200,000, something the school board supported approaching the county to fund.

During the joint meeting between the two boards, the county offered a different approach to addressing the problem.

“We agree 100 percent with the school board that this problem needs to be addressed,” said County Manager Derek Roland. “In addition to considering a $200K complete roof replacement, county representatives on the facilities review committee felt it necessary to see if any other options were available. Upon discussions with the county maintenance director, a certified roof installer, and an engineer who designs these types of roofing systems and following their site visits to Highlands School, it appears that a lack of ventilation could play a major role in the leakage.”

With improper ventilation being one of the problems on the roof, Roland said adding ventilation might fix the problem without having to replace the roof entirely, saving capital outlay funds for other projects within the school system.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said that it doesn’t matter which approach is taken to remedy the problem, as long as the roof is fixed in the near future as the water damage is significant and prompts a safety issue for students.

“Our desire is to have the roof leak eliminated,” he said. “We are hopeful this can be accomplished with a repair. Since it is impractical to replace a roof during the winter months, we have time to consider alternatives.”

While meeting jointly, Dr. Baldwin noted that the roof is one issue at Highlands and another is windows that need to be replaced were left out of the QZAB project. “Highlands and Union are over 99 percent complete,” said Dr. Baldwin. “We are finishing up with the installation of blinds, etc., at Union this week. Some of the windows at Highlands have been delayed due to issues with the manufacturer, but we expect those to be installed next week.”

...SECURITY continued from page 1

Commissioner Higdon’s security request was two-fold. In addition to increasing security at the Macon County Courthouse, he asked the board to consider the county’s policy surrounding the county’s concealed carry permits. Higdon said that he wants county employees to be able to protect themselves if so desired while working in county buildings, but as it stands, weapons, including those permitted through the state’s concealed-carry laws, are not permitted on county property.

Higdon suggested that law be examined. Higdon said his concern came after speaking to county employees housed in the basement of the courthouse.

While commissioners said the county’s policy could be evaluated, even if concealed-carry permit holders were allowed to carry weapons on county property, state laws prohibit weapons from being in the courthouse or where state employees are housed, which is the case for the Macon County courthouse.
**Winter Pool Schedule**

Through May 27, 2016

**LAP SWIM – ADULTS ONLY**

Monday thru Friday
7 – 10 am, 6 lanes
AND Monday thru Thursday
5 – 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes
Sharing pool with water aerobics @ 5:15 on
Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays

**PUBLIC SWIM**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
3 – 5 pm & 6 – 8 pm
Wednesday 3 – 5 pm
Saturday 11 am – 6 pm
Sunday 1 – 5 pm

**WATER AEROBICS**

Monday-Friday
10 - 11 am
Saturday 11:15 – noon
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday
5:15 – 6 pm

Fee: $4 per class or $30 for 12 classes

**POOL PARTIES**

Pool available on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays
6 – 8 pm

Fee: $75 // $50 deposit required
$50 non-refundable deposit if party is cancelled or a no show less than 2 days before

1st Wednesday of the month—
Kayak Clinic
2nd Wednesday of the month—
Youth Night
3rd Wednesday of the month—
Water Volleyball
4th Wednesday of the month—
Senior Night
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Call us about membership fees

**ICE SKATING RINK**

Open Thursday 1-8p
Friday & Saturday 1-10p
Sunday 1-8p

$5 fee with our without skate rental

---

Amy Hill had been overweight most of her life.

At 360 pounds, she was offering the world a happy face, but she secretly dealt with low self-esteem, depression and bullying.

Amy believed her ability to overcome obesity was only a dream. Even after both of her parents underwent successful gastric bypass surgery and began losing weight, Amy was resigned to always being heavy.

Then her doctor said she would likely be unable to have children unless she managed her weight.

Fueled by determination to become a mother, Amy chose the Mission Weight Management program, the same program trusted by her parents, to help her meet her weight-loss goals. Under the direction of an expert team including Dr. Peeter Soosaar of Regional Surgical Specialists, Amy committed to following significant lifestyle changes and underwent a successful gastric bypass surgery, the last necessary step toward living a new, healthier life.

