

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 13, Number 37

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

Thurs., Sept. 15, 2016

Multi-agency raid leads to 27 drug-related arrests

Members of the Highlands Police Department partnered with Franklin Police Department, the State Bureau of Investigations, the District Attorney's office, NC Probation and Parole, and Jackson County Sheriff's Office for

the Macon County Sheriff's Office "Operation Thunderstruck" raid.

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell acknowledged his department's involvement but said he could not elaborate on exactly who it was responsible for arresting, and

to protect his officers, he didn't want to say which officers were involved.

Friday morning, Sept. 9, just before dawn, law enforcement officials initiated raids on residences throughout Macon County serving

warrants for drug related charges. Twenty-five suspects were targeted during the initial raids with 20 arrested Friday morning. That number has now grown to 29 suspects with 27 arrested. As of press time

•See ARRESTS page 6

• INSIDE •

Mayor on Duty.....	2
Letters.....	2
Obituaries	3
The Fredster	7
Fall Home Improvement .	12-13
Investing at 4118 ft	15
Police & Fire.....	17
Classifieds.....	22



From left: Ryan Bramblett of Rabun County Fire Services, who organized the trek, and Highlands Fire & Rescue members: Hunter Leffler, David Leffler, John Murphy, Jonathan Miller and Ryan Gearhart.

- Photo by Lindsay Gear

HF&R members take steps to honor the fallen

It happened 15 years ago, and though for most it was many miles away, the significance of Sept. 11, 2001 was not lost on a single citizen in the United States.

On Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016, five members of Highlands Fire & Rescue did something to remember.

During the second year of

the Memorial Stair Climb at Tallulah Gorge State Park in Tallulah Falls, GA – which was initiated last year by Ryan Bramblett of Rabun County Fire Services – five members of the Highlands Fire and Rescue Department participated.

The group began in the parking lot of the Tallulah Gorge Inter-

•See HONOR page 8

Residential hall going up in honor of Mama Joanna

After the memorial celebration of life for the beloved "Mama Joanna" at the foster home in Montero, Bolivia, the congregation went to the location of the new building which will be built in memory of Joanna Baumrucker who with her husband Dr. John Baumrucker was instrumental in developing and sustaining Highlands' Bolivia Mission.

Several participants deposited a shovel full of dirt on the spot to initiate the symbolic beginning of a residential facility for the volunteers who perpetuate the mission of helping the poor in Bolivia.

The new facility will be on the grounds of the foster home so people can be involved with the goings-on at the home as they work on other projects.

In the past, many people who have visited the home have do-

•See JOANNA page 8



This elk was seen at the 11th tee at HFCC last Saturday.

- Photo by Bob Trevathan

Elk sightings at HFCC

Just 15 years after elk made their return to Western North Carolina, the once over-hunted animals can be targeted for hunting – but not any time soon.

According to the NC Wildlife Resource Commission no permits to hunt elk will be issued in 2016's elk season slated for Oct. 1-Nov. 1.

But the 200+ elk population

may suspect otherwise. They are migrating all over Western North Carolina – most recently to holes 11 and 12 on the Highlands Falls Country Club golf course.

"Saturday night, this gentle, young, male elk came sauntering down #11 and I was able to shoot a picture off the back deck until

•See ELK page 8

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

On the agenda tonight...

The September Highlands Town Board meeting is tonight at the Highlands Conference Center, beginning with the public comment period at 7pm. The agenda is rather full for this time of year.

Our new business will begin with a request for a public hearing to make additional editorial changes to the UDO. Randy Feierabend, our planning director, has been reviewing the UDO document for several months for editorial issues and for language consistency between sections. Each group of corrections require a public hearing before they go into effect.

The board will also acknowledge a \$3,000 donation from the Highlands Rotary Club for a design study of a skateboard park at the Highlands Recreation Department. Lester Norris, the recreation department director, has been leading a community group in developing a conceptual design for a skate park. These funds will be used for design and consulting services with experts in the field. Lester believes the town can apply for several grants to help build the facility if there is a professional plan. Also, if some of our "older/young" folks would like to donate to the effort, that too may



Mayor Pat Taylor

help leverage needed grant funds.

The board will also review several miscellaneous matters. There is a request for letters of support to the NCDOT for improving NC 106 from Highlands to the Georgia state line, and for lengthening the Macon Airport runway. There is another NCDOT request concerning the changing of the speed limit on a stretch of US 64 just past the

Conference Center.

Lamar Nix, our acting town manager and public works administrator, will request support for a grant application for funding a public works project. The board will also review a new proposed Chestnut Hill water agreement. This agreement is an issue for review as the new, private Chestnut Hill development separates affiliation with Mission Healthcare and the hospital.

The board will also review a request for pole signs and sidewalk signs for the upcoming Highlands Food and Wine weekend. Bob Kiltyka, director of the chamber, will make a presentation.

The last item on the agenda will be a review of the job advertisement for the town manager position. We will advertise this position in an array of media in order to garner a strong field of candidates.

There will also be a progress update on the commercial trash pickup issue. The town staff and I have been reviewing and analyzing the situation. While preliminary numbers have been processed and possible options are being developed, the staff felt it would be premature to fully review the issue at this meeting. A presentation with possible solutions will be made at the October meeting after the public works and finance committees have reviewed the issue.

Hope to see everyone tonight. As always, call me at 828-506-3138 if you have questions, concerns, or ideas.

• CLARIFICATION •

Haley Lane Chalker
1991-2016

The family of Haley Lane Chalker requests that any donations in her name be made to the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, Post Office Box 638, Cashiers, NC 28717.

• LETTERS •

Elected officials should inform ALL

Dear Editor,

I was one of the people who was turned away from Congressman Mark Meadows' meeting at the Franklin Court House on August 30th. A group of about 30 people from Highlands and Cashiers was also counted among the confused citizens who thought the Congressman was having a public meeting to discuss the Forest Service Plan Revision for the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests. He was quoted as saying that it is important to get a real open, honest dialogue. If this was truly the Congressman's intent, why was the meeting closed to his constituents and why did the dialogue preclude all points of view, not just those which support the Congressman's preferences?

I spoke with Congressman Meadows questioning the exclusion of the public as NC Sunshine Law requires that the public be allowed to participate in government meetings. He explained that the law only applies when there are more than two representatives from any one government agency in attendance and, he said, that was not the case in this meeting. Obviously, the Congressman, the government officials, and Forest Service staff in attendance knew this fine print of the law and set up the meeting to conform to the law and, at the same time, to exclude people whose opinions they did not want to hear. They followed the letter of the law but blatantly violated its spirit.

The content of this meeting was of utmost importance but the way it was held should be a cause of concern for all people who believe that we still live in a democracy. When elected officials act to exclude some of their constituents from participating in public discourse, they are trampling every citizen's right to be heard. They seem to have forgotten that this government should be of, by, and for the people.

