

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Town of Highlands 2017-'18 budget is finalized

No Ad Valorem tax increase; tax hike could fund broadband infrastructure; utility rates static

Last Thursday, the Town Board OK'd the final review of the FY 2017-'18 budget as it pertains to revenues, expenditures and capital projects.

This was the second 2017-'18

budget worksession which if approved at the June Town Board meeting will mean higher water rates for those outside the town limits and possibly a tax hike for citizens to fund the town's fiber

infrastructure.

Taxes

There won't be an increase in property taxes – they stay at .164 per each \$100 assessed value with .015 of that earmarked for Rec-

reation Capital Projects. The .015 was earmarked for the past three years and sunsets June 30 of this year. However, commissioners agreed to continue earmarking

•See BUDGET page 18

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Community helping to rebuild family after tragedy

Macon County continues to mourn the loss of 13-year-old Shane Tasting, who tragically lost his life on Friday, May 12, after a car wreck on US 441 in Franklin on Monday, May 8.

Shane was traveling with three other members of his family when they were rear-ended on the Sylva Road Monday afternoon.

Shane's father John Tasting was driving a Lincoln sedan when the vehicle began to slow after seeing a Toyota truck stopped in the median of the highway.

Adam Dover, the driver of the Toyota had stopped on the highway to retrieve a ladder that fell off his truck. As John Tasting was slowing for Dover, a

•See ACCIDENT page 6

Beauty in the mundane



Last Tuesday night, Colleen Kerrigan owner of The Business Spot caught this shot while on a dinner picnic at Harris Lake. Tuesday night is the weekly meeting at the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department where members maintain equipment, train and do other tasks. Tuesday night it was a pump training that caused this beautiful sight at the lake.

The ACA is still the law;

Consumer coverage hasn't been impacted

A couple of weeks ago, the House of Representatives voted on a proposal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

It is important to remember that this is just the first step before any changes can be made to the ACA. The proposal needs to pass both the House and the Senate and be signed by the President for any change to be effective. The Affordable Care Act is still the law and consumer coverage has not been impacted.

Some of the Navigators at the Mountain Projects program have been receiving calls from people thinking they might have already lost their coverage. However, Marketplace health insurance coverage for 2017 will remain in place for as long as the consumer keeps making their premium payments.

•See ACA page 18

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

And so it begins ...



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

It is a busy time for the community of Highlands. As mayor I will be taking a celebration tour of community achievements for the next two months.

Last Thursday I had the honor of saying a few words at the opening and dedication of the new emergency department for the Highlands Cashiers Hospital. The facility cost over six million dollars which was mostly raised by the generosity of local donors.

The foundation for a vibrant community is built upon key institutions and programs. The Highlands Cashiers Hospital, in association with Mission Healthcare, is a major asset to this entire mountain area. The new emergency department will serve our community for years to come.

Another foundation for our community is education. I was honored on Monday to attend the Honors Ceremony at the Highlands School and present 20 town scholarships to our graduating seniors. The town staff administers a community scholarship program that was setup by Mayor Cleveland a number of years ago. Seniors

going on to advanced study who apply for a scholarship receive support. This financial support continues as students move through their education.

There are both quantitative and qualitative measures that have contributed to the Highlands High School being ranked by U.S. News and World Report as the 29th best high school in the state. I can't help but believe this strong community support of our young people is a significant motivator toward their academic achieve-

ments.

The beauty and preservation of nature is a key factor in making Highlands a great place to live and work. Our citizens' stewardship to the environment is also a major factor. One of the final events in this celebration tour will be the Friends of the Park Annual Low Country Boil on June 17. Tickets are still available, and all proceeds go to park enhancements.

The community celebrations will continue with the many arts and cultural events scheduled for summer and fall. The PAC, Playhouse, Bascom and CLE will host many enlightening programs.

It will be a great time to be in Highlands.

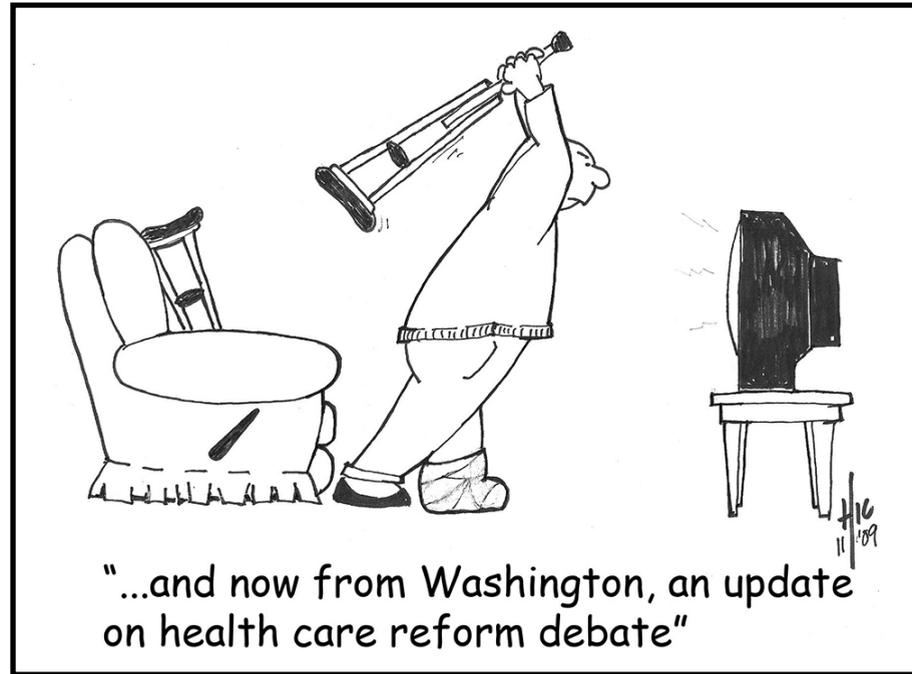
Tonight is the May meeting of the Highlands Town Board. As always, it will start at 7 pm at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field.