Now Amy is 180 pounds lighter. As a family, she, her husband and her parents have lost over 670 pounds.

Having achieved a healthy and manageable weight, Amy can now focus on making her biggest dream come true – becoming a mom.

Whether you’re trying to be well, get well or stay well, Mission Health offers you and your family access to the best people, resources and advanced technology to help you achieve and exceed your goals.

To hear more personal stories like Amy’s, visit: mission-health.org/AmyHN

---

**THE HIGHLANDS EVENTS**

- The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Monday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library.
- **Mon. & Wed.**
  - Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.
  - **Mon., Wed., Fri.**
    - Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.
    - Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
- **First Tuesdays**
  - The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. Sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI. For info call 828.369.7385.
- **Tuesdays**
  - **FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.**

---

**The Bolshoi Ballet’s ‘Taming of the Shrew’ Live from Moscow via satellite at PAC**

Sunday, January 24 the Highlands Performing Arts Center will screen LIVE via Satellite on our Theater Screen the Bolshoi Ballet’s production of Taming of the Shrew live from Moscow, at 12:55 p.m. Rather than a macho handbook, Taming of the Shrew can be construed as an encounter between two forces of nature, who recognize one another at last. They are fundamentally different from the society they live in, albatrosses among sparrows, and their excesses signal that they have yet to find a partner who can measure up to them. Their love is out of the ordinary.

Tickets are available online at highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling the Performing Arts Center 828-526-9047. Adults: $22 PAC Members: $19 Students: FREE. Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street.
Boys in the kitchen in the foster home in Montero, Bolivia preparing a pizza.

Sun., Jan. 24, is the Bolivia Mission Pizza Night Fundraiser during the NFL Conference Championships. Order from noon until 8PM. You can order an 18-inch pizza with two toppings for $25 or three or more for $35. The toppings include cheddar cheese, mozzarella cheese (counts as only one topping) plus, mushrooms, beef, sausage, pepperoni, onions, peppers or black olives. A special order of a gluten-free pizza crust is also a possibility, but needs to be ordered ahead of time. To order a pizza call the Methodist church office at 526-3376 or Dr. Baumrucker at 526-3605.
By Paul Christy
Pastor, Highlands United Methodist Church

I had the honor of going to a funeral last week in John’s Creek, GA, for one of my close friends and mentors in life, a man by the name of Bill Self. Bill was a big time Baptist preacher for more than 60 years of ministry and was very well educated and respected, not just in Baptist circles, but the church worldwide.

It may seem a little odd that a Methodist preacher would have so much respect for a Baptist preacher, but Bill was a preacher to all people, to all denominations and to even us Methodists.

Bill retired several years ago and he had a home here in Highlands with his wife Carolyn and Bill used to come to our church to worship on Sunday mornings when he was in Highlands.

For the first few months after worship he would slide out the chapel side rather than the front to be anonymous. But then one day he came to me during the week and sat in my office and said, “Hey Paul my name is Bill and I am a retired preacher and just wanted to come talk to you about ministry.”

My initial thought was, I don’t know who you are and why would I talk about ministry? But then something happened, he put me at ease and before I knew it I was bearing my soul to a total stranger. Then I googled him and I was impressed and amazed. Bill and I became fast friends and I don’t know of anyone with whom I have shared a kindred spirit for ministry since my dad, who was a preacher.

Before I knew it Bill and I were talking every week and he was that person I could bear my heart and soul to about church, about life, about family, and even ask any question. I thought I was special because this big time preacher liked me.

But during the funeral for Bill last Thursday, I came to understand that Bill did that for everyone he met. Though a famous man, Bill never thought too much of himself, instead he thought more of the person he was talking to at any given moment – he was present in the conversation. That is just who he was, he made all people feel like they were the only person in the room when he talked with them.

Bill noticed the waitress to the president of the bank and he made each one feel like they were special. That was his gift; that was his grace. I think about my life when I meet people and talk with them, I am not always present with them. I am often thinking about all the other things I need to be doing and I not always present. Bill was always present when he was talking with you and that affected me a lot.