Press reports indicate that one of the major concerns expressed at the meeting was access in Wilderness in case of emergencies. Macon County's EMS Director said local emergency workers have not had a problem getting in touch with the local District Ranger when emergencies have occurred. Yet Congressman Meadows questioned a district ranger making decisions on health and safety. If I was a district ranger, I would feel somewhat indignant that my knowledge, experience, and qualifications are considered insufficient in making such decisions.

As a senior citizen quite older than the average age in the district, I resent the statement that Wilderness is beyond my capabilities. A senior citizen has to be moderately fit to enjoy the Wilderness but maybe more seniors would become fit and enjoy better health if the wonders of nature without noise, distractions, and threats of hunters were more available to them. And, let me add, most folks can walk on a trail but most folks cannot hunt because of lack of skill, equipment, or desire.

I urge Congressman Meadows to right this wrong: hold a public meeting open to all his constituents and have the willingness to listen to all opinions, even those he may not agree with.

Olga Pader
Franklin

• See LETTERS page 3

• WEEKEND WEATHER •



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Highlands Newspaper

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Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703,

Highlands, N.C., 28741

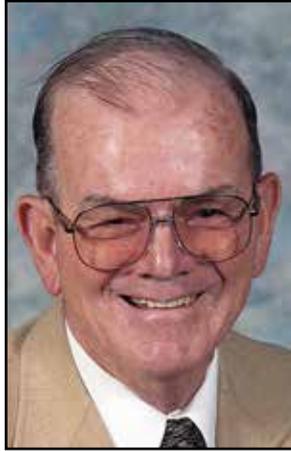
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Letter Policy:

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

• OBITUARIES •

William 'Bill' Joseph England



William "Bill" Joseph England, Lt. Col US Army retired, 85 of Scaly Mountain, NC went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, September 7, 2016. Mr. England was preceded in death by a son, Alan B. England. He is survived by his wife, Josephine England of Scaly Mountain and a son John England of Seattle, Washington.

After retiring from the Military Police, Bill found a career as an instructor of carpentry and cabinet making in Tallahassee, FL. He then moved to North Carolina 32 years ago and worked in construction.

Bill was a past president of the Scaly

Mountain Community Association and a past Volunteer Fireman with the Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Fire Department.

A memorial service will be held 2:30 p.m. Sunday, September 18, 2016 at the Scaly Mountain Church of God. The family will greet friends following the service.

In lieu of flowers, Bill's favorite charity was the Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue; P.O. Box 278 Scaly Mountain, NC 28775.

Online condolences may be left at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the England family.

Holly Jenkins Higgs



Holly Jenkins Higgs, age 51, of Highlands, NC, passed away Sunday, September 11, 2016. She was born August 21, 1965 in Jackson Co., NC, the daughter of the late Junior and Connie Baty Jenkins.

Mrs. Higgs was a homemaker, and a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She loved to sing and play games and enjoyed family and fellowship. She attended Blue Valley Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Regan Higgs, daughters, Kimberly Reed (Robert) of Clayton, GA and Ashley Higgs of Franklin, NC; two grandchildren, Mason Reed and Grayson Sanders; two sisters, Angela Passmore of Franklin, NC and

Ann Jenkins of Highlands, NC; two brothers, Robert Jenkins of Franklin, NC and Bobby Jenkins of Highlands, NC. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Shirley Webb and Cindy Carver.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at Blue Valley Baptist Church, with Rev. Oliver Rice officiating. Burial was in the Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Robert Reed, Stephen Sanders, Freddie Webb, Carl Neely, Leroy "Punk" Baty, and David Carver.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Higgs family. Online condolences are available at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

Thank you for the service you provide

Dear Editor,

I have long been a fan of your paper, for many reasons. Now you've given me another. On behalf of the friends and family of Peter Raoul, thank you for printing his obituary at no charge. As an humble - and - thrifty man, Peter would probably come back to haunt us if we had paid to have his obituary printed. You are the only local paper we contacted who offered this service. Obituaries play a large part in helping announce a death and honor the loved one; and honored, he was. Thank you for continuing to be a wonderful source of Highlands news.

Jenny King
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 5

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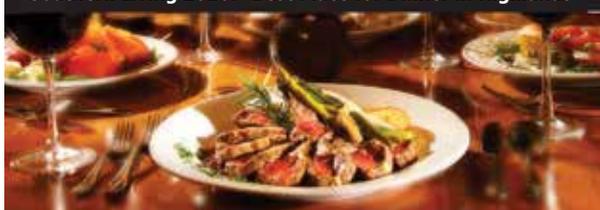
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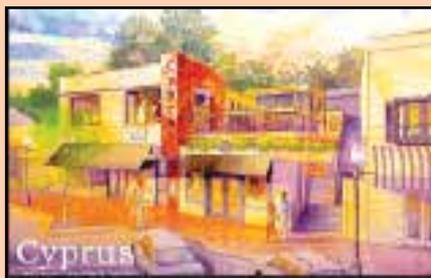
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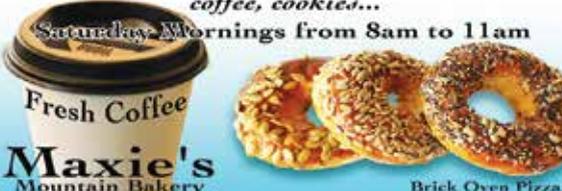
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...LETTERS continued from 3 It's Katz who has it wrong

Dear Editor,

Bud Katz's description of Obama as a liberal in last week's letter entitled 'You don't like POTUS ... we get it' is bizarre. Obama sat at the feet of Dam-America-Wright his entire adult life until it became a problem for his presidential campaign, he is a disciple of the America-hating community organizer Saul Alinsky who said the first step in overthrowing the system is to gain power by pretending to be part of the system, he has cozied up to the Mullahs, the Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR and given Iran a hundred billion dollars to continue its terrorist activities; he has dismissed the slaughter of Christians by Muslims as payback for the Crusades, and would no doubt dismiss the Holocaust as payback for Jericho if he thought that would further his agenda. And Katz says this is liberalism! Who knew?

Davis Kelly, Highlands
 • See LETTERS page 18

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M F G R O . C O M

...ARRESTS continued from 1

there are two at-large.

“We are grateful that our community places enough trust in us to provide crucial information to help identify illegal activities in their community,” said Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland. “While some citizens may think that the information they provide falls on deaf ears, the fact is officers work diligently to follow up with information and build cases where appropriate. This operation serves as an example of why sharing information and building partnerships in the community is so important. We always appreci-

ate the help and support from our citizens.”