The main item on the agenda is the presentation of the proposed budget for FYI 2017-'18. The Town Manager and finance director have developed the budget after receiving feedback from Town Board members during the past two budget workshop sessions. There will be a public budget hearing at the June board meeting prior to final approval.

The budget contains three "big ticket" items. The Buckhorn water tank replacement, the new waterline at Old Orchard, and the final renovations of the recreation building will total about 1.5 million dollars. The board will review two subdivision requests. Friends of the Park will also come to the board concerning possible sculpture in the park.

Hope to see you at the meeting tonight. As always, I can be reached at (828) 506-3138.

• HIC'S VIEW



• LEGISLATIVE UPDATE •

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

HOUSE BILL 581: Revisions to Outdoor Advertising Laws. (Public)

An act to promote uniformity of regulation and modernization of outdoor advertising, to increase permit fees for outdoor advertising and to establish a reasonable time frame for making agency decisions regarding permits and appeals. The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts: SECTION 1. G.S. 136-127 reads as rewritten:

The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that outdoor advertising is a legitimate commercial use of private property adjacent to roads and highways. The General Assembly also finds and declares that off-premises outdoor advertising is an important and distinct medium of communication for effectively displaying commercial and noncommercial messages and is an established segment of the national economy that serves to promote and protect investments in commerce and industry. As a result, off-premises outdoor advertising is a use of land that should be preserved and its modernization fostered to enable new technology and more inventive ways of communicating. The General Assembly further finds that the erection and maintenance of off-premises outdoor advertising signs and devices in areas in the vicinity of the right-of-way of the interstate and primary highway systems within the State should be controlled and regulated, as provided in this Article, in order to promote the safety, health, welfare and convenience and enjoyment of travel on and protection of the public investment in highways within the State, to prevent unreasonable distraction of operators of motor vehicles and to prevent interference with the effectiveness of traffic regulations and to promote safety on the highways, to attract tourists and promote the prosperity, economic well-being and general welfare of the State, and to preserve and enhance the natural scenic beauty of the highways and areas in the vicinity of the State highways and to promote the reasonable, orderly and effective display of such signs, displays and devices, and to secure the right of validly permitted off-premises outdoor advertising to be clearly viewed by the traveling public. It is the intention of the General Assembly to provide and declare herein a public policy and statutory basis for the establishment of a uniform system for the regulation and control of off-premises outdoor advertising throughout the State."

Your State Representatives:

Representative Kevin Corbin
Kevin.Corbin@ncleg.net

Senator Jim Davis
Jim.Davis@ncleg.net

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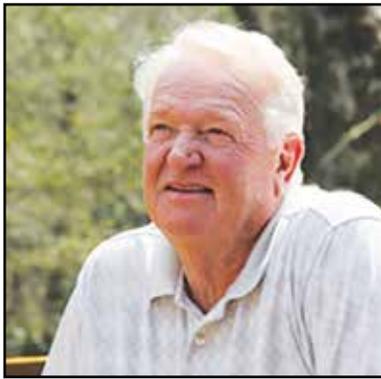
• OBITUARIES •

William Zachary

William Zachary, 74, of South Daytona, FL, lost his battle with cancer, but gained freedom from suffering on May 7, 2017 at which time he joined his beloved son, Charles Zachary, who was taken from him too soon.

He is survived by his wife Becky of 41 years, daughters Linda (George) Crawl, Tamara Zachary and Eulogia Zachary, grandchildren Daniel Zachary, Melissa Zachary, Nathan Zachary, Elizabeth Zachary, Alisha Parsons and Olivia Crawl, his aunts, cousins, and beloved family in Highlands, many loving nieces and nephews, and honorary family member Melanie Wilson. He was known as grandpa to many more including Samantha, Dakota and Alexis.

Bill loved his family and would do



anything for any and all of them. He graduated from Highlands High School in Highlands, NC after which he joined the Navy. After discharge from the Navy, the majority of his career was spent with Ford Motor Company in both California and Michigan. He retired to Georgia and then spent the last 16 years in Florida.

In the course of his life he enjoyed many sports: hunting, fishing, bowling and boating. But, as everyone knows, he loved everything about golf. He loved playing, teaching, watching and even just talking about it.

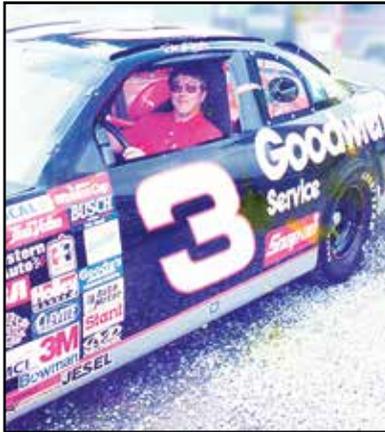
In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The First Tee or The American Cancer Society.

Griffin Lane McCall

On Monday, May 8, Griffin Lane McCall passed peacefully from this life into the waiting and loving arms of both his Savior Jesus Christ and his wife, Colleen, who preceded him in death by 10 years.

He was born to Alvis and Loretta McCall, the fourth of eight beautiful children. Griffin was a blessing. His generosity knew no bounds and he did not know the word no. Whenever someone asked something of him he made sure to make it happen.

He lived by the accord he and God worked out. In the end, though it was hard to teach an old dog new tricks, God won and Griffin became the man God had designed him to be.