So this week I want to challenge you as I challenge myself to be present when you talk with others because it is amazing what the simple gift of time and presence can give someone else. Who knows it might just change your life. I learned that from my dear friend Bill Self and I think he learned it from a man who lived some time ago who is still alive and well today; Jesus Christ.

I believe that Christ is alive when we are present with others. I believe Christ is alive when we take the time to get to know one another, and I believe Christ is alive when we love each other.

I challenge us all to stop, take the time to talk to each other, get to know each other, and to be present with one another because in doing that we might just find some common ground and in being present with one another we might just find a friend and a mentor in life. You never know.

**Places to Worship**

**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Mid-week prayer meeting 7 p.m.

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**
Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
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. 6:00pm 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.ccbhighlands.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: Education for Adults, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, (chapel), 10:30 a.m.
8 a.m. services and Healing services will resume in the spring.

**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 PREESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
526-3175 • fcphilhighlands.org
Sun.: Worship: 8:30a and 11 a.m.; School: 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesday: Choir: 5:30p

**GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH**
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am
Sunday 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
Services: Sundays 10 am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

**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, 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, 6p.
Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Wed. Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal. (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.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYGOGUE**
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.m.; 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
mine the plan for the next decade or so of the forests.

While counties throughout the National Forest each have special interests in specific provisions of the proposed plan, locally, community members are split on whether additional acreage in the forest should be designated as wilderness areas.

A wilderness designation essentially puts the land off limits to anyone who wants to change the landscape. The federal government would not be able to change the area any more than a timber company wanting to harvest the wood.

Wilderness areas are still fully accessible to the public, but the means of access are restricted to horseback, or other non-motorized access. Hunting, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor recreation are permitted in wilderness areas.

Currently in Macon County, there are 6,600 acres designated as wilderness, around four percent of the entire National Forest land in the county.

This spring, the forest service is expected to reveal the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which is the next major milestone in the revision process.

The DEIS will present a range of management alternatives to the public, including recommendations for special land designations, such as wild and scenic rivers and wilderness.

The currently proposed plan calls for the wilderness areas in Macon County to essentially double. Groups in support of the additional proposed wilderness areas asked county commissioners for their support.

However, the resolution the commissioners passed in July 2014 was against additional wilderness areas. They agreed with local hunting groups citing the detrimental impact wilderness areas could have on wildlife habitats and the economy through the timber industry.

Macon County Commissioner Chair Kevin Corbin said that while the county supports the public input process and he appreciates what the 13 groups supporting wilderness areas were trying to accomplish, he didn’t think rescinding the previous passed resolution was justified, because the commissioners were simply stating their opinion and he didn’t think that opinion had changed.
Discovering the Magic of Our Communities Next Door

By Susie deVille
Broker/Owner
White Oak Realty Group

The Highlands-Cashiers area deservedly receives lots of sterling press and media attention and is rather well known throughout the Southeast and beyond as the best destination mountain resort. Many of our visitors and investors are well versed in the two communities and know the neighborhoods and amenities each offers. As wondrous as the Highlands-Cashiers offerings are, they sometime overshadow the visibility of our neighboring communities like Scaly Mountain, Sky Valley, and Heatherstone. In fact, some people who have been visiting the area for years are not even aware of the Scaly Mountain and north Georgia areas, much less their very appealing attributes.

I certainly understand that some investors simply want to be as close to Highlands as possible, with an ever-growing number of them wanting to be within a few blocks of Main Street. These buyers are attracted to the close proximity of restaurants, shops, pubs, and cultural offerings and want to walk to each. However, there are others who do not share the interest in being close to town and consider their mountain home as the ultimate sanctuary from their daily living, giving them a tranquil, traffic- and hubbub-free oasis. Such investors should consider exploring the Scaly Mountain and north Georgia areas as one can find a variety of home styles with amenities like lake/pond frontage, mountain views, and tennis/swimming/golf/hiking trails – at great price points and cool elevation.