The arrests follow a undercover operation conducted by members of the Macon County Sheriff’s Narcotics Unit. Investigators have spent several months gathering intelligence on individuals suspected of selling various illegal substances throughout Macon County. Based on information gathered, officers were able to identify individual sources involved in criminal activity and were able to arrange multiple purchases and deliveries of narcotics & other illegal substances. Some of the information gathered by the Sheriff’s Office included tips from citizens in the community.

• See ARRESTS page 19



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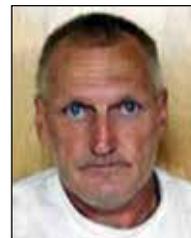
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• THE FREDSTER •

The Fredster Foundation

A note from Fred:

It's sarcastic...it's bombastic...it's rude...it's disgusting...it's way over the top and best of all, it's satire at it's finest... regardless of what Mr. Katz thinks. Also, it's why sooooo many readers love this stuff. Enjoy...or not.



Fred Wooldridge

November the 8th is rapidly approaching and I'm in a quandary... a dilemma of sorts, not having any good choices. Or, as Yul Brynner would say "a puzzlement." Daylight savings time will have come and gone and I'll miss the celebration. I have friends who'll celebrate that event with a Tito martini or two. After my third Tito I'm a mess. I can only mumble, "I've had Tee many martoonies."

Also, it's national Election Day and, excuse my language but, my choices more than suck. The two main offenders consist of either a clown or a crook. Or I can waste my vote on an unknown libertarian type person who doesn't have a snowball's chance in Miami of winning. I'm sure he thinks Aleppo is a stylish women's shoe. Wait – does my li'l missus order Aleppo shoes thru Amazon? DUH! Maybe I'll just not vote at all and punish myself by going to a Woody Allen movie and eat stale popcorn. A puzzlement!

Then it hit me. I'll form a foundation and invite rich people to donate millions to "my cause." And, of course, "my cause" is the fact that I don't have a lot of money. Once I'm a multi-millionaire, who cares who the president is. Are you keeping up?

Should you be struggling with this same "who to vote for" dilemma, consider the following. Everyone knows Hillary is a crook and her trustworthiness is worse than Saddam Hussein's. But like Saddam, Hillary is a smart, colorful crook. She and her husband have been swiping money from the American taxpayers for years.

Ha...so what? I survived and my puny police pension even got a couple of cost of living raises during that period. But unfortunately, under the Hillary leadership, our country will continue to slide into a third world regime as it has with our beloved president. Whether you're a Democrat or a Republican, you must admit America is no longer the great and powerful nation it once was. If you don't think that's true, call me as I have a brand new bridge I'll sell you.

Hello! No one is afraid of America

anymore and fear is a good thing.

Actually we should not forget we survived the "I am not a crook" Nixon era and "I have lust in my heart" Carter regime. With all of that, America is still around, not as great, but still around. Oh, and I almost forgot, lust can be awesome.

Then there's the clown... also known as "The Donald." He's one scary dude and will strike fear into every nation that hates us. The guy is totally unpredictable. Not since Harry Truman has there been such a scary president. But Harry Truman was not a clown. He slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Japanese women and children because he wanted to save American lives. He had the necessary glandular accretions to get it done.

With our current clown, we can throw national stability out the window. ISIS will disappear as a world threat so we'll call it something else. We'll find nations befriending us that never have. "The Donald" will set the world on fire and it will be scary. Under his leadership, there will not be one functioning oil well in Iraq and I'm not sure that's a good thing.

Sooooo, here are your choices and read this part carefully. If you're really, really old, have no children or grandchildren, and think you'll be dead before we continue to slowly slide into a third world regime, by all means, vote for Hillary and put her husband back in the oval office. The White House interns will be lusting to have ole Bill back. One thing for certain, this time he'll not have to get his Cuban cigars on the black market. It will be exciting.

But if Hillary is **not** your cup of tea, then strap yourself in tight, bite down hard on a washrag, hold your nose, try not to throw up and vote for "The Donald."

Personally I'm in a quandary because I have three children and nine grandchildren and want them safe. That part of me is leaning toward Hillary. But I also have some wild hairs and that side of me wants the world to be turned upside down. I'm tired of America losing and being second or third rate at everything (except the Olympics) and America is becoming a third world regime.

Actually, for me, it doesn't matter. I'm taking my foundation money and transferring it to the Cayman Islands. The li'l missus and I will hide out there until after all the excrement finishes hitting the electrically driven oscillating device and everything settles.

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...JOANNA continued from page 1

nated much needed funds to keep the home operating and now the rent volunteers pay to stay at the new residence will also augment operating funds.

It costs about \$60,000 a year to operate the foster home.

Recently, the government and other NGOs in Bolivia have begun to donate food and clothing to orphanages and the foster home has been a recipient, too.

The foundation staff in Bolivia has worked diligently to maximize these donations over the past three years. While Dr. Baumrucker was in Montero for the ceremony, a truck-load of food was delivered that included rice, milk, cheese, butter, cooking oil, and many more items. A new freezer was purchased so the perishables and the dairy goods will last up to three months. Local businesses have donated rice, eggs and sugar at regular intervals over the last few years.

Due to the generous donations made to the Joanna Baumrucker Fund since her passing, Jorge Patzi said the construction on the Joanna Baumrucker Residential Building will begin in the next two weeks and phase one and two should be completed this year. The third and last phase – which entails adding four or five more living units – could be



started next year if the need and the funds are there.

Dr. Baumrucker told the crowd that the boys will be able to bring their families back to the Joanna Baumrucker Residential Building in the future and use these rooms as this is and will always be their home.

Further donations can be made to the Joanna Baumrucker Fund, C/O the Highlands Bolivian Mission, P. O. Box 295, Scaly Mountain, NC 28741

...HONOR continued from page 1



pretative Center and by the time they were finished a mere two hours later, they had ascended, descended and walked 1,700 steps – to the bottom of the gorge up to the north and then south rims, crossing the 310-step suspension bridge that spans the gorge and its respective hikes three times.

Anyone who has attempted just one of the several hikes in and out of the gorge knows these hikes aren't easy. Furthermore, most do one or two legs dressed in lightweight shorts and shirts. However, Sunday's group did it in full turn-out gear – the gear

their fallen brothers donned to rescue victims in the two towers that awful day.

There are resting landings on the stair cases leading up and down on both sides of the gorge that lead the way to the north and south rims and while resting, each member took turns reading out the 343 names of the firefighters who died Sunday, Sept. 11, 2001.

Sore muscles and limbs was the department's way of honoring their fallen brothers while physically remembering

– Kim Lewicki

...ELK continued from page 1

he was out of sight," said Bob Trevathan. "Then when I took Belle [his dog] for her evening cart ride, there he was again, munching away on the grass at the #12."

Big Cataloochee also known as Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is home to elk where an experimental release of elk began in February 2001 with the importation of 25 elk.