His children, Brenna, Kyle and Katie, as well as his grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends remember a great man, an awesome man, a sweet and mountain-hard man, who loved, laughed, fought, cried and lived knowing that this life is a passing moment and eternity awaits. He is in his hard-won mansion over the hilltop.

A memorial service was held Saturday, May 13, 2017 at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Bull Pen Road, Cashiers, NC with Rev. Delbert McCall officiating.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the McCall family. Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• See OBITUARIES page 6

• WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY MAY 19	SATURDAY MAY 20	SUNDAY MAY 21
75°/54°	77°/55°	70°/57°

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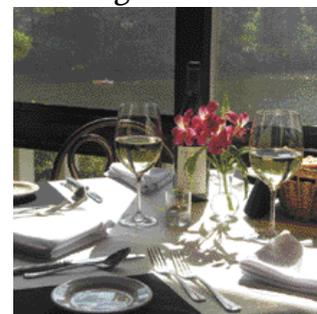


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• MILESTONE •

Danielle Puchacz graduates



Danielle Puchacz graduated from Newberry College on Saturday, May 6. She graduated Cum Laude and Summerland Honors Program. She earned a BA in History with an English major. Danielle Puchacz is the daughter of Tom Puchacz and Jennifer Royce of Scaly Mountain, NC. She plans on relocating to Denver, CO to pursue her career.

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raising more than \$80,000 for the family and their needs during this time.

John Tastering continues to recover from the accident. He is suffering from a traumatic brain injury, including a subarachnoid hemorrhage that is healing. He will need physical therapy, vestibular therapy, speech therapy with cognitive therapy, and possible vision therapy. He is being monitored continually by a neurologist.

A funeral for Shane is Thursday, May 18 at 11 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 299 Maple Street, Franklin, N.C. with burial to follow at Woodlawn Cemetery.

"I have talked with Chief Harrell, and he has asked that the community keep the Tastering family in their prayers and hearts as they go through this tragic situation with the loss of their son, Shane," said Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor. "All of us hope and pray for a full recovery of the members of the family. The Tastering and Harrell families were close friends, and their children have gone to school and played sports together. The town staff and board express their concern and support for both families."

Mayor Taylor and Town Manager Josh Ward met with Chief Harrell shortly after the accident last week. He requested time away from his duties to deal with his sadness and distress over this tragic event. In the meantime, Officer Mike Jolly will be in charge of field operations for the department.

•See ACCIDENT page 8

...ACCIDENT from page 1

Chevrolet truck driven by Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell approached the other cars and was unable to decrease his speed and rear-ended the Tastering's Lincoln. In addition to Shane, the Lincoln also contained Matilda Tastering, who suffered a broken arm and leg, and John Jr. Tastering, who had minor injuries.

Shane was airlifted to Mission Hospital and treated for brain injuries. He lost his fight on Friday.

According to the North Carolina Highway Patrol, who arrived on scene of the accident about 20 minutes after it occurred, after Harrell struck the Lincoln, his vehicle travelled off the highway and on to the grass median to the left where it also struck the parked truck driven by Dover.

The NC Highway Patrol continues to investigate the accident, but did say no drugs or alcohol are believed to be involved.

The community has rallied around the Tastering family,

...OBITUARIES from page 3

Lou Ellen Smith Vinson

Lou Ellen Smith Vinson, age 83, of Highlands, NC, passed away Saturday, May 13, 2017. She was born in Oconee County, South Carolina to the late John Wesley Smith and Rachel Jane Trecie Justice Smith. Mrs. Vinson was a homemaker and a member of Highlands United Methodist Church. She also served on the Highlands Emergency Council.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Olan Eugene Vinson; a daughter, Alice Faye Davis of Walhalla, SC; three grandchildren, Bambi King, Amber Parslow and Stanley (Bo) Davis; six great-grandchildren, Breanna and Brady King, McKenzie, William, Lexie and Lucy Davis.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers, Gentry Smith, Frank Bayless Smith and Elbert Smith and sisters, Roxie Smith Stegall, Laura Estell Smith, Ida Nell Smith, Veta Mae Smith, Grace Cobb, Kate Smith Manley, Esabell Smith Bryant and Dorothy Smith Caston.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at Highlands United Methodist Church, with Rev. Randy Lucas and Rev. Jennifer Forrester officiating. Burial was at Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery. Pallbearers were George Nelson, Roy Towe, Kenneth Nelson, Allen Bryson, Morris Reed, Michael Morrissey.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com.

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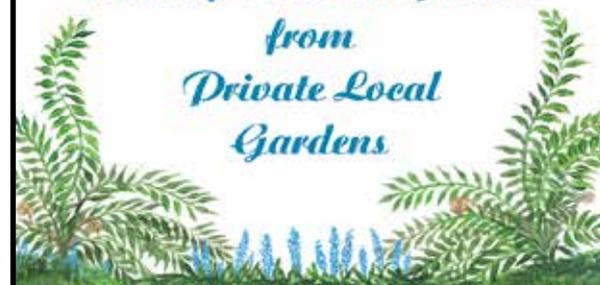
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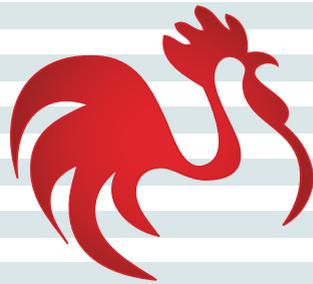
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...ACCIDENT continued from page 6

Mayor Taylor said this procedure is standard practice for a police officer involved in a traumatic event.

Wednesday the NC Highway Patrol said they were pulling the computers from the vehicles involved as part of the investigation. After collecting information, they will sit down with the District Attorney to discuss what charges, if any, will be filed. As of press time, the investigation is still on going.