Situated closest to Highlands is the gated King Mountain development in Scaly Mountain, offering tennis, a clubhouse, and swimming. Rocky Knob, also a gated community in Scaly Mountain, features 17-acre Lake Osage, with a lakeside green space perfect for enjoying a picnic or simply relaxing. Next door to Rocky Knob is the Heatherstone area where the Heatherstone Tops and Heatherstone at Ford Mountain developments are located. Heatherstone Tops is a gated community with spectacular views, ponds, paved access and stunning homes. Heatherstone at Ford Mountain offers great mountain and lake views with charming year-round and getaway homes starting in the low $200s and going up in value to the $800K range.

Highland Gap is a mature, high-end private community with paved access from Highway 106 in the Scaly Mountain area. Designed with the buyer seeking a lower density neighborhood and almost pastoral feel, the development features larger-sized parcels at high elevation. Homes range in value from the $400s to well over the million dollar mark.

Sky Valley has a public golf course, with 5 sets of tees, giving every level of player an enjoyable golfing experience. The golf course was originally developed by Bill Watts and was redesigned in 2007 by Atlanta golf course architect Bill Bergin. Golf Georgia noted, “Sky Valley can convincingly make a claim to be not only among the best mountain courses in Georgia, but among the best in the entire Southeast Mountain region.” The new Sky Valley Country Club is open for lunch and dinner and hosts a great social program.

• See INVESTING page 13
...LETTERS continued from page 2

There was no intent on my part, nor awareness that my query would be construed as such. Merely asking the question is not painting with the same brush, xenophobic hysteria, Japanese internment nor “countless other epic mistakes.” The remarks of Ms Maxwell are conclusory and certainly not evidentiary.

Griffin Bell
Highlands NC

Please clean up your county!

Dear Editor,

I live in the Triad area of NC and was on my way to work early last Monday morning after a long New Year’s weekend. I saw a driver in a line of traffic two cars ahead of me pull over to the right side of the lane, slow down, and toss two large drink cups out the passenger side window. It amazed me that this guy had no concern whatsoever about doing such a thoughtless and inconsiderate thing in front of so many people! He obviously thought nothing of it – business as usual. I guess that is how it is now in the urban areas of our state. I urge the citizens of Western North Carolina not to let this level of indifference seep into your beautiful mountain communities.

Over the last 10 years, I have traveled from Greensboro to Macon County, NC, three times a year for fishing trips and rafting, to drive the Blue Ridge Parkway, to see the many waterfalls and hike the mountain trails, and to visit your local shops and restaurants.

I have always tried to teach my kids to appreciate their surroundings and to “leave it better than they found it.” It appears that not everyone is teaching the same lessons.

Sadly, I have noticed in recent years an increased amount of trash and debris on the roadsides and in the streams. It has become almost as bad as the cities! It truly detracts from my family’s vacation experience and I hope your local community leaders will take the issue seriously.

To be able to live full time in such a picturesque area of our state is a blessing that should not be taken for granted. Those of us who can only visit the Great Smokey Mountains periodically hope that you will recognize how lucky you are and take steps to preserve the natural beauty that surrounds you. I know there are already laws against littering on the books and I hope you will take steps to see that they are enforced to the greatest extent possible.

We have already started planning our next trip to the mountains. I know tourism is very important to your local shops and businesses so please keep in mind the negative effect so much litter and roadside trash can have on visiting families. If not, I am afraid many families like mine will start spending their vacation dollars at the beach!

David B.
Greensboro, NC

...INVESTING continued from page 12

for those in the area. In addition to golf, the Sky Valley community offers a pool, tennis courts, fitness room, hiking trails and fishing.

I heartily encourage everyone to learn more about the fun and inviting communities next door to Highlands. There are myriad activities to enjoy for every level of desired adventure: zip line tours, tubing, skating, fishing, hiking, swimming, golf, and more! Similarly, there is a wide range of property types in all price ranges for every budget. With only a 15 – 20 minute drive into downtown Highlands, you can, as Voltaire’s character Pangloss would say, enjoy “the best of all possible worlds.”

- Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group’s sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.
HELP WANTED

**WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT IS REOPENING ON FEBRUARY 12TH.**
Looking for experienced waitstaff and bartender. Please call Jacque at 828.526.3807. (st. 1/21)

**SKILLED CARPENTERS NEEDED.** Local 15 Yr. Established Builder looking for experienced carpenters in all phases of construction. Payrate/Experience. Call or TXT for more info 828-421-6314. (st. 1/7)

**MANAGER, FULL-TIME-YEAR ROUND FOR BUSY INN/RESTAURANT IN HIGHLANDS.** Mgmt exp. required, preferably restaurant mgmt. Email resume to info@mainstreet-inn.com. (st. 11/12)

**THE HIGHLANDS BBQ CO.** Is seeking Servers, Hosts, Bartenders and Line Cooks. If Interested, please call 828-200-1500 or send a resume to HighlandsBBQ-Company@gmail.com (st. 7/2)

**SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC** full time “with benefits. part time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-0928 (st. 4/30)

**VAC/SHORT-TERM RENTALS**

**HIGHLANDS VACATION RENTAL**


**LOTS/LAND FOR SALE**

**LOT, 10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS.** 2.01 acres with Mountain Ridge and Meadow Views between Bridal Veil Falls, Dry Falls & Cullasaja Falls, Gorge. Lot cleared, driveway and new septic system. Tax Value is $89,410. Quick Sale at $49,900. Firm. 828-200-0949. (st. 9/3)

**WOODED LOT W/ STREAM FOR SALE – MIRRORMONT AREA.** Berit Ln., 1.45 acres, 4- BR septic permit, walk-to-town, Priced to sell. 770-861-4249. (st. 7/23)

**ACRE LOT HIGHLANDS, NC**
Corner Lot Highlands Glen, level with some gentle slopes excavation and foundation expenses would be reasonable, underground power installed. Stream runs year round could be configured to make a small pond, good water sources for well. Space for outbuildings or RV, boat storage. 6 Miles to downtown, $27,000 possible owner financing 828-507-2066 (st. 7/2)

**COMMERCIAL FOR LEASE**

**TWO UNITS THAT COULD BE ONE – 1,200 sq. ft. each – on corner of 4th and Main, one of Highlands’ busiest corners.

For information contact Jim Bryson at 828-226-2911 (st. 1/14)

**RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT**

**FURNISHED HOME FOR RENT**
2/2. Mt. Lori Dr: Quiet street with no through traffic. Minutes to town. Very well kept with nice furniture and pretty yard. Wood burning fireplace, open kitchen, deck in back, hardwood floors, garage. $1200 does not include utilities. 904-403-8090. (st. 12/10)

**3/3 OLDER FURNISHED HOME,** walk to town. $1050/month plus utilities. Call 828-526-5558.


**RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE**

**2 B/R, 2 BA CHALET WITH LOFT AND LARGE SCENIC DECK.** Neat, clean and ready to move in. Elderly, long-time owner must sell before Spring season. Selling as is and fully furnished. Priced below appraisal. $145k firm, but price will be reduced $3,000/month through the end of April. Call owner at 770-393-4597 (Atlanta) (st. 1/7)

**CABINS FOR SALE/RENT.**

**LOCATION ON SAWMILL ROAD IN CLEAR CREEK.** 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (st. 9/24)

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

**WANTED TO BUY**

**USED TOOLS:** wood planer, belt and disc sander, jointer. Call Butch at 828-787-226-2911 (st. 1/14)

**SERVICES**

**HIGHLANDS - CASHIERS**

**HANDYMAN:** Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 421-4667. (9/17)

**ALL AROUND OFFICE SOLUTIONS – Bookkeeping Services, Payroll Prep, Payroll Tax Prep, Billing Services, Virtual Assistant, Data Base Management, Administrative Services, Research Assistance, Quickbooks Set-up and Training. Call Mary James at 828-421-0002 or email mjames@allaroundofficesolutions.com (st. 1/15)

**HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON:** scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 10/29)

**MOLD AND MUSTY SMELL IN YOUR HOME?** Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.