In 2002, the park imported another 27 animals. All elk are radio collared and are monitored. By 2016, the number has grown to almost 200 – and not all of those are radio-collared.

Though elk once roamed the southern Appalachian Mountains and elsewhere in the eastern United States, they were eliminated from the region by over-hunting and loss of habitat. The last native elk in North Carolina was believed to have been killed in the late 1700s.

Now the growing number of elk has been the cause of friction. Elk that have been leaving the park have harassed livestock and destroyed fences, property, and crops af-

fecting livelihoods in communities outside the park, such as Maggie Valley, Cherokee and Jonathan Creek and now perhaps Highlands.

Though "approved" elk hunting is now on the books, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission signed a resolution delaying elk hunting permits until the "sustainability and allocation of harvest among state, federal and tribal lands are determined."

However, according to the commission, even without a permit, it is legal to kill elk that are on a person's property – but only if they are damaging it.

If the commission decides the elk population needs to be thinned out, hunting would be allowed by permit only and each permit would allow for the killing of one elk by firearm or archery equipment.

The best time of day to see elk is the last hour before sunset and at sunrise – which is when the Trevathans saw their visitor grazing – but the Wildlife Commission says to "keep your distance!"

– Kim Lewicki

Here's **what's hot** at the  **Center for Life Enrichment**

Saturday, 9/17

- National Dahlia Show and Day Trip to Asheville • 9:30a - 5p

Tuesday, 9/20

- Tiger Mountain Vineyard Tour • 9:30a - 3p

Wednesday, 9/21

- Preparing and Savoring Thai Food...On the Verandah • noon - 2p

Presenter: Chef Andrew Figel

Friday, 9/23

- SS Normandie – **Presenter:** Rene Silvin • 2 - 4p

Tuesday, 9/27

- Ignorance is No Defense • 10a - noon

Presenter: J. Tom Morgan

Thursday, 9/29

- Electromagnetic Pulse • 10a - noon

Presenter: Col. James Clark

Thursday, 9/29

- Life and Times of Herbert Creecy, Artist • 5 - 6:30p

Presenter: Susan Robert



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LUNCH & DINNER

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Every day from 11:00am - close
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See our website for more info.

Pizza

Every day from 11:00am - 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.
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Or...

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\$21.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw. *\$24.95 serves four*

Saturday: In-house smoked bbq, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls. *\$21.95 serves 4*

Weeknight Pizza Special:

Available Monday -Thursday 4:30 to close
 16" NY style pizza with up to 5 toppings.
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or

Baked Linguini: Meatballs, tomato sauce & cheese. Comes with garlic bread and salad *\$21.95*

or

Baked Penne Pasta: Italian sausage, onion, bacon and mushrooms in white sauce. Comes with garlic bread & salad *\$21.95*

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

ONGOING

• Terry Johnson, owner of Estate Jewelers of Highlands - 360 Main Street, has merchandise from an anonymous individual whose sale will benefit the Hospice House Foundation of WNC. To date, this effort has raised roughly \$20,000 in support of HHFWNC. Johnson is waiving the consignment fee on the sale of this select merchandise. Go into Estate Jewelers of Highlands and to see the merchandise.

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Friday - Tuesday: 2, 5, and 8 pm;

• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

Daily

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, wine flights.

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more information, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

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. For info call 369-7385.

Tuesdays

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at

The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupy-wnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets on the at 7pm at the co-operative extension office on Thomas Heights Road in Franklin. For more information call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 8:45 a.m. Be seated by 8:30.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

• Zahner Lecture Series at 6:30 p.m. at the Nature Center. Free

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc., and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center; Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor; 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Fridays

• 99ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

• Friday Night Live, 6-8pm in Town Square. Live music. Free

Saturdays

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

• Highlands Marketplace at K-H Park 8a to noon.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon. In event of cold/rain, meet downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Thurs., Sept. 15

• America Red Cross Blood Drive at the First Baptist Church, 69 lotla Street, Franklin, 12:30 pm to 5 pm. To schedule an appointment please call (828) 369-9559.

• The League of Women Voters candidate forum in Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin at noon. Participating is NC House Dist. 120 - Kevin Corbin (R)

• See EVENTS page 11

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

and Randy Hogsed (D) as well as NC Senate Dist. 50 - Jane Hipps (D). Sen. Jim Davis (R) is unable to attend. Attendees are welcome to bring a lunch.

Sat., Sept. 17

• At PAC, Bluegrass: Balsam Range at 8 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

• At CLE, National Dahlia Show and Day Trip to Asheville - 9:30 AM - 5 PM (by van from CLE office, Peggy Crosby Center)

• Macon Marketplace - local crafters and vendors from 10a to 3p at the Macon County Community Building on 441. Free Admission. Door prizes every 30 minutes. To benefit the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center.

Sun., Sept. 18

• First Baptist Church Highland's Homecoming is Sunday. Worship Service at 10:45 am with a meal to follow.

• The High Mountain Squares will host their 14th Annual "Greenway Dance" Sunday afternoon from 2-4:30 PM. at the Macon County Rec Park Pavilion on Allman Dr. off 441 south. Stan Russell from Greenville SC will be the caller.

Tues., Sept. 20

• At CLE, Tiger Mountain Vineyard Tour - 9:30 AM - 3 PM (by van from CLE office, Peggy Crosby Center)

• Hispanic Festival of the Arts at Las Barricas Mexican Restaurant in Franklin. The festivities start at 6 p.m. with the opening of VISUALES EXPOSICION, a visual arts exhibit by members of our Latino Community. Asheville-based Mariachi Internacional, who play throughout the Southeast, will perform from 7:15-8:45 p.m. There is no admission charge; everyone is welcome.

Wed., Sept. 21

• At CLE, Preparing and Savoring Thai Food - 12 NOON - 2 PM (...on the Verandah Restaurant, Highlands)

Sept. 22

• The Bascom Book Club meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Meetings are held in the downstairs conference area at the Bascom. The meeting time is 3-5p. A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson

Fri., Sept. 23

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a-noon.

Subject: Current Issues

• At The Bascom, A Night with WellStrung, bluegrass, folk and Americana. 6-9 p.m. For tickets visit www.thebascom.org or call 828-526-4949.

• At CLE, SS Normandie - 2:00 - 4 PM, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 24-25

• Two-day music fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau. The "Old Balderoo" and will be held on Fairfield Lake in Sapphire, 5-9PM both days. There will be fireworks display on both nights at the conclusion of the music around 9PM. This is a family-friendly event.

Sat. Sept. 24

• Western Carolina University's Mountain Heritage Day, a free family-oriented festival that celebrates Southern Appalachian culture through concerts, living-history demonstrations, competitions and awards programs, will be held Saturday, on the WCU campus, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• At PAC, Comedy, The Capital Steps at 8 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

Tues., Sept. 27

• American Red Cross Blood

Drive at the Macon County Library on 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, 10 am to 2:30 pm For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (828) 524-3600.