The Highlands Town Manager, mayor and Town Board will continue to monitor this situation.

"I am aware of rumors and speculation concerning the tragic accident, its circumstances and cause. At the time of this statement, the North Carolina State Patrol continues to conduct an investigation as to

the factors and cause of the accident. Chief Harrell is cooperating with the investigation. Any statement about the facts and cause of the accident by the public at this time is premature. The report by highway patrol accident investigators will be released with evidentiary information that may, or may not, support charges being filed," said Taylor. "A post on social media containing erroneous, false and inflammatory accusations has called for the mayor and the town to take immediate action in this situation. Once all the facts of the case are determined, any decision by the town will be measured, within and according to the law, and will be fair to all concerned."

Chief Harrell is recovering from his injuries and said words cannot describe his emotions.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

White Harvest Living opens for business in Falls on Main



Pictured are owners Waylon and Nicole Chastain with their children and several artists whose wares are for sale in the store: Wes Hollingsworth, Adam Pletze, Anna Pumula and Josh LaVere. The store is at 537 Main Street, next to Mountain Fresh in Falls on Main.

Collective Spirits Chair Ruthie Watts and The Bascom Board
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The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

Our mountains give us so much, yet sometimes we forget to acknowledge its natural beauty. We take for granted the fresh air and use air conditioning, we opt for cars instead of walking short distances, and we pave our roads to keep those cars from getting dusty. Our mountains give us the intangible things that most people never realize.

Our mountains give us plenty, and it seems there are always opportunities to give back. Every time we turn around, we're being asked to give-give-give, and while there are plenty of excellent charities worldwide, sometimes it's nice to remember the century's old adage "Charity begins at home". Home is where we live. The mountains are our home. Give locally.

We should embrace the opportunity to give back locally whenever possible. Everyone has something to give. There are people in our area that will drop huge amounts of money to help wor-

thy causes, and the recipients are very grateful. There are people who aren't heavy in their portfolio, but donate their time and services to organizations to help others, and there are some that do both. Sometimes people give more than they normally would were it not for tax breaks, and some people give just because it feels good.

Realtors are sometimes the first impression of a community. We are, in a way ambassadors of the mountains, and while it's impossible to know everything going on, we owe it to our clients to let them know what makes our community a place they want to purchase a home. If we start the conversation early, chances are those same clients will be the ones

Giving Back



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty &
Vacation Rentals

donating their time or money in some of our local organizations. 'Back in the day,' larger communities had welcome wagons- in our area, Realtors are the welcome wagon.

Here are just a few things that are easy to participate in that are very close to my heart:

May 27, 9 a.m.- Noon - the 35th annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale held at the ball park. You can buy a plant (or a 100 plants) and the money goes to local students scholarships to further their education. The garden club also has garden events at the Nursing Center and involves our local school children in forest fire awareness, butterfly gardens and more.

May 27th 8 a.m. - Mountain

Top Rotary Run for the Park 5K. You can run or walk the 3.10 miles which starts and ends at Founders Park. If you're not the athletic type, you can be there to support the ones participating, and of course, donations are always accepted. The proceeds will be helping several local nonprofits such as the food pantry and the free clinic as well as the mission in Bolivia and more.

Highlands Writer's Group Anthology book is now available. The price is \$15, and all the proceeds go to the Hudson Library.

In June, the Highlands Moting Festival will bring lots of cars to ogle over, and that event raises awareness and funds for The Literacy Council.

These are just the tip of the iceberg - there's always something going on. Get involved. Take notice of all the giving opportunities available and reach deep to give what you can. Why give locally? Because our very livelihood in

• See **INVESTING** page 21

smpcc
SMOKY MOUNTAIN PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

Is proud to announce their

5th Annual Bloemsma Barn Event
4-8 PM Saturday, May 20, 2017

Jenkins Family Bar-B-Que is in charge of the meal, made especially with you in mind!

BBQ plate \$15 or Hot Dog plate \$7
Family (Mom, Dad, 4 kids) \$45
(Which includes 2 BBQ/4 Hot Dog Plates)

Come out for an evening of family fun with
Silent Auction, Cornhole Tournament,
Inflatables, and music provided by DJ Steve Hott

Tickets available at Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Centers, Jackson or Franklin Chamber of Commerce, or at the door. If you would like to donate items for Silent Auction call the office at 349-3200

This fundraiser will be hosted at the

Bloemsma Barn 1145 Patton Road, Franklin NC

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Benjamin Miller
UNC Charlotte