• At CLE, Ignorance is No Defense - 10 AM - NOON, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

• The final Village Nature Series. at The Village Green Commons in Cashiers. Learn about migrating Elks. 5:30 PM, rain or shine. No reservations required, everyone welcome.

Wed., Sept. 28

• At Paoletti, A Peaceful Journey Charitable Dining Event in support of Hospice House Foundation of WNC. Honor the compassion, dignity and comfort that defines hospice care while you indulge in a decadent 4-course menu and wine pairing. Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m. The cost is \$300 including tax and gratuity (\$200 tax deductible.) Also live music and a silent auction. For reservations, call 828-526-4906.

Thurs., Sept 29

• At CLE, Electromagnetic Pulse - 10 AM - NOON, CLE Lecture

Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

• At CLE, Life and Times of Herbert Creecy, Artist - 4:00-5:00 PM, Bascom. 828-526-8811.

Sat., Oct. 1

• Highlands United Methodist Church is holding Octoberfest from 9a to 3:30p at the church. It's a fun filled day-long craft fair, with all handmade items to be sold as a fundraiser for our church expansion which features the new Faith & Fellowship Center will house the popular 9:09 Worship service & its many community-based ministries offered throughout the week. Breakfast offerings, Grandma's kitchen, Pumpkin Patch, The Grille and Lemonade Stand, Gay's Gardn Art & an Artisan's Market.

• Highlands Conference Center from 9-10:30 a.m. AND at the Scaly Mountain Post Office from 11-12:30 p.m. Cost is \$10. Pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes or in carriers.

• At PAC, Broadway: The Phat Pack GALA. Concert at 5 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. at Highlands Country Club. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

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Fall Home Improvement

What to Know Before Renovating or Building a Home

(StatePoint) Building a home or making upgrades? One of the most important factors to consider is the material used. While “all-natural” may be an appealing quality on your plate, in construction, man-made products often provide more options and value.

Seek out materials offering durability, energy-efficiency and resistance to threats like fire and wicked weather. Many such high-quality products are domestic, so you can support US manufacturing while making key choices.

Boost home beauty, strength and efficiency with these projects:

Solid Foundation

Start a new home with a solid pre-cast concrete foundation. Those from Superior Walls are customized for individual homes and installed in one day -- far faster than alternatives like poured concrete.

Rigid foam insulation in these concrete panels wards off heat loss and creates a barrier against sidewall water penetration. These features make the basement dampfree and a more comfortable area for extended living space in the home.

Plucky Plumbing

Perhaps your toilet rattles and leaks; maybe your tub and sink look dingy no matter how much you clean them. If it's time to replace bathroom elements, use newer materials offering water efficiency, style and safety benefits.

Look for a toilet marked with the WaterSense label, which indicates it's been certified to be at least 20 percent more efficient without sacrificing performance. The free Water Savings Calculator at the Mansfield Plumbing website can help you determine your return-on-investment.

For a coordinated look, consider a suite of products that work together, like the Affordable Style Designer series from Mansfield Plumbing. You get a toilet, tub and sink, all in the same style.

Switching to an easy-access SmartHeight toilet can be another smart move. Options in the bathroom like grab bars, walk-in tubs and pedestal sinks, all provide enhanced safety and comfort.

Gorgeous Windows

Over time, windows can look old and become difficult to operate. Make wise replacement choices that add beauty and privacy



to key areas of your home without compromising light entry.

Whether it's an acrylic block window over a bathtub or a set of decorative glass windows in the kitchen, privacy windows are a great accent for any room. Those from Hy-Lite are offered in a variety of styles, sizes and enhancements. Operable awning, casement, slide and single hung units can easily be opened to encourage airflow.

Their Home Designer Collection features nods to architectural styles like Metro, Mission, Prairie and Baroque to complement any home.

The Roof

Your roof is your protective layer, between the elements and you. Ideally it should be impact- and fire-resistant, as well as beauti-

ful. Natural slate and shake roofing materials evoke traditional charm; however they tend to degrade over time. Look for the man-made alternative.

Polymer slate and shake roofing tiles capture the authentic look of natural materials but are more resistant to chipping, flaking and splintering. For example, DaVinci Roofscapes offers an impressive array of more than 50 colors and blends for an enhanced look, plus they resist fire and severe weather. Their roofs also come with a lifetime limited warranty, saving you big on repairs, inspection and maintenance down the line.

To be a savvy homeowner, don't leave it to chance. Select durable, high-quality man-made products.

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Fall Home Improvement

Quick, Easy Ways to add Warmth to Your Home Décor for Fall

(StatePoint) We all get bored from time to time and want to change things up. While it's easy to add items to your wardrobe or try a new hairstyle, it may not always feel as easy to change the look and feel of your home.

You may not realize small, quick updates to your home can make a big impact -- and changing things seasonally can keep things fresh. With that in mind, here are a few ways to give your home a fall makeover without a complete overhaul.

Swap out Art

Who says you have to keep the same things hanging on the walls all year round? By swapping out extra pieces of art and family photographs, you can give your walls a new look without much time or effort. Need inspiration? Think about using warm fall colors like reds and gold.

Add Some Warmth

You can add some warmth to any room with a few touches. Toss a

woolen throw blanket over the couch or armchair in the den.

To quickly add some soft lighting and fragrance to your home, try a wax melt, which has a strong fragrance throw. For example, Yankee Candle's new Scenterpiece collection of over 35 different fragrances is unlike conventional candles, as they are cool to the touch, making it easy to quickly swap the fragrance by lifting one cup out and dropping another one in -- no cooling, scraping, pouring or touching wax required.

Additionally, the brand offers a variety of more than 20 candle warmers that match every type of décor.

More information about how to warm up your home with fragrance can be found at www.YankeeCandle.com.

Spruce Up the Outdoors

Seasonal décor on the outside of your home can lend the exterior festive flair. Whether it's an autumnal wreath on the front door or a planter of mums



near the front porch, additions such as these will give your home's entryway an inviting feel.

As the weather cools,

make your home cozier by taking the time to add warmth, fragrance and seasonal touches to your home.

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POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES, AND
COLESLAW

\$24.95
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• BUSINESS NEWS •

**Work begins on HUMC's
Faith & Fellowship Hall**



Monday morning concrete trucks swarmed the construction site of Highlands United Methodist Church's new Faith and Fellowship Center (F&FC) like bees around a flowering shrub. Emerging from the large hole that is clearly visible from Spring Street is the foundation of the expansion that will greatly enhance the facilities. The new facilities are designed to support the growing ministries of the church for years to come.

- Photo by Wiley Sloan

**Sell-out Bel Canto performance continues to
benefit area school music programs**

The base level Bel Canto tickets pay for the performers and gala but it's the upper level tickets that perpetuate the music programs at HCCDC and The Gordon Center and greatly subsidize the music program at Highlands School. Sunday night Director Stell Huie thanked all Bel Canto's patrons and encouraged them to continue to be generous.



This year's performers at PAC Sunday evening. Photo by Jim Lewicki

MOVING SALE

Saturday, Sept. 17

9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

255 Buckberry Road, Highlands

Sold 3-bedroom home.

Selling ALL furniture & accessories

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Color your Real Estate World, But Not Too Much!

Lately, I've seen several articles on colors that one should avoid when painting your home, especially when you plan to sell. With our most colorful season approaching, that subject piqued my curiosity. Being a fairly 'colorful' person, I was a bit surprised that in-depth studies have been done on ugly colors so I'm sharing some of the study results as well as personal observations.

The overall theory is that any vibrant color should only be used in moderation in painting your home. One study went so far as naming the three colors that are especially to be avoided. Those are orange, black and violet, in that order. I personally would add a deep burgundy to that list having recently seen a home where deep burgundy was obviously the Seller's favorite color. The overall purpose of these studies was to help Sellers make their homes more visually appealing. This sounds simple enough, but I have seen Buy-

ers physically recoil at bold and intense color schemes in homes. That is definitely not the response any Seller is striving to achieve!

Another point to stress is that anyone who has ever paid to have a large room that was initially painted a saturated hue repainted to a more neutral color understands that this is a very expensive and time consuming project. We have very savvy Buyers in our area, most of whom have extensive home buying and renovating experience. Sellers, keep color in mind when you are preparing your home for the market. One particular Buyer and home comes to mind. This Buyer could never get past the color scheme to appreciate the home, but was considering asking for a painting allowance should he make an offer as he knew how expensive this highly individualistic color scheme was going to be to overcome. In the end, the Buyer



Wanda Klodosky
Broker-in-Charge
Landmark Realty

moved on to purchase another property.

So where should lovers of bold colors show off? Take it outside. The front door and shutters are excellent places to use that pop of color. On the inside use artwork, throw pillows and rugs for that pop of color that

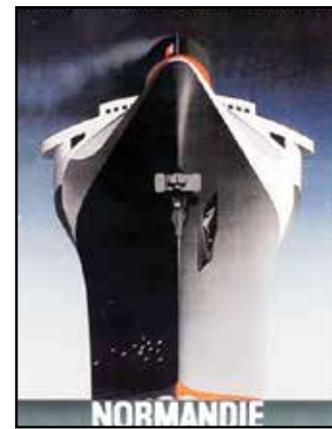
Buyers will find appealing. If you must paint a wall a bold shade, make it a small accent wall. If one wall won't work for you, stick to the kitchen or bathroom as the polled Buyers were able to appreciate bold colors in those areas. The caveat here is that often an owner uses neutral furniture and rugs to tone down the intense colors; remember that goes away with the furniture should you move the furnishings out before marketing the home.

Let's move on to the colors that Buyers found most appealing in the studies I read. More than half of those studied named blue

as their favorite color to see in a home as it is considered a calming shade. This choice was followed by green and then neutrals, both considered earthy or calming shades.

My take away from these colorful studies was that when considering your choices for painting your home, whether you plan to sell now or later, keep it simple on the painting and splurge on the accessories. While no one wants to have their decorating choices ruled by that 'someday I might want to/have to sell' mentality; it's more prudent to at least keep 'how would a prospective buyer see this choice' in the back of your mind.

• Wanda Klodosky is the Broker in Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands office. Landmark also has offices in Cashiers and Burlington providing the Highlands Cashiers Plateau with professional and friendly service. Visit their website at www.Land-markrg.com



SS Normandie: North Atlantic's Greatest Goddess

The upcoming Center for Life Enrichment lecture on Sept. 23 from 2-4p is delivered using a Power Point presentation containing eighty pictures, several newsreels and imbedded clips about what Silvin describes as the "most beautiful thing built by man during the Twentieth Century" – the SS Normandie.

The lecture begins with a review of the history of transatlantic travel during the Nineteenth Century, when countries competed to own and operate the finest ocean liners which became their ambassadors connecting the Old and New Worlds.

The talk focuses on the race to build the ultimate ship, which had to be larger, faster and more opulent than their own predecessors and their competitors' planned new fleets.

Silvin explains why he considers the Normandie the ultimate liner ever built, using pictures of her spectacular interiors including rarely seen glimpses of life aboard the short-lived floating palace. The audience will also become conversant with "Blue Riband" award given to the fastest North Atlantic crossing.

Finally the audience will learn about the ship's premature and heartbreaking end when her brief, four-year working life was tragically aborted by a perfect storm of accidents while she was being converted into a troop ship to assist in the war effort to defeat Nazi Germany during the Second World War.

The Martin-Lipscomb
Performing Arts Center



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8pm
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Saturday, September 24 8pm
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GALA Dinner Presented by Extraordinary PAC Patrons

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

How Do We Forgive?

By Rev. Margaret Howell, chaplain
Holy Family Lutheran Church, Highlands

This past Sunday marked the 15th anniversary of the greatest act of terror ever committed on US soil. I'm speaking of course about the 911 terrorist attacks.

The Charlotte Observer didn't have ANYTHING commemorating 911.-Not a word, not a picture, not even an editorial.

A few car dealerships and the post office were flying the stars and stripes at half-mast. Other than that, I hardly saw any flags anywhere. I put out our flag and it was the only one on the block. The flag is not the issue. It's what it represents.

Every year since the terrorist attacks, there has been less and less attention paid to the tragedy. How in heaven's name can we forget this?

I would think that with all the turmoil from radical terrorists over the past year, we might be just a bit more cautious and bit more watchful to what's going on in the world.

Are we just apathetic?

Are we just tired of hearing about it?

Are we just forgetting?

Or are we just forgiving?

Probably yes to the first four, and a big "Heck, no!" to the last one.

Bin Laden is dead, but now an even greater evil has taken his place.

Isis and Boka Haran makes Al Queada look like benevolence society in comparison.

Why does radical Islam hate us? It's not theology, it's politics. Radical Islam is the product of the broken politics and stagnant economics of Muslim countries. They have found in radical religion an ideology that lets them rail against the modern world, an ideology that is now being exported to alienated young Muslims everywhere – in Europe, and even in some rare cases in the United States.

The West is not blameless in all this.

Western countries have exploited their countries resources, with the help of sheiks, strongmen and clerics, and, have fought wars on their soil, killing thousands of their people.

How can we bring about reconciliation and peace?

How can we bring an end to this?

It's not going to be easy or quick. Ideologically, we are centuries apart.