Salutatorian
John Murphy
Appalachian State
University



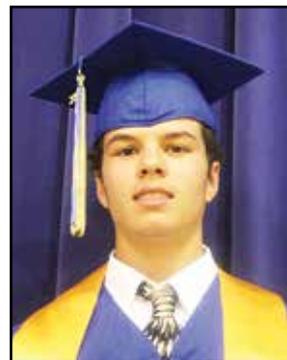
Alexa Reese
Southwestern CC



Amanda Clark
Western Carolina University



Amber Reese
Southwestern CC



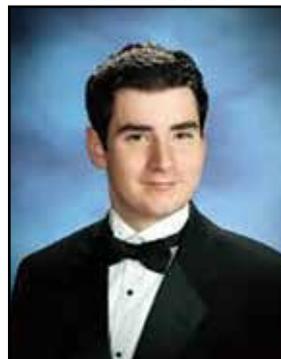
Austin Forrester
Gap Year



Bethany Shuler
Southwestern CC



Brandon Dorau
Western Carolina University



Daniel Whatley
Spring Hill University



Danielle Mathis
Southwestern CC



Dillan Medlin
Gap Year



Eden Ingate
Southwestern CC



Emily Crowe
Appalachian State University



Emily Mathis
Southwestern CC



Erica Barnes
Gap Year



Hayley Hawkins
NCState University



Jackson Leitch
Wingate University



Jody Thorske
Gap Year



Wai Yin Wong
NC State University



Karla Barranco
Southwestern CC

Highlands School Class of 2017



Katlin Moss
Southwestern CC



Kyle Iezzi
UNC Charlotte



Madison Schandolph
Armstrong University



Matheus Moura
Exchange student from Brazil



Megan Vinson
Southwestern CC



Montana McElroy
AB Tech



Randall McCall
Gap Year



Reid Russell
Western Carolina University



Ryan Houser
Southwestern CC



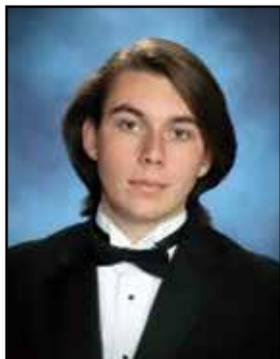
Sarah Rogers
Southwestern CC



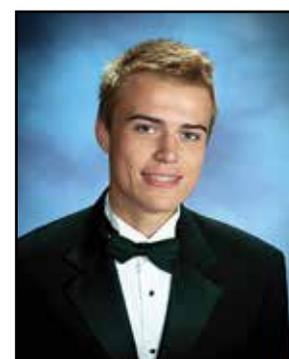
Seth Satterwhite
NC State University



Stella Wilson
Western Carolina University



Tucker Johnson
Pitt Community College



Wesley Hedden
Southwestern CC

Class of 2017 Mascots
First-graders Rome Tucci-Caselli and Mims Henderson
Highlands School Class of 2017 graduation ceremony is
Saturday, May 27 at 5 p.m. in the new gym.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• 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.

Mondays, May 29, July 3, and Aug. 7

• Botanical Garden Tour: 10:30 am - 11:30 am • Free. All ages. At the Highlands Botanical Garden. Learn to identify and remove non-native invasive species from your garden and the surrounding forest.

First Mondays



On Saturday, May 20 from 9a to 12:30p, there will be a "Drive 4 UR Community" fundraising event in and for K-H-Founders Park...and it's FREE!

Sponsored by Hammond and Bryan Rauers of Franklin Ford, Ford Motor Company and Mitzi Rauers of Berkshire Hathaway Meadows Mountain Realty, \$20 will be donated by Ford Motor Company for each person who test drives a new vehicle featured at the park.

If the goal of \$6,000 is reached, Berkshire Hathaway Meadows Mountain Realty and Mitzi Rauers will donate \$1,000.

• 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 info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information. • Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon.-Fri.

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday -Thursday 5pm-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.

• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

Tuesdays

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

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

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.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7PM in the Snek E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. 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.

• Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.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.

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

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more information call 770-823-0601

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness 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

Fridays & Saturdays

• Art's at the Lodge. Live Music 4-8 p.m. Cocktails in Art's or on the lawn at the Lodge. On Spring Street.

Saturdays

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

• Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Sun., May 18-21

• Highlands Cashiers Players will present the fourth play of their 2016-2017 season, "Don't Cry for Me Margaret Mitchell" directed by Donna Cochran, Thursday-Sunday at PAC. Evening performances are at 7:30 and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 Call the box office for tickets at 828 526 8084 or on line at highlandscashiersplayers.org.

Fri., May 19

• At Hudson Library, a book signing and sale of "Small Adventures over Half a Century" by Ellie Harrison at 3 p.m.

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Military Appreciation Dance" Friday night at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Rd, Franklin NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. For information call 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001

Sat., May 20

• Cullowhee Baptist Church will host a HUGE indoor yard sale Saturday, 8 am-1pm. Proceeds will go towards building improvements and playground. Items include furniture, household items, toys, and much more!

• Birding with Jack Johnston, Botanist, at

Free seminar at PAC Wed., May 24

The Performing Arts Center and Diane McPhail are sponsoring a free seminar entitled: Woman! WHO do THEY think YOU are? on Wed., May 24 from 1-4 p.m.



will present a range of images we are exposed to all our lives in mainstream media. 1) to help us understand how our self-perceptions have been unconsciously shaped and undermined and 2) how recognition can

help provide a pathway to reclaiming our true power and value as individuals and collectively. This enlightening experience will help women understand the unrecognized influences that keep them from claiming their full power, and to support their colleagues and sisters to do the same. Interactive questions and dialogue will involve presence, listening, inquiry and feedback. Be prepared to leave inspired and empowered to be the change you seek.

Presenter Carol Anderson, D.Min, MA in Organizational Development, Educational Psychology, and Creative Nonfiction will present the program.

The basics will cover: How we perceive ourselves is crucial to every woman. And who we believe ourselves to be is

influenced by multiple factors, some of which we are unaware of and never think to question. In this seminar, Carol Anderson

HCP's 'Don't Cry for me Margaret Mitchell' opens to-night at PAC



Actors in HCP's upcoming play, "Don't Cry for Me Margaret Mitchell," rehearse on the set at the Performing Arts Center. Pictured from right are: Marsha Shmalo, Lance Trudel, Ricky Siegel, and David Spivey. The show opens Tonight, Thursday, May 18, and plays through Sunday May 21, and again Thursday, May 25 through May 28. Evening performances are at 7:30 and Sunday matinees at 2:30. Call 828-526-8084 to reserve tickets.

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

Dixon Park, Highlands. Meet at Founders Park in Highlands at 7:30 AM. Level trail walking; loaner binoculars available. Visit www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org or call 828- 526-1939.