Modern societies cling to the idea that people should be judged as individuals with individual liberties and rights including the right to worship as they please.

It is what they hate about us.

Our gospel for Sunday is about forgiveness, about the welcoming blessings of God on the godly and the ungodly. He says "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15: 10)

In our Reading from 1 Timothy the apostle Paul confesses his past as a murderer and persecutor of the church. He says "But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief" (1Tim. 1: 13b)

I have a Mystery on PBS I like called "Father Brown." He is a parish priest in a small village in England during the 40s and early 50s.

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

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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.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting 3rd Wednesday at 5 p.m.

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 U.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Dr. Maurice L. Goldsmith, Interim Rector

526-2968

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

Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30, nursery available

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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

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

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

PLACES TO WORSHIP • John 3:16

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 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

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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

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Rev. Rob Wood

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

Beginning Memorial Day weekend

Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009

Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

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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

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from Aug. 8. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 8

• At 10:27 a.m., it was reported that a worker received monetary advances under the promise of work that wasn't delivered at a residence on Satulah Road.

Sept. 5

• At 4 p.m., a larceny at a residence on Hudson Road was reported where a TV and stereo were taken.

Sept. 7

• At 1:05 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28 near

Church Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Sept. 6

Sept. 6

• The dept. was first-responders to Main Street.

Sept. 7

• The dept. was first-responders to Main Street.

Sept. 8

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence at VZ-Top.

Sept. 10

• The dept. responded to a motor-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• The dept. was first-responders to a

residence on Biscuit Rock Road.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on South Street.

Sept. 12

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on South Street.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chowan Drive.

Sept. 13

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brushy Face.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

He has a talent for sleuthing and always seems to be in the middle of a murder investigation, much to the annoyance of the local constabulary.

Often it is Father Brown who sniffs out the culprit, and he inevitably tells them; "Confess and repent. No one is beyond redemption."

Some do. Some don't. Some of the "don'ts" even try to kill him. They fail of course, or there wouldn't be story next week.

What makes Father Brown so successful is not because he has any special weapons or strategies, but because he believes in his heart of hearts that God is not only merciful, but just.

I was searching the net for cartoons to put in the newsletter, when I ran across one that really got my attention.

The former criminal's victim was

understandably upset. How can people get away with all this horrible things and still end up in heaven?

Well, you have to REALLY MEAN IT if you repent and accept Jesus. He's gonna know if you are faking it.

Does that mean if Hitler repented in his bunker right before he committed suicide, does that mean he'll be up there too? The answer, as badly as we don't want to hear it, is YES.

Not just Hitler, but if Stalin, Ben Laden, and the Ripper and every other monster you can think of repented and turned their lives over to Christ, they would have life eternal.

Here's the real kicker: if we do not forgive them as God has forgiven them—that is assuming they seek redemption---we are no better than they are.

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 22

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Publishing 'Fredster' shows bad judgement

Dear Editor,

I was saddened to see that the Highlands Newspaper includes in its pages the ilk of an alleged opinion editorialist such as Fred Wooldridge. This self proclaimed "Racist" has no place in your paper. Why would any local business want to advertise alongside such a misinformed, hateful, ranting carnival barker.

In his Thursday Sept. 1 piece titled, "Is Highlands Really Safe?" Mr. Wooldridge used his platform to express hateful rhetoric regarding African Americans and Hispanic Americans. What's the point Mr. Wooldridge? American Society can't be governed any more by laws and everybody should carry a gun? Really?

I hope the editorial board at the Highlands Newspaper will use better judgment in the future, and tell the Fred Wooldridges of the world they can go rant on a White Supremacist web site, but not in our local newspaper.

With a deep respect for all mankind,

Susan Higby
Panama City, FL and Sapphire, NC

Setting the record straight

Dear Editor,

In the September 8th edition of the Highlands Newspaper, there was a letter to the editor by Diane Levine titled "Let's Band Together to Protect Our Wilderness." Within the editorial, there was a statement made that I "did not appear at the meeting and since his appearance was necessary for a quorum the people were not heard." This is a completely erroneous statement and I would like to set the record straight.

On August 30, 2016, Congressman Mark Meadows set up a stakeholders meeting at the Macon County Courthouse to allow elected officials from across Western North Carolina to interact with himself and representatives from the U.S. Forest Service regarding the recently released management plan(s) for the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests in which discussions were to center upon "the priorities, the wilderness evaluation, and the coordination of emergency management response."

Because this meeting was not an officially advertised meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners, the attendance by more than two members of our Board would have created a quorum which would violate North Carolina 'Sunshine Laws.' The 'Sunshine Law' prevents a majority of any elected officials to have an open meeting which is not advertised for the public to attend. Chairman Kevin Corbin and Commissioner Ronnie Beale attended the meeting as the Macon County Board of Commissioners liaisons, and I expect to hear a report from them at our official meeting on Tuesday, September 13th. Because my presence at the meeting would have created a quorum

and would have been a violation of North Carolina's law, this refutes the comment made in last week's newspaper.

I am personally paying very close attention to the 'wilderness' discussions, and will be monitoring the various testimony and outcome.

Jim Tate
Vice Chairman, Macon County
Board of Commissioners

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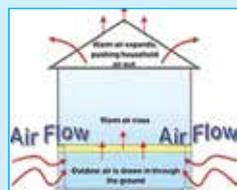
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...ARRESTS continued from page 6



Joseph Alan
Wischnowski



Justin Michael Yates



Katherine Aldrich
Manders



Leslie Ann Jones



Lynn Candace Kent



Michael Clifford
Hamlin



Shawn Ray Davis



Steven Edward
Bowman



Tara Lynn Hash



Thomas Chad Moses



Damon Allen
Parker



Kendra Elizabeth
Arbelo



Doyle Dooger
Ramirez • At-Large



Jeremy Adam Burr
At-Large

Substances purchased during the operation included methamphetamine, opiates, prescription drugs and heroin.

During an early morning briefing, officers from all the agencies involved in the "Round-Up" gathered at the Macon County Detention Center and were provided with the names, photos, addresses, charges and brief summary of those to be arrested. Multiple teams of officers then set out and initiated arrests.

Of the 29 suspects, 27 have been arrested. One suspect was already in custody in Georgia on unrelated charges.

"These individuals were not part of a large scale organization," said Holland. "They were acting on their own and solely benefitting either financially or in an effort to support their own addiction. They did so without any concern for the lives and/or families they were helping to destroy."

Of the suspects targeted on Friday, two suspects remain at large and the Sheriff's Office is seeing information on their arrest. Jeremy Adam Burr, 34, is wanted for felony selling/delivering heroin and Doyle Dooger Ramirez, 30, is wanted for felony sell/deliver a scheduled II controlled substance (2 counts).