• On Saturday from 9a to 12:30p, there will be a "Drive 4 UR Community" fundraising event in and for K-H-Founders Park...and it's FREE! Ford Motor Company will donate \$20 for each person who test drives a new vehicle..

•The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile moderate loop hike in Pantherdown Valley, elevation change 400 ft., from Salt Rock into the valley, returning via Frolictown falls in a search for lady slipper flowers. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10 a.m., drive 20 miles round trip. Call leaders, Mike and Susan Kettles, 828-743-1079, for reservations.

• The 5th Annual BLOEMSMA BARN EVENT, sponsored by the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center (SMPCC), is Saturday, 4-8 PM. The event is a fun family experience, open to the public. The Bloemsma Barn is at 1145 Patton Rd, Franklin.

Sun., May 21

•The Atlanta Boy Choir will perform under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 5:30 p.m. It's free but some front row seating will be reserved for those who contribute to help some of the choir's needy boys. Call 404-378-0064 or email info@atlantaboychoir.org

Tue., May 23

• Vladimir Putin: New Czar or Last of a Dying Breed? 10a-noon. Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Niall Michelsen. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Live via Satellite 'Twelfth Night' at PAC

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the National Theatre of London's production of Twelfth Night on Saturday, May 20 at 1pm. Tamsin Greig is Malvolia in a new twist on Shakespeare's classic comedy of mistaken identity. A ship is wrecked on the rocks. Viola is washed ashore but her twin brother Sebastian is lost. Determined to survive on her own, she steps out to explore a new land. So begins a whirlwind of mistaken identity and unrequited love. The nearby



households of Olivia and Orsino are overrun with passion. Even Olivia's upright housekeeper Malvolia is swept up in the madness. Where music is the food of love, and nobody is quite what they seem, anything proves possible. Coming up in

June: Obsession starring Jude Law, Saturday, June 3 and Peter Pan, Saturday, June 10. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org – at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047 Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

households of Olivia and Orsino are overrun with passion. Even Olivia's upright housekeeper Malvolia is swept up in the madness. Where music is the food of love, and nobody is quite what they seem, anything proves possible. Coming up in

Opera Star to Perform with Boy Choir Sunday

World famous soprano Indra Thomas will be joining Fletcher Wolfe's Atlanta Boy Choir, at the First Presbyterian Church Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Thomas was recently heard at the Spoleto Music Festival in Charleston, SC, as well as appearing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and London's Covent Garden. She also has sung in Atlanta, Georgia in the role of Aida with the Atlanta Opera Company.

Sunday's concert with Thomas is honoring W. Stell Huie, founding attorney of the choir 60 years ago. She then will travel with the choir to Nova Scotia where the choir will sing in Halifax, Lunenburg and Yarmouth.



Maestro Wolfe says that the participation of such a famous singer as Indra Thomas gives the boys performances much added prestige in their role as Atlanta's Ambassadors of Song. This Grammy Award winning choir performs throughout the world and just recently returned from

British Columbia where they sang for standing room only audiences. More than 8,000 boys have gone through the ranks during its 60 seasons.

The concert is free and open to the public. Front row seating will be reserved for those wishing to contribute to the needy Boy Scholarship Fund. Reserve a seat by calling 404-378-0064 or email info@atlantaboychoir.org

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• THE INK PEN •

Check out Local Library Bookstores for Summer Reading

I'm fond of saying, "A girl can never have too many books," and I'll add, "A girl should never pass up an opportunity to buy more!" That's why my collection has grown by leaps and bounds over the past month and is sure to do so again at the next Library Sale.

I started at the Lemonade Days Festival Book Store where my book was for sale in Dunwoody in April. Since I manned the booth for two days, I "had" to buy a book. Next, I sat with the Friends of the Library at another festival last weekend. Again, I couldn't just sell my book; I "had" to buy a few of theirs.

Now, I'm anticipating roaming through the larger selection of books at an upcoming Library sale. In the Highlands area, you don't have to wait for a sale as there are Friends Book Stores in Highlands, Cashiers, Sylva, Franklin and Bryson City. Check <http://fontanalib.org/usedbooks> for locations and hours.

Mysteries are my favorites, especially those set in England. For quite some time, I've been stuck in the post-WWI era, though I also enjoy modern times. When I find a mystery series I like, I try to read them in order. The library can't carry every book in every series, so I'm always on the hunt to fill the gaps.

If you're a mystery fan, you'll want to check out my list of favorites:

Jacqueline Winspear

Her Maisie Dobbs series starts in post-WWI England, with flashbacks to Maisie's early life before the war. I strongly recommend you read these in order, as the character development is critical to enjoying these mysteries.

Charles Todd

This series also begins in post-WWI England, and the main character is Inspector Rutledge of Scotland Yard. I stumbled across one of these books at a Library Sale—where else?—and, I've been hooked ever since. I've got the 19th in the series on reserve at the library.

Sally Spencer

Her Chief Inspector Woodend series is set in the 1950s and 60s England. I started with #16 in this series of twenty, and I've been searching for the earlier tales ever since. I've worked my way up to #12 with



Kathy Manos Penn

a combination of library books and Amazon used books.

Louise Penny

I moved back across the pond for this series set in the Canadian province of Quebec. Just across the border with New York lies the quaint town of Three Pines, filled with characters you'll come to love. It's important to start at the beginning here too, with "Still Life: A Three Pines Mystery," or you'll miss out on the character development over the course of these twelve books.

Jane Haddam

Moving back to the USA, a friend recommended the Gregor DeMarkian series set in Philadelphia. DeMarkian is called the "Armenian-American Poirot." I found the first in this 29 book series at the library and have now made it to #8.