The investigation remains ongoing at this point. More arrests are possible. As of press time, six suspects have bonded out.

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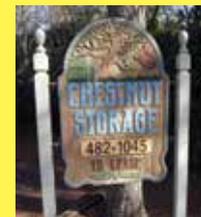
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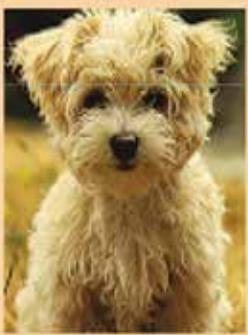
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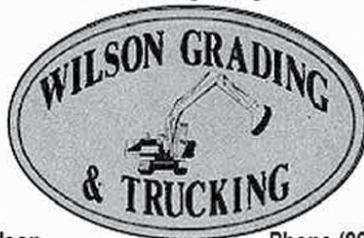
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County, congressional leaders urge long-term solution on federal land funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Macon County Commissioner & National Association of Counties' Board member Ronnie Beale joined Commissioners from across the nation and NACo staff on last week to urge members of Congress to support a full investment in the Payments in Lieu of Taxes, or PILT, program in FY 2017 and permanent funding for the future. The PILT program offsets forgone property tax revenue due to the presence of non-taxable federal land within counties' jurisdictions.

Beale met with leaders on Capitol Hill to push for immediate and long-term funding for the program.

"Macon County delivers services to support our residents and visitors to federal public lands within our boundaries," said Beale. "The PILT program supports services like law enforcement, emergency medical services, search-and-rescue efforts, along with several other services."

Sixty-two percent of the nation's counties have federal public lands, including Macon, where federal lands make up approximately forty-eight percent of the county. For 2016, the county received PILT payments of \$341,800.

In 2016, Congress appropriated \$452 million for the PILT program, allotted to approximately 1,900 counties and other local governments across 49 states. Despite not being able to collect property taxes on federal lands, county governments must still provide many important services for residents and visitors. The funding for PILT is set to expire at the end of September 2016.

Beale asked that PILT be made a permanent, stand-alone line item in the federal budget during a congressional briefing with a bipartisan group of lawmakers including Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.); Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah); Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah); Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.). Mr. Beale also met with Sen. John Tester (D-Mont.); Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.); Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.); Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.); Rep. Cresent Hardy (R-Nev.); Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.); Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Misso.); Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.); and Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

"Without congressional action, there could be significant budget shortfalls in counties across the country," said Beale. "Our county provides continued services on federal public lands, and Congress should provide ongoing, predictable funding to support them. The residents of Macon County pay their taxes as should the Federal Government."

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...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 17

Everyone earth, with the exception of Jesus is imperfect. According to the law, even the slightest error automatically condemns us as sure as the heinous sins of the Ben Ladens of the world.

Does this mean we let evil run riot in the world?

Of course not. God is a God of mercy but also of justice.

So unjust was the Law, that no one on earth could possibly fulfill all its requirements. It was the injustice of the Law that it handed Jesus over to be tortured until the debt of human kind was paid.

Jesus forgave his killers on the cross. Unlikely souls were saved that day – a thief hanging next to him, a centurion who had been part of the patrol that nailed him to the cross – He not only forgave them, he saved them!

The Spirit opened their hearts and allowed Christ to heal them.

I don't know what will happen to all the desperate, violent people in the world who seem like evil incarnate. They are very scary because their hearts seem to be places where God does not dwell. We must pray for them, we must pray that their hearts and minds turn towards ways of mercy and peace.

We must be willing to forgive them as God forgives us.

And so Jesus tells us that our fate lies not only in redemption, but in forgiveness we give to others from the heart.



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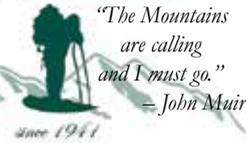
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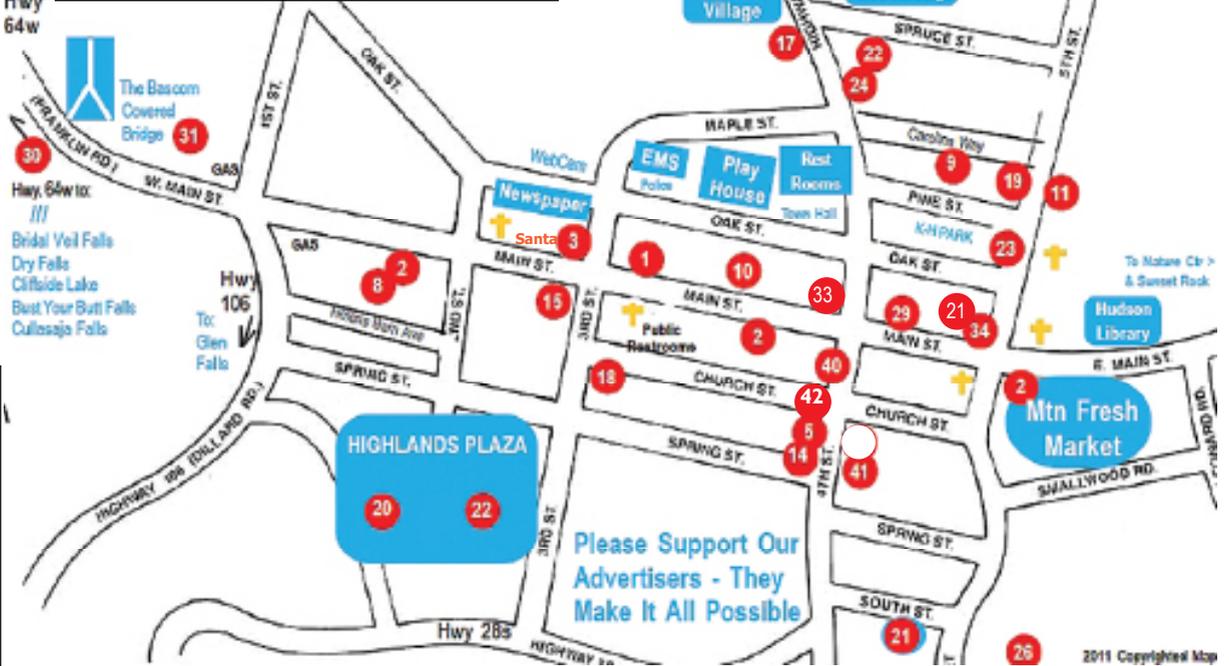


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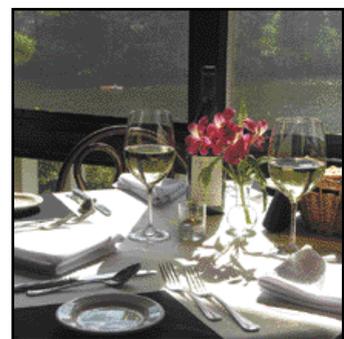
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