Brent Monahan

Sheriff Le Brun, who lives in Brunswick, GA, is the protagonist. I read a WSJ review of "The St. Simons Island Club," the fourth in the series, and went in search of the first one, "The Jekyll Island Club." These mysteries, set in the early 1900s, include real-life characters like J.P. Morgan and Joseph Pulitzer.

If my list has introduced you to a few new authors, maybe you'll search for them in your area. Here's to happy hunting.

• *Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident now happily retired from a corporate career in communications. Find her book, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," locally at The Molly Grace or on Kathy's website at www.theinkpenn.com. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com. Join her at the Molly Grace on the corner of Oak and N. 4th Street in Highlands June 17th, 11 AM – 2 PM for a book signing.*

NOTICE

Calling all Women Singers. Starting a Women's Chorus under the direction of Dr. Michael Lancaster, of the First Presbyterian Church. 12 rehearsals beginning June 8 on Tuesdays 5-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$120. Fee covers salaries to director and pianist and cost of music. Auditions may be required. If interested please call Donna Philips at 404-226-5976.

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Grill - every day of the week starting at 11:00 until close
 Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade potato chips, daily soup specials.

Deli - Serving all day
 Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade potato chips, daily soup specials.

Wood Fire Pizza Oven - Every day from 11:00 to close
 Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage, pancetta, and daily specials.

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.
 \$12.95 (dine in) or
 \$9.99 a pound (to go)

PREPARED FOODS

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

DINNERS TO GO

A different full dinner for two every night, Monday-Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out. Call ahead to reserve...

Monday - Low Country Lobster / Shrimp Boil - Maine lobster tails, wild caught large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer corn, house made sausage, all steeped in our seasoning. Served with drawn butter and cocktail sauce. \$36.95 serves two

Tuesday - Oven Off Night
 Two natural chicken breasts grilled with our Tuscan herb infused olive oil, served on a bed of greens with stuffed brie, spiced pecans, our extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar on the side with two cups of homemade gazpacho and a baguette from our bakery.
 \$26.95 serves two

Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked Potatoes & Salad - Premium Angus standing rib roast, cooked medium rare w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes & a large Caesar salad. \$35.95 serves two

Thursday - Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs - cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender. Served with house made bacon/apple baked beans and potato salad.
 \$27.95 serves two

Friday - Wild Caught Shrimp: fried or steamed. Wild caught North Carolina shrimp either lightly breaded in our seasoned corn flour mixture, and then properly fried in peanut oil & served w/ hush puppies; or steamed to order in our low country seasoning. Both come with coleslaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red potatoes, tarter & cocktail sauce.
 \$28.95 serves two

Saturday - In-House Smoked BBQ - Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked over night and hand pulled to order. Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls
 \$25.95 serves two

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...ACA continued from page 1

It is also important to note that Open Enrollment Period 5 (OE5) is not proposed to be cancelled and planning is continuing as usual for OE5. Therefore, Mountain Projects expects that OE5 will occur as scheduled from November 1 through December 15, 2017, which is a much shorter period for enrollment than it has been in previous years. Consumers need to take notice that Open Enrollment will be very busy, and they should call early for Navigator appointments, if they want free, in-person assistance with their enrollment.

Also, if consumers have questions about the status of their current health insurance coverage or their Marketplace accounts, please call now to schedule a free, in-person appointment with a local assister by dialing 1.800.627.1548. Having everything in order will make re-enrollment less time consuming during a much shorter Open Enrollment period.

...BUDGET continued from page 1

.015 for another three years so the planned renovations at the Rec Park can be completed. Those include moving the exercise room upstairs to the stage area, expanding the downstairs weight room into the old exercise room downstairs, renovating the bathrooms as well as renovating the public areas upstairs.

This coming budget year the Rec Park stage renovations and the lower level renovations will be done to the tune of \$428,000. The upstairs public area renovation will likely take place next year.

Happily, at the Tuesday night Macon County Commission meeting, commissioners agreed to allocate \$350,000 for Rec Park renovations in its FY 2017-'18 budget. Statistics verify that more county citizens use the Rec Park and its facilities than in-town folks.

The Town Board OK'd a .017 tax hike – half 2017-'18 and half 2018-'19 – to fund the 2.5 million needed to complete the aerial fiber infrastructure build out which would mean 83% of the town's homes and businesses would have access to fiber.

The 10-year loan to finance this is from BB&T at 2.75% which equates to an annual payment of \$286,236 which will be paid for by citizens via the tax hike.

The town is currently in limbo over whether the NC legislature will allow municipalities to partner with one provider – which

is called a “closed” system with exclusivity – or demand it be an open system, where the town must partner with everyone who wishes to provide service.

Even though payback on the aerial fiber infrastructure investment is an unknown at this time, commissioners believe it is the future and something that must be done for citizens, businesses and as an enticement for potential growth.

Utilities

Happily, except for Duke's Coal Ash recovery tax that will begin appearing on utility bills in July, there will be no increase for water, sewer, electric or garbage pickup, per se.

There will be a negligible increase for sewer – instead of paying 98% of the water bill it will be rounded up to 100%.

The big change in water rates will come to those who live outside the town limits but who receive water from the town.

Years ago, to accelerate growth, town boards OK'd installing water lines outside the town limits to supply water to new developments. That is no longer allowed because supplying water to people who don't pay for the infrastructure via town taxes just isn't fair.

As part of capital improvement for 2017-'18, the town OK'd spending \$350,000 to upgrade the infrastructure to the Satulah Vista/

Old Orchard waterline.

Even though the area is in the county outside the town limits, the county said it won't supply funds “because it's not in the water business.”

Though it will only be a drop in the bucket, the only way the town can try to recoup some of its investment is to increase usage and connection fees for water users outside the town limits.

Beginning immediately, people outside the town limits who get town water – Queen Mountain, Ponderosa, Broadview Acres, Old Orchard/Satulah Vista, those on Valentine Road and others – will pay double the inside town rate. Instead of a base rate of \$35 for up to 2,500 gallons, they will pay \$70. They will pay \$10 for every 1,000 gallons over that instead of the inside rate of \$5. Hookups will cost \$2,000 instead of the inside rate of \$1,000.

“We are starting to have to upgrade and repair lines outside of town and this will help with those expenses,” said Town Manager Josh Ward.

Health Insurance

There will be an 8% increase in health insurance costs – the town's portion will be \$43,250. The town still offers employee and spouse and family coverage.

There is a 2% COLA increase which will cost the town \$64,351. However, Commissioners agreed to discuss reformulating the COLA increases so instead of being “across the board” in the future, those at the top would receive less than those at the bottom. That won't go into effect this coming budget year.

Capital Projects

The total amount for capital projects across all departments this coming budget year is \$1,941,000.

The General Fund will disburse \$843,000, the water/sewer fund will supply \$1,058,000 and the electric fund will supply \$40,000.

At Thursday night's Town Board meeting, the FY 2017-'18 budget will get a final look. If commissioners give it the OK, it will be adopted at the June Town Board meeting.

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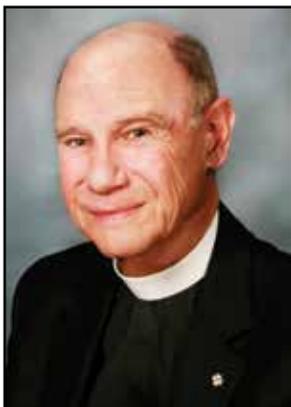
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Uphold one another



The Rev.
Dr. Maurice L. Goldsmith
Episcopal Church
of the Incarnation

Jesus said, "Father, I pray that they all may be one, just as you and I are one."

— (John 17:21 NIV)

For the past year it has been my privilege and pleasure to serve the people of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation as their Interim Rector. (Senior Pastor until the permanent Rector is called.) I have gotten to know a good many of you outside of Incarnation, eaten at just about all of your restaurants, attended Rotary meetings whenever I could, participated in many community events, served as a Chaplain for the Police and Fire Departments and hiked as many area trails as I could.

In short, I have been about as immersed in Highlands as is possible in so short a time. It will come as no surprise to you that I have found this to be a very special place in so many ways. Beautiful scenery and beautiful people.

The time will soon come for my wife Carolyn and me to return to our home, family, friends and parish in Birmingham, so this will probably be the last opportunity for me to accept Kim's kind invitation once again to write one of these little articles. So a final thought.

One of the pleasures of my time here has been to participate in worship services and ministries with the clergy and people of our sister Main Street churches – Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist - Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, and the Holy Family Lutheran Church. Highlands is blessed with religious leaders and institutions that are, in a very real sense, the heart and soul of this community.

My hope and prayer is that these fine congregations will be blessed in every way, and led to ever-closer communion and ministry - encouraging, challenging and upholding one another. These faithful churches do so much good individually. Working together as sisters and brothers of the Lord, the potential for Christian fellowship, ministry and worship is always multiplied many times to the glory of God and the up building of God's people. I hope and believe that the new Rector of the Church of the Incarnation will feel the same.

Thank God and thank you for the gift of our time together.

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

— (Numbers 6:24 RSV)

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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/Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun. 8:30a 1928 Prayer Book Service (no music); 9:30a

Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service

Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper at homes

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

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

10:45am: Worship Service

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

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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

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor 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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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.

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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.

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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 a.m.

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Rob Wood

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

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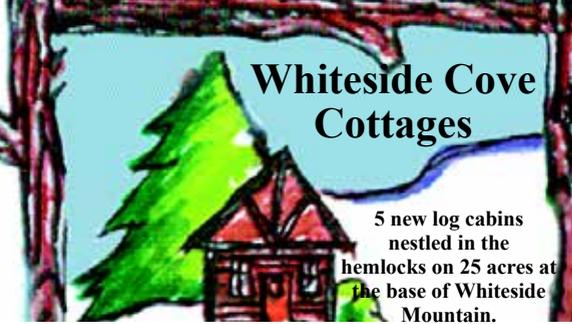



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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from May 6. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

May 6

• At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on W. Church Street.

• At 5:50 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Performing Arts Center parking lot.

May 8

• At 2:20, officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

May 13

• At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from May 7.

May 7

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

Satulah Falls Lane.

May 8

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

May 10

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

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence in Highlands Point.

May 12

• The dept. was called for a possible search on Rainbow Road, but it was cancelled enroute.

May 13

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Walhalla Road.

May 15

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

...INVESTING continued from page 10

these mountains depends on your donations. Everyone in these mountains doesn't have tee times, shares laughter over tinkling wine goblets before a chef-prepared meal, drives expensive cars or shop the fineries of our upscale shops. There are people that live in our area who need the donated food, clothing, medical care, and household furnishings in order to remain here so they can do the work necessary for others to enjoy the area. Don't think of those people as less fortunate though, remember most of them were here long before you got here. Their richness lies in their mountain heritage- a heritage we all want to preserve.

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Our community is not a masterpiece, it's not even a painting, and it's far from being done. Our community is a work in progress, and its volunteer workforce, and donations given are a vital part of keeping it vibrant for years to come.

Everyone has something to give, whether it's money, time, or experience 'from the outside world', and sometimes just an appreciative smile goes a long way.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owner of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands. Both are members of local nonprofit organizations, and believe that real estate is intertwined with community far beyond the sale.